Green light for Bus. Tech. appeal

Chisholm Council meeting, Development Director, Dr Bill Briggs, said the project had grown from an original concept of a Foundation Appeal to cover the entire spectrum of Institute activities.

The decision to launch an appeal in support of the Business Technology Centre was made on the advice of Downes, Venn & Associates who said an appeal to fund specific physical assets was more likely to be successful than a general Institute campaign.

The establishment of a Centre to carry on continuing education, research and consultancy in business technology offers Chisholm an unusual and unique opportunity to mount a major campaign to promote the Institute and its two core areas to business, government and the community and to seek their commitment for financial support,' Dr Briggs said.

The Centre provided that opportunity because:
- There was an urgent need for graduates and training in the business technology disciplines.
- Its educational, research and consultancy services would be unique in Australia and the Western Pacific.
- The School of Computing and Information Systems and David Syme Business School were highly regarded in their respective fields.

Mr Briggs said Downes, Venn & Associates had carried out a preliminary survey of the project, including a study of the Centre's objectives, operation and personnel, discussion with key Chisholm people and interviews with a range of likely donors in government and business.

They concluded the Centre had the potential as the focal point for a successful fund-raising campaign, and that Chisholm was well placed to achieve a goal of $750,000, including contributions from government, business, foundations and individuals.

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The move follows a meeting on 23 July between the Director, Mr Patrick Leary and other Chisholm representatives, and the Board.

In his report to the August Council meeting, Mr Leary said the Board's decision had been based on:
- Concern that Chisholm would benefit from more time in which to demonstrate smooth integration of structures and procedures across both campuses in the light of amalgamation.
- Chisholm's 'uneven record' in course accreditation and reaccreditation - especially its 'imperfect adherence to timetables and frequency of course committee meetings'.
- Mr Leary said although he did not share the Board's views on the first two points, he had accepted its attitude toward the 'uneven record' which related to course submissions processed in 1983.

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Open Day ’84 - success but....

Open Day was a ‘qualified success’, according to Mr Phil Irvine, Chairman of the Open Day Committee.

‘It attracted a lot more people at both campuses than many within the Institute expected, and clearly many prospective students and other interested people went away favourably impressed and with the information they came to get’, Mr Irvine said.

But it could have been a lot better.

‘I fear lack of preparation and less than wholehearted commitment in some areas meant that some people ended up with a negative view of the Institute.

‘There were some prospective students who definitely will not be applying for entry to Chisholm.

‘They wanted information on courses, course combinations, options, career prospects and entrance requirements, but all or some of that information was not available’, Mr Irvine estimated that between 3,000 and 4,000 people visited the two campuses during the four hours of the Open Day.

Some travelled long distances to look over the Institute and inquire about courses - the prizewinner at Caulfield probably going to a young man from Swan Hill, while at Frankston there were a number of contenders from Gippsland and one from Albury-Wodonga.

Mr Irvine said a number of deficiencies showed up in the organisation and preparation for the Day, but considering the lack of financial backing and lack of preparation time available, that was hardly surprising.

‘Those people who put in to make Open Day happen - in the academic and support staff, catering, the Student Union and the Staff Club - deserve a lot of credit and should be congratulated.

‘But I am disturbed that the Institute had to rely once again on the usual enthusiastic group to chip in and pull it out.

‘It is time the Institute took note of the importance of Open Day both for recruiting prospective students and enhancing its image in the community generally.

‘There must be some institutional commitment to funds and staff to make Open Day the sort of day it should be - a day when visitors can see the Institute at its best and receive the sort of service they very reasonably should expect.

‘It should not have to rely on some staff and students putting in extra effort and some cost centres scrapping together a few dollars here and there to make the day a reality.

‘And those who do make the effort should not have to see their contribution to the Institute’s image downgraded by lack of commitment in other areas’.

Mr Irvine said a detailed proposal was being prepared for Open Day 1985, which he hoped would ensure that the mistakes and problems of this year would not be seen again.

All cost centres had been asked to contribute.

Bushfire research in Australia could scotched at the end of this year unless State and Federal Governments are prepared to turn promises into hard cash, according to the Manager of the National Centre for Rural Fire Research at Chisholm, Mr Chester Nevett.

‘It’s come to a time at the end of the CSIRO’s three-year $4 million project ‘Bushfire in Australia’ is in any event a great disappointment - with no definite indications of continued funding.

Project Aquarius, aimed at researching the feasibility of using large aircraft to suppress forest fires, has already gone a long way toward providing information about confronting and containing fires, albeit in a fairly limited area.

If Mr Nevett’s prediction becomes fact, the work done so far will be left in limbo, and Australia could be deprived of the expertise of two of the most knowledgeable people in fire research, David Packham, (Director of the NCFMR) and Phil Cheney, (Head of Project Aquarius and a senior research scientist at the CSIRO in Canberra).

Central to the Project is the computer model developed by the Chisholm researchers under contract to the CSIRO, to enable the most effective use of aerial bombarding of fires with water or chemical retardants.

Based on the PATSIM computer model obtained from the USA Northern Forest Fire Laboratory, the NCFMR’s Aerial Suppression Model 1 (ASM1) has been adapted to the unique conditions which make Australia one of the three most dangerous bushfire regions in the world.

In a bushfire emergency, the model would be used to determine how and when aircraft could be used most effectively in fighting fires.

The Chisholm researchers say the model was designed to be as practical as possible so as to be easily understood by everyone involved.

The work has involved extensive field experiments in comparison with actual large area bushfires in the Northern Territory, but sustained wet weather made it impossible to carry out final testing at Nowa Nowa in Gippsland last summer, when a 1,600 hectare plot had been prepared for burning.

However, two low intensity fires were lit, and a Douglas DC 6A aircraft from the Conair Aviation branch of Canada, was able to put them out on target, using directions from the computer model.

The CSIRO and Chisholm researchers are keen to conduct this type of testing on a more consistent basis but that depends on continued funding of the Project.

Project Aquarius has also sparked a range of other research projects, including the development by the CSIRO of an infra-red fire scanning device to enable exact pin-pointing of a bushfire, the physicological effect of fire on firefighters, testing and development of protective fire ‘tests’ and the effectiveness of using garden sprinklers to put fires around the house.

But according to Mr Nevett, that’s about as far as fire research in Australia will get unless sponsors are forthcoming.

‘Every time we have a major fire, we are faced with a bill of around $300 – $400 million, and a major loss of life, yet neither State nor the Federal government has taken any practical steps to ensure fire research is carried on.

‘There have been a lot of promises, but nothing in the way of hard cash’, he says.

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From Page 1

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Dr Briggs said the consultants believed an immediate grant of $150,000 was available from the State and Federal Governments.

They recommended that the intensive phase of the appeal be conducted between 4 February and 17 May, 1985, with planning and preparation commencing during May.

The appeal will be run by a campaign committee chaired by Council president, Mr Ken Green.

Mr Irvine said the risks associated with the project were ‘negligible as the Consultants were confident of the project’s self-sustaining ability’. And Dr Lionel Ward argued that the proposal was ‘completely consistent with the Chisholm corporate view that “Australia one of the three most dangerous bushfire regions in the world. In a bushfire emergency, the model would be used to determine how and when aircraft could be used most effectively in fire fighting”.

Mr Irvine said a detailed proposal was being prepared for Open Day 1985, which he hoped would ensure that the mistakes and problems of this year would not be seen again.

All cost centres had been asked to contribute.

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This young visitor to the Frankston campus Open Day was fascinated by the Stereoscope - one of the many displays by the School of Education.

STUDY SKILLS
THE EDU’S HELPFUL STUDY SKILLS BOOKLET IS AVAILABLE THIS SEMESTER FROM THE CITSU BOOK SHOP.

TOPICS COVERED ARE:
• MAKING THE MOST OF CLASS-TIME
• PRIVATE STUDY
• PREPARING FOR TESTS AND EXAMINATIONS
• ASSIGNMENT AND ESSAY WRITING

PRICED AT JUST $2.50 (A LOT CHEAPER THAN COMMERCIAL PUBLICATIONS) THE BOOKLET SHOULD BE STUDIED BY ALL STUDENTS.

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VIEWPOINT

I was pleased to read John Spencer’s ‘Viewpoint’ on Caulfield campus environmental conditions in the Gazette 5 June 1984.

There are others who care, John. They include staff members of the economics branch and a dedicated cleaning staff - those in the face of labour shortages caused by budget cuts are able to keep Caulfield and Frankston campuses in what could be described as a minimum acceptable standard of cleanliness.

I might venture to suggest, though John, that the conditions which motivate your anger are the responsibility of every staff member and student at Chisholm Institute. After all where do the Coke tins, bottle tops and wrappers come from?

The cleaners gripe little about the obscene graffiti removed daily, the thoughtless men trodden into carpeted floor during functions, and the overuse of disposable chargers glued to our windows and painted walls with the most challenging adhesives.

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The cleaners gripe little about the obscene graffiti removed daily, the thoughtless men trodden into carpeted floor during functions, and the overuse of disposable chargers glued to our windows and painted walls with the most challenging adhesives.

They also try to understand why some lecturers allow drinking, smoking in lecture theatres and classrooms when it is common knowledge that it is against Institute rules.

What about the equipment which is discarded without any apparent owner an after the area has been used by various departments for display purposes? And the great piles of rubbish left outside doors for removal by cleaners when it is not their responsibility to do so?

Yea John, I agree wholeheartedly that a keep Chisholm clean campaign is not before its time and I am sure there must be others like yourselves who care enough to partake and make Chisholm Institute (especially Caulfield campus) a much more pleasant environment.

Mark Watson
Administrative Officer
Premiers Branch
Equal opportunity should be written into the rule-books at Chisholm next year - and the effects of that, according to one of the authors of the draft policy, will be far reaching.

Convener of the Institute's Equal Opportunity Working Party, Ms Miriam Tisher, believes most people at Chisholm are probably unaware of what the effects of the introduction of such a policy will be.

Chisholm, like many other institutions and organisations, certainly has its fair share of complaints about discrimination of one form or another, says Ms Tisher, who is also a Counselling Services counsellor.

An Equal Opportunity Policy would seek to ensure that discriminatory practices were outlawed in all areas of the Institute's activities and merely paying lip service to the principle of equal opportunity simply would not be good enough.

The Working Party, a Director's Committee appointed by Chisholm's Community Services Committee of Management (CSCOM) in August last year, recently released its draft Equal Opportunity Policy.

It was prepared in response to the fact that women and minority groups have experienced disadvantage in the past, and in response to the Equal Opportunity Act 1984 (Victoria) the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 (Commonwealth), the Human Rights Commission Act 1981 (Commonwealth) and the Racial Discrimination Act 1975 (Commonwealth).

Objectives of the proposed policy set by the Working Party are to:

- Eliminate direct and indirect discrimination and ensure the continuing absence of sexual harassment in all the above areas.
- Eliminate direct and indirect discrimination and ensure the continuing absence of discrimination on the grounds of sexual preference and age.
- Promote equal opportunity in all Institute activities for women, people with disabilities, Aborigines, members of other minorities and homosexuals.
- A central feature of the draft policy is the appointment of a Committee on Equal Opportunity as a Standing Committee of Council.
- It is hoped the policy will be improved next year, following the successful engineering careers seminar at the Caulfield campus last Monday and recent public meetings.

Ms Tisher says an example of indirect discrimination involving staff would be advertising a tenure position that includes a requirement of 10 years full time experience, which could discriminate against younger scientists, because they are unlikely to have had 10 years experience due to career interruptions.

The Working Party is currently investigating the form discrimination procedures should take for people who are victims of discrimination.

Mr Edwards says the Standing Committee would also recommend to Council appropriate affirmative action programs, and in line with the policy, monitor areas such as:

- The provision of amenities to enable the full participation of women and all other disadvantaged groups at Chisholm.
- The elimination of stereotyping, bias and discrimination in all Institute literature - such as handbooks, career information, and teaching resources.
- Personnel policies and practices.
- The draft policy defines both direct and indirect discrimination.

Direct discrimination can cover a range of situations, for example, racial discrimination in which a well qualified person is disadvantaged in finding employment because of their race; or when women are forced to settle for a lower job classification because of interruptions to a career.

Examples of indirect discrimination are, in the case of students, offering a course on the fourth level of a building with no lifts, offering a course likely to attract mature age women students at 6pm, or as part of a course, making weekend work-shops compulsory, which could discriminate against people with families.

The Working Party is also recommending the appointment of an Equal Opportunity Officer of the Equal Opportunity Committee, to co-ordinate and implement the policy in conjunction with the Standing Committee as Executive Officer.

The draft Equal Opportunity Policy and the proposed duty statement for the Equal Opportunity Officer are available to interested staff and students through the Working Party Secretary, Margaret Brookes, on extension 2509, at Caulfield.

The Working Party is seeking feedback on its work to date, and hopes that by the end of the year, its recommendations will be in place and a policy will be ready to pass on to the Staffing Committee, and ultimately to the Chisholm Council.

Dr Vaughan also pointed to the lack of funding support for technology disciplines, and the effects of inflation are taken into account. Victorian CAEs will receive a real increase of only 1.2 percent in recurrent funds.

In addition, the distribution of funds meant funding per student was being cut, threatening academic standards, and three CAEs, including the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, would have their funds cut next year.

Instead of the growth in staff forecast by Senator Susan Ryan, the Federal Education Minister, there could be cuts in some institutions.

Dr Vaughan added that problems facing CAEs would be compounded as a result of:

- Lack of 'positive discrimination' funding for disadvantaged students to provide extra teaching and support services. He said this meant individual Colleges would have to find money for these services from already tight general funds, or leave disadvantaged students at a disadvantage.
- Lack of provision for realistic 'catch up' funding to overcome the problems created by 'six years of stagnation and funding cuts'.
- Lack of provision for amalgamated Colleges facing special difficulties as a result of amalgamation.

Dr Vaughan also pointed to the lack of funding support for technology education, and that important aspects of the Barry Jones National Technology Strategy and the Victorian Economic Initiatives program had been virtually ignored.

"Limiting tertiary education funding and research may be pragmatic politics right now, but there is absolutely no doubt that within five to 10 years the disadvantages will be present by engendering the bitter harvest of this strategy if it falls behind the rest of the world."

Dr Vaughan urged community support for attempts by the State Minister for Education, Dr Fordham, to get a better deal for advanced education in Victoria.

"Pressure must be applied on Canberra to ensure Victorian CAEs receive a substantial increase in funds in 1993 to enable them to meet the demands placed on them," Dr Vaughan said.

Catch 22 budget for CAEs: Vaughan

Victorian CAEs will be only marginally better off as a result of the $65.15 million increase in tertiary education spending.

The Chairman of the Victorian Conference of Principals of CAEs, Dr Geoffrey Vaughan, made the comment after the Federal budget was handed down on 21 August.

He said although the increase 'sounds good', by the time it is split among States, sectors and different spending programs, and the effects of inflation are taken into account, Victorian CAEs will receive a real increase of only 1.2 percent in recurrent funds.

"There are only new student places for 1985 - a trifling increase given that 5000 qualified students missed out on a tertiary education place in 1984, and a further 6000 will miss out next year."

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VCA seeks appeals rep

The Chisholm branch of VCA is seeking nominations for a permanent VCA representative on the Victorian Conciliations Appeals Committee.

The move is in anticipation of changes to the procedure of reference to accommodate such a representative.

Nominations close on Friday 14 September at 5pm.

For more information contact Pam Goble, extension 2433, Caulfield Campus.
Campus Library has been transformed into the ALIS system.

One advantage is that all the records are available in machine-readable form as a result of SCV Frankston data.

Another 21,000 were added to the National Library's ABN system.

Typists, including some Secretarial Studies students, were employed to key in the remaining 14,000 records, which were available through any of the database suppliers.

After the data was in the system, a second stage operation, involving most of the library staff, was necessary to link the bar code numbers to the system records.

Some data is not yet in the system, in particular that information related to A.V. software and hardware, but these will be added as quickly as resources permit.

However, the public access catalogue at Frankston can now provide users with information about whether or not material is on loan, when it's due back, and whether it is held at Reserve.

Users at both campuses benefit by knowing if items are available at the other campus library.

Material can thus flow readily between the campuses, and use of the collections is maximised.

Although the system has yet to be fully implemented, there is enough data to enable access to a uniform database; a practical example of the application of technology to provide a better service across distant campuses.

Letter

The Editor,

I have been at Chisholm for the past 16 years and have seen the library grow from a classroom in A Block to its present size extending over 50,000 square feet.

I served for four years in the 70's in the Library Committee of the Institute, contributing small insights and modest judgments to its development. I have rejoiced in its not inconsiderable achievements as 'the real heart' of Chisholm as an enlightened educational institution.

I have long suspected and am now convinced that the Orwellian year is finally arrived in the Library environment.

On 1 July 1984 I tried to borrow a book only to be told by a staff member operating a terminal that I could not take the book out. On asking why, I was told that I already had a book out which was six days overdue.

My astonishment gave way to indignation because if ever a regulation was desired, discount book borrowing, this is it. As surely as night follows day, its surest as night follows day, its

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I have long suspected and am now convinced that the Orwellian year is finally arrived in the Library environment.

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My astonishment gave way to indignation because if ever a regulation was desired, discount book borrowing, this is it. As surely as night follows day, its surest as night follows day, its

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I have always thought of books as they scholars or dilettantes, and know better.

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