Technology a sink or swim decision says Kennedy

Australia must decide to set its sights on the pursuit of high technology and technology education, or accept the consequences of being left in the wilderness.

That was the message hammered home time and again to Chisholm's Deputy Director, Dr Tom Kennedy, on his recent three month tour of duty to Britain and Japan.

He was surprised by the Japanese commitment to higher education and found its investment in high technology "stunning."

This was in contrast to Britain, where, like Australia, the pursuit and development of high technology has been sluggish, and the financial commitment to higher education under threat.

Dr Kennedy observed that Polytechnic institutions in Britain (comparable to Australia's TAFEs) were "by and large doing fairly badly."

He said the notable exceptions were those which had opted for a change in direction, and embraced, for example, the information technology initiatives and goals set for British manufacturing industries by the government in the areas of:

- Very Large Scale Integration (VLSI) Silicon Integrated Circuits - which gives the capability of interconnecting efficiently the very large number of logic elements needed for data and signal processing.
- Software Engineering - aimed at improving the efficiency of the specification, generation and maintenance of the program instructions for Information Technology systems.
- Intelligent Knowledge Based Systems (IKBS) - includes more powerful information processing systems and a more effective transfer of human intelligence and knowledge to the computer, and computer systems that are easier to build.
- The Man/Machine Interface (MMI) covers visual, speech, and touch input/output devices, and a better understanding of the nature of communication between the user and the machine.

Dr Kennedy said those institutions which had accepted the challenge of the new initiatives had done so by 'making difficult decisions. 'Certainly some of the Polytechnics taking on the universities on their own terms, and have been highly successful in securing government money.'

This was an indication that 'there's opportunity for those who show initiative and boldness,' both in Britain and in Australia.

Dr Kennedy spent the last part of his tour in Japan, visiting around 20 corporations and higher education institutions.

Compared with Britain he found a 'very different set of circumstances.'

'Investment in high technology in Japan is just stunning - there's no other word for it. '

'But it's a nation which places enormous importance on higher education. Competition among young people to get into higher education is very very fierce and the pressure to perform is really quite awesome.'

Technology education especially is given solid financial backing by the government, compared with Australia, where higher education in general is battling a cash squeeze, and where funding for technology research and development has been recently effectively cut.

'What is encouraging in Australia is the government's move to restore participation rates in higher education to the values of the mid 1970s.'

'The problem is that the commensurate resources are not accompanying this.'

But Dr Kennedy said the price Japan has paid for its remarkable developments has been very high - in terms of pollution, urban sprawl, and quality of life.

'Maybe one of the problems facing Australia is that it's a price we are not willing to pay - but if you're not in it you fall further and further behind, and in the end lose much of the quality of life you were trying to protect.'

'In that sense technology is a treadmill which you cannot afford to get off. The sociological consequences do not seem to me to be receiving much attention anywhere in the world. Japan and Europe included.'

He said it appeared they had made the right decisions: 'Certainly some of the Polytechnics taking on the universities on their own terms, and have been highly successful in securing government money.'

The Photo-Graphics display will be held on the second level, B Block, from 1 - 16 November.

More page 2
Science three win American grants

Three Chisholm applied science students have been awarded Atlantic Foundation scholarships worth $1200 each.

The scholarships are awarded annually through the accounting firm Arthur Young and Company, to students enrolled in the applied sciences and engineering.

Chisholm is the only Australian tertiary institution which receives Atlantic Foundation support.

Arthur Young spokesman, Mr David Libby, in the GAZETTE last week, announced its support in principle for the transfer of nurse education here, and has a history of support for Chisholm's bid for nursing, Dr Janet Bapat, told the GAZETTE in May.

He said it was not a question of Chisholm's ability but that the government was not ready to make the commitment to bring in a new programme at Chisholm.

Dr Kennedy said there was 'no doubt that some loans, in these circumstances, are never returned. It is not in the best interests of library users for a section of users to be privileged to keep loans beyond the due date and to suffer penalties, since experience has shown that some loans, in these circumstances, are never returned.'

Provision is made for varied loan lengths and for renewals by staff.

Institute staff, as well as the Student Union Executive, were invited to discuss the ALIS system. The move follows an investigation by an Interdepartmental Committee established by the government earlier this year to report on the effects of a transfer in terms of costs, health and educational issues, status of women, and employment and industrial relations issues.

Chisholm has been closely watching developments in the nurse education issue, and has put forward a comprehensive proposal for the introduction of nurse education here.

Senior Lecturer in Charge of Chisholm's bid for nursing, Dr Jan Bapat, told the Gazette in May that the long-running fight for nurse education by CAEs has left the Institute well prepared.

He said a course could be established at very short notice at the Caulfield campus (in conjunction with the Frankston hospital in the area) and at Frankston campus (in conjunction with the Frankston and Dandenong Hospitals).

Both campuses were well equipped in terms of basic needs for nurse education courses, Dr Bapat said.

Nurse education to CAEs by 1993

The Federal Government has announced its support in principle for the full transfer of nurse education to CAEs.

The government expects the last intake into hospital-based courses will occur in 1990, with the full transfer completed by 1993.

It says significant benefits will result from the transfer, including a better trained and more flexible nursing workforce, increased employment opportunities for qualified nursing personnel, increased educational and vocational opportunities, particularly for women, and an enhanced status for nurses who bring them in line with other health professionals.

The move follows an investigation by an Interdepartmental Committee established by the government earlier this year to report on the effects of a transfer in terms of costs, health and educational issues, status of women, and employment and industrial relations issues.

Chisholm has been closely studying the move, and has given encouragement to Dr Kennedy.

It has held the strengths instead of being expected to carry a whole range of activities from the system of higher education, rather than because of the sink or swim.

For higher education in Australia, the big problem was the Federal government's willingness to pay lip service, and not much else, to the importance of high technology.

Dr Kennedy said there was 'no doubt that the government is expected to operate with more students and less funds. It is a very difficult problem this Institute (and others) will have to wrestle with.'

The fact that Chisholm has chosen to restructure its technology and has given encouragement to new initiatives in technology would position the Institute of Advanced Education.

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Highland adventure for USC scientists

An environmental impact study for a new gold mining venture has taken Water Studies Centre research officer Michael Jones, into the heart of Papua New Guinea's highlands.

After arriving by helicopter, Mr Jones will be camping out in the rugged terrain of Enga Province, taking water samples from the local river system for analysis.

The Porgera gold prospect, a large low grade deposit situated at 2500m, has attracted joint venture partners, Placer (PNG) P/L, Mount Isa Mines Ltd, and Resolution Gold Fields Australia P/L.

The Water Studies Centre was contracted by Natural Systems Research (NSR) through Placer (PNG) to carry out water quality investigations as part of an overall feasibility study for the project, which is expected to be submitted to the PNG government in mid-1986.

Mr Jones is due to be spending the next few weeks providing the information base from which the potential impact of the Porgera mining project on the river ecosystem and the people dependent on it, can be predicted.

The mining consortium's plan is that after initial treatment, the tailings and other waste material from the operation will be discharged into the local river system. But they are likely to be transported, and where they end up, are central to the investigation.

The field trip involving Mr Jones is the first of two short-term but intensive investigations, involving water sampling at four gauged sites in the area.

The program for investigations during the second field trip will be determined by his findings.

Mr Jones has been a Chisholm staff member for four years. He is currently working towards his Master of Applied Science Degree, involving work on another USC WSC contract relating to the fate of trace metals in the Magela Creek in the Northern Territory (a uranium deposit).

Mr Jones is specifically concerned with examining the extent of the interaction between trace metals and natural organic material in the water.

Mr Jones

Deans' workshop valuable: Leary

The Director, Mr Patrick Leary, says he believes a two day residential workshop for the Deans' Board was "very valuable and successful".

"It assisted in developing a clearer understanding between the Deans and the Board and among Deans' Board members themselves," Mr Leary says.

The objectives of the workshop were:

• Clarify the role of Deans with respect to responsibility as heads of academic areas in terms of resource management, academic management, research leadership, and guidance in the work of continuing education and consultancy; and responsibility in a self-accrediting institution.

• Resolve conflict between the Deans' role as Heads of Academic Areas and the expectation they will take on Institute level responsibilities and have an Institute level perspective when appropriate.

• Clarify the relationship between Deans, Directorate and Council by allocating responsibilities and establishing procedures.

• Compile and adopt a planning timetable for 1984 and 1985.

• Establish monitoring procedures for a triennial planning timetable.

Throughout the two days, each member of the Deans' Board presented a paper relating to an aspect of the objectives.

Each presentation was followed by indepth discussion on the topic, and where appropriate, recommendations were made concerning future actions.

Mr Leary says immediate outcomes of the workshop are the decisions of the Board to meet monthly rather than fortnightly and to become more a focus for potential computer intruders and a planning workshop for the Deans' Board.

Quality key to success

Mr McFarlane, was commissioned to write a critical history of cinema while in the UK on a recent nine month PEP stint at the University of East Anglia.

It will be published by Secker and Warburg by late 1986.

Mr McFarlane was also commissioned to edit an anthology of criticism selected from the Oxford-based film journal, 'Sequence', to be published by the British Film Institute, and contribute an article on British film adaptations from novels for a critical anthology edited by Charles Barr (University of East Anglia), to be published by the British Film Institute and New York Museum of Modern Art.

The anthology will be released to coincide with the Museum's year-long retrospective season of British films in 1985.

Mr McFarlane's interest is in the connection between film and literature and he is deeply involved in the field. Among other things, he introduced the subject 'Word and Image' to the BA course in 1982, has written a book (published last year), 'Words and Images', which focuses on the relationships between several Australian books and their translation into film; delivered the John Grierson Memorial Lecture at Melbourne's State Film Centre (his subject was 'From Page to Screen') and is a contributing editor to the bible of Australian film buffs, 'Cinema Papers'.

In the future, Mr McFarlane hopes to introduce a course on the connection between dramas and films, and possibly another dealing with popular narrative.

He describes film as 'the only new art form belonging wholly to the 20th Century,' and believes it has become as serious as Literature or any of the other arts.

Mr McFarlane has also recently co-edited with John Barnes (La Trobe University), an anthology of Australian poetry, 'Cross-Country'.

Published by William Heinemann, the anthology comprises substantial selections from such major poets as A.D. Hope and Judith Wright, as well as a selection of individual poets from colonial days to the present.

Designed as a teaching anthology, 'Cross-Country' also provides an introduction to Australian poetry for the general reader.

Quality control is the Australian manufacturer's prime marketing tool today in the face of cheap imports and highly competitive export markets, according to Dr Brian Jenney, who is leading a series of seminars on 'Chisholm Caulfield beginning on 4 October.

'Australia for Quality' comprises five one-day seminars presented by the Faculty of Technology's School of Engineering, in conjunction with the Australian Organisation for Quality Control.

Acting Dean of Engineering, Mr Jenney, has the new Australian cinema, Mr Max Lamond, a finance industry specialist with IBM Australia.

Mr McFarlane

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GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS & SCHOLARSHIPS


PIERRO FANTI INTERNATIONAL PRIZE - $10,000. Open to candidates from countries involved in the INTELSAT agreement. Closing date 30 September 1984

BARRING ISLAND - Environ mental research scholarships. Registration closes 31 October.


GOWRIE SCHOLARSHIP TRUST - Research scholarships (two post-graduate and 10 tertiary) open to descendants of members of the armed forces who served in a combat area during WWII. Closing dates, 30 September and 31 October.

ACRB - Australian Computer Research Board is offering grants in support of travel to promote ACRB-sponsored research.

NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT - Post-graduate scholarships, Closing date - 30 September.

ITT - International Fellowship for study in the USA. Closing date - 31 October.

DRIED FRUITS RESEARCH COMMITTEE - Research grants into areas of concern to the Australian dried fruits industry. Closing date - 15 October.

FULLBRIGHT AWARDS - For study, research and lecturing in the USA. Applications for senior awards close 31 December, and for post-doctoral and post-graduate awards close 15 August.

INSTITUTE FOR POLYNESIAN STUDIES - Best Paper Award on a Pacific subject by an undergraduate student and a graduate. Closing date - 31 December.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF NSW - Clarke Memorial Medal (for distinguished work in the natural sciences) and the Edgeworth David Award (for contribution to scientific nominations) for each award close 28 September.

HELLENIC ASSOCIATION - Seeking nominations for Victorians of Greek origin who have excelled during 1984.

VICTORIAN NURSING COUNCIL - Nursing Research Grants to assist research into aspects of nursing. Closing date - 29 October.

PRINCE RANIER III OF MONACO - Bursary for research work in pre-history, human paleoanthropology and quaternary geology. Closing date - 1 November.


RHEUMATISM AND ARTHRITIS ASSOCIATION - Research grants for medical, scientific and social aspects of rheumatic diseases. Closing date - 31 October.

Contact program forges links

Response to the Student Union's Pilot Contact Program has been very positive, according to Welfare Committee representative, Mr John Horley.

He says the program has strengthened links between the Institute as a whole and the student body, and believes the information gleaned to date will provide a firm base from which future communication can be improved.

The program, launched on 30 July, finishes tomorrow (14 September).

It was essentially a fact finding mission aimed at making the Student Union more accessible to its members, encouraging student participation, finding out more about student needs, and analysing ways of improving lines of communication between students and the Institute.

Mr Horley says the program has given the Union a clear picture of areas in need of improvement - particularly in terms of availability of information about Institute services open to students, and careers and employment opportunities.

The difficulty part-time students experience in finding out what is available to them has also been highlighted.

Mr Horley says students from all areas of the Institute have participated in the activities, and the numbers of students who volunteered to work on the program is encouraging.

Analysis and documentation of the program is currently taking place, and recommendations arising from it will be circulated throughout all areas of the Institute.