Frankston child care plan

The support of Frankston City Council is being sought for the establishment of a child care centre for 30 children at Frankston campus.

Chisholm Council decided at its September meeting to back the proposal, which could attract an establishment grant and annual salary subsidies. The proposal was put to Council by the Community Services Committee of Management (CSCOM), which argued that with the Institute's experience in establishing child care at Caulfield, it would be possible to have the centre at Frankston fully operational within six months of the establishment grant being received.

CSCOM said there was an urgent need for a child care centre at the Frankston campus to serve a growing population of whom more and more are mature age students.

The locum Children's Services Co-ordinator, Ms Maureen McInerney, told CSCOM she was aware of limited child care facilities at Frankston campus. At present, these children were placed in private creches, Family Day Care or with friends or relations while their parents were studying or at work.

Ms McInerney said she believed this was just the tip of the iceberg, and many more people in need of the facility would be found when time was available for a proper assessment.

In addition, the centre could provide a community service by being open to the public in an area where child care facilities were limited.

CSCOM said three possible sites had been identified for the child care centre, each with ready community access, near the corner of Millard and Sabanda Streets.

Staff and students whose work may lead to protectable intellectual property will be required to sign an agreement assigning any rights to the Institute in future, under a new policy adopted by Council at its September meeting.

The policy is aimed at protecting and exploiting patentable inventions or other intellectual property produced by Chisholm staff and students in the line of duty, study or research.

The draft policy was put to Council by the Working Party on Intellectual Property.

Chair by Dr Clive Coogan, the Working Party first met in September 1982, continuing the work of an earlier Caulfield Institute of Technology working party.

The new policy is central to the Council's aim to actively encourage and support the securing of patents, registered designs, copyright, etc., to ensure work is both protected and 'expeditiously brought into public use'.

This would be a demonstration of the 'competence and skill of the members of the Institute and their inventions, designs or other intellectual property'.

According to the Working Party, intellectual property includes patentable inventions, designs, computer databases and programs, trade marks, and works in which copyright subsists.

The new policy, any invention or design made by a member of staff or a student in the course of his or her Institute duties or studies, or when using Institute resources will be the property of the Institute.

Similarly, computer databases and programs, including software and firmware, produced at the Institute are owned by the Institute; all trade marks and service marks relating to goods and services distributed by the Institute (including names of computer programs and symbols used in conjunction with activities and events) are owned by the Institute.

The policy also covers rights to original work in which copyright subsists.

The new policy will be implemented by an Intellectual Property Committee, comprising a member of Council (who will act as Chair), a nominated Director, the Development Director ex-officio, an academic staff representative, two industry representatives and a patent attorney.

It will by the Committee's job to:

- Provide a facility for consultation by members of staff, post-graduate and research students regarding patent or other protection applicable to their inventions, designs or other intellectual property.
- Decide whether an invention, or work shall be the subject of a patent or design application, or other protection.
- Recommend to the Director priorities for the Institute on patents, copyright, etc.
- Review and recommend to the Director the resources to be made available for the protection and development of intellectual property.
- Disseminate information on patented inventions and other protected works.
- Oversee the establishment of adequate patent or other protective cover and negotiate the commercial exploitation of intellectual property.
- Determine the distribution of any income resulting from an intellectual property negotiation.

Strict confidentiality in all intellectual property negotiations is required under the policy, covering the Committee, staff/student, and potential licensee companies.
Science gets X-ray vision

The $65,000 X-ray diffraction machine bought by the School of Applied Science earlier this year, has been money well spent, according to Physics lecturer, Dr John Davis.

He says already the machine has logged up 150 hours of use by staff and senior undergraduate students.

The technique of X-ray diffraction is used primarily for determining the crystal structure of solids. It can also be used for diagnostic purposes, for example, in determining the nature of an unknown substance.

Dr Davis says this year seven third year students from Applied Physics and Chemistry/Biology have used the machine for project activities. These include one involving the determination of the crystal structure of chromium dioxide, and others relating to the characterisation of clay materials found in water systems.

In simple terms, the instrument works like this: a beam of X-rays directed at the material to be analysed, is scattered by the material in all directions. The distribution of the scattered X-rays is detected and analysed to determine the arrangement of atoms which produced the scattering and the structure of the materials.

This information provides the identity of the compound or element.

Dr Davis says examples of practical applications of the technique are:

- Work by the Water Studies Centre which may involve the determination of small amounts of different clays in water systems. The techniques can be used to identify the chemical nature of suspended particles in natural waters, leading to a better understanding of the transport and fate of pollutants.

- In triology, where the nature of wear debris is of interest. Dr Davis says it is hoped in future to upgrade the existing system with enhanced computing facilities to enable research work 'at a very high level beyond its present capabilities.'

In addition, an X-ray microprobe currently being refurbished by Dr Davis will be brought into operation, expanding the materials science capabilities of the Faculty of Technology.

Dr Davis expects this will lead to greater demand for access to both instruments by both students and staff in the Faculty of Technology where the technique will be useful for work in areas such as tribology, soil mechanics, water studies, solid state physics and materials science.

The technique will also be used more in future for graduate diploma and Master's programs and staff research and consultancy.

New home for creative Concepts

For those who haven't noticed, Chisholm Concepts has moved. And according to the co-ordinator, Mr Stan Adnam, business has never been better.

Mr Adnam says in the first week after the shift into the new premises on the second level in A Block, sales totalled $1600, with daily takings since then averaging around $200.

Chisholm Concepts has become a popular fixture at the Caulfield campus since it was established by the Department of Ceramic Design about four years ago.

Work by students from all areas of the School of Art and Design is on sale at very reasonable prices, and the business itself is almost entirely run by ceramic design students as part of their course.

Mr Adnam says that the move to A Block has given the business room to grow.

The present Associate Director position will be redesignated Associate Director (Educational Services). The responsibilities for that position and for the Assistant Director (Frankston) will remain as agreed by Council previously except for the added duty of deputising for the Director when necessary.

This approach will provide for flexibility and experience sharing," Mr Leary told Council.

He said he had no wish to change the split of functional responsibilities between the two Associate Directors.

Based essentially on a division of resources planning and administration on the one hand and management of educational services on the other, it was 'a logical division and one which I believe should continue', Mr Leary said.

He told Council the position of Associate Director (Resources) would be advertised throughout Australia and overseas as soon as possible.
LDS unravels language mysteries

Chisholm's Language Development Section (LDS) has proven a valuable educational asset since its establishment at the Caulfield campus in February.

In her interim report on the first six months of its operation, LDS co-ordinator, Ms Helen Tebble, says the Institute's decision to introduce the service has been more than justified.

During that period 85 students were regularly catered for, and more than half referred themselves to it. Others were referred by academic staff, and the Admissions and Appeals Committees.

In addition, LDS provided 249 consultations (an average of 4.7 per week), with 87 course attendances, 67 Wednesday lunch-time attendances and six students completing the Applied Science written English test.

Ms Tebble says the first six months as an "exciting, wearing, and for it to be a true voice, and to persist in the face of rejection".

The constant theme throughout her report is the need for more staff to cope with the demand by Chisholm students. Currently LDS services are offered on a shared part-time basis by Ms Tebble, and senior tutor in language development, Ms Jill Anderson.

LDS was established in a 12 month pilot scheme in response to the recognition of a "language in learning" problem at Chisholm.

- Diagnose the academic literacy needs of Chisholm students.
- Be available to all students seeking assistance to improve their academic reading and writing, and study methods, and provide them with appropriate tuition.
- Provide specific courses in English as a second or foreign language.
- Co-ordinate the literacy testing programs for the Institute.
- Provide staff development programs to assist the fostering of language development skills in specific disciplines.
- Ms Tebble says about two-thirds of the students who had consultations during the first six months were non-native speakers of English.
- Some were born and raised in bilingual homes in Australia and were very well advanced in their development of spoken English and were often first generation tertiary students; some had been Vietnamese refugees...and others were overseas students for whom English is a foreign language.
- "These students could well be described as linguistically disadvantaged when compared to native English speakers...they must achieve a certain standard in their academic English to pass the course.
- Ms Tebble says of the native speakers of English who attended LDS, some were high achievers wanting to maximise their potential, some were catching up on an aspect of their language education which had been neglected during primary or secondary school education, while others were returning to study or starting study late in life.
- "Almost all students presented as intelligent, motivated people who were very eager to learn."
- Ms Tebble says although it is impossible to adequately quantify the progress made by students, some students' marks progressed from N to HD in their continuous assessment, while others made significant personal progress in moving from grades of N to PP.
- The LDS program cannot be evaluated quantitatively because there are too many variables which themselves cannot be adequately quantified."

One is confidence. LDS staff have found that students who take advantage of its services go away with more confidence, which ultimately must help their work.

Ms Tebble notes that although LDS staff have hardly had time to breathe during most of the first semester because of the heavy demand for its services, they do not believe that they have necessarily identified all of the students at Chisholm who could benefit from the service.

She argues that insufficient LDS support is available to Frankston campus students. Eight Wednesday afternoon sessions had been allocated to consultations by one LDS staff member at Frankston, but further consultations had to be postponed because "it was uneconomic to send LDS staff to Frankston when the demand at Caulfield campus was too high."

Part-time evening students are another group who could benefit from the provision of additional LDS staff, she explains.

Ms Tebble recommends in her report that:
- A full-time staff and a part-time secretary be appointed for 1985.
- A room adjacent to the LDS offices in Railway Avenue be designated a permanent LDS office.
- A portion of the Library budget be allocated for the purchase of books recommended by LDS.
- The Academic Registrar's department add to the enrolment form the question of whether students are native or non-native speakers of English.
- The Admissions and Appeals Committee continue their practice of referring certain students to LDS as a condition of their entry to Chisholm.

The report is currently being considered by the Academic Board.

Finishing heavy weight at DSBS

Australian foreign exchange heavyweight, Mr Ken Stockton, has accepted the honorary position of Visiting Executive in Foreign Exchange Management with the Department of Banking and Finance.

Mr Stockton is the Director - Treasury Operations, for the Investment Bank, Dominguez Barry Montague Ltd.

In this role, he is responsible for the foreign exchange, bullion and money market operations of the bank.

Department of Banking and Finance head, Mr Hasun Erondon, describes Mr Stockton as "one of the top three people in this country in foreign exchange, who has been a prominent figure in the development of the Foreign Exchange Market in Australia."

Mr Stockton is the first participant of the Banking and Finance's visiting executive program, which involves business/industry executive volunteers taking their time as required by the Department.

At Chisholm, he will be contributing in an advisory, as well as a teaching capacity.

Next month he will participate in a short course in Foreign Exchange Management for the Department.

Success stories hard won: Kerr

Literature lecturer, David Kerr, says the best advice he can give people interested in becoming short story writers, is to persist in the face of inevitable rejections.

"Behind every successful writer in Australia stands a line of rejections slips several hundreds long," he says.

Mr Kerr should know. Short story writing has been a passion of his for a long time.

About five years ago he led a TAFE short story course in parallel with fellow writer, Philip Edmonds, who introduced Mr Kerr to the creative writing publication, 'Tabloid Story'.

"I became an editor of that for about three years, and gradually became aware that what I was doing was no worse than anything we were getting for publication."

He expects it will attract people who have thought about trying their hand at writing but have been unsure of how to go about it.

To date he has had five short stories published, including an award-winning entry in the Air New Zealand competition in 1982, titled 'Gallery'.

He has also been a judge in the 'Age' Short Story Award.

Mr Kerr's latest project is the formation of a short story writing group at Chisholm's Frankston campus.

Beginning on 28 September, the group of aspiring writers will meet on a weekly basis for 10 weeks under Mr Kerr's guidance.

He hopes it will attract people who have thought about trying their hand at writing but have been unsure of how to do it.

Mr Kerr hopes to help foster their writing abilities with practical hints and constructive criticism.

"One of the main things will be to get their writing active - to free them up. Another will be to make them realise that their own lives are their best subject; to use their own experiences as a source of inspiration."

Mr Kerr says in any creative writing 'you need someone to say honestly what they think about your work', and he hopes to provide the thoughtful comments necessary to help improve his students' writing abilities.

He hopes the course will be the first of many, and sees publication of the best material a possible outcome in future.

"For those people who have secretly nurtured a desire to become short story writers, Mr Kerr says it's important that they 'find their own voice, and for it to be a true voice, and to persist in the face of rejection'.
FARMING FIELD DAY

Interesting in farming? Then don't miss the agricultural field day at the Red Hill Showgrounds on 20-21 October.

The program includes talks and demonstrations on subjects ranging from the handling of sheep to the weaving of chainsaws.

Chisholm's Division of Continuing Education is also running a series of lectures by experts in fields such as beekeeping, fruit trees, organic gardening, poultry, pasture management, saddlery, herbs and hydroponics.

A vet will be on hand to answer any queries about horses.

For more information about Continuing Education's lecturer program, telephone the Frankston campus, extension 240.

More details about the Field Days are available from the Mornington Peninsula Community School, telephone (059) 78 8425.

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WHAT'S ON

Students strike a delicate balance

"A Delicate Balance" is the theme of this year's exhibition of craft and ceramics by graduate students of Chisholm's ceramic design course.

Director of the National Gallery, Mr Patrick McCAughney, has been invited to launch the exhibition, which opens at Chisholm on Monday 10 December, and runs for two weeks.

The exhibition, an annual event, will feature hot and flat glass, clay and concrete works.

This year, works by final year students of the Bachelor of Arts (Fine Art) (Craft) also feature, including examples of gold and silver smithing, and works in flat glass.

"This exhibition's strength lies in the variety of work to be presented," says Ceramic Design head, Mr Lindsay Maynard.

"Each different medium shows a diversity of ideas and innovative designs - the fluidity and clarity of glass contrasts sharply with the architectural scale and density of the ceramic sculptures. Wood and clay complement each other, and in some instances they are incorporated in the same piece."

Mr Anderson says the exhibition will reflect the "high standard of craftsmanship maintained by the Institute, which aims to encourage the development of ideas to a high artistic level."

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OPEN INVITATION COCKTAIL PARTY

To farewell the Deputy Director, Dr Tom Kennedy.

Wednesday 10 October, 5.30 - 7.30pm at the Staff Club.

For more information, telephone Carol, extension 2362.

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GRADUATES AND THE YEAR 2000

The Director of Science and Technology, Mr Barry Jones, will give a public address on "Grades and the Year 2000", from 1 - 2pm on 16 October, at the Public Lecture Theatre, Old Arts Building, Melbourne University.

Issues covered will include how graduates, universities and other tertiary institutions can prepare for the future, and the effects on graduate recruitment of changes in society, technology and employment.

For more information, telephone 341 6543.

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BRIEFLY

Interchange

An Interchange placement is available to a Chisholm staff member interested in working with the Commonwealth Public Service for three months.

This follows the placement of a Department of Defence employee for three months last year at Chisholm's Computer Abuse Research Bureau.

Mr Maynard, extension 2398.

Woolies survey

Lakeland College in Alberta, Canada, is seeking expressions of interest in its international exchange program.

The exchange is open to both academic and administrative personnel for six to 12 weeks in 1985/86.

Lakeland's academic programs include business administration (covering among other things accounting and data processing), early childhood education and environmental sciences.

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Dr Foster's Bluegrass Band had visitors to the Staff Club on Thursday, 20 September, kicking up their heels.

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Dr Foster guitarist, Rob Lewis, and double bassist, Tony Cowell.