MAZAK in action

The School of Engineering's MAZAK machining centre was recently contracted by the REPCO Auto Parts company to produce 200 clutch plates for the NISSAN 200 clutch plates. REPCO approached Chisholm to pick up production of the parts while the company's own machine was out of action.

Technicians working on the job were Mr Ivo Little, Mr Ian Dent and Mr Jack Craig.

Micros for engineering

A $125,000 microcomputer laboratory will be established by the School of Engineering next year. Principal lecturer with the Department of Civil Engineering, Mr John Walker, says the move is in line with the complete overhaul of engineering courses which occurred this year, aimed at ensuring Chisholm engineering graduates will be unique in their ability to handle the massive re-orientation occurring within the engineering profession as a result of computer developments.

Initially the laboratory will comprise 20 256k microcomputers, in addition to a Labtem host computer system running under a UNIX operating system. The microcomputers will be used for applications such as spreadsheets and databases, and for the teaching of a range of computer languages used in engineering.

The School says the new equipment will provide a 'state-of-the-art level of computational support for all students in engineering degree courses'.

The Labtem host computer will act as a file server in handling printing and plotting functions, and provide a general education in UNIX and 'C' languages as well as providing for microcomputer developments in the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering.

The School is also investigating the use of Labtem for the provision of electronic mail, document transfer and appointment reminders between offices.

In addition, 18 Apple computers currently being used by various Departments within the School will be consolidated into a separate laboratory to support developments in Industrial Engineering.

Mr Walker says the School expects the laboratory to strengthen its ability to provide guest courses for industry professionals, and generate funds for further expansion of the facilities in future.

He says a 'significant proportion of the $125,000 spent on equipping the laboratory has been drawn from funds generated by the School Civil Engineering lectures, Mr Murray Muspratt, currently on Professional Experience Program leave at Princeton University, has been involved in assessing and arranging for the purchase of software for the laboratory in the USA.

See you in 1985!

This is the last edition of the Chisholm GAZETTE for 1984. Publication will resume early in 1985. Otherwise, it's business as usual for the Public Relations Office, C1.06, Caufield. Telephone the Public Relations Office, Geoff Heard, ext. 2099, or the Publications Officer, Sue Couttie, ext. 2311, for any assistance with publicity or public relations matters.

Meanwhile, we wish Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our readers.

More places for disadvantaged students call

Increased access to tertiary education by disadvantaged groups has been a recent focus for discussion by Chisholm's Academic Board.

The Board has approved in principle a proposal to open up a greater number of places to disadvantaged students, in particular women who have: studied in traditionally male dominated areas, aborigines and the disabled.

According to Acting Academic Registrar, Mr Alan Young, such a move would amount to an extension of the Institute's long standing policies on access by disadvantaged groups, for example, special entry policies for students who lack the trams to HSC or TOP entry requirements.

Early school leavers and mature aged students are among those who have benifitted, he says.

'The institute has long had the role of being available to the educationally disadvantaged', Mr Young notes, but in future special efforts will be made to bring our special entry policies to the attention of many more potential students.

Other examples of Chisholm's commitment to access and participation by disadvantaged students, Mr Young says, include:

- The Women in Engineering program, run by the School of Engineering for the past five years to attract higher participation by females in this almost totally male dominated field.

- Selection procedures for the Associate Diploma in Welfare Studies which consciously splits the intake into those students with secondary school qualifications, and those without.

- The 'Second Chance in Science program' a 13 week mid-year intake course for students who failed science at HSC, aimed at providing intensive revision work to bring students up to the standard required to cope with the applied science degree (the program ceased in 1982 due to funding cutbacks).

Head of the Educational Development Unit, Dr Charles Noble, says the expansion of entry to higher education by disadvantaged groups, to insist the Academic Board in its discussion.

In it, he argued that 'there IS a strong case for Chisholm to give a higher priority to admitting disadvantaged students'.

He pointed to the Chisholm Planning Document which contains aspects such as special entry policies to cater for different groups, such as women, the disabled, aborigines and those in the lower socioeconomic strata of Australian society.

Dr Noble said: 'To ignore such groups would be to challenge a government policy at a time when Chisholm does not appear to be one of the government's favourite sons for daughters'. The Institute will have to do a great deal of work to assist disadvantaged students if it is to attract the favourable funding benefits associated with being on tertiary institutions in the western and northern suburbs'.

He said an important consideration was whether Chisholm had the ability to develop the resources to provide special assistance to those admitted under a disadvantaged students scheme, and if not it was undesirable to admit those who had little chance of success at tertiary level without adequate support.

One way of improving access for disadvantaged students, Dr Noble said, was the introduction of quotas of the kind in place at Monash University, which defined an upper limit of up to four percent of the first year students in each faculty to unqualified students able to show definite evidence of educational disadvantage.

But he said disadvantaged students should be given preferential treatment without imposing a quota.

'The critical decisions between applicants are made in the region of the cut-off, for example, if the Anderson score cut-off is 240, disadvantaged students whose scores are up to 10 points below this level could be given preference over other students.

'Borderline applicants who consider themselves to be disadvantaged should be asked to complete a short questionnaire to assist selection officers. A similar method could be used with special entry applicants.'

Dr Noble said recent research had shown such positive discrimination could be desirable in certain circumstances, and such students, he believed, were 'at the critical point between taking a special entry scheme is insufficient and that it is desirable to provide special assistance to disadvantaged students'.

He said a suitable response by Chisholm could be to focus on 'Careers for Women' in future schools liaison and public relations activities.

Dr Noble's paper concluded that 'a special entry scheme is insufficient and that it is desirable to provide special assistance to disadvantaged students'.

He believed the services of the Language Development Section were particularly important in this regard.

Also important was the need for an improved statistical database, focusing on the collection at enrolment time of data relating to the socioeconomic background of students, and monitoring the progress of those categorised as disadvantaged.
End of era as Pearey retires

Dr Trevor Pearey’s retirement at the end of the year signals the end of an era for Chisholm and for Australia.

His distinguished career began in 1940 as a first class honours graduate in physics and mathematics at the Imperial College London.

From 1944 - 57, with the CSIRO’s Division of Radio Physics, Dr Pearey developed Australia’s first, and the world’s forth, computer, CSIRAC. with Chisholm as Head of the Division of Computing in Australia, initiating and was appointed Dean of the School of Computing and Information Systems seven years later.

This year he was appointed Foundation Dean of the new Faculty of Technology, a pioneering educational initiative recognizing the pervasive influence of the information technologies.

Victorious end to year of enterprise

A Chisholm-trained team has tied for first place in the National Enterprise Awards.

The business plan for the Optical Data Link, put together by the inventor, Mr Brian Taylor, and accountant Mr Steve Wharton, greatly reduce early life business processing. a turkey to eagle school you still have a turkey.

The national final was held in November. ending

The workshop was held in Adelaide on 13 November, ending the year of enterprise which began in May.

The workshops were run in each Business School’s Centre for the Management of Enterprises. The budget philosophy and Committee, Schools and Departments, the Directorate, Staffing of our priorities’ should be made by structor officer in the field of

The industries raised by Mr O’Grady may want’. The Industries Assistance Production has a background paper for individuals, organisations and companies inten

The paper and other relevant documents can be obtained on request.

Contact the Secretary, Industries Assistance Commission, PO Box 80, Melbourne, ACT, 2600. Telephone inquiries should be directed to either Max Carter (062) 643330, or Gary Samuels (062) 643165.

Brigg urges rethink on industry research

The budget philosophy and priorities in recent years has been increasingly anti-academic, resulting in a steady downgrading of the importance of the teaching function of the Institute.

That was the message from Council member, Mr Tony O’Grady, whose paper, ‘Downgrading of Teaching Function at Chisholm’ was submitted to the November meeting.

Mr O’Grady said his paper was ‘just a starting point’ for the 1985 budget, but on trends that have been obvious in the Institute for a long time.

‘The basic point is that over a long period there has been a steady decline in the role of teaching to non-teaching staff.’

He argued that Chisholm was the second largest spender on administra- tion in Victoria, and it was ‘important that we do consciously stop and see why we are going in that direction.’

‘The impact on academic staff morale has been all the greater because of the impending economic situation at the teaching level (with forecasts of higher teaching loads and/or reduced staff numbers in our own case).’

‘It is not the desirability of cutting the equity associated with these decisions, but rather the concern to decision makers at every level of our organisation, and such a “serious reassessment of our priorities’ should be made by Council, the Directorate, Staffing Committee, Schools and Departments. The issues raised by Mr O’Grady will be put to the Director’s Task Force. set up to examine and recommend on short and long term issues associated with the 1985 budget and beyond.

Brigg urges rethink on industry research

Dr Tucker said the success of the venture capitalists interested in a help so much in putting together a career ladder’ for the scientist Australian industry’. to contribute to the nation’s wealth.

He suggested that the process and problems of managing science on a national scale were basically the same in industry.

Each required:

- The identification of relevant areas
- Provision of a climate in which science could flourish
- Monitoring of progress towards the goal of improving the image of the work program to achieve them
- Courage to terminate projects which were no longer relevant.

Brigg concluded that:

- An enterprise, an industry and the nation all needed science to survive in today’s world.
- To achieve this, science must be geared towards goals which supported the overall goals of the enterprise.
- Science must be well managed and directed to achieve these goals.
- Scientists could be very good managers if the deficiencies of their training had been recognised and they were properly selected and trained for the job.

New legal officer

Chisholm’s new Legal Officer is Ms Vicki Korman.

She took up her new position in November, after two and a half years with one of the biggest firms of solicitors in Melbourne, Phillips, Fox.

During that time Ms Korman principally in the area of commercial law, including intellectual property and insolvency.

Appointments can be arranged with Ms Korman by phoning extension 2721 at CSIRAC. Requests for advice should be made in writing to the Associate Director (Education and Administrative Services).
Rheumatoid arthritis patients at one of the weekly clinics at Frankston Hospital's Edna Vincent Unit. EDU cameraman, Rob Pignolet, is seen filming the session, where two patients are receiving treatment, and others participate in a group discussion.

A self-help approach to rheumatoid arthritis is the focus of a new film being produced by Chisholm's Educational Development Unit.

Chisholm's Educational Development Unit was contracted to produce the film for Frankston Hospital's Physiotherapy Department at the Edna Vincent Unit, in a strategy aimed at demonstrating the merits of this kind of approach to the disease.

Medical writer, Mr Byron Nichols, says the video will give 'an overview of the kinds of treatments available to sufferers of rheumatoid arthritis', with a view to encouraging the formation of similar self-help groups in the wider community.

It will also aim to 'show other physiotherapists that this kind of approach to the disease is possible, and can work', Mr Nichols says.

At Frankston Hospital, the emphasis is on 'encouraging the therapeutic use of physical treatment, supportive care and social interaction through very high radiant heat therapy'.

A weekly clinic, run by the hospital's chief physiotherapist, Mrs Helen Gordon, provides the opportunity for those attending to help other patients for example in preparing them for treatment.

It is also a time when they can discuss the knowledge and possible solutions - largely related to lack of public awareness of the difficulties arthritis sufferers face.

The EDU production will concentrate on a typical morning's activities at the Unit.

It has been scripted by Mr Nichols and Mrs Gordon, and is due for completion early next year.

More knowledge would lead to $10,000.

Mr Nichols says the Hospital approached EDU as a result of previous contracts, including the production of training films for use in nurse education at the Hospital.

The EDU team working on the current project comprises Mr Nichols, Mr John Blyth (Technical Officer), Mr Michael Richards (Audio Visual Technician).

It is a wash-off aluminium reflector designed to test the effects of people trapped by bushfires in cars or houses.

'The idea is that people would be able to swiftly paint over window areas, greatly reducing the heat build-up inside the vehicle or house and the likelihood of the glass breaking to let the flames inside,' the team's supervisor, Mr Rob Pignolet, explains.

Research on the product has been curtailed because of the Centre's lack of funds.

Mr Pignolet believes the lack of support for bushfire research results from the Centre's lack of funds - a situation connected with the Centre's inability to pay its staff.

The Hay report will be considered at the December Staffing Committee meeting.

Ms Kiley says if the pilot study is supported, each general staff grouping will be looked at in turn.
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