Car innovators aim for Electrathon win

An electric powered vehicle designed and built by six electrical and mechanical engineering students won the most innovative design award at 'The Electrathon' competition at VFL Park on Sunday 1 September.

At the half way mark of the competition the Chisholm entry was running a creditable second, but then problems and a back wheel blow-out put the vehicle back into the pits.

In trying to make up lost time, Andrew Edney, failed to take a corner, and spun out, putting Chisholm out of the race. The vehicle notched up a total of 76 laps, achieving a peak lap time of 45 kph.

The winning entry set a new 'Electrathon' record of 125 laps of the 6.6 km circuit (about 75 kph) in total in the allowed time of two hours.

Supervisor of the mechanical engineering students, Mr Paul Wellington, says it was the first time a Chisholm vehicle had been entered in the competition, which has been running for five years. He says, the third four year electrical/electronic engineering students and third year mechanical engineering students started work on the vehicle in March this year, and finished the day before the event.

Mr Wellington says despite a few teething problems the vehicle has the potential to take out a win in the next competition in May 1986.

The brains behind the design: (left - right) Maher Kharsough, Patrick Grandable, Oliver Susie, Batsam Hanna, John Papangis, and driver, Andrew Edney.

Chisholm could play a pivotal role in developing a technology training program for young unemployed people in the Frankston region, according to Art and Design Dean, Mr Harold Farey.

Mr Farey recently returned from a three month fact-finding tour overseas, at the invitation of the Director, focusing primarily on the operation of ITEC (Information Technology Exchange Centres) training programs in Britain.

He renewed contact with Mr Chris Webb, the Director of the Notting-Dale Information Technology Centre in London and architect of the ITEC programs, who was in Australia last year as an adviser to the Federal Government.

Mr Farey says the major target of the ITEC programs are young people who have dropped out with no formal qualifications and whose employment prospects are zero.

Most are under 17 and from underprivileged areas, but in spite of that, the ITEC claim to place about 60 percent of their trainees in employment.

Their aim is to train young people in the appreciation and application of technology, particularly as it relates to the electronic office, word processing, maintenance of electrical equipment, and a wide variety of computer applications.

After graduating she hopes to work as a management consultant in business and computing - she has already received job offers from a number of prestigious management consulting firms.

The students came up with the unusual design of two bicycle wheels and two small outriggers to provide stability. In an attempt to eliminate the tyre and wheel problems common to more conventional three and four wheel vehicles.

The competition, run by the Australian Electric Vehicle Association, requires the vehicles to be powered by 24 kgs of batteries. It attracts enthusiasts from a range of automotive companies and tertiary institutions.

Mr Wellington says the Chisholm entry was built as a student project and work on identifying areas in need of improvement or modification will continue.

Supervisor of the electrical/electronic engineering students was Mr Roger Riordan.

Mr Farey

Relating his observations to Chisholm, Mr Farey says the Institute "has the range of professional expertise to really initiate such a scheme - it won't have to start from scratch one in writing programmes.

Monitoring current trends in distance learning, and tele-education in particular, was another focus of Mr Farey's trip.

He attended a national conference in Birmingham which addressed the issue, and observed that "huge sums of money have been spent by the British government in paying for private organisations and government funded organisations to address a whole spectrum of training needs.

He found that the tele-education packages available in Britain covered almost all facets of education, and ranges from the very basic to the very sophisticated.

Other highlights of Mr Farey's trip included:

• A meeting with Dr John Vince of Middlesex Polytechnic, a leading exponent of computer graphic imaging, who will be a visiting fellow at Chisholm next year.

• Taking part in the CIGRAPH conference in San Francisco, the biggest computer graphics conference in the western world.

A full report of Mr Farey's activities overseas will be available soon for presentation to the Director and Council.

Andrea aims for the top

the best financial accounting student.

Joint winner of the Hungerford Prize for the best final year management accounting student.

Butterworths Book Prize for 1984 for best financial accounting student.

Ms Ross was also the first Chisholm student to achieve a perfect score of 100 percent in the second year subject Cost Accounting.

After graduating she hopes to work as a management consultant in business and computing - she has already received job offers from a number of prestigious management consulting firms.

Price Waterhouse Prize for the best financial accounting student.
Two project officers have been appointed to run Project WELCOM, a joint initiative of Chisholm and Caulfield City Council. They are Mrs Angela Ambrosy, a Hungarian migrant of the group continuing her research into Hungarian immigration, and Dr Charles Baden Fuller, a lecturer in Industrial Relations at London Business School.

The project's aim will be to encourage a revitalisation of private sector research institutions which provided charges were made able to attract much more industry, particularly from the manufacturing sector drawing attention to the Government's 150 percent personal development of its personnel in industry, but also to enhance the quality of education provided by Chisholm and to offer the opportunities for professional development of its staff.

Dr Briggs says Chisholm is an approved research organisation under the Government's industrial research and development grants legislation, and companies using its services on appropriate terms are eligible for the tax concession.

R&D tax scheme a show in the arm for Oz research

The Federal Government's 150 percent tax incentive for research and development would be one of the most important means of lifting Australia's level of R&D.

Announcing details of the scheme, Science Minister John Button said it would provide research institutions with greater practical commercial orientation.

Although the main aim of the tax concession was to improve levels of R&D undertaken by the private sector, the Government was also confident it would encourage a revitalisation of publicly funded research institutions which carry out most of Australia's R&D.

Companies which contracted R&D work from such institutions would be able to claim the concession for the expenditure, provided charges were made on a full-cost-recovery basis, Senator Button said.

In this way institutions would be able to attract much more research work from industry.

Senator Button said although Australia's publicly funded R&D effort had been comparable to that of other similar sized industrial nations, private expenditure had increasingly declined.

Spending on R&D by the private sector fell from 0.42 percent of GDP in 1973-74 to 0.22 percent in 1981-82, compared with overseas expenditure levels of 0.95 percent, for example, 1.5 percent in the Federal Republic of Germany and Japan, 1.3 percent in Sweden and 0.48 percent in Canada.

The new scheme will mean companies undertaking R&D will pay only 31 cents in the dollar on research.

Chisholm Development Director, Dr Bill Briggs, has been involved with R&D for many years, and as former general manager of the Australian Racehorse Management Board, he had an annual research budget of $2.5 million.

He has witnessed over the past 20 years the major shift by Australian companies from developing their own ideas and technology to importing them from overseas.

Commenting on the decline, in private industry investment, Dr Briggs says: "While there is often a case for importing technology, rather than 're-inventing the wheel' in the abandonment of research meant that industry no longer had the skills to properly assess overseas technology or sort out the programs which often arose in its application."

The progressive depletion of research and development personnel in industry has meant many companies no longer have the resources to take up the opportunities offered by the Government's 150 percent tax incentive.

This is where institutions such as Chisholm, come in, having the resources available to fill that gap.

Dr Briggs says the Development Office has already consulted with a range of companies in the manufacturing sector, discussing the possibility of industry and government working together to develop a framework where the Government would contribute the tax incentive, and companies would use its services on appropriate terms to enable them to utilise the tax concession.

Implementing the Division's first research projects would also serve not only as a valuable institute resource, but also as a researcher and information provider for outside organisations.

Under the umbrella of the Educational Development Unit and the direction of Deputy Director Dr Charles Noble, the Office acts as a strategic advice unit, providing background documentation and secretarial support to the Deans' Board and Directorate, in addition to tackling specific projects.

"Since the Office was set up in March the range of projects has been incredibly diverse," Dr Noble says.

They have included investigations of:

- The proposed two-lecture technology course.
- Trennial planning, in association with Associate Director (Administrative and Educational Services) Mr Graham Treveska.

The issue of tertiary fees.

Dr Noble says the structure of the Projects Office grew from the development of the Chisholm Planning Document by the Institute's Planning Working Party.

But the work of the Office is not just limited to issues which directly affect the Institute. Currently Dr Noble is involved in research for Murrumbeena High School, under a Participation and Equity Program grant, into school/home communications.

Dr Noble says he is hopeful that 'the type of external project will continue', and that in future the Office will take on more grant-supported research, consultancies and possibly short courses.

He stresses that the Projects Office is 'not a decision making body in any way'. Its aim is to keep staff, particularly at senior management level, informed of current developments of significance to the Institute.
Excellence is Williams' aim

Dr Williams says he is also excited at the prospect of the two-tier technology course, now in the final stages of preparation.

"This intersectoral link with TAFE is a very significant achievement and all concerned should be congratulated," Dr Williams says. Developments such as these auger well for the Faculty's future.

Dr Williams believes a major part of his job will be to ensure the Faculty is successfully marketed to all sectors of the community.

"Exactly the same principles applying to a business product apply to education. What we have to continually keep in mind is that the whole purpose of our existence is to train and educate students to meet present and future needs."

Creating a 'Faculty of Excellence' recognised as THE place for technological education is Dr Roy Williams' goal.

Two months after his appointment as the first permanent head of Chisholm's Faculty of Technology, he is confident the goal can be realised.

Dr Williams has been greatly impressed by the professionalism of his staff and their enthusiasm in working toward development of the Faculty.

"The potential here is absolutely superb - there's no shortage of ideas and the work by staff in the new Faculty should be applauded," Dr Williams says.

He stresses that the success of the Faculty will lie in ensuring the technological education it offers is relevant to this day and age, as well as preparing students for the future.

Another important responsibility will be the contribution of the Faculty to the development of the Frankston campus.

Dr Williams says there is "tremendous potential for the Faculty as a whole and the Institute in general for reaching out and providing for the needs of students and industry in the Dandenong/ Westernport/Mornington/Peninsula regions serviced by Chisholm Frankston."

The introduction of tele-education at Chisholm could open up significant opportunities for people in that region, Dr Williams notes.

The issue is currently being examined by a small working party with Dr TrevorPearcey, Foundation Dean of the Faculty, providing the lead.

The group is looking at the problems involved in getting a tele-education pilot program off the ground - both technically and educationally.

Dr Pearcey is to prepare a report to Council on this initiative by October.

Camm models the mail

Camm won the contract from a field that included several other tertiary institutions.

Camm's task is a complex one since mail sorting is influenced by so many factors such as the time mail arrives at a mail centre, the time it must leave (often to a range of destinations), the method of transport, distance and the availability of staff.

Because of that, Mr McCann says, "mail sorting is not simple and can't be just optimised."

The work involves:

- Development of a data base module which will have data entered for each mail centre.
- McCann says this will enable modelling of each mail centre, and the simulation of mail and processing requirements within a 24 hour period.
- Development of an optimisation procedure (linear programming) to determine the best operating conditions for each mail centre.
- Development of possibly two forms of a planning model (based on the actual setting up and planning of mail centres, existing and proposed, including planning for the installation of the latest letter sorting and indexing equipment available, and, if a need exists, an operations model will be developed as the second stage (focusing on the day to day running of mail centres, including staff require- ment, etc.).

Mr McCann says the National Letter Sorting Project's existing computer model was designed and programmed a decade ago and was operating at the limits of the host computer's capability.

It did not take into account the new equipment now available and could not be expanded to do so.

Camm's job, Mr McCann says, is to write a more efficient simulation package that will take into account all the options that the National Letter Sorting Project needs to consider.

To date, the Camm team has completed the data entry and simulation models, and is currently working on the optimisation procedure, due to be finished shortly.

Marketed to Camm will continue its association with Australia Post as an ongoing examination of data, and simulation models, and is currently working on the optimisation procedure, due to be finished shortly.

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Fear of computers still an obstacle

The impact of new generations of technology on computing education in Australia was the central theme of the 16th Annual Computer Conference of Australian Computer Educators (CAED), held at Chisholm from 26 - 28 August.

Specific topics addressed at the conference included information systems, computer technology, software development, applied computer technology, and college administration.

Delegates from CAEDs throughout the nation attended the conference - the first to be applied to computer technology.

It was launched by the Chairman of the Victorian Tourism Commission, Mr Don Dunstan, who acknowledged that the difficulties facing the industry were being faced by the tourism industry in the introduction to a computerised central information system.

By nature the industry was highly and in theory well suited to the introduction of computer technology.

JAPAN LECTURESHIP

A vacancy exists for a lecturer in Japanese Studies at the University of Tokyo and other institutions for one year from March 1987.

Applications should be of lecturer-professional level and include a statement of place, the nature of specialisation, and international studies.

Applications should be sent by 30th September, 1986.

THE EDGEBURGH DAVID MEDAL

The Edgborough David Medal is awarded for distinguished contributions to Australian scientific research by young scientists. Nominations are called for the names of suitable persons who have contributed significantly to science, including scientific applications of agriculture, dentistry, medicine and veterinary science.

Closing date: 30 September, 1985.

INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIPS

The Institute of International Education is announcing the International Fellowship Program 1986-87. The Fellowship is open to qualified students for graduate study in the United States in any field.

For more information/application forms, contact the office of the Development Director, Dr Bill Briggs, A1.12 (Caulfield) or telephone ext. 2111.

WHAT'S ON

CAULFIELD ARTS CENTRE

Judy Cassab Survey Show - documenting the artist's development from her earliest years as an artist to her present distinguished place in Australian art. The exhibition opens on 23rd October. Fair condo but motor

BRIEFLY

VK3BPR

A group of electrical engineering students are to revitalise the Chisholm Amateur Radio Club (VK3BPR) - the group is seeking to renew the licence for the Club, which has been out of action for the past eight months.

All Chisholm students are eligible to join, whether they have an amateur status or not.

Anyone interested should contact Ms Yvonne McCormack at the Department of Electrical Engineering, B3.13, ext. 2579 or 2334 (Caulfield).

But Mr Dunstan said he was still experiencing some problems with the use of computer personnel.

He said an ideal situation would be to equip travel centres with computer terminals and video screens to enable the public to find out information about holidays and places themselves.

"We still have quite a way to go," Mr Dunstan said.

"While we are undoubtedly training people to be familiar with computers, the average member of the public at the moment and the average position at the clerk level are not.

"Because of this it's taking us a long time to use the technology as we had hoped."

Mr Dunstan believed the human and technological issues of computing needed to be addressed.

Study, grants, information

TERTIARY CREDIT UNION

- It's All Yours!

The Committee would be delighted to receive nominations/proposals for the appointment of Australian visiting fellows or exchange/secondment of staff, not necessarily straight away but perhaps people in similar areas with different experience and expertise from Australia, Asia and overseas, Ms Hanlon says.

The Committee is also seeking to promote greater staff awareness of the visiting Fellows Program and to encourage Commonwealth scholarship and fellowship schemes.

Council policy on the appointment of visiting fellows is in the Staffing Procedures.

The Committee would be keen to revitalise visiting fellow appointments.

Hanlon says at its last meeting the Committee "would be aware of the Visiting Fellows Council policy on the availability of staff development and external associations in joint proposals are currently being put by Schools, Departments and Centres."

During his speech, Mr Dunstan spoke of the difficulties being experienced in training personnel to be computer literate.

The working party's job will be to determine the future shape of CAEDs, and Mr Smith has been charged with preparing material on the needs ofiaechnologies, including the extent of planned and directed staff development, and to develop schemes to ensure the current availability of staff development programmes on a national and local basis.

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The working party comprises Dr R D Gibson, Director of Computing, Mr B G Dunstan, Professor of Technology (Convenor), Ms J Anderson, the Personnel Officer of the Centre for Computing Education, Dr L J Barker, Director of Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education, Mr A J Lonsdale, Head of Educational Development (Queensland), Mr D R Maling, Acting Principal of South Australian CAE, and Mr Smith.

Mr Smith has also recently been appointed as member of the Council of Holmesglen/College of TAFE, filling a casual vacancy of a co-opted member.

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FOR RENT

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2 bedroom, 2 bathroom tri-level, very close to East Malvern railway station and bus.

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