Scientists keep an ear to the ground

By David Bruce

In 48 carefully selected paddocks across 49,000 square kilometres of Western Victoria, under a protective green tarpaulin, extraordinarily sensitive microphones lie buried under a metre of soil.

Twenty times every second, over a four-month period, the microphones listen for the distant rumble of earthquakes occurring along the fault lines in the south-western Pacific Ocean.

Earth scientists from Monash University, together with colleagues from the University of Adelaide, have begun a three-year project to map the subsurface structure of the earth’s crust (the upper 40 km) and upper mantle (to 400 km) beneath western Victoria and south-eastern South Australia.

The scientists are in search of the elusive Tasmian Line. Long long ago, the Palaeozoic (545-251 million) Lachlan Fold belt of Victoria joined up with older, pre-Cambrian (pre-545 million) Adelaide Fold belt. This join — the Tasmian line — marks a major geological boundary of the Australian continent — the divide between the old and new Australia.

“It has become a hot issue in recent years. Where exactly does the Tasmian Line lie? Where do the new and the old Australia meet?” said Dr Greg Houseman of Monash’s Department of Earth Sciences.

“The generally held view is that it lies deep under the Murray Basin, through western Victoria. Other people think it may lie further west, towards Adelaide. With this research we hope to conclusively show where it is.”

“Australia, in geological terms, is often said to be an old continent but we are really referring to its western half and the centre. The east is not old at all, in relative terms. So while the western half was still attached to Antarctica, the eastern half was most likely under an ocean and being built up by volcanic activity.”

In the southern part of Australia, the Tasmian Line is hidden by the extensive sediment cover of the Murray Basin. Dr Houseman and his colleagues are using seismic technology to search for this inaccessible geological boundary.

The researchers have set up 40 listening stations along four grid lines stretching from the outskirt of Melbourne to the South Australian border. The data comes from recording the very small ground motions that result from distant earthquakes. Over the four months they expect to record around 150 earthquakes from Indonesia to Fiji in the north, to New Zealand in the east and as far south as Macquarie Island.

Measurements of the small differences in arrival time of seismic waves at the listening stations allow the researchers to infer that the sound path to a particular recorder was either slow or fast, and therefore whether it traveled through dense and very old continental lithosphere (the outer 200 kilometers) typical of western Australia or, through softer, oceanic lithosphere typical of the new South’s half. By collecting data from all the listening stations across an earthquake and comparing it with data from earthquakes emanating from different directions, the researchers will be able to construct a 3-D map of the slow and fast — the old and new — areas deep below the surface.

The first part of the Australian Research Council three-year project is now under way. During the next two years, the 40 listening stations will be moved to new locations farther to the north and west.

The project aims to provide a unique insight into the geological history of the Australian continent.

Tests, lectures and video tapes

By Julie Ryan

Monash University has launched its latest tool in an effort to ease students’ transition from secondary school to university.

Six current Monash students were given video cameras, a week and the task of telling their story and sharing their experiences and feelings about studying, working and playing at uni.

The resulting 35-minute video, Race Around Monash, shows the good, the bad, the fun, the disappointments and the triumphs of university life.

Monash’s transition program coordinator, Dr Mark Peel, says the video is one part of the university’s commitment to helping prospective students make informed decisions about their university choices.

“Transition to university is a daunting experience and many new students have unrealistic expectations,” he said. “Apart from students having to cope in a very different environment, about one in 10 experience significant problems because the course they have enrolled in is not what they expected or wanted.”

“However, a number of studies into transition issues conducted by Monash have consistently discovered that secondary school students preparing to begin university are really interested in hearing from current students about their experiences.”

Race Around Monash provides a first-hand view of student life in the 1990s, including balancing a part-time job with study, being separated from school friends and facing a dramatically different learning environment in secondary school.

The new video will be sent to all Victorian secondary schools for use during class time, at information evenings and for students to take home and watch with their parents.

For further details on Race Around Monash and other transition research at Monash, contact Dr Peel on (03) 9060 2778.
Drug access examined

BY JULIE RYAN

You have just discovered you have a terminal illness. The doctors say you have between six months and a year to live. But clinical trials are being conducted on an experimental drug that is relevant to your condition.

Would you volunteer? Anything, you might say, to prolong your life.

But what if you were also told that you only had a 50 per cent chance of actually receiving the drug being tested? Being trialled and that you could be in the control group and receive no treatment at all?

According to Monash's Centre for Humanities Ethics lecturer Dr Udo Schilkdek, the medical and scientific research professions often have a "paternalistic" attitude towards terminally ill patients.

"Often the only hope that people with terminal illnesses have is to join a clinical trial," he says. "But in these groups, these people's lives are controlled by scientists and medical researchers trying to prove a theory, often to the detriment of the patients' lives."

Dr Schilkdek's recently published book, Access to Experimental Drugs in Terminally Ill Patients, explores the issues that people with terminal illnesses, especially AIDS, have to face.

He believes those with terminal illnesses have votes that allow people with terminal illnesses to access experimental drugs without having to join a clinical trial if there are no alternative treatments available.

"The main argument for clinical trials is that without sufficient testing and knowledge, experimental drugs may harm patients," Dr Schilkdek says. "While this is a strong argument because most experimental agents are unlikely to work, for terminally ill patients it can be more rational to try an experimental drug before being placed on a placebo where they might not get any treatment at all."

Dr Schilkdek argues that patients with terminal illnesses have voted with their feet in recent times. Major research clinical AIDS trials suffered from a 75 to 80 per cent non-compliance rate.

"The predictive value of such trials is close to zero because it is common for people to cheat by breaking the drug protocol they have been placed on due to desperation and despair," he says.

Dr Schilkdek also poses the question: when is it acceptable to stop a clinical trial where terminally ill patients are involved?

"It is common for people to cheat by breaking the drug protocol they have been placed on due to desperation and despair."

The answer, Dr Schilkdek says, is to allow people with terminal illnesses to access experimental drugs without having to join a clinical trial.

"If scientists and medical researchers cannot encourage true volunteers - people who have an option between accessing an experimental agent or joining a clinical trial - then researchers must convince these people, or change their research methods,\" he says.

Dr Schilkdek says that terminally ill patients are not prepared to risk volunteering for clinical trials, opportunities still exist for researchers in terms of following the progress of those who choose to access experimental drugs.

"My research indicates that people with terminal illnesses conduct a fair amount of their own research about their condition," he says. "They go to doctors, join community groups and activist groups, and they develop an informed opinion. Given that, experimental agents could be administered by certified GPs where the patients progress could be monitored."


Global exposure

Monash University international student Komalshi Palirisamy on a farm excursion with Traralgon South Primary School students.

A group of international students from Monash University's Gippsland campus have been working with local primary and secondary school students as part of a cultural enhancement program.

Among the 23 students in Komalshi Palirisamy's group of 12 international students, there were five from South Africa, five from India, and two from China. The group had been involved in workshops, outings and visits to a primary school at Traralgon South Primary School.

During her time at the school, Ms Palirisamy has worked with teacher Paula Landy in a program aimed at exposing the children to the culture and language of other countries.

Monash's Gippsland campus director Professor John Anderson said that international students brought a wealth of knowledge and culture to the university.

"While they are studying in Australia, many of these students are spreading their culture and way of life, gaining further understanding of the local community."

Professor Anderson said local primary and secondary schools have been interested in extending their language and cultural programs, and through the involvement of Monash's international students, new relationships had been forged.
**On the road to better safety**

**BY DAVID BRUCE**

If you plan to drive a car on an Australian road over the next few years, you will be affected in some way by the work of Professor Class Tingvall.

Last September's ministerial statement on road safety contained an unusual plank on safety research and implementation, and a professor in injury epidemiology, Professor Tingvall, has been recruited from Sweden and appointed to the new position of director of the road safety research centre of the Monash University Accident Research Centre.

Professor Tingvall has made a significant contribution to accident research and has been influential in the development of road safety policy in Sweden. Professor Tingvall is set to make an enormous impact on the daily lives of the motoring public.

Professor Tingvall has been influential in the development of road safety policy in Sweden. He is a statistician and a professor in injury epidemiology.

**Road safety is a global problem and this is an international research centre.**

**Continued on page 4**

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**Biomedicine reaches new heights**

**BY JOSIE GIBSON**

A high-altitude oxygen simulator developed by a Monash University master's student is to be used in a clinical trial of patients suffering from chronic fatigue syndrome.

The Portable Device for High-Altitude Simulation has been developed by biomedical engineering student Mr Oleg Bassovitch, who hopes to market his unit commercially.

The Monash Medical School at Melbourne's Alfred Hospital plans to use the device in treating up to 20 patients over a four-week period, with other groups receiving conventional treatment or placebo treatment.

Mr Bassovitch's unit is exciting interest in both medical and elite sporting circles for its potential to simulate the effects of high-altitude exertion and hypoxic stimulation.

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**Targeting kidney disease**

**A Monash University academic is leading a major study into the high rate of kidney disease among Aboriginal Australians.**

Professor John Bertram, who joined Monash's Medicine faculty as head of the Anatomy department in September, is collaborating with Dr Wendy Hoy, principal research fellow at the Menzies School of Public Health, to analyse the high rate of kidney disease in other Monash, Professor John Bertram.

Dr Hoy is leading a major study into the kidney disease among Aboriginal Australians.

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**Keeping track of the atmosphere**

**BY FRANK HAMPDEN**

A Monash scientist is contributing to an international research effort to monitor the long-term health of the Earth's atmosphere.

Dr Don McNaughton, a researcher in Monash's Chemistry department, is using a high-resolution infra-red spectroscopy technique to profile concentrations of chemical pollutants in the atmosphere.

The results are being fed into research by a worldwide scientific network studying the long-term effects of harmful gases as they travel over time through the Earth's atmosphere to its upper limits and beyond.

In particular, the network is tracking the long-term impact of the chlorine and bromine gases ChloroFluoroCarbons (CFCs), banned under the Montreal Protocol, and HydroFluoroCarbons (HFCs) and HydroFluoroEtherCarbons (HFEs), the longer term replacements.

Dr McNaughton said the network's research could assist in assessing the long-term effectiveness of the current policies, under the Montreal Protocol, to protect the ozone layer. It could also help predict potential problems emerging from other future regulations.

CFCs have an estimated lifespan of greater than 60 years, three times that of HFCs and HFEs. According to Dr McNaughton, although less harmful to the ozone layer than CFCs, HFCs will, in future, be able to train athletes and treat various medical conditions, including countering the damaging effects of radiotherapy.

Mr Bassovitch is trying to develop his unit commercially, through his company, Biometech.

He says that while he knows of several other techniques for simulation, including portable devices, there are no professionally designed units like his that are commercially available and affordable for a wide range of users.

Mr Bassovitch has also received expressions of interest from the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra, which currently uses its Altitude House for altitude-conditioning athletes.

For more information about Mr Bassovitch's unit, call Biometech on (03) 9904 5534.

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**Eying the road ahead. Professor Class Tingvall is aiming for cultural as well as regulatory change to improve road safety.**
Bill of Rights will help combat racism: Mason

BY BRENDA HANKES

Australia needs a Bill of Rights to protect groups such as Aboriginals and Asians from the growing climate of racism that has emerged with Pauline Hanson's One Nation Party, according to former High Court Justice Sir Anthony Mason.

Sir Anthony, one of Australia's most distinguished jurists, made the comments in a recent address to law students at Monash University. As a guest of Monash's Law faculty, Sir Anthony presented a series of lectures for Monash students, staff, public law lecturers and the business community.

Sir Anthony, who favours a Bill of Rights similar to New Zealand's, said the principal argument for a Bill of Rights was that it protected minority and individual rights against discrimination and racism.

In Australia, he said, the need for this type of protection arose due to the racist attitudes reflected in electoral support for Pauline Hanson and given voice through her One Nation Party.

This racist undertaking, according to Sir Anthony, indicated Australia may be faced with the possibility of increased racial intolerance and discrimination in future.

"A delicate protection of minority groups such as Aboriginal people and people of Asian backgrounds may well require a Bill of Rights to ensure that discriminatory policies and practices are not pursued," he said. Sir Anthony said the prevailing philosophy of economic rationalism, "at the expense of individual welfare", increased the need for a Bill of Rights.

"Unprecedented influence to economic rationalism, with its obsessive and exclusive concern on economic efficiency, constitutes a challenge to a culture which calls for respect for human and individual rights, even the rule of law."

Sir Anthony said the students that afternoon supported the introduction of a Bill of Rights, over the years he "had tried to facilitate".

Asian businesses target international students

The second International Careers Fair at Monash was a success despite the impact of the Asian financial crisis, according to its organisers.

Hold recently at the Clayton campus, the fair attracted major companies and students from the Asia-Pacific region, including Andersen Consulting from Malaysia, Goldman Sachs from Hong Kong and Burwood Officeworks (Malaysia and Singapore) and Contact Singapore.

The event is organised annually by the Monash Student Employment and Careers Service (MONESACs) and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, a company established by the University to manage University Union services.

"Our concern is to provide MONESACs acting manager Ms Ingmade Good, the fair aims to give international students the opportunity to meet prospective employers from their home countries and to provide participants with appropriate recruitment opportunities. International students from other institutions in Victoria and South Australia were also invited to attend.

Ms Good and Monash Union's chief executive, Ms Joe Curtis, made two trips to Asia to promote the fair, which attracted a good number of employers despite the regional financial situation.

Ms Good said the response from participating companies was very positive. "They were pleased to see so many students attending, and some indicated that they would probably be able to recruit most of the graduates they needed from the fair," she said.

Business grads learn the art of communication

Graduates' oral communication skills are being scrutinised in a Monash University research project aimed at improving their workplace performance.

Ms Glenda Crossley and Associate Professor Ian Ward.

"Add to that lack of integrity and lack of public confidence in the political process and you have a sufficient cause for a Bill of Rights."

Sir Anthony said, however, in the ultimate analysis it was not for judges to decide the question of whether Australia needed a Bill of Rights.

He said the issue would be better resolved through the political process. A legislature made up of 100 or more members was better equipped to decide the question than a court of seven or nine judges "who are lawyers, not politicians or political scientists".

"On the other hand - and for me this tips the scales, but only just - we are now faced with the possibility perhaps even the probability, of racial intolerance, even worse discrimination and authoritarian government. Authoritarian government must be prepared to exercise majoritarian power to wind back rights which are fundamental, such as access to the courts for the vindication of legal rights.

"We are now faced with the possibility, perhaps even the probability, of racial intolerance, even worse discrimination and authoritarian government."

Sir Anthony Mason.

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"At the end of the day, however, I favor a Bill of Rights, though one which is fairly confined in its subject matter. For example; I would be in favor of the detail enumerated in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990; (but) I would be against any significant extension of those rights.

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On the road to better safety

Continued from page 3

According to Professor Tingwall, not all safety measures are led by regulation or road design and with this in mind, he encouraged cultural change at the Swedish National Road Administration.

"You cannot regulate on the size of cars people should own. You need large experiments to change the market demand," he explained. "We decided that we would only buy or rent vehicles that met new requirements for safety and fuel consumption. That eliminated the smallest and the largest vehicles, but created strong demand for certain mid-sized vehicles.

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Continued from page 3

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"Now other organisations are doing the same. Half the new cars bought each year are by fleet buyers and eventually all these vehicles end up on the second-hand market for the public. So this type of organisational change can make a big impact."

Professor Tingwall believes this is the way of the future. "You need to think rationally, not emotionally, about buying cars. The industry will not be against it if this is what the market demands."

The Monash University Accident Research Centre also conducts studies into other types of accidents around the home, in the workplace, and on the sporting field.
Universities in the global environment – the choices before us

In the high time of post-war nation-building in Australia, the university and government were closely joined. Now the university, a cornerstone of modern nation-building, is under growing pressure both financially and philosophically. Dr Simon Marginson argues that the most effective strategy for surviving and developing in a globalised environment is not to imitate American universities, but to develop a distinctly Australian contribution. He believes that intrinsic to this is a new alliance with government.

In Australia, as in many other nations, universities in the post-war era were seen as a principal tool of nation-building. Policy was premised on the notion of ‘investment in human capital’. The population was seen as a national resource to be harnessed through the acquisition of scientific and professional capabilities. Investment in the universities was also a means of offering the national population a promise of betterment that was within the gift of government to give. A broad national consensus on the expansion of universities was maintained for more than three decades. As a result, we are so much richer in educational resources today.

It is evident that this hour-long government project, the initial national-building Australian university, is now undergoing a crisis. This crisis is both particular to the modern university as an institution, and also particular to Australia, and perhaps New Zealand and Canada, where the same issues are often played out.

“Other nations that are active players in globalisation – for example, France, Germany and Japan – are not winding down their nation-building institutions.”

The crisis began to show itself at the end of the 1980s, and has become more apparent in the last five or so. Its main elements, mutually reinforcing but individually distinct, include:

- the resource crisis brought on by a decline in government funding, linked to a blocantion commitment to the nation-building role of universities;
- the identity crisis brought on by the corporatisation of internal university systems and cultures;
- the crisis of global strategy: how do Australian universities make their way in a globalising environment?

One cause of the resource crisis is the dominance of ‘small government’ policies which took root after the collapse of Keynesian national economic management in 1970. However, ‘small government’ policies are common to most of the OECD world. They do not explain the decline in public funding.

Rahovec Australian governmental support for nation-building has faltered. Good government means aimed at undermining and undoing the nation-building projects of the previous period. There is strong external pressure from international regulators, and some neo-classical economists and corporate leaders, to witness or disrupt these projects. This is true of Australia, and different from the American model, not only in education, but in public hospitals, industrial arbitration, the national telecommunications system, the ABC and public owned utilities.

This cannot be explained away by globalisation, no more than it can be attributed simply to market liberalisation. Other nations that are active players in globalisation – for example, France, Germany and Japan – are not winding down their nation-building institutions.

In the global era, national identity changes, but it remains important.

The crisis of the nation-building Australian university is also shaped by an unequal and destructive stand-off between academic and corporate cultures within the universities themselves. The stand-off is more apparent in some universities than others, but is present everywhere. We are all caught up in the effects.

Throughout their history, universities have habitually taken features of organisations outside them, reworking themselves in new hybrid forms. However the particular traditions of the university in Australia now seem to be less robust. The models driving organisational change tend to be derivative, less sympathetic in the academic mission – teaching, learning, scholarship and research – where universities make their distinctive social contributions. The balance between the corporate and academic purposes of universities is becoming more unstable, leaning to the corporate side.

“The balance between the corporate and academic purposes of universities is becoming more unstable, leaning to the corporate side.”

This has led to changes in organisational form. One is the emergence of a new kind of executive leadership, with more power than before, and less room to manoeuvre amid external constraints. Management orthodoxy regards the CEO as a strategy director, and agent of change, obliged to reinvent the university, its management structures, its internal culture, and sometimes its core business, at ever-shortening intervals.

Corporatisation is inevitable if the requirements of accountability, efficiency and non-government income raising are to be met. But in the absence of a distinctive model of the Australian university/corporation, being used to running in often inter-poled simply as being business. Having a good reputation in the global university environment is understood under the rubric of becoming a ‘Harvard of the Antipodes’. The desire to excel is reshaped as a struggle to compete and as a rush to imitate.

The danger in current developments is that by becoming a corporation, the university is ceasing to be a university. Too often the relationship between corporate practice and academic practice is operating as a zero-sum relationship – so that when there is more of one there must be less of the other.

“The danger in current developments is that by becoming a corporation, the university is ceasing to be a university.”

In universities, the corporate and the academic do not have to be mutually exclusive. It should be possible to be both university and corporation, to redesign the university to enhance its particular character in a knowledge economy. Such a redesign is not occurring. Yet it is essential to the long term health of universities in Australia

Globalisation has brought this sharply into focus. The whole strategy of turning Australian universities into a corporatised version of American universities cannot lead to the necessary transformation of global institutions here. The strengths of American universities are local American contributions, grounded in American economy, society and culture.

We should do instead is identify sources of potential Australian strength, in the future global environment, and encourage vigorous investment in those areas, from both government, and the non-government.

Realistically, public funding would be the key element. Universities' individual efforts would be understood by national resources and a shared global strategy.

It is not a question of the global versus the national, but of both together. What is important is getting the mix right.

If Australian universities do not fully engage in the global, they will not be able to contribute either to nation-building, or to the maximisation of their own potential. Xenophobia is not an option. The world can no longer be kept out.

At the same time, the failure of national will and confidence is not an option either. National identity is not given, but constructed. Unless the nation and the university enter the global environment as high and committed to each other, national identity will falter. And the long-term prospects for the university will falter with it.

Dr Simon Marginson is a reader in Curriculum and Instruction in the Centre for Educational Policy and International Education. This is an extract from a paper he delivered last month at the University of South Australia.
A new exhibition opening in Melbourne this month is aimed at bridging the artistic divide between Australia and New Zealand.

A previous lack of artistic exchange between the two countries has meant that a strong tradition of artistic practice and cultural connections between the near neighbours has gone largely uncelebrated.

In Close Quarters: Contemporary Art from Australia and New Zealand, nine artists from each country exhibit work that reflect on issues of everyday life, artistic practice and cultural identity.

The curators are Tma Barton from Victoria University in Wellington, Lara Stanhope from the Monash University Gallery, and Clare Williamson from the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art.

"Rather than representing any fixed cultural or 'national' identity, the artists are working within a global context and living in adjacent countries that are undergoing rapid change," Ms Stanhope says.

"The exhibition reflects how the two nations each embrace a mix of indigenous and migrant peoples, and share much in terms of their desires and needs to redefine and orient their economic, political and cultural realities."

According to Ms Stanhope, the artwork on show reflects the artists' personal concerns - current events, mass culture, everyday materials and issues such as fashion, sport and music - as well as the processes of art-making.

The exhibition opens in Melbourne at the Monash University Gallery and the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art before touring Australia and New Zealand.

**What:** Close Quarters: Contemporary Art from Australia and New Zealand
**Where:** Monash University Gallery and the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art
**When:** 9 October - 22 November
**Who:** Contact the Monash University Gallery on (03) 9905 4217.

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**The Poe Show**

The Poe Show by the Monash Student Association's Student Theatre Department deals with psychological and physical extremes.

The production is a distillation of two of Edgar Allan Poe's spine-chilling tales, *The Pit and the Pendulum* and *The Masque of the Red Death*, adapted for the stage by co-artistic directors of the Student Theatre Department John Britton and Hilary Elliott.

"Poe's work is relevant to us all," she says. "It reminds us of our fragile human state and makes us reflect on the suffering and pain in Indonesia and many other countries. It reminds us that we must act in favour of life and growth, not death and destruction."

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**The Poe Show**

**What:** The Poe Show
**Where:** Student Theatre Space, Union building, Monash University, Clayton.
**When:** 8 pm, 7, 10, 13 and 16 October.
**Who:** Contact the Monash University Student Theatre, on (03) 9905 5108.
A rare taste of French drama

The Monash Rare Book Collection is presenting an exhibition drawn from its extensive holdings of early French books.

The exhibition, entitled French Drama, emphasises the work of French dramatists.

On display will be early editions of Molière, Corneille, Racine and many other 17th and 18th-century writers. As well, there will be examples of first editions of many of the notable names of the 19th and 20th centuries.

"Material from our own travel collection will also be featured," says Mr Overall.

Everyone who ever visited Paris went to the theatre, and our catalogue for the exhibition will be enlivened by accounts of the experiences of many of those visitors.

What: French Drama, Rare Books Exhibition.
Where: Rare Books Collection, Monash University Library, Clayton.
When: 7 October to 18 February 1999.

Contact the Rare Books Library on (03) 9905 2899.
Uni games: the thrills, spills ... the guts and glory

By Koetsier Mason

From a spectacular start on 27 September, the Australian University Games provided a high-charged week of sports action, records, thrills and spills for thousands of young Australian athletes in Melbourne.

Victorian premier Mr Jeff Kennett officially launched the games — one of the nation's biggest sporting events — at Melbourne's Glasshouse at a spectacular opening ceremony featuring fights, sound, acrobats, dancers, drummers, musicians, and other live performers.

1998 AUS chair and director of Monash University's Caulfield and Pinlands campuses, Mr John White, said the opening ceremony was obviously enjoyed by all.

"Despite the difficulties which stemmed from the recent gas crisis, competitors maintained skill and enthusiasm throughout the day," he said.

Monash University was the this year's games, with an overall point score of 328. The University of Melbourne came in second (268 points) and the University of Sydney took third place with 273 points. Theology, Elite and English was won by the University of Ballarat. Elite Australian athletes, including Steve Moneghetti, Liz Taweraere and Graham Purdies, showed their support for the games, attending a lunch for 1998 games' hosts Monash University and the University of Melbourne on 29 September.

More than 3000 competitors, including 440 from Monash, converged on Melbourne to pit their skills in some 70 sports and individual sports during the week-long event held from 29 September to 2 October.

During the games, elite athletes, including members of the Singapore soccer team, Commonwealth Games competitors and AFL star Wayne Campbell, showed what they were made of.

Records were smashed in athletics, the pool and field sports. Outstanding efforts included the 5000-metre track winner, Kelly Moring of Deakin University, who lapped her competitors twice, and Monash's Exeute Cordy, who raced to gold in the hurdles. Cordy has had much success in the hurdles, coming eighth at the World Cup. She has won the Victorian State Championship for the last four years.

In keeping with the social side of the games, competitors flocked to surrounding nightclub bars which hosted special theme nights and discount events each night.

Pedal power

When David Colloy finished a marathon bike ride from Melbourne to Adelaide in early September, it was more than just his calf muscles that ached with the effort.

Colloy, gym manager at the Monash Sports and Recreation Centre, rode the trek with three other high-profile riders to raise money for the Trevor Barker Foundation, which assists people with cancer and their families.

"Sheepskin covers don't do anything to help, so we didn't bother," Colloy explained, recalling the stress endured by his body's main point of contact with the bike. "And we had head winds the whole way!"

The other key riders were Hawthorn Football Club players Shane Crawford and Mark Graham, and

From left: Shane Crawford, Gary Neumann, Mark Graham and David Colloy.

Olympic cycling silver medallist and world champion Gary Neumann.

The group raised about $3000 for the foundation, stopping at primary schools and hotels along the 900-kilometre route.

Colloy said the cyclists were given a small reception on arrival at Adelaide's Rundle Mall, then retired to their hotels for long, hot baths.

"The worst thing was that I had to take the indoor cycling class the next Monday," he laughed. "But after cycling 900 kilometres, 40 minutes was nothing."

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