And the big men fly – again

The winning toss? The way the 1999 Australian Football League’s season has opened, the outcome of that big day in September could be anyone’s guess. Guessing, however, is far from the minds of Dr David Dowe, left, and Mr Torsten Seemann, organisers of Monash University’s Probabilistic Footy Tipping Competition. For more details on this year’s competition, see the story on page 8.

Project to focus on Frankston youth issues

BY JULIE RYAN

An international research team based at Monash University’s Peninsula campus will explore the needs and aspirations and issues of young people living in the City of Frankston.

Growing up in Frankston is a collaborative project between the Peninsula campus’s Faculty of Education and the Frankston City Council to determine young people’s perception of their environment.

The aim of the project, which stems from the Safer Cities and Shire project that is part of the Victorian Government’s VICsafe community safety and crime prevention strategy, is to improve the living standards of all people living within the community.

Project coordinator and education lecturer Dr Karen Malone said that tensions can arise in a community when young people are perceived to be ‘harassing’ or ‘loitering’ in public areas.

“For instance, shop traders can feel threatened, justified or not, if they feel that young people are spending unnecessary amounts of time in one location,” she said. “But there is often a difference between the perceived risk and the actual risk.”

The key issue, Dr Malone added, was that for a community to feel safe, more than solving and reducing crime was needed – it also meant reducing the public’s fear of crime.

The intensive four-month research project will focus on a ‘needs analysis’ of children in the local area aged between 8 and 18 years, with the aim of developing a comprehensive set of data outlining the ideas and perceptions that children and young people have about their environment.

Continued on page 2

Research helps drugs to better target cancers

BY KAY ANSELL

Nausea, hair loss and a greater risk of infection – these are some of the possible side effects of chemotherapy, the most common treatment for breast cancer.

For the one in 13 Australian women under the age of 74 who develop breast cancer, the treatment can often seem worse than the disease. Their bodies’ immune systems come under attack, while only a minute proportion of the powerful drugs reach the tumours.

But a Monash University research fellow has developed a way of ensuring that certain drugs target the cancer while also reducing some of the side effects and the occurrence of secondary cancers.

The discovery could improve the lives of thousands of Australian women. Dr Tracey Brown has used a natural carbohydrate, Hyaluronan, or ‘HA’, to carry the drugs directly to the tumour without increasing uptake of the drugs by the major metabolic organs.

Hyaluronan, or HA, is found everywhere, from human skin to a fowl’s comb, and whatever its origin, says Dr Brown, it has the same chemical structure and is not rejected by the body.

Dr Brown has worked with HA for eleven years, much of that time under the mentorship of Professor Robert Fraser, working in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology with PhD student Erin Hatherell. Dr Brown has been combining HA gel with the chemotherapy drugs methotrexate and taxol in experiments on mice.

The uptake mechanism is not fully known, but Dr Brown believes that two different HA receptors found in breast cancer tumours are able to facilitate drug entry into the tumour itself.

“We have shown that the major metabolic organs of hyaluronic acid – the liver, kidneys and spleen – don’t seem to have any increased uptake of the drug, while the tumour takes up the drug at high levels,” she says.

Continued on page 2

Research by Dr Tracey Brown and PhD student Erin Hatherell (standing) could improve the lives of thousands of Australian women. Photo by Christopher Alexander.
Simulator for Monash

BY DAVID BRUCE

Innovative technology from Israel is revolutionising the way students at Monash University are being trained in the field of medical imaging.

The technology, an ultrasound simulator based on an original aircraft simulator and developed by Israeli company MedSim, has been installed in the university's Department of Radiography and Medical Imaging at Monash Medical Centre.

According to Professor David Healy, head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, the simulator, known as Ultrasound, represents a major breakthrough in medical imaging training.

"Regular training for students in ultrasound has been extremely difficult to arrange," he said. "Australia imports medical imaging expertise because we cannot train them fast enough here.

"Acquiring the simulator is a huge step forward as it will enable us to provide students with the ongoing training and experience they need to be fully qualified."

Until now, Professor Healy said, students had to learn on real patients.

"The new equipment allows students to work on simulated ultrasound skills in a controlled environment, where they can be introduced to a diverse range of "patient" types and diseases."

MedSim marketing director Mr Larry Shertzer, who was at Monash early last month to launch the simulator, said there were currently about 100 units in use around the world.

New dean for Monash Arts faculty

Monash University has appointed Professor Homer Le Grand as dean of the Faculty of Arts.

Professor Le Grand, who will take up his new position in July, has been dean of Arts at the University of Melbourne since 1994, where he was also involved in the university's peak planning and budget, curriculum, information technology and equal opportunity bodies.

Monash vice-chancellor Professor Donald Dean said he was delighted to welcome Professor Le Grand's appointment would enhance the national and international stature of Monash's Arts faculty.

"I am absolutely delighted to have secured the services of such a distinguished academic who, as Arts dean at Melbourne, has been a decisive leader," Professor Le Grand said.

"I am delighted to be able to cement the relationship between Monash University and the University of Melbourne, which, since the Melbourne-Monash Protocol was signed in 1997, has been an outstanding example of cooperation between two leading institutions."

Professor Le Grand's current research projects involve the examination of 20th century scientific controversies. His work combines the disciplines of philosophy, history, chemistry and the earth sciences.

He believes this multidisciplinary approach is a vital part of a university education.

"It certainly think that combined degrees and joint degrees are the way forward. It is essential for students to combine professional training with their education and to be able to choose from a range of subjects in the arts and sciences," Mr Le Grand said.

"There are outstanding staff and students at Monash and I have no doubt the future for the Arts faculty is bright. To be a good university, it is absolutely essential to have strong arts and science faculties. Monash clearly has strengths in both of these areas and I am very much looking forward to contributing part of that university."

Drug discovery

Continued from page 1

Measurements showed optimum drug uptake occurred during the first two hours, with drug levels then falling to those normally observed during conventional chemotherapy.

"It's as if the drug is given in there at increased amounts and starts to kill more cancer cells before the levels drop. This type of drug form of tumour targeting could show differing degrees of effectiveness depending on the type of drug being used."

The finding is expected to mean that patients receive lower doses of certain drugs for a more effective result.

Another significant finding was that HA with methotrexate drastically reduced the levels of the drug reaching the gastrointestinal tract - which could minimise nausea and gastrointestinal problems.

In experiments, mice actually gained weight compared with a control group. As well, the spread of cancer to other organs in the mice was greatly reduced and no new tumours were formed.

Most people didn't die from the original cancer, says Dr Brown, they die from the spread of cancer, called metastasis. "In mice we injected with HA and methotrexate, we found a reduced number of secondary cancers."

"The new equipment will further cement the relationship between Australia and Israel," Mr Shertzer said.

"Acquiring the simulator is a huge step forward as it will enable us to provide students with the ongoing training and experience they need to be fully qualified."

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Focus on Frankston

Continued from page 1

"The first step will involve interviewing young people from five neighbourhood groups in and around Frankston," Dr Malone said. "This will give us some idea of their perception of the issues they face.

"The survey will then be asked to depict their living environment through photographs, which often provide a much richer picture of life than their words alone."

The researchers will also spend a significant amount of time walking around the streets with the participants to get a first-hand understanding of what it means to live there today.

"Each young person involved in the project will also be asked to take on a research role of their own by interviewing two neighbourhood friends or family members," Dr Malone said.

Once the initial data has been collected and analysed, focus groups will be held to explore the major issues that are uncovered.

The research methodology being used by the team is based on the "Growing Up In Cities" (GUIC) project of which Dr Malone is the Melbourne site coordinator. GUIC is an international UNESCO project first conducted in 1972 and repeated in 1994.

"The GUIC project was initially aimed at exploring the differences between young people in developing and developed nations," Dr Malone explained.

The original research was conducted in Melbourne, Warsaw, Sofia (Argentina) and Mexico City, with the sites for the revised project, including Buenos Aires, Sofia, Bruges in Belgium, New Lisbon, Warsaw (Poland), Johannesberg (South Africa) and Oakland (California).

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Study to examine the impacts of stalking

By Peter Godie

The year is 1840, the place London and Miss Angelia Courts has just lost an legal technicality a court case in which she sought to have one Richard Dunn, Esquire, prevented from further "molesting, annoying and terrifying" her.

Her failure to emphasise in a written statement her fear of personal injury from Dunn after a year of harassment lost her the case. However, it prompted the judge to comment on the miscarriage of justice, saying, "Perhaps the law of England may be justly reproached with its inability to repress the mischief and obviate the danger which the present proceedings render all too probable."

The judges continued, "We may naturally feel surprised if none of the numerous Police Acts have made specific provisions for that purpose."

Right to about 150 years, and a new word — stalking — is being attached to the old crime which to date has defined definition.

Since then judicial systems across the "Green" world have moved, sometimes clumsily, to define a broad group of offences encompassing specific or implicit threats, and stalking has increasingly come under the spotlight accompanying his own possible interest.

Rosemary Purcell, a Monash PhD student, is one of those involved in the study. Professor Colin Raston, from the Forensic Psychiatry department and colleagues, is analysing methods used by stalkers and their effects on victims, and is trying to identify what drives the stalker in his, (or, significantly, in her) pursuit.

A psychologist whose interests include obsessive compulsive disorder, Ms Purcell has co-authored a book with her colleagues, Stalkers and their Victims (Cambridge University Press)

Green chemistry centre a first for nation

By Sue McAlister

A world in which there is no industrial waste? It sounds too much like science fiction, but Professor Colin Raston is working towards making it science fact. And, he says, there's lots of interest from Australia and overseas in what his team is trying to achieve.

Professor Raston heads Monash's new Centre in Green Chemistry — the first such centre of its kind in Australia. To help secure financial backing for the future, his team recently lodged an application for special research funding from the Australian Research Council, which, if successful, would provide funds for another six years, and possibly nine.

Earlier this year, the centre received $150,000 in start-up funds from the Strategic Monash University Research Grants — Grants for New and Emerging Research Strengths, or SMURG. The centre also received $315,000 from the Victorian University's Faculty of Science and $500,000 from the Faculty of Engineering.

Professor Raston says the money will be spent on the purchase and maintenance of equipment, as well as salaries. There are currently 12 faculty staff members who have "embraced the principles of green research" and another 12 research staff, including postgraduate students.

According to Professor Raston, who proposed establishing the centre in 1997, what the centre does is not environmental science. "Its work is driven by innovation, not regulation," he says. This means the centre won't be looking, for example, at ways to minimise the effect of chemical pollutants in river systems. Rather, it will be searching for ways to do away with the pollutants altogether, by offering environmentally friendly alternatives to the chemicals and processes that give rise to the pollutants in the first place.

As Professor Raston says, his team "is going right back to the start, looking, for example, at ways for certain chemical reactions to be conducted in water, which is benign."

The centre also wants to find ways of substituting reusable resources for oil-based ones in chemical processes, to develop new analytical methods for monitoring the production of chemicals, to eliminate polluting by-products and to make products fully biodegradably.

"The ultimate aim," he says, "is no waste — we want 100 per cent of what goes in to come out as product."

"The professor is optimistic about the future, claiming that "industries are embracing the notion of green chemistry, which can be applied to a wide range of processes and products. It's also a matter of community perception — green chemistry will result in scientific, getting more public support."

The centre has already attracted interest from a range of Australian and overseas bodies, including 12 companies, four divisions of the CSIRO and the United States Environmental Protection Agency. As well as being linked with the Carnegie-Mellon University and the University of Alabama in the United States.

Multinationals under spotlight

By Chris Isles

A Monash lecturer has called for greater international legal accountability for multinational corporations that commit human rights violations.

Ms Sarah Joseph, a lecturer in constitutional and human rights law, said human rights treaties spell out government duties but did not define the obligations of multinationals or private bodies. Abuses could result from activities such as workforce exploitation, land safety standards, environmental damage or perversion of political processes.

"Currently, under international human rights law, a state is responsible for what a multinational does within its territory," she said.

"The problem is that certain multinationals can be much more powerful than the states in which they operate, particularly in developing nations."

Ms Joseph will present a paper about her research at a colloquium on corporate liability under international law at Erasmus University, Rotterdam, on 29 and 30 April. She will discuss human rights obligations of multinationals, existing legal accountability and proposals for improvement.

She said her research coincided with recent campaigns against multinationals' human rights abuses, generated by organisations such as Amnesty International.

"The focus has arisen through increased consumer awareness or a possible backlash against globalisation," she said.

"Multinationals are the biggest polluters in world trade and probably the biggest beneficiaries, so the whole system seems to have been devised to give them any rights but no duties."

"The focus of research on what those human rights duties should be, so my work is at a very early stage."

"Although I've been focusing on abuses in developing countries, I think there is an impact in developed countries, too. It's probably just more invisible and that's why it's quite insidious."
Mentoring scheme to help engineering students

BY FIONA PERRY

A new mentoring scheme launched last month by Monash University's Faculty of Engineering aims to ease two major transitions in students' lives.

The 1999 Engineering Mentor Scheme, launched in East Asia, will aid the transition from school to university and from university to the workplace by matching students with senior students and professional engineers.

The scheme, comprising more than 300 mentors from all over the world, will also offer students the opportunity to participate in extra-curricular and professional development workshops, career training sessions, and technical and cultural forums and social occasions with their mentors.

Women in engineering development officer Ms Ruth Schneider, who is also

the scheme's organiser, said the scheme would provide students with invaluable assistance in both their studies and career development.

"The mentoring scheme will provide students with positive role models and encourage them to pursue their studies and give them an idea of what life will be like as a professional engineer," she said.

East Australian representative Mr Stephen Schomaker said his company was excited by the potential of the scheme, and encouraged students to get involved.

"Good mentors know more than just good academic results," he said. "This scheme will allow students to develop personally, professionally, socially and technically, making them more employable as well as better engineers."

It is the first time that a Monash engineering mentor scheme has sought the expertise of professional engineers to act as mentors.

Faculty dean Professor Mike Brisk said participating engineers would benefit from the scheme not only by helping students to reach their goals, but also by having the opportunity to participate in professional development seminars and expand their professional network.

"The scheme will present a number of evening workshops and seminars of interest to professional engineers, in areas such as salary negotiation, setting up your own business or consultancy and time management skills," he said.

For more information on the mentor scheme contact Ms Ruth Schneider on (03) 9905 1200.
There are more bilingual people in the world today than mono­linguals, according to a Monash University linguist.

And with this trend has come an increasing interest among bilingual parents in Australia to raise their children to speak at least one language other than English, says Professor Michael Clyne, a research director in the Language and Society Centre at Monash.

A new video, Growing Up With English Plus, launched recently by the Victorian Governor, Sir James Gobbo, unsure of how to go about it, “Professor But attitudes in Australia were parents in Australia to raise their children, maintaining culture and fostering cognitive development in children, it also recognizes the challenges and the work involved.

“We wanted to use our research into bilingualism in such a way that it could help members of the community maintain their languages when they were unsure of how to go about it,” Professor Clyne said.

Produced by PhD linguistics student and Buchanarm Film School graduate Ms Anamaria Beligan, the video focuses on the bilingual issue in a clear and sensitive way.

“It’s a sincere piece of film-making that does not gloss over the problems,” Ms Beligan said. “It addresses both the challenges and the difficulties, and therefore it is a real resource for parents who want to help their children bilingualistically.”

The video highlights research and arguments from Professor Clyne and fellow Monash linguist Dr Suzanne Dupke, but most importantly it includes the responses of parents and children to bilingualism in their home environments.

“We didn’t just interview these people, we went into their homes, spent some time with them and tried to be as unobtrusive as possible when filming. We managed to catch some really candid moments,” Ms Beligan said.

According to Professor Clyne, the centre’s research on multilingualism in Australia has concentrated on how language has changed and what kinds of factors have caused people to stop using their first language and to use only English.

But attitudes in Australia were changing, he said, and many people now believed that the ability to speak more than one language was both an important asset for the individual and a valuable resource for the nation.

Since 1990, the Language and Society Centre has conducted regular workshops for parents who wanted to raise their children bilingualistically. The most recent one attracted 120 parents.

Professor Clyne said the video would make the information shared at the workshops accessible to a wider audience.

To order the video, contact the Language and Society Centre on (03) 9905 5450.

Video highlights bilingual homes

E-commerce ... watch out for the next wave

While initial concerns about electronic commerce such as privacy and security are being addressed, law lecturer Jacqueline Lipton says there are new and more subtle issues about cyber-trading which need to be considered.

OPINION

The first wave of e-commerce raised some obvious legal concerns with issues such as privacy and security, authentication of digital signatures and protection of intellectual property rights in cyberspace. New and more subtle issues are emerging.

A recent example involves the use of traditional payment mechanisms in cyberspace. One of the most powerful current methods in international trading has historically been the documentary letter of credit. Documentary credits allow parties to trade in shipping documents rather than goods actually shipped to ensure speed and efficient payment.

A nominated bank will release funds to a seller on behalf of a purchaser on presentation by the seller of the original shipping documents (such as a bill of lading, invoice and insurance documents). This process is in payment while the buyer awaits delivery of the goods. It also substitutes the creditworthiness of a known bank in the seller’s jurisdiction with the purchasing bank.

“Parties to electronic trading transactions should carefully consider whether documentary credits are a cost-effective payment method, or whether other alternatives should be used.”

That of an often unknown buyer in a foreign jurisdiction. E-commerce creates new challenges for this popular payment method. For example, banks now need to accept electronically generated shipping documents and digital signatures in place of the traditional paper versions. Provisions for this have recently been included in the UCP 500, a set of rules drafted by the International Chamber of Commerce, the organisation that helps govern documentary credits.

More recently, banks have faced situations where the goods sold are not tangible products shipped manually from country to country. Rather, they can be information products traded electronically over the Internet; for example, the electronic version of computer software or an Internet domain name.

At such cases, there are no shipping documents to support payment, nor is there a delay between shipment by the seller and receipt by the purchaser. The electronic sale can take place almost instantaneously across great distances. The need to replace the creditworthiness of an unknown purchaser often in an unknown jurisdiction with that of a known local bank will increase.

Banks can no longer rely on standard form documentation requiring the presentation of shipping documents. In one case recently documented on the web, completely new wording was created for a credit used to pay an American company for the sale of an Internet domain name to a French company.

Rather than referring to shipping documents, the credit referred to original proof of registration of the domain name to the French company. The specificity of such payment conditions to the situation at hand suggests that documentary credits used in ecommerce may now need to be drafted on a potentially costly case-by-case basis rather than by relying on cheaper standard form documents.

Parties to electronic trading transactions should carefully consider whether documentary credits are a cost-effective payment method in this context or whether other alternatives should be used. If such credits are to be used for electronic trading, lawyers will need to think carefully about how best to draft them to fit the needs of the transaction in question.

Clinic to boost access to legal system

Monash University’s Law faculty will establish a clinic to help family law clients gain access to the legal system.

The Federal Attorney-General, Mr Daryl Williams, is providing the faculty with $200,000 over two years, with further funding of $100,000 a year until 2002, for the establishment of a Contested Family Law Clinic.

The funds will be used to provide self-help workshops for people involved in contested family law proceedings.

The service will be available at the Monash-Gabley Legal Service adjoining the university’s Clayton campus.

Monash dean of Law Professor Stephen Parker said that by providing disadvantaged family law clients with access to justice, the clinic would help address one of the most serious problems facing Australian society today.

“We are grateful to Mr Williams for his support in this crucial area,” Professor Parker said. “The faculty will work with the community, practitioners and the Family Court to ensure that those who cannot afford legal representation are given the basic tools and the confidence to represent themselves.”

He said there were clearly many kinds of cases where representation by a lawyer was necessary in the interests of both the client and the Family Court, as well as of justice itself.

In addition, Professor Parker said, the clinic would provide Monash law students with valuable learning experiences as they were preparing to become the lawyers of the future.

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Professor Michael Clyne with Bee Ng, Francesco and Gianluca Cavallaro and Anamaria Beligan. Photo by Ian Hogan.

Growing Up With English Plus tries to show parents that by passing an another language to their children, they are giving them a valuable asset and an important understanding of their heritage.

But while the video encourages a bilingual upbringing for reasons of maintaining culture and fostering cognitive development in children, it also recognizes the challenges and the work involved.

“We wanted to use our research into bilingualism in such a way that it could help members of the community maintain their languages when they were unsure of how to go about it,” Professor Clyne said.

Produced by PhD linguistics student and Buchanarm Film School graduate Ms Anamaria Beligan, the video focuses on the bilingual issue in a clear and sensitive way.

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New project to examine audience-artist links

By Frances Martin

Are the interpretations of plays and performances by theatre artists being successfully conveyed to their number one critics—the theatre-goers?

That's one of the questions at the heart of a collaborative research project between Monash University and two of Australia's leading theatre companies, Playbox Theatre and Theatreworks Melbourne.

The project has attracted a large Strategic Partners in Industry Research and Training grant from the Australian Research Council, designed to link researchers and industry partners. Together with in-kind support from the theatres, total funding for the project so far amounts to about $86,000.

Monash lecturer in Drama and Theatre Studies Peter Snow initiated the proposal for the grant following a pilot study whose results indicated a need for further clarification of some important issues.

Artistic directors of Playbox and Theatreworks, Audrey Miller and Paul Monaghan respectively, agree that it is of utmost importance to discover the extent to which the work of theatre artists coincides with the interpretation by theatre audiences.

Snow is enthusiastic about the project. "As far as I know, a systematic investigation into the relationships between theatre audiences and theatre artists has never before been done in Australia," he says. "So this will be a first. It is important for us to discover what artists are attempting to convey to audiences and if their intentions are successful. It is also important to find out whether or not audience expectations are being met."

Beginning in 1999, the three-year project will entail monitoring six productions, three at each of the two theatres involved. Snow expects to distribute about 2,700 questionnaires and interview selected groups of audience members following the productions. He will use observation and discussion to gather additional information. The study will also include assessments of work in production, interviews with theatre artists, including actors, and documentation of performances.

Although project results will especially contribute to audience research and performance theory, Playbox's Simone Lounay also anticipates that they will inform all areas of the theatre industry, including theatre companies, the media and funding bodies. In addition, there will be a raison d'être in theatre studies and theatrical production.

Ultimately, the public will benefit too. People will not only have more of an idea of how the theatre industry works in conjunction with theatre audiences, they will also have a greater awareness and understanding of the ongoing role that theatre plays in the Australian culture.

At the end of the project, written reports will be presented to the theatre companies involved and Snow expects the information to be disseminated throughout the community.

Anyone interested in being part of an interview group should contact Peter Snow on (03) 9905 9033.

New artist-in-residence at Caulfield

Monash University's Applied Arts department has a new artist-in-residence, with the arrival of Gordon Burnett from Grays School of Art, part of the Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen, Scotland.

Burnett, who will focus on metals and jewellery, will be working in the new Art and Design building at Caulfield on a research project titled 'Craft Realtime Walkabout', designed to be an exploration of craft in different cultural contexts.

"The approach is to immerse oneself in a different culture and then respond to that study by creating new work," he said.

The artist will consider the relationships between his own craft background, past and present Aborigional culture and the craft of 200 years of European white settlement. Burnett will also initiate museum collections and talk with practitioners in Sydney, Canberra, Adelaide, Wagga Wagga, Tamworth and New Zealand.

"Once I have investigated the various sources, I will then respond to the findings in the form of art forms," Burnett said. "I am aiming to create work that can be widely understood and crosses cultural boundaries."

The research will lead to an exhibition to be held in late October at the new gallery on Caulfield campus.

Plenty of passion, magic and melodrama in store

Coming up in May, mixed ability dance group will showcase its magic in two performances for Disability Awareness Week at Monash.

WEAVE, whose members have wide-ranging national and international experience as performers, choreographers and directors, will showcase their unique performance style in two shows on 5 May at 1 pm on the Menzies lawn, and at 8 pm in the Union Building.

Tickets are $5. To book, phone Monash Student Theatre on (03) 9905 2108 or book online from the Student Theatre webpage at www.monash.edu.au/students/msca.htm

Alex 'sons' reunite

It's funny that we were all brought together by the Alex and now here we are, years later, working on a major international production," says McGuiggie, who has created the ballet's massive sets.

Former Alex director Phil Avard says the door was always open to the "walk-ins"—mostly Monash students with little experience but lots of ideas and creative energy.

"We didn't have there was always work, whether paid or unpaid, for those who really wanted it," he recalls.

And while many came and went, a few stayed on, working their way through the ranks toward successful careers in show business—including working on one of the biggest international arts events ever to be staged in Australia.

"Swan Lake" will be performed in the Sydney Entertainment Centre from 13 to 16 May, Melbourne Arts Centre from 20 to 22 May, Adelaide Entertainment Centre from 28 to 30 May, and Brisbane Entertainment Centre from 4 to 6 June.
Poets on show: from nonsense to greatness

April

15 Poetry exhibition - Modern Australian Poetry, an exhibition of books and periodicals on modern Australian poetry, in the Rare Books section of the Main Library, Clayton. Until mid-May.


15 Lunchtime concert - The grand tour, a lecture on baroque Europe, by Smallwood. Music Auditorium, Clayton, 1.10 pm.

16 Music seminar - The jazz era in Australia during the 1940s, by Mr Graeme Pender. Room G38, Performing Arts Centre, Clayton, 4.50 pm.

19 Lunchtime concert - Great jazz artists, presented by Tim McInerney (guitar), Justin Ashworth (vocals) and Ross Crowley (percussion). Hexagon Theatre, Gippsland, 1.10 pm (George Jenkins Theatre, Peninsula, 20 April).

21 Lunchtime concert - Monash Sindonia, the works of Theophile Kossowski, Mozart, Vivaldi and Skalkottas presented by the Monash String Chamber Orchestra. Clayton Library, Caulfield, 1.10 pm.

22 Lunchtime concert - Ogan Symphony, performed by the New Monash Orchestra conducted by Andrew de Quadros with organist John O'Donell, Robert Blackwood Hall, Clayton, 1.10 pm.

26 Lunchtime concert - Monash Sindonia, Hexagon Theatre, Gippsland, 1.10 pm (George Jenkins Theatre, Peninsula, 27 April).

29 Music seminar - Afghan classical music, by Mr Ahmad Sermast. Room G38, Performing Arts Centre, Clayton, 9.30 am.

29 Lunchtime concert - Traditional and contemporary music, presented by Monash University's mixed choir, Viva Voce, and the Monash Women's Choir. Music Auditorium, Clayton, 1.10 pm.

May

3 Lunchtime concert - Baroque and contemporary recorder and piano performances, by Mrs Louisa Hunter-Bailey (recorder) and James McAuley (piano). Hexagon Theatre, Gippsland, 1.10 pm (George Jenkins Theatre, Peninsula, on 4 May).

6 Lunchtime concert - Beethoven sonatas, presented by cellist Alfred Hornung and Russian pianist Ivan Malley in an imaginative approach to writing and his status as an intellectual of the era.

Samuel Daniel: Selected Poetry and A Defense of Ryme

By Derek Brown

The essence of modern Australian poetry is on show at Monash University until mid-May.

The Modern Australian Poetry exhibition, in the Rare Books section of the Main Library at Clayton campus, includes more than 200 items and has been curated by Dr. Peter Hiller and Dr. Geoffrey G. Hiller, academics from the English Department at Monash University.

Through the introduction of the editors, Dr. Peter Hiller and Dr. Geoffrey G. Hiller, the exhibition aims to show the full range of modern Australian poetry.

One of the earliest items in the catalogue, Mr. Overall says, is a 1923 text by Bert犁es titled Black Poets. It includes a sexually explicit poem, "Beauty," which was originally published in the University of Sydney student newspaper. The author was later expelled from the university on the charge of "committing misconduct in writing a poem."

Each item has its own story to tell, and Mr. Overall hopes the exhibition will show that the world of Australian poetry has always been "interesting and a little controversial."

The exhibition also touches on one of Australia's most notorious literary incidents when, during the 1940s, Harold Stewart and James McAuley put together a deliberately made to be critical of free verse nature. This was a very elaborate ruse," Mr. Overall said. Overell said. "They created one of the best and earliest sonnet sequences; and the theoretical work Pegasus Pre.. (MP $39.95) which discusses the status and validity of the vernacular texts, including "Defence of Ryme" which discusses the status and validity of the vernacular metre.

Dr. Geoffrey G. Hiller and Dr. Peter L. Groves are academics from the Department of English at Monash University.

Displaced Fictions: Contemporary Australian books for teenagers and young adults

By Heatherr Scatter

Heather Scatter believes that we do children and teenagers a disservice by not teaching them to critique texts, either critically or otherwise. In Displaced Fictions, the author produces a critique of young adult fiction from 1980 to the present day and encourages adults to really examine young adult fiction rather than trusting it as sacred. Scatter's authoritative voice analyzes some of Australia's most prominent texts for young adults such as John Marsden's Tomorrow when the War Began, Sonya Hartnett’s Sleeping Dogs; and Victor Kelleher’s Del Del.

Although controversial, Displaced Fictions puts up a reasoned argument for a revaluation of the texts written for the youth market. Dr. Heather Scatter is a lecturer in the English Department at Monash University.

She has coordinated the Children’s Literature units at the university for the past six years and writes a weekly column on children’s books in the Herald Sun.
Flaming Ostrich eyes 1999 footy title

BY COREY NASSAU

The world's longest-running probabilistic sports tipping competition is on again and the Monash University organiser, who coincidentally came first and second in last year's competition, are keen to defend their title.

But with 350 enrolled tipsters competing under aliases which include Bluebeader, Mossel Bay and Flaming Ostrich, there is no shortness of bough opposition for the eager organiser.

Launched in 1995, the Monash University Probabilistic Footy Tipping Competition provides eager punters with a novel method of betting on the Australian sporting information that is football. Competition co-ordinator Dr David Dowse is pleased with the number of entrants for this season.

"Entrants have had to choose between three types of competition - normal, probabilistic or even Gaussian tipping, but the probabilistic competition has been the most popular so far possibly because it's the most novel," he said.

Dr Dowse, a senior lecturer at Monash's School of Computer Science and Software Engineering, sees the competition as providing a greater challenge than the more traditional footy betting competitions.

"With a probabilistic entry, you put a value on each team's chance of winning, so it becomes a game of what sort of odds you're willing to bet on rather than just who will win," he said.

The aim of the free-entry competition, the only Australian competition run in this way, was to add variety to the usual office tipping exercise. It has inspired a third-year computer science project option entitled "probabilistic sports prediction using machine learning."

"This project option has been very popular, and one student is now doing part-time work for bookies in Hong Kong," Dr Dowse said.

Mr Torsten Sorensen, winner of the 1993 competition and final-year PhD student in computer science, is in charge of maintaining and developing the competition website.

"The trick is not to be too over-confident, even when a top team is playing the bottom team. If you start off being a little conservative, you have a better chance of climbing the ladder to victory," he said.

"People who are good with statistics tend to do better in the competition because they are more realistic than average footy-craved fans, who tend to be too confident of a particular team's chances of winning."

The competition is run entirely online, making it easy for competitors to enter their tips and keep in touch. It is also being promoted among secondary school students, with monetary prizes going to the top 10 student tipsters.

So the question remains - can an outsider break the stranglehold of the organising team?

"You've got to be in it to win it," Torsten said. The website is at www.csse.monash.edu.au/~footy.

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Crunch time for star

BY PETER GOLDE

A liquid lunch with Paul Trimboli, Australian soccer hero and Monash graduate, involves a few cafe lattes, which shouldn't be confused with yours because his is non-fat milk. Of course.

There is something disturbing about being close to a sporting icon of Paul Trimboli's stature. Affable, self-effacing and generous about his career achievements, he smiles frequently and has those piercingly clear eyes which seem to be the preserve of the super-fit.

Two things unravell: not only does he possess an easy assurance, almost serenity, but he possesses it here as his South Melbourne team remains hopeful of winning their second championship in a row. With training six days a week and interstate flights, he must have an easy assurance that he is right behind his soccer. But do one thing for too long, you lose track of what's going on around you.

especially in sport where there's so much emphasis on success and failure. He knows something about success on the field. He has been a great champion of South Melbourne for two national championships (1991 and 1994), had League Cup wins (1990 and 1996) and has twice won the Warmel Medal (1990 and 1996), so any decision to leave would not be easy.

But win or lose the upcoming NSL championship, Trimboli must make choices at the end of this soccer season - his contract is up after 12 years with South Melbourne, nearly a lifetime in modern sport.

He is not saying anything other than to confirm inquiries, but says it would be a "big thing" to consider leaving South Melbourne. "Twelve years is a long time with any club," he says. "It has been a great opportunity, but I am ready for a change."

"There are opportunities opening up around Australia for full-time soccer players at professionally run clubs. But I would have to consider such a move very carefully. Leaving accountancy for a professional life and study? It's possible. But if you organise yourself," he says.

Trimboli has played for the Australian Socceros 36 times and scored 12 goals in internationals. His professional life involves cramming for his final CPA module, with his exams due in a just a few weeks - about the same time he is hoping to be playing in the NSL grand final.

"I can really pack a lot of work into six days a week. I've checked and they won't be on the same day," he chuckles, recalling 1997 when he played an NSL championship in Sydney on a Friday night, lost the game, returned to Melbourne and got up to face an exam the next Monday morning. "It was a bit difficult mentally to get myself up that much emphasis on success and failure." He is not saying anything other than to confirm inquiries, but says it would be a "big thing" to consider leaving South Melbourne. "Twelve years is a long time with any club," he says. "It has been a great opportunity, but I am ready for a change."

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