News
Research probes diabetes link
Monash research into the link between exercise and glucose uptake could help identify a key factor in diabetes prevention.

Monash University's global vision has been taken a step further with approval to establish a full campus in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The announcement follows two years of sustained effort, culminating in the South African Government's decision in January to register Monash as a provider of private higher education.

Monash is the first Australian university to be registered to operate in South Africa as a private higher education institution.

The Monash campus will be developed on a 100-hectare site at Roodepoort, a suburb in a growth corridor of Johannesburg.

The first students will enrol in 2001 in undergraduate courses in arts, business and commerce, business systems, computing and information technology.

Vice-chancellor Professor David Robinson said South Africa represented a major step in the achievement of Monash's vision of having "a matrix of campuses which will be nodes in an educational network that spans the globe".

"The development of offshore campuses is critical to the vision of offering all Monash students a gateway to the world," Professor Robinson said.

"There will be increased opportunities for Monash staff and students to widen their horizons by providing a new and different working, learning, teaching, research and living environment.

"There will also be opportunities to establish points of access and delivery for students at sites in rural and remote southern Africa, and areas where there is presently insufficient access to tertiary education."

With more than 47,000 students, Monash is recognised as one of Australia's leading research institutions and one with a strong international commitment.

Monash established its first offshore campus in Malaysia in 1998. It is also about to open a centre in London in partnership with King's College.

"One of the attractions for King's College London, in partnering with Monash, is that Monash University's global vision has been taken a step further with approval to establish a full campus in Johannesburg, South Africa."

"One of the attractions for King's College London, in partnering with Monash, is that Monash will provide King's with a window to other parts of the world and a physical infrastructure to match. King's has expressed interest in joint activity with Monash in southern Africa," he said.

"It is an exciting challenge for Monash to create an institution in South Africa with the highest international academic standards, employing a range of the most appropriate educational technologies in support of a portfolio of educational courses and research programs that are directly relevant to the needs and aspirations of the South African and broader region."

Arts
Project a pure success
The annual Art and Design student calendar is always fashionable - now it's part of the 2000 Melbourne Fashion Festival.

Monash has again proven that it produces the best young debaters in the world by winning the World Universities Debating Championships for the second year running.

The victory was the first back-to-back win in the competition's history.

The "Monash A" team of Ms Kim Little and Ms Cathy Rossouw put Monash into the history books with a formidable performance at the 20th World Universities Debating Championships in Sydney in January. The pair is the first all-female team to win the week-long debating tournament.

Arguing against the premise that "Karl Marx would approve of the Internet", Ms Little and Ms Rossouw defeated teams from the University of La Verne, University College Dublin and Glasgow University to win the grand final.

Known simply as the "Worlds", among debaters, the championships are the largest non-sporting intervarsity event in the world and are considered the cream of debating competitions. This year over 750 delegates from more than 26 countries attended the event.

Reflecting on last year's win in Manila by another Monash duo, the winning pair said Monash's back-to-back wins could be attributed to strong coaching by the Monash Association of Debaters.

"Unlike some of the top overseas colleges and schools, Monash has a real focus on training 'teams' rather than just individuals," the pair said.

"It is an exciting challenge for Monash to create an institution in South Africa with the highest international academic standards, employing a range of the most appropriate educational technologies in support of a portfolio of educational courses and research programs that are directly relevant to the needs and aspirations of the South African and broader region."
A medical mystery: why does exercise prevent diabetes?

BY STUART HEATHER

Monash research into the link between exercise and glucose uptake could help identify a key factor in diabetes prevention.

The research by a team in the Department of Physiology is seeking volunteers for a new trial funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council. It has been known for many years that physical exercise improves and can even prevent the onset of diabetes, as muscle contractions during exercise stimulate the uptake of glucose from the bloodstream. However, there is a yawning gap in understanding why this might be so.

Adult or mature-onset diabetes is caused when muscles 'ignore' or do not take up glucose in the blood, even though the pancreas is producing insulin, an agent which normally stimulates the muscles to use blood sugar. Much research has gone into the breakdown of the 'insulin pathway' of glucose absorption, but little work has been done on the apparently separate but parallel 'contraction pathway' which operates when muscles are exercised.

Clinical medical treatments for diabetes centre on controlling blood glucose through medication and diet. Endocrinologists also recommend exercise, but without knowing why this works, the exercise prescription often takes a distant second place to pharmaceutical remedies.

Meanwhile, at Monash's Physiology department, exercise bikes are being readied for a trial in which volunteers' labour on the pedals might aid a breakthrough in understanding the cascade of reactions that cause muscles to take up glucose.

The research led by Dr Glenn McConnell is focusing on a simple substance – nitric oxide (NO) – and the enzyme which produces it – nitric oxide synthase (NOS).

Only in recent years has NO been recognised as having a significant role in a diverse range of physiological responses, including nerve transmission and immune function as well as blood flow. (Last year, a Nobel Prize was won for NO research.) NO's part in preventing diabetes may be even more significant.

A year ago Dr McConnell carried out the world's first human trial looking at the role of nitric oxide in glucose use by muscles. It is a cutting-edge research.

"There are at least 10 steps in the process from muscle contraction to glucose uptake," says Dr McConnell, "and we understand at most two or three of them.

Preliminary results from the trial were published in the journal Diabetes last September. (Nitric oxide synthase inhibition reduces leg glucose uptake but not blood flow during dynamic exercise in humans).

People interested in becoming involved in the follow-up trial should contact Dr McConnell on (03) 9905 9801.

Violence 'accepted' in customary law

BY FIONA PERRY

A study by a Monash legal researcher has found that violence was an accepted and expected part of life for Aboriginal women under customary law.

Master of laws graduate Mrs Joan Kimm looked at court cases involving violence against Aboriginal women between 1990 and 1996. She found that despite having some areas of autonomy in traditional society, Aboriginal women were subjugated, particularly sexually, for the asserted good of a communal society dominated by male elders.

Under customary law, Aboriginal women could be subject to punishment such as 'sacred rape' (mass rape) or death for uttering a sacred word used in male rituals, said Mrs Kimm, a solicitor who has worked in the area of family law.

"However, women did not have reciprocal sanctions against men for infringement of women's law," she said.

The findings came as a surprise to Mrs Kimm, whose thesis, 'Fatal contraception: Two laws and two cultures', examines the attitude of the Australian judiciary to cases of violence committed by Aboriginal men against Aboriginal women.

"I had expected to write a thesis on how the imposition of European culture has been entirely responsible for violence towards women in Aboriginal society," she said.

"However, while I found that European invasion and alcohol had contributed and exacerbated violence committed by Aboriginal men against Aboriginal women, it had only played a part.

Up until the 1990s, judges were wary of interfering in Aboriginal law and practice in cultural relativism – allowing the argument of customary law as a 'cultural defence' – imposing light or suspended sentences.

However, since the introduction of international charters of human rights and the rise of the women's movement, judges have taken a much tougher stand against intra-racial violence, affirming the right of Aboriginal women to be protected against violence, according to Ms Kimm.

"Even so, Aboriginal women, who are strong women, remain the most abused and disenfranchised of any group of women in Australia," she said.

Monash Uni mouths take on the world – and win

Continued from page 1

"The Monash Association of Debaters caters for debaters of all levels. They will train you from the ground up and make you a better speaker," Ms Little said.

"Debating really gives you a crash course in everything," commented Debaters' president Bruna Rossouw, who is studying arts/law.

"It teaches you clarity and speed of thought, broadens your knowledge and most importantly, it teaches you to be quick on the hop."
Leading women join Monash Uni's ranks

Three leading professionals have joined Monash University's senior staff.

Businesswoman Ms Alison Crook took up the position of deputy vice-chancellor (resources) and vice-president at the start of February. Academic Augusta Alford was appointed as the new dean of Education in May, and Professor Gill Palmer as dean of Business and Economics.

Business Leader of the Year (Professors) in 1991 and 1992, Business Woman of the Year (Ms Crook) was executive director of operations for Serco Australia before taking over the portfolio held by Monash's former general manager, Mr Peter Wade.

She has extensive experience in internationalisation of business enterprises and in public sector management. In 1993, she was made an Officer of the Order of Australia for services in public administration.

Ms Crook has an honours arts degree and has completed graduate studies in education and library studies. She holds an MEd from the University of Queensland and honorary doctorates from the University of South Australia and Macquarie University.

Dr Williams is currently dean of the School of Education at Murdoch University in Western Australia, and co-dean of the Australian Institute of Education (AIE).

She will fill the position vacated by Monash's new pro vice-chancellor at King's College London, Professor Richard White.

Dr Williams is instrumental in establishing the AIE as a joint venture with the University of Western Australia. She is also director of Murdoch's Centre for Curriculum and Professional Development.

Her research and professional activities range from mathematics curriculum development to gender, social justice and education, and professional judgment and accountability.

Professor Gill Palmer has been dean of Commerce at the University of Wollongong since 1995. More than half her career has been in London, including research at the London School of Economics, a senior position with the Commission on Industrial Relations and lecturing at the City University Business School.

Professor Palmer has degrees in economics, politics, and sociology from Birmingham, a masters in industrial administration from the London School of Economics and a PhD from the City University Business School, London.

Business, academic leaders for Malaysian conference

A senior analyst from international rating agency Moody's will give one of the keynote addresses at a major business symposium to be held at Monash University's Malaysia campus later this month.

Dr Steve Hess, head of Moody's Asia-Pacific, will highlight the opportunities and pitfalls for Malaysia's business in the "new era" conference, which begins on 22 February.

The event will be officially opened by Malaysia's Foreign Minister, Datuk Seri Syed Hamid bin Syed Jaafar Albar, and Malaysian vice-chancellor Professor David Robinson.

The program features a one-day public policy forum and a two-day academic workshop showcasing new research by Monash staff and Malaysian scholars and think-tanks.

The Monash initiative and the research grants supporting it are the result of collaboration between the departments of Management and Economics.

Symposium co-convenor Associate Professor Markus Vickers of the Economics department said the attendance of one of Moody's chief Asia analysts underlined the significance of the event.

"Keynote speakers will focus on Malaysia's place in the world economy and Australian-Malaysian bilateral relations, while the panel discussions will look at the experiences of Australian and Malaysian companies," she said.

"The aim is to provide an overview of the challenges and opportunities in Malaysia's business, management and economic environment. We are also showcasing the research work by Monash scholars and developing links with Malaysian academics beyond the 'Asean system'."

Despite the Asian economic crisis, Malaysia imported $2.1 billion in goods and services, while the imports included gold, copper, aluminium and food projects.

Australiabased Monash staff have been involved in a number of collaborative research projects with colleagues at Monash Malaysia, exploring topics such as women in international business, competition and privatisation in Malaysia, management practices, and the auditing process.

Researchers will discuss their work on the banking sector, on Islamic identity and work, and issues of mobility in the public service sector. About half the academic presenters are Malaysian scholars and think-tanks. As many as 25 Melbourne-based academics from Monash's Faculty of Business and Economics will attend.

Among the papers, workshop participants will hear the early findings of a pilot study of Australian business attitudes to Malaysia, which questioned about 180 companies for basic information about why they were doing business in Malaysia and their perceptions of change and opportunity.

The launch and public policy forum on 22 February is open to the public and has been organised in association with the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute in Kuala Lumpur, the leading conference organiser in Malaysia.

Full details can be found at www.arts.monash.edu.au/round/1998/symposium
Research helps explore needs of PNG’s youth

By Julie Ryan

Like many young people, the youth of Papua New Guinea often feel isolated from the rest of the community and powerless to change their situation, according to Monash Faculty of Education lecturer Dr Karen Malone.

As the Asia-Pacific director of UNESCO’s International Growing Up in Cities (GUIC) program, Dr Malone has undertaken substantial research on the needs and concerns of young people in Australia.

Based on her research with youth in suburban Braybrook and Frankston in Victoria, Dr Malone was invited by the Papua New Guinea government to conduct GUIC-based workshops with youth, government officials and community groups in Port Moresby. "There are some issues that are common across cultures, including unemployment, safety, low self-esteem, substance abuse and a lack of suitable socialising facilities," Dr Malone said.

"But in PNG there were issues specific to the culture. Like separation from the 'old' culture, conflict between the Western way of life and cultural heritage, and the lack of post-primary educational opportunities."

On Dr Malone’s first visit to PNG last September, it became evident that while youth issues were an increasing concern in the community, there was no substantial research on the impact of urbanisation and globalisation on students.

From her first visit, Dr Malone developed specific objectives for her return visit in November, incorporating workshops, site visits, interviews and group activities.

Supported by high-ranking government officials including the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs, Mr John Pandu, who gave the keynote address at the three-day program, Dr Malone set about developing models for the evaluation and improvement of local environments.

The problem with planning...

Most people accept the theory and practice of planning without even thinking about it. In fact, it even seems heresy to critique planning. However, Dr Robert Johnston has a very different view.

Planning is important, but it shouldn’t drive the execution of systems that are routine.

In many areas of industry and business, people don’t use planning effectively. They seem to have put planning in the wrong basket.

Many people think that you can actually drive day-to-day events by referring to a plan—which has often been generated by computer. This particularly applies to manufacturing and, in a slightly less formal version, to other areas of management.

It comes from a folk theory that has developed over the centuries about how individuals go about their own day-to-day affairs, for example how employees, simple control systems and flattened reporting structures.

All these factors lead to a very structured environment at work, where planning isn’t needed on a day-to-day basis; for example, in a production cell, planning is only used when things go wrong.

An automotive manufacturer such as Toyota, of which the School of Business Systems has conducted several case studies, plans its sequential production of cars to the same degree that a company such as Ford does. However, at Toyota, the replenishment of parts is completely autonomous from the planning, whereas at Ford, planning is used to drive the parts replenishment.

But there is definitely a place for planning. Planning is an extremely important management function for modelling the future and preparing yourself for the future, but it shouldn’t drive the execution of systems.

Dr Robert Johnston is a senior lecturer in the School of Business Systems at Monash University.

Contact Principal Bob Hogendoorn on 9560 9477 for an interview.

Admissions statistics

Monash will welcome nearly 6000 new students to its campuses this year. The following number of offers were made in the VTAC first round:

- Berwick: 447
- Caulfield: 1133
- Clayton: 3089
- Gippsland: 605
- Parliament: 116
- Peninsula: 511

Many talented students were also offered scholarships:

- Sir John Monash Drama Scholars - 41 offered
- Sir John Monash Awards for Excellence - 84 offered
- Monash Equity and Merit - 26 offered
- Undergraduate Support Bursaries (for fee-liable students) - seven offered
- Monash Achievement Awards (conversion from fee-liable to HECS-liable) - 53 offered.

All HECS-liable scholarship students will receive an award of up to $5000 per annum.

Schools liaison 2000

A schools activities brochure will be distributed to all careers coordinators later this month.

This outlines all major events for the year, the services provided to teachers and students by the Prospective Students Officer and other useful contacts around the university.

And the winner is...

The 1999 Australian APEC Study Centre Essay prize was awarded to John Molloy of St Michael’s Grammar School in St Kilda, Victoria.

John’s essay was titled, ‘Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation: Securing Prosperity in the Pacific Century.’

The judges were APEC centre chairman Mr Alan Oxley, and the director of the Monash Asia Institute, Professor John McKay, who praised the thoroughness and quality of entries.

“It is obvious that schools are studying APEC-related issues in several curriculum areas,” he said. “This bodes well for future understanding of this complex range of issues as Australia strengthens its relationships in the region.”
Protected speech is a privilege, not a right for MPs

The right to speak openly in parliament, without fear of defamation, has long been regarded as a right, not a privilege, by politicians. However, parliamentary privilege has been subject to abuse by politicians seeking publicity or revenge at great personal cost to others. The time has come to limit the privilege to curtail its ongoing abuse and make politicians accountable for their actions, says Mr Michael Kroger.

Parliamentary privilege as it operates in Australia today is an anachronism and should be treated as such.

Another option is that absolute privilege as it operates in Australia today is an anachronism and should be treated as such.

Parliaments themselves can, of course, admonish a member who they believe has seriously transgressed in the use of the privilege of the parliament. Sanctions include seeking apologies, imposing censure motions and suspending the member in question with appropriate loss of salary.

However, the time has come when some limitations must be placed upon members to ensure that the ongoing abuse of parliamentary privilege is curtailed.

The answer is to find a balance where the ordinary workings of the parliament are not interfered with by restrictions placed on members for what they say in the House. One option might be to insert a new sub-section 8 in section 16 of the Parliamentary Privileges Act 1987 of the Federal Parliament which might read as follows: "For the purposes of this Act and proceedings in Parliament in general, a Member may waive his right to the protections afforded by this Act at the beginning of and completion of any remarks, statements or questions to which he does not wish the Act to apply."

A more radical option would be to alter the act so the protection previously provided to members of parliament only applies when it is claimed at the beginning of and completion of any remarks to which the member seeks protection.

Alternatively, or additionally, the parliament itself should be given power to waive privilege in such circumstances as it deems fit, for that right does not yet exist. This is something the New South Wales Parliament has already done.

Another alternative is to remove the right of absolute privilege and replace it with qualified privilege as it is known under the law in Australia today, to statements which allege dishonest or criminal activity by any person who is not a member of the parliament.
Distilling the pure essence of fashion

By JOSIE GIBSON

How to capture the spirit of some of Australia's top fashion designers?

That was the complex brief facing a group of Monash students last year as they set about developing the Department of Design's highly successful annual calendar.

The result: a stunning visual tribute to Australian fashion leaders on the verge of the new millennium.

The fifth calendar produced by the department's senior graphic design students, Pure, was created specifically for the 2000 Melbourne Fashion Festival. Images from the giant calendar form part of an exhibition at the Faculty Gallery at Monash Caulfield over the next month. Also on show are student pieces and artwork from the Monash University Collection along the fashion and body theme.

According to the course coordinator for visual communication at Monash, Mr Russell Kennedy, the calendar's scientific theme teases the beholder with a thought of a secret formula for success, depicting fashion as part of a periodic table - a pure element.

"The featured designers represent a diverse mix of the Melbourne fashion scene," he said. "All represent excellence in their field."

Included in Pure are the fashion labels Princess Highway, SX, Yen, Chiodo, Roy, Ellis Ambe, Square, Perri Cutten, Christopher Gard, Victoria Lofthus, Saba and TL Wood.

Each designer has been photographed in a scene reflective of his or her individual style and vision, with Perri Cutten, for example, caught slipping in a 1960s setting above the caption, "Everyone needs a shot of raspberry to liven up their wardrobe."

Designer Roy admits: "I'm into that whole tribal thing."

Produced with the help of sponsors, the Art and Design calendar adds the spice of competition to the creativity of third-year graphic design, with students competing to work on the project.

Project manager Andrew Wood, now in the process of setting up his own photography and graphic design studio, described the Monash calendar as the most challenging project he had experienced.

"I learned a lot very quickly," he said. "But it was a good job - we came up with a good result."

Pure will be officially opened on 18 February at 6pm.

What: Pure
When: Until 11 March
Where: Faculty Gallery, Monash Caulfield campus
Who: For more details, contact gallery manager Mr Malcom Bywaters on (03) 9903 2882.

Organ recital for Bach milestone

Even 250 years after his death, Johann Sebastian Bach remains a haunting, powerful presence.

To mark this important musical milestone, Monash University will stage a Bach recital on 3 March featuring internationally renowned organist John O'Donnell.

The official Monash University organist will perform Clavierbung III, described as the greatest volume of organ music of all time, at the Robert Blackwood Concert Hall at Clayton campus.

For O'Donnell, the performance is the latest development in a long association with one of Western music's greatest composers.

Accomplished in organ, harpsichord, fortepiano and pianoforte, O'Donnell has forged a distinguished career in international performance since graduating as student of the year from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music in 1966.

He first performed Bach's complete organ works in Melbourne in 1974. With his 1985 performance of Bach's complete harpsichord music, followed by the first Australian performance of the newly discovered Neumeister collection of chorales, he became the first person ever to perform Bach's complete keyboard works in public.

One of O'Donnell's current projects is editing the complete keyboard works of Pachelbel. In spite of this, however, he says Bach remains central to his musical life.

"Bach is all-encompassing and eternal. To perform Bach is to immerse oneself in the richness of his music, where passion and reason find their perfect marriage," he explains.

"And to play him on the organ is surely the highest musical experience, involving great physical coordination and calling on all mental and emotional reserves."

What: Clavierbung III organ recital
When: 3 March
Where: Robert Blackwood Concert Hall, Monash University Clayton campus
Who: For bookings and inquiries, call the Monash Box Office on 9905 1111.

Life drawings trace the heart of the human form

By JOSIE GIBSON

Despite achieving considerable success and respect as a painter, Rick Amor believes in perfecting the basics.

One of his early loves was life drawing, which he credits for securing him a recent stint as an official Australian war artist in East Timor.

Each Monday night for years, Amor and a group of friends have hired a model for drawing sessions lasting several hours.

About 30 works from those sessions have been selected for a new exhibition at the Faculty Gallery at Monash University's Caulfield campus over the next month.

Rick Amor: Drawings celebrates the often under-appreciated skill of draughtsmanship, which Amor says underpins his painting success.

"In figurative painting it's a vital skill," he says. "You have to have form and shape and be able to understand the body, whereas it's not so important, for example, for the conceptual or video artist."

One of Australia's leading contemporary realist painters, Amor is regarded as disciplined and prolific in his work.

For Amor, the difficulty of good draughtsmanship is the challenge. "It's a very hard thing to draw and make it successful," he says. "Whether the figure's male or female, being able to do it successfully is seen as a yardstick of ability."

Amor had his first taste of life drawing as a fine arts student at Monash Caulfield, graduating with a certificate of art in 1965. "I have fond memories of that period," he recalls. "Top art was the big thing; we all drew all the time."

Last year: Amor's draughtsmaking skills were put to the test in East Timor when he accompanied Australian troops on peacekeeping duties in the troubled territory.

The nation's first war artist in almost three decades, Amor was humbled by the experience of witnessing such devastation and despair first hand. "It was very depressing, very interesting," he says. "A thing worth doing."

It was also demanding, working quickly under pressure to translate his impressions and vision into an artistic record of Australia's involvement in the mission.

"I was chosen for the role because of my draughtsmaking skills," he says. "There's no point in doing drawings that aren't representational. Soldiers come in and say, 'You got the belt wrong'. Accuracy and an eye for detail are essential."

Amor's East Timor work will go on show at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra in March.

What: Rick Amor: Drawings
Where: Until 11 March
Where: Faculty Gallery, Monash University Caulfield campus
Who: For more details, contact gallery manager Malcolm Bywaters on (03) 9903 2882.
Legacy of Menzies live on at Monash

BY DEREK BROWN

The annual Menzies lectures at Monash University have served as a focal point of conservative political thought for more than 20 years.

According to Dr Alan Gregory, editor of a new book of transcripts of the series named after Liberal Party founder Sir Robert Menzies, the lectures have struggled to survive, often faced with strong opposition and student protests.

"When I was approached by a group of students from the Monash University Liberal Club in 1978 to help set up the lectures, the university was in a period of upheaval. At the time, Monash was seeing the most radical and violent student activism of any university in Australia," Dr Gregory said.

"It was a very interesting time, with huge opposition to opinions that went against the rationality of the time. It was this intolerance that encouraged Michael Koper and other members of the Monash Liberal Club to create a trust that would ensure the survival of a different political voice."

According to Dr Gregory, who has been associated with the lecture series since its inception, the greatest protests were seen when prominent figures such as Malcolm Fraser and Margaret Thatcher addressed crammed lecture theatres on their controversial political views.

With major Australian political figures such as John Howard, Andrew Peacock and Jeff Kennett speaking on topics as diverse as business philosophy, education and the constitution, the strong Liberal flavour of the series is obvious.

"The Menzies Lectures, published by the Sir Robert Menzies Lecture Trust, provides a snapshot of the Australian political landscape over the past two decades. Dr Alan Gregory is chairman of the Sir Robert Menzies Lecture Trust."

Ceramics, painting for Caulfield

Works by two Melbourne artists have gone on show at Monash University's Caulfield campus.

Andrew Cope (BA (CeramicDesign) 1991, GradDip (CeramicDesign) 1994), an exhibitor in the recent Space and Time annual exhibition, is showing a selection of vases, vessels, planters, trophies and bowls in the Hall Gallery in the Faculty of Art and Design.

Naline Sawney, a master of arts painting student, has created a large installation entitled "The Common Goal", which is on show in the main gallery. The work, which is oil slick on paper, is being shown at the Australian Galleries in Collingwood until March 4.

Sydney's Century: A History

Peter Spearritt

UNSW Press (RRP: $35)

At the end of the 20th century, Sydney stands as one of the world's great cities, with the Opera House, the Harbour Bridge and the harbour itself acting as internationally recognised icons for the city.

In Sydney's Century, Professor Peter Spearritt traces the development of the city from Federation celebrations in 1901 to the 2000 Olympic Games. He describes the growth of the suburbs, the rise of the car and the population explosion that has turned Sydney from a port and manufacturing centre into an international financial hub.

Spearritt places the city in its historic context with a detailed look at the planning, construction, and eventual destruction, of many of the city's landmarks. Sydney's Century includes several photos of notable buildings and their histories, supporting recent moves in Sydney to protect its architectural heritage.

Drawing on novels, newspaper articles, government papers and first-hand accounts, Spearritt, director of the National Key Centre for Australian Studies at Monash University, explores the way ordinary citizens have helped shape, and been shaped by, Australia's largest metropolis.

Wicked Heat

Kevin Hart

Paper Book Press (RRP $24.95)

According to Professor Kevin Hart, his latest collection of poetry, Wicked Heat, was born in the steamy, tropical world of his British childhood. In a world where the physical heat was often mirrored by the steamy, human activities of those who lived in it.

Along with religious or organisational differences, that fuel a desire to leave the ministry.

According to Dr Ballis, once a pastor decides to leave, the religious and social networks surrounding them often fail to provide adequate emotional support. His research revealed that only 23 per cent of those who exit the ministry remain a part of the Adventist community.

"When you leave the system you are completely split out and become an instant outsider. You are rejected because you are threat to the system," he said.

"In one instance, the wife of one person I interviewed was approached in church and told that her husband was a fallen angel from Satan. That's the sort of reactions ex-pastors have to deal with."

In Leaving the Adventist Ministry: Studies of the Process of Exiting, Dr Ballis has collected interviews and findings from more than eight years of work. He says his research can be extended to look at the experiences of a wide range of career groups such as police, teachers and social workers.
Ambulance paramedics begin a new era

BY JULIE RYAN

With emergency vehicles becoming a common sight at Monash University's Peninsula campus of late, people could be excused for thinking the campus's occupational health and safety record wasn't up to scratch.

However, the ambulance and mobile intensive care ambulance (MICA) units used regularly on campus are important training tools for ambulance paramedics from the Metropolitan Ambulance Service or Rural Ambulance Victoria. As part of their employment contract, student ambulance paramedics receive on-the-job training over three years, integrated with national and international trends.

The inaugural director of the Monash University Centre for Ambulance and Paramedic Studies (MUCAPS), Associate Professor Frank Archer, said the new centre, which took over training Victoria's ambulance paramedics from the Ambulance Officers' Training Centre, recognised the increasing importance of ambulance paramedics in the health care sector.

"The move to a university-based training model within the Faculty of Medicine recognises the high level of skills ambulance paramedics need on the job," Dr Archer said.

"This is a significant move in ambulance paramedic education, which has changed progressively since 1961 when ambulance personnel were only required to have the equivalent of a St John First Aid certificate."

Dr Archer said it was also consistent with national and international trends.

To undertake studies at MUCAPS, students must be employed by an ambulance service – either the Metropolitan Ambulance Service or Rural Ambulance Victoria. As part of their employment contract, student ambulance paramedics receive on-the-job training over three years, integrated with 32 weeks in a residential program at Peninsula campus.

Over the next few years, a pre-employment training model will be developed to enable those interested in ambulance-paramedic studies to apply directly through the university.

Meanwhile, the 'ambos', who are easily recognisable in their uniforms, add a new dimension to the Peninsula campus and have embraced university life, using the library and computer facilities and enjoying the gym, café and Seabreeze Taverns.

Signing up for Monash

Marketing awards to Monash academicians

Monash academics have won major marketing awards presented by the Australian and New Zealand Marketing Academy.

Professor Peter PittBoy, the head of Monash's Department of Marketing, received a distinguished marketing educator award for his work in advancing the marketing discipline through teaching, service and research. Associate Professor Frank Alpert, from Marketing, won a distinguished researcher award for a paper on consumer memory, attitude and perceptions towards pioneer and follower brands.

Executives briefed on retail trends

Australian executives will be brought up to date with worldwide retailing trends at the Australian Centre for Retail Studies 2000 executive briefing.

The Monash centre's annual briefing session will be held this year in Melbourne at Le Meridien at Rialto.

Among the issues to be examined are the e-commerce revolution in the US, the new retail landscape in Europe, the outlook for Asia, and the growth ambitions of elite global retailers.

Lecturers honoured with awards

Monash University has named its top teachers for the past year.

Lecturer Ms Melissa de Zwart and senior lecturer Dr Bernadette McElligott from the Law faculty won the Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Distinguished Teaching, while Associate Professor Graham Jenkins from the Physiology department took out the award for Postgraduate Supervision.

The awards, which carry a $5000 grant each, are based on nominations by students.

Multimedia learning projects honoured

Monash staff featured recently in Brisbane at ASCILITE, Australia's premier educational multimedia conference.

Educational designer Mr David Kennedy from the Centre for Learning and Teaching Support won the best paper award with two others for an evaluation of the use of multiple perspectives in the design of computer-facilitated learning.

Dr Len Webster, a senior lecturer with the Centre for Higher Education Development, jointly won an award for the best web development.

New look for Monash Uni website

Monash University has a new look website.

The site, at www.monash.edu.au, provides extensive information about Monash courses and campuses, statistics, teaching and learning policies, details of annual events such as Orientation 2000 and easy-to-find links to associated groups such as the Monash Alumni Association.

A new feature is Newsline, an up-to-date forum of news about Monash research and achievements found under 'News and Events' or by clicking on 'The Latest' on the home page.

Another addition is the latest Media Connect Guide, a searchable database of Monash academics available to comment to the media on their areas of research and teaching expertise.

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