4WDs potential killers in side-impact crashes: tests

BY DAVID BRUCE

Are four-wheel drive vehicles compatible with other vehicles on Australian roads?

"This was due to the higher stiffness and the different front-end geometry of the four-wheel drive. It was clear that the driver in the Saab struck by the Land Rover would have sustained serious or fatal injuries to the head, neck, and chest, while in the Saab-Saab test the driver would have survived without serious injury," said Professor Tingvall.

"Clearly, the current situation on our roads is intolerable. It is not about banning four-wheel-drives. It is about designing them to function better with the rest of the car fleet. It is not the buyers who should be blamed for the problem, it is the responsibility of the manufacturer," Professor Tingvall said car manufacturers needed to consider that their whole product range must be made to be able to crash into each other. "That is what both the consumer and broader society expect," he said.

The recent growth in sales of both small cars and large four-wheel-drives has led to the growing problem of incompatibility on our roads. The problem is particularly serious in front-to-side collisions where the structure is relatively weak and there is little crush space to protect the occupants.

Space: expanding to new frontiers

Original model cars designed by Monash industrial design students go on show.

Monash lecturer and artist Troy Innocent is the recipient of the inaugural grant from Victoria's new Digital Media Fund. The coordinator of digital imaging in the Design department in the Faculty of Art and Design, Innocent has been working with digital media for the last decade, producing works such as 'Space'. See story on page 6.
Teachers lag behind students in computer skills: report

BY COREY NASSAU

A recent report measuring the competency of teachers and students' computer skills has shown that one in four children under seven is computer-savvy, with many young Australians knowing more about computers than their teachers.

The study, "Real time - computers, change and schooling," was conducted primarily by researchers at Queensland's Griffith University and was the first to widely sample Australian school students to gather data on their computing skills. It was organised by the Department of Employment, Training and Youth Affairs in association with the Australian Key Centre for Cultural and Media Policy.

Contributing to the research was Monash University education lecturer Dr Glenn Russell, who believes that while the report turned up some valid results, the integration of computers into the classroom is already improving.

"While these results are representative of the data collection period, there have already been many new initiatives put in place to help raise the level of computer literacy in our schools, such as the Laptops for Teachers program in Victoria," Dr Russell said.

The report, released late last year, was formulated from surveys of more than 6000 students and 1200 teachers in more than 220 schools. It found there were areas where there was a definite need for increased computer education among some of Australia's school populations.

Ratings best in the study were independent schools, followed by government schools and then Catholic schools. More boys than girls were shown to have acquired more advanced computing skills - due to a greater interest out of school - and students from small rural or remote schools were found less likely to have acquired basic skills.

The survey also revealed that some teachers lacked basic computing skills, such as using a mouse, turning on a computer, using a keyboard, and opening files and saving them. These teachers were usually aged over 50 and working in primary schools.

"Teachers are increasingly gaining the skills to use computers, but teacher training institutions and professional development courses will have to focus more on the needs of teachers who work with students in their classrooms," Dr Russell said.

He said the study highlighted the fact that while many young people had advanced computing skills, much of this learning had taken place in the home.

"In an age where computers are a necessity in most businesses and industry, it is of the utmost importance that children are taught computing skills at an early stage," Dr Russell said. "To help foster this, teachers must also be able to model some of the skills they want their students to display."

"Having advanced computing skills will not be a luxury for these young students, it will be a necessity for their future in the workplace."

Family mystery at Hepburn

BY KAY ANSELL

Maria Viola's family story has it all - political intrigue, romance, tragedy and mystery - centred around Australia's first macaroni factory, at Hepburn Springs in Victoria. A Monash student, Ms Viola has captured the tale in the thesis for which she was awarded her masters in public history last year.

It was yet another achievement for the widowed mother of six who studied part-time while working in Melbourne and restoring the Old Macaroni Factory. The Old Macaroni Factory was built by Ms Viola's great grandfather, Giacomo Lucini, and his brother, Pietro, in 1859, when gold fever gripped the region.

Pietro and Giacomo Lucini were educated businessmen, the sons, who had come to Australia as political exiles from Italy. Followers of defeated republic president Giuseppe Mazzini, the brothers brought with them political idealism and entrepreneurial drive.

The two qualities were combined in the Old Macaroni Factory, which supplied the many Italian speakers drawn to the goldfields, and later Melbourne.

In this old building, it's not the walls that talk - it's the ceilings that tell of the Lucini's love of politics, music and homeland. Giacomo decorated them with exuberant swirls and scrolls, flags and Italian scenes.

One scene in particular had Maria puzzled: a woman chained to a window, surrounded by the flags of Italy, France, Switzerland and the British colonial Union Jack. It turned out to be from the opera II Trovatore, laced with political symbolism.

In her thesis, Giacomo's granddaughter has interpreted the decorative ceiling to mean her ancestors' experiences and attitudes, which, for the brothers, remained frozen in time long after Italy had become a democracy.

As well as the thesis, Ms Viola has looked to 10 years to preserve their legacy by restoring the building, inherited from her father.

Maria has given an enormous effort sided by family and friends and financial support from Heritage Victoria.

Her father's initiative led to its National Estate listing and classification by the then Historic Buildings Council, now the National Trust.

And the mystery? Ms Viola has discovered more wall decorations hidden under paint that need expert cleaning. But that will require more funding.

In the meantime, there is that other mystery: sometimes, late at night, the hubbub of a party bounces down from the second floor... Perhaps the Lucini brothers are celebrating the rebirth of their Old Macaroni Factory.

Ms Viola hosts public tours of the Old Macaroni Factory early this year and will next be open during the Swiss Italian Fest in Hepburn Springs on the last weekend in May. More information telephone (03) 9457 7035 or email mviola@monash.edu.au

International acclaim for pollution control work

A Monash researcher's work on pollution control with global implications has won international recognition from the UK-based Institution of Chemical Engineers.

Associate Professor David Brennan, from the Department of Chemical Engineering, was recently awarded the Senior Mottoul Medal, only the third time the prestigious award by the international body has gone to an Australian.

Not only has Dr Brennan's innovative approach to indexing pollution control measures in the mining sector gained academic recognition, it is also being reflected in a massive multinational project spanning Queensland which is now coming online.

The $650-million project, being undertaken by Western Mining Corporation in conjunction with miners such as Mount Isa Mines, aims to capture and recycle one of the most common and environmentally damaging byproducts of smelting operations: sulphur dioxide emissions.

Such emissions contribute to acidification, and their control is taken up in a number of extensive mineral industries around the world. Against this value is set all costs involved in addressing those effects: the treatment of sulphur dioxide off-gas emissions, including enhancement of greenhouse gas, acidification, depletion of resources and solid waste generation.

At this value is set all costs involved in addressing those effects: the production of sulphuric gas, heat recovery, cleaning, desulphurisation, and the general processing to produce fertiliser.

The index further accommodates costs, revenues and impacts of recycling the product. In the case of Mount Isa Mines, sulphur dioxide emissions become sulphuric acid which, when combined with phosphate rock and ammonia, produces high grade fertiliser.

Economic benefits claimed by the WMC Queensland project include additional production of fertiliser at a value of $60 million a year into the Queensland economy.

The Age are proud supporters of Monash University.

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For International acclaim for pollution control work
Enterprise bargaining sparks 'ritual conflict'

By STUART HEATHER

In the midst of this increased industrial relations activity, the peak union body, the ACTU, is undergoing major leadership changes. ACTU president Ms Jenny George is to be replaced by Education Union leader Ms Sharan Burrow, and Mr Greg Combet has taken over from long-time ACTU secretary Mr Bill Kelty.

Professor Griffin said the changing of the guard at the ACTU will have little immediate effect, although there is symbolism in the "end of the Kelty era" and substance in the new leadership being younger and more "media-savvy".

Media skills will be necessary on both sides. Under the old industrial relations system, employers and unions fought to convince an independent electorate of the worth of their claims, but under enterprise bargaining, public relations through the mass media are very important.

During Victoria's Latrobe Valley power generation dispute earlier this year, electricity was randomly cut off to parts of the state.

"When traffic lights are suddenly blacked out in Melbourne's streets, it's a catalyst to a sense of crisis," said Monash politics lecturer Dr Nick Economou, "and that becomes a big political as well as an industrial relations issue."

Sculpting for survival

Artist Anton McMurray, above right, spent a few days chopping away at Monash's Caulfield and Peninsula campuses as part of student association MONSU's recent Survival Week program. McMurray's brief was to involve new students and staff in creating a wooden sculpture – and releasing a bit of stress. His services were provided courtesy of Monash Student Theatre. Photo by Andrew Barcham.

Monash research to assist Australia-Malaysia relations

BY SANDRA BUCOVAZ

Australian companies in Malaysia and the Malaysian Government are better placed than ever to work together towards the future, following the recent release of far-reaching research spearheaded by Monash University.

It is hoped the data – offering the most current information available on Australian-Malaysian bilateral relations – will help encourage regular top-level briefings between the Malaysian Government and Australian firms in relation to future policies and with specific reference to Islamic reform.

A pilot study of Australian business attitudes to Malaysia showed that while the majority of respondent companies were profitable and bullish about their prospects, they were apprehensive about the climate for future policy change.

These findings were among 41 comprehensive research papers released at the international 'Malaysian business in the new era' symposium organised by Monash University and held in Kuala Lumpur in late February.

The project was collaboration between the departments of Management and Economics at Monash, Monash staff and Malaysian scholars and think-tanks the opportunity to showcase new research on key issues such as business, economics, management, finance, the emergence of new industries, religion and commerce.

"Australian companies in Malaysia are very optimistic about the future and feel well informed about current and post policies," said Associate Professor Markita Vicatoni, from the Department of Economics, one of the co-organisers of the symposium. "However, there is no horizon stretching ahead of them - they have no information about the Malaysian Government's ongoing reform agenda."

"The Malaysian Government needs to set up a regular high-level business briefing which brings together government officials involved in policy-making and the chief executive officers of Australian companies with a presence in Malaysia."

"Australian companies want to discuss trends and projections about the future rather than explore what has happened already. Monash could play a role in encouraging the Malaysian Government to explain to foreign firms what kind of reform is it planning." 

Associate Professor Vicatoni noted that while Australian companies in Malaysia felt happy about the country's economic fundamentals, there was a general concern that reforms had not gone far enough to avert another Malaysian currency crisis.

The Bumiputras ownership policy - aimed at giving 'sons of the soil' a much greater share of the economy - was another area in which Australian enterprises needed clarification.

It was important for the Malaysian Government to focus more on micro-economic reform, according to co-author of the pilot study Mr Neil Yuen Wung, a lecturer in economics at Monash Malaysia.

"The government needs to reduce inefficiencies and structural weaknesses within the economic system in order to prepare Malaysia for globalisation," said Mr Wung, who was instrumental in establishing a database of 170 Australian firms in Malaysia, which provided the platform for the pilot study.

"Monash certainly has a role in this area because we have initiated a research project to generate a business database and study Australian business attitudes to Malaysia. The findings have policy significance and implications for the Malaysian Government and Australian firms in Malaysia."

Mr Wung noted that the pilot study attracted an above-average 15 per cent response rate - 81 per cent of the respondents said they were profitable within their first three years in Malaysia and 73 per cent planned to expand within two to three years.

Islamic identity and work in Malaysia

BY SANDRA BUCOVAZ

Academics from the Monash campuses in Melbourne and Kuala Lumpur are working together to cut across cultural and corporate boundaries to promote Muslim employees as valuable members of the workforce.

Foreign companies needed to understand and identify the common characteristics between the corporate and Islamic cultures in order to fully realise the strengths of their Muslim staff and minimise conflict, according to Dr Wendy Smith, director of the Centre of Malaysian Studies at Clayton, and Ms Adlina Ahmad, a lecturer in management at Monash Malaysia.

Dr Smith and Ms Ahmad, together with Associate Professor Chris Nyland from the Department of Management, collaboratively researched 'Islamic identity and work in Malaysia', the findings of which were presented at the recent international symposium on Malaysian business.

Dr Smith, who lived as a Muslim in Australia for nine years, and Ms Adlina, a Malay Muslim, agreed that the common elements included team work, integrity, ethics, time management, diligence, discipline, responsibility, accountability and total quality. She said that Islam seeks that Muslims work towards perfection at all times.

"Practicing Muslims believe they are ultimately accountable for their own actions and answerable to God, and that their professional conduct is a play in cooperating within their society," noted Ms Adlina, adding that this had a slow-on effect to the work environment.

Dr Nyland is focusing on these key themes in his ongoing research project on the rights of Islamic workers.

About 60 per cent of Malaysia's population of 21 million are Muslims. Government policies do not allow discrimination on the basis of religion or race, but both women believed foreign companies needed to have a positive and flexible approach to minimising conflict between corporate demands and Islam's requirements.

Dr Smith also noted that it was widely believed among Western feminists that Muslim women were oppressed because of their culture's traditional views on women's rights of Islamic workers demands and Islam's requirements.

"It is hoped the data - offering the opportunity for foreign companies to understand the needs of Muslim employees," noted Dr Smith. "In a society like Malaysia, women have moved to occupy equal status and probably do better than their counterparts in Australia. Muslim women have very few ways to study hard and build their ambitions," Dr Smith said.

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There are several new degrees sent to all schools with an order Caulfield.

- Bachelor of Computing - Three years full-time at Clayton.
- Bachelor of Education - Four years part-time at Clayton.
- Bachelor of Music - Studied community to study in that area
- Bachelor of Nutrition and Dietetics - Four years full-time at Clayton.
- Bachelor of Science - Three years full-time at Gippsland.
- Diploma in Social Science - Studied community to study in that area
- Diploma in Health - Studied community to study in that area
- Bachelor of Information Management and Systems - Four years full-time at Clayton.
- Bachelor of Education - Bachelor of Education/ Bachelor of Laws - Five years full-time at Clayton.

The Undergraduate Course Guide 2001 is now available. Copies will be sent to all schools with an order form for additional supplies.

Dr. Maria Garcia de la Banda, Photo by Greg Ford.

Consider the enormous logistical requirements crucial to running a successful airline - operational aircraft, pilots, crew, maintenance teams, runway access and, of course, passengers all needing to be in the right place at the right time.

Once upon a time, the efficient integration of these variables on a worldwide scale would have been near-impossible. And while computers have made solving these sorts of industrial constraint problems easier, current systems are still far from optimal. While the computing power needed to obtain rapid solutions is available, the software to handle them is not.

As a result, resolving such problems remains expensive and requires a significant amount of programming and maintenance effort.

Logan research fellow Dr Maria Garcia de la Banda, in Monash University's School of Computer Science and Software Engineering, is working on a potential solution to these logistical problems.

Dr Garcia de la Banda is part of a team developing HAL, a new constraint logic programming language, aptly named after the computer in Stanley Kubrick's cult science fiction film, 2001: A Space Odyssey.

The origin of constraint logic programming (CLP) goes back to 1987, when Monash University researchers published the first paper outlining the theory behind it. Since then, CLP and languages are among the few new languages to have achieved industrial success.

"Industry is desperate to find solutions to large logistical problems, because the answers have the potential to save them billions of dollars," Dr Garcia de la Banda said. "If we could show an airline how to satisfy all demands operating on a streamlined schedule, they would be over the moon."

The idea behind CLP, according to Dr Garcia de la Banda, is to find a solution that comes as close as possible to what is required given all the constraints of a problem.

This is done through the use of a constraint solver and a search engine. The former enforces constraints and determines their effect on the program variables while the latter implements some search strategy for exploring the space of possibilities. She said the key was using constraints to limit the search to a manageable size.

According to Dr Garcia de la Banda, the CLP languages already in use are by no means perfect. In particular, they do not allow the user to define new efficient constraint solvers and strategies, and therefore are not general enough.

The problem with developing a more general language was that it usually meant slower execution times, she said. Dr Garcia de la Banda and her team are developing HAL, to be both general and very fast.

"There is a strong recognition within the IT and business sector that breakthroughs form an urgent response to this problem or abandon its aspirations of becoming a leading online economy. Ultimately, the only real solution is an effective educational and training system," said Professor Rosenfield.

"The materials and resources produced will be made available to all Australian tertiary IT educational institutions, including universities and TAFE colleges, to assist them in informing the education that will enable their graduates to meet the needs of Australia's industry and market."
Scientists are not lab-coated nerds

Science is important, but the message is not getting across to the people who matter, says Professor Ray Cas of Monash University's Department of Earth Sciences.

I wish I could say that love makes the world go around. It helps, but regrettably for the romantics and politicians, the reality is that science and technology—not love—make our modern world what it is today.

Science and technology underpin all primary and secondary industries (agriculture, mining, forestry, environmental management, processing and manufacturing) and, as a consequence, tertiary-level occupations (sales and marketing, finance, recreation).

Unless we wake up and ensure that science and technology education and research become a high priority for this country again, the rate at which Australia's economic and social world goes around will begin to fall increasingly behind that of other countries. That means jobs and standard of living.

That means jobs and standard of living.

This has all been said before. But the sad news that the popularity of science has fallen again in student education has fallen behind that of other countries.

Many science educators are still in a time warp, believing that simply teaching their beloved facts and figures in the same way as has been done for the last 50 years is doing a good job.

Teaching up-to-date facts and figures is important, but it is only part of teaching any discipline in the modern era. The marketplace direction in which education has been driven means that the sciences are competing for students.

Science must be promoted and taught in an attractive way that competes effectively for new students with other disciplines and successfully captures their interests in long-term careers.

Some will abhor this commercialisation and sacrilege of the sacred temple of science. But unless science educators play this catch-up game, become trendy and competitive with a new approach, the fortunes of science education will continue to fall.

Why do I say catch-up game? Many other professions get enormous exposure from the popularity of their professions in television dramas and the news media, which no doubt influences student course selections to some degree. There are all kinds of doctor, medical science, lawyer, finance and teaching dramas on television and in the movies. The sciences lose out substantially in this regard. They must promote themselves vigorously and in popular ways.

This doesn't mean allocating time and resources to producing a television drama, but it does mean 'selling' science with an exciting and human face.

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This doesn't mean allocating time and resources to producing a television drama, but it does mean 'selling' science with an exciting and human face.

Too often we hear of public surveys of the popularity of the scientist as the boring, white lab-coated nerd who 'doesn't have a life'.

This stereotype is a myth. Most scientists are normal 'within' human beings who, like everyone else, enjoy active lives in sport, music, art, outdoor adventures and so on, in their spare time.

My life is exciting because I am a scientist, not in spite of it.

I am a geologist, specialising in volcanology. I spend three months each year studying and working on volcanoes around the world. I collaborate with industry, I love teaching geology and volcanology with a passion, I play guitar and sing in my recreation time. I love exercise, reading, the latest movies, social outings, wine, beer and good food.

My life is exciting because I am a scientist, not in spite of it.

Chemists get jobs in the manufacturing and processing industries, in environmental sciences, in government organisations. Earth science graduates are employed all over the world in the industries that explore for and mine natural resources, in environmental sciences, in government bodies and in business.

Physicists get jobs in technologically oriented industries, including the computer industry. Mathematics graduates become actuaries, statisticians, computer and information technologists, and biologists and geneticists become environmental scientists, zoologists, plant and animal geneticists, to name but a few options.

As the principal beneficiary of community endorsed science education, the science industries have a responsibility to plough a significant part of their profits back into the public promotion of the sciences as important, relevant and exciting vocational options for good students, and they must offer attractive salaries.

If they don't, student numbers and the quality of the graduates produced will continue to decline, and science faculties will begin to disappear from universities, as they already have in some. This means industry and commerce will suffer, and so will this country.

Monash Uni works with schools to improve transition

By David Bruce

In its latest step in a program to facilitate the successful transition of students from secondary school to university, Monash University has produced a Transition Index to assist schools in monitoring their students' performance.

The index measures the success rates of groups of students who undertake their first year of university study at Monash after moving from Year 12 at a Victorian secondary school.

In a just-completed pilot program, Monash calculated the average number of units passed per student for all schools which had more than 20 of their 1996 and 1997 Year 12 students entering Monash in 1997 and 1998.

Results indicated that first-year performance reflects ENTER (TIER) scores: there is no clear differentiation between VCE or the International Baccalaureate; the gender factor in the first year of university is similar to that in the VCE; and there is significant variation in the success rate of student groups from different secondary schools.

Schools may choose to be provided with the Transition Index for their student group as well as information which allows this to be benchmarked against overall school results.

The Transition Index provides information to schools to enable them to evaluate aspects of their own learning and teaching plans, and to monitor the effectiveness of changes and classroom strategies.

According to the director of Planning and Academic Affairs at Monash, Professor Merran Evans, the index could help schools prepare students for university.

"The central goal of the Monash Transition Program is to reduce the high dropout rates at the tertiary level and to improve the first-year educational experience of students," Professor Evans said. "It rests on the belief that the best way to gain such improvements is by close cooperation between schools and universities."

For further information about the Monash Transition Index, contact Professor Evans on (03) 9905 2014.
Experiment with a bit of Snakes and Sherbet

BY JOSE GIBSON

A Monash University lecturer has received one of the first grants from a new digital media fund launched recently by the Victorian Government.

The Cinemedia Digital Media Fund has awarded Troy Innocent $35,000 for stage one of the development of a digital art project called Platform 1, the media gallery planned for Melbourne's new Federation Square.

The fund was launched recently at the Faculty Gallery at Monash Caulfield by the Minister for State and Regional Development and Multimeda Victoria, Mr John Brumby.

Innocent, coordinator of digital imaging and multimedia in the Faculty of Art and Design, has been working with digital media for the last decade and was instrumental in having the fund's launch and an accompanying exhibition, Option Digital, at Monash.

"The fund is the only state-based industry development body that supports new works by digital media artists," he said.

"The research component has special significance. A lot of development in this field doesn't always have an outcome that is easily contained in an artifact, exhibition or other discrete form."

Innocent's project, "TMMP: The transmutational meta-processor," aims to develop a three-dimensional multimedia language, a software-based process for transforming media and an evolving digital media artwork.

"Concepts of interactivity and electronic space have introduced a new lexicon into the art world, where some are openly sceptical of the medium's artistic value.

Innocent is unfazed by such criticism, pointing to the relatively short history and experimental nature in comparison to established forms like painting and sculpture.

"Essentially, most digital work tries to offer new ways of looking at technology and its role in our lives," he said.

"Electronic or digital art is seeking to define and determine an art form unique to the computer."
Writings shed light on life in early Australia

BY PETER KOWALSKI

Get the feel of life in early Australia through books and periodicals written by the first explorers, settlers and visitors, in a new exhibition in the Rare Books section of the Monash University library.

Rare Books Librarian Mr Richard Overall says he sought out the exhibition to highlight the importance of these much-quoted original documents. "Unless you read these original materials, you won’t get the full picture," he says. "Australia was a very uncom­fortable place in the early days and everyday life was remarkably different."

For Mr Overall, the most eye-catching exhibits are the huge folio volumes of John Gould’s Birds of Australia (seven volumes, 1840) which are full of hand-coloured plates. "It is unusual to have so many of this beautiful work, as when they now come onto the market, they are invariably broken up by plates," he says.

Another rare find on display is a multivolume set belonging to the founder of the Botanical Gardens in Melbourne, Baron Ferdinand Von Mueller. Called Flora Australiana (1846-78), this set has had sketches bound into it, both in black and white colour, either by Baron Von Mueller himself or his field assistants.

There are void accounts of the early life of Australia in Dampier’s book, where he describes landing on the northwest coast of Western Australia. He describes the Aborigines, the no­sa­ri­nal sort and the large number of flies. Perhaps the ‘Australian salute’ started back then.

A close encounter with Australian wildlife, the first kangaroo, is mentioned by Captain James Cook. He writes: "I should have taken it for a wild dog. If instead of running it had not leaped like a hare or deer." He later added that "our Kangaroo was dressed for dinner, and proved most excellent meat; we might now indeed be said to fare sumptuously every day".

Display on screens throughout the exhibition are selected illustrations and engravings from the Illustrated Sydney News, of which Monash University Library possesses a complete set. One is an early bird’s-eye view of Melbourne, which shows all the buildings in the central business dis­trict. Another colour illustration depicts the spectacular fire in 1882 that burnt down the Garden Palace in Sydney, the equivalent of Melbourne’s Exhibition Building.

As an adjunct to the exhibition, the third and final volume of Celia Rosser’s Bankside will be on display at the Rare Books Library. In a joint production between Monash University and Nokomis Publications, only 350 copies of the limited-edition volume and 300 portfolios of plates have been pro­duced. A copy of the volume was recently presented to the Queen during her Australian visit.

What: Early Australian History Exhibition
Where: Rare Books Section, Main Library, Monash University, Clayton
When: Until June 30
Who: More information, contact monashnews@adm.monash.edu.au

For more information on rare books exhibitions, explore www.lib.monash.edu.au/rare/.

ARTS SCENE

Environment has been curated by Shaun Wilson and features work by nine artists from Melbourne, England, Scotland, Ireland and Iceland;

For opening times, call the gallery on (03) 5122 0281.

New views of the Twelve Apostles

A Monash masters student in sculpture, Cameron Bishop, provided a quirky view of one of Victoria’s top scenic attractions in a recent exhibition at Monash University’s Faculty Gallery at Caulfield.

A View of the Twelve Apostles combined a series of latex sculptures of the famous monoliths with a life-sized sculpt­ure of a 1500s Morris and a family view­ing the tourist attraction from the Great Ocean Road.

Snapshots of reality in Do It Yourself

Seven contemporary artists showed depictions of reality ranging from disas­ ters to 9/11 prostitutes in a just­ended show at the Faculty Gallery at Monash University’s Caulfield campus.

Do It Yourself showcased the work of artists who are all coordinators of Artist Run Initiatives in Melbourne. The artworks chosen exhibited a shared experience and sensibility, reflecting the artists’ ability to survive and believe in the sharing of knowledge.

The exhibition included drawing, painting, installation and photography by Monash/Monash University "has been thoroughly enjoyed".

A Spanish note at guitar festival

The first Monash Guitar Festival will perform, for the first time in Melbourne, Rodrigo’s Concerto Andaluz at the 4th annual Australian Guitar Festival from 14 to 16 April.

The orchestra will be supporting four guitarists – Anthony Field, head of guitar at Victorian College of the Arts (VCA), Owen Thompson, also from the VCA, Ken Murray from the Melbourne University Conservatorium and masters student Charles Steventon.

The performance will be held on Sunday 16 April at the Frankston Cultural Centre at 4.30 pm. Tickets are £22 or £13 concession and can be booked by contacting the centre’s box office on (03) 9874 1900. For further information, visit http://guitar.frankston.vic.gov.au/.

Two different themes for exhibitions

The Switchback Gallery at Monash University’s Gippsland campus is host­ing two different exhibitions over the next two months.

Local Colour is an exhibition of photographs by Terry Hoey of his home town, Leongatha, where he teaches. Hoey completed a graduate diploma of arts (photography) at Gippsland campus in 1993. The show runs until 13 April.

From 18 April until 4 May, the Switchback will host A View of the Twelve Apostles which combines a series of latex sculptures of the famous monoliths with a life-sized sculpture of a 1500s Morris and a family viewing the tourist attraction from the Great Ocean Road.

Photographers Gallery in South Yarra.

Monash University photography lectur­er Ma Suzuki Pardy, from the Gippsland campus, was represented in a recent group exhibition entitled Millennium 2000.

The exhibition ran at the Photographers Gallery in South Yarra.

Monash University has also had photographs from her recent and successful Love Letters exhibition published in the latest edition of the art journal Dialogue, produced by West Space Gallery, Melbourne.

The Lost Love Letters of Heloise and Abelard: Perceptions of Dialogue in Twelfth-Century France

Constant J. Mews


In a treat for students of the Middle Ages and of European history, Monash historian Constant Mews has re-evaluated more than 100 love letters which he attributes as being written by Heloise and Abelard at the time of their affair.

Long neglected by scholars, these letters present a view much different to the one offered by the brilliant but controversial teacher Abelard (1079-1140), whose casuistry led to his entry into religious life. Mews provides an indepth analysis of the debate concerning the authenticity of the letters and looks at the way in which the stories between Heloise and Abelard has been portrayed over the centuries. Mews’ new insights into Heloise show her to be a gifted writer with a profound understanding of love.

Dr Constant Mews is a senior lecturer in historical studies and director of the Centre for Studies in Religion and Theology at Monash University.

Why Universities Matter: A Conversation About Values, Means and Directions

Edited by Tony Coody

Allen & Unwin 2000 pp. 244

The essays in Why Universities Matter question the international cultural style currently popular in Australian universities.

Collectively, the essays do not present any ‘line’. Instead the authors set out to share their concerns about the ideals and values embodied by universities. They cast a sharp eye upon the policies, values and rhetoric that drive developments in contemporary Australian universities.

Contributing to the debate, Monash academic and higher education commentator Professor Simon Marginson analyzes two issues – the university and its public, and research as a managed economy. His thoughts and ideas form part of a conversation about values, norms and directions in Australia’s higher education system.

Professor Marginson is in director of the Centre for Research in International Education at Monash University and the author of the just-published Monash – Remaking the University.

Contemporary Social Theory

Edited by Anthony Elliot

Blackwells Publishers 1999 pp. 251

In Contemporary Social Theory, Anthony Elliot has selected some of the most important and influential writings in social theory of the past 20 to 30 years.

These pathfinding contributions are written by well-known thinkers, such as Jurgen Habermas, Michel Foucault, Anthony Giddens and Julia Kristeva. However, Elliot has also chosen writings from lesser-known authors raising dif­ferent but no less relevant questions. Three of Elliot’s six core critical issues include social structure and institutional analysis, feminism, gender and sexual difference and the modernity/postmodernity debate.

Dr Anthony Elliot is a research fellow in the Centre for Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies at Monash University and the author of a number of books on psychoanalysis and social theory, as well as The Mourning of John Lennon.

POSTscript

Monash – Remaking the University by Professor Simon Marginson, an exploration of the university’s successful attempts to redefine itself during the late 1980s and early 1990s, will be launched 1 May.

Class 66 – Monash Books and Writers luncheon, has recently announced its latest round of guest speakers. For more information, contact (03) 9905 2044.

If you are a member of the Monash community and have a forthcoming book, contact monashnews@adm.monash.edu.au

Books featured in "Postscript" are available on request at Monash’s four on-campus bookshops.

* CTSU (Casual) (03) 9971 3277 * Clayton (03) 9905 3111
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Giving advice really can be murder sometimes

By Sue McAulester

Want to commit murder? Then David Ranson's your man.

No, he's not a killer. Associate Professor Ranson is deputy director of the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine at Monash, and he'll tell you all about murder -- but only if it's for a book, play, television show or movie.

And, even then, he says, there are certain things he never divulges, such as which chemicals and poisons are the most difficult to detect in a victim, or how and where to get them. "Advising on suicide is also problematic, because there's evidence that suicides can cluster around the time a film or television show depicts someone killing themselves."

In the last few years, Dr Ranson has provided advice for a number of television series, including "State Coroner". He decided that as the public knew little about the real work of forensic pathologists, "a well-researched and well put together show about what they do and why had to be beneficial".

Since then, he has advised writers and directors for series such as "Blue Heelers" and "Hartlay fy" on committing and solving murders, and helped make-up artists create gruesomely realistic injuries and designers produce authentic autopsy sets. "We've very careful never to use any materials, such as instruments, charts, x-rays or DNA sequences from actual cases -- everything is a mock-up," he says.

"We've used calves' lungs and sheep's brains to substitute for human organs. Of course, a sheep's brain is smaller than a human's, so we had to build it up underneath with cotton wool."

Sometimes, however, real people are required to appear as culprits. "Once, they placed a false chest on an actor, and showed the skin being peeled back to reveal bones, internal organs and foreign objects in the cavity."

So, how grimy can things get? "Well, public broadcasters like the ABC and BBC can be much more aggressive than commercial ones," says Professor Ranson. "It's obvious that a knife manufacturer wouldn't be too thrilled if an advertisement for their product popped up immediately after an autopsy scene featuring a stabbing victim."

"Read about Professor Ranson's contribution towards solving one of the world's greatest mysteries in 'In Search of Russia's Lost Princess' in the next edition of Monash Magazine, out in May."

Monash forensic advice helps make the medical side of television shows such as 'State Coroner' more realistic. Photo courtesy of Channel 10.

BRIEFS

Honour for physicist

Professor John Pilbrow, of Monash's Physics department, was last month elected an honorary member of the National Magnetic Resonance Society of India.

Professor Pilbrow, who is president of the Australian Institute of Physics, is the only physicist among the nine honorary members, who include 1991 Nobel prize winner in chemistry Professor Richard Ernst, and Professor Paul Lauterbur, who carried out the first magnetic resonance imaging experiments in 1973.

Meteorologists in relay for life

Twelve researchers from Monash's Cooperative Research Centre for Southern Hemisphere Meteorology raised $3800 for cancer research when they took part in the Anti-Cancer Council's Relay for Life recently.

Team captain and CRC director Professor Phil Avery was the first to cross the finish line, having set the direct link between the work of the centre and the researchers' interest in skin cancer awareness.

"The centre studies ozone depletion, UV radiation and global climate change, so the work we do links us to the Anti-Cancer Council," We also developed a system that forecasts UV radiation, which is regularly featured on nightly TV weather reports."

About 180 other Monash staff were involved in the fundraising effort, including teams from the Personnel Services Division, the Caulfield and Gippsland campus director's office, the Faculty of Medicine, and the Monash University Student Union.

Murrumbeena area organiser and Monash staff member Ms Rachel Grau said she was delighted with the Monash effort, which raised between $15,000 and $20,000.

Monash academic joins water board

A Monash senior lecturer in physiology has been appointed a director to the Melbourne Water Board.

Dr Virginia Maunder, who holds a PhD from Monash's Faculty of Medicine, has been appointed for a three-year term.

Dr Maunder said she was looking forward to contributing her expertise in scientific and medical matters to the board.

State-of-the-art hockey pitch unveiled

A new water-based artificial hockey pitch has been opened at Monash's Clayton campus.

Of one of a kind in Melbourne, the $150,000 pitch has been accredited for international level play and features state-of-the-art design and pop-up sprinkler system.

The pitch represents the first stage of a $1 million project, which will include the construction of a hockey pavilion on the western bank.

Monash Sports and Recreation Association director Mr John Campbell said he was pleased to see the new facilities would attract top-level hockey events to Monash, as well as providing a base from which the Monash Hockey Club could thrive.

Monash successful in aid projects

Monash's Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine last month welcomed the largest single cohort of international students ever taken into the department -- 30 senior Indonesian Ministry of Health officials who will undertake a Master of Health Services Management, funded by the Asian Development Bank.

The program is one of a range of aid project consultancies that Monash International, in partnership with various academic centres at Monash and private companies, has recently gained.

Last month in Lombok, Indonesia, Monash Mt Eliza Business School's International Centre for Management began a series of ten-day workshops funded by AusAID for 120 Indonesian government officials, with other sessions planned for Jowang (West Timor) and Jakarta. The centre will also deliver a course for senior Thai Government officials in Melbourne and repeat the course in Thailand later in the year.

Monash's School of Nursing will deliver the Master of Nursing by distance education to eight locations in Papua New Guinea. This AusAID-funded project, worth $1.2 million, will also involve the training of 40 nurses.

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Monash NEWS

Published monthly by Public Affairs, Monash University

Edited by Fiona Perry (03) 9905 2030, fax (03) 9905 2097 or email monashnews@adm.monash.edu.au

Views expressed by contributors in Monash News are not necessarily endorsed by Monash University.

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