Have school holidays ever been this fun? Devlin Lawrence and friend Caroline Halley show off their freshly painted faces during a session at Monash's Vacation Care Program in the April school holidays. Devlin and Caroline were two of 30 children to participate in the program that included outdoor fun and games, swimming, art and craft activities and cooking classes. Another program will be held during the July school holidays. For more information, contact Monash's Family Advisory Service on +61 3 9905 3156. Picture: GREG FORD.

Virtual ‘time-machine’ to map earth’s past and future

BY COREY NASSAU

Driving from Melbourne to Indonesia may seem like a crazy idea, but to a group of Monash scientists at the helm of a new virtual time-machine, it is an inevitable reality.

According to earth sciences expert Professor Gordon Lister, Australia and Java are on a collision course that will eventually see the two landmasses ‘smack’ together due to continental drift.

To create an image of the event, Professor Lister and his team of scientists at Monash University’s Australian Crustal Research Centre have utilised Virtual Earth, an ambitious project that will realise the first full 3D reconstruction of the earth at a planetary level.

“The aim of Virtual Earth is to develop virtual reality capability on a planetary scale, so that we can visually analyse the earth, both inside and out, at various stages of its evolution,” Professor Lister said.

“The system will enable researchers to reconstruct earth through 4.5 billion years of its history, as well as into the future, to a level of detail never before attempted.”

To bring Virtual Earth to life, the team is using the recently launched VPAC computer cluster, regarded as the most powerful general-purpose supercomputer in Australia, in combination with EMIT’s Virtual Reality Centre, to bring a new level of visualisation to the research.

“The High Performance Computing system at VPAC has the capacity to handle the large amounts of data and complex calculations needed for the modelling and graphical rendering of Virtual Earth at a range of scales,” Professor Lister said.

Members of the team, joined by researchers from CSIRO, are confident they can use Virtual Earth to aid the prediction of earthquakes and climatic changes, for locating untapped deposits of mineral resources, and to help understand the earth’s processes in greater detail.

“By using Virtual Earth, we can ‘fly’ inside the earth, much like a virtual reality time-machine, to look at configurations and identify patterns at a level of visual detail never before possible,” Professor Lister said.

This map by Monash Virtual Earth scientists illustrates how the south-west Pacific will look 20 to 30 million years in the future. The red dots represent shallow earthquakes, while the green and blue dots show deeper earthquakes. Indonesia is collapsing southwards as Australia moves northwards, and Java has collided with Port Hedland. A new mountain range has formed off the coast of Western Australia. The image is derived from the original by the National Geophysical Data Center.
**Model helps inform Philippines planning**

**BY DEBRA BROWN**

A computer model devised at Monash University is being used by the Philippine government to predict the impact of increased competition on that country's economy.

The model, an adaptation of the ORANI model designed by Monash University's Department of Economics and Forecasting, will be used to analyze the impact of increased competition and its effect on the country's economic growth.

The model, along with other tools such as a computer program, will be used to study the impact of increased competition on the country's economy.

Dr. Mic Roman, economist to the Department of Economics and Forecasting, will also speak at the event.

More than 700 students from inner-city primary schools will be involved in the 12-month program to help children understand the impact of increased competition on their lives.

**Renowned economist to speak at lecture**

Continued from page 1

The lecture, supported by Monash University's Centre for the Study of Science and Technology, is being held on Tuesday at 10am at the Burnley Town Hall.

The deputy director of the Centre for the Study of Science and Technology, Professor Alan Tyszko, will also speak at the lecture.

**New Governor-General holds Monash degree**

The new Governor-General, Dr. Weeramantry, who holds a Monash degree, has been appointed Australia's 23rd Governor-General. The prominent religious leader will be sworn in on July 9, replacing Sir William Dixon.

Archbishop Peter Hollingworth, who has a Monash degree, has been appointed Australia's 22nd Governor-General. The prominent religious leader will be sworn in on July 9, replacing Sir William Dixon.

Dr. Weeramantry has been a judge of the International Court of Justice since 1991 and was named Australian of the Year in 1990. He received an honours degree from Monash University in 1968.

**Minister and a leading figure in the...**

**Breaking news**

**BRIEFS**

**New Governor-General holds Monash degree**

The new Governor-General, Dr. Weeramantry, who holds a Monash degree, has been appointed Australia's 23rd Governor-General. The prominent religious leader will be sworn in on July 9, replacing Sir William Dixon.

**Monash wins world law competition**


The team, which included six students from the University of Melbourne, defeated eight teams from around the world to win the title.

**Monash PhD researcher wins award**

Monash PhD researcher Ms Rebecca Bartley has been named the Young Scientist of the Year.

Her findings will help water managers and policymakers provide effective ways of dealing with stream rehabilitation.

**Monash PUB researcher named**

Professor Philip Alston presented the Human Rights Law lecture at Monash University Institute in Florence, spoke on Human rights in regulating the global economy.'

He said a new international structure should be established to make world economic regulators accountable for human rights violations.

**Philippine government consults with stream rehabilitation.**

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Estrogen eases schizophrenia in women: research

By STUART HEATHER

World-first research at Monash University's Dandenong Psychiatry Research Centre has identified the natural hormone estrogen as a potentially powerful treatment for schizophrenia.

"A study published in the latest edition of the journal Schizophrenia Research showed a significant improvement in patients' psychotic symptoms when administered with estrogen transdermally (by skin patches)," said the implication for estrogen treatment of schizophrenia extended to other age groups and even to males.

"We recently completed a pilot study of estrogen treatment of men with schizophrenia," she said.

"The results were encouraging, so we have embarked on a three-year trial, recruiting 60 male patients to see if we get similar results to the female study."

The National Health and Medical Research Council funded the female study, and is also supporting the latest research with male subjects.

In the female trial, 36 women suffering schizophrenia-related illnesses were studied over a 28-day period (one menstrual cycle). Each subject received either a skin patch that released 100 micrograms of estradiol (estrogen) every 24 hours, a 50 microgram patch, or a placebo patch (no estrogen).

The women continued their usual anti-psychotic drug treatments during the trial. The researchers found those taking 100 micrograms of estrogen showed a significant improvement in core schizophrenic symptoms such as hallucinations and thought disorder.

"It was surprising and quite dramatic how quickly the subjects showed clear improvement," Dr Kulkarni said.

"By the third day we were seeing results, which was great for the patients.

"One explanation of the trial results is that estrogen mimics the action of anti-psychotic drugs, having an effect on neurotransmitters. Another is that it acts as a catalyst for anti-psychotic drugs, improving their performance.

"To learn more, the researchers will have to study the effects of estrogen on patients while they are not taking any anti-psychotic medication."

For now, Dr Kulkarni suggests there is enough evidence for medical practitioners to see estrogen as a useful adjunct in a more holistic approach to women at high risk of schizophrenia, treating both mind and body.

"For men estrogen may be used over short periods to lessen the acute phases of schizophrenia, and the doses will be too small to cause concern about feminisation," she said.

World-first smart cars to help cut national road toll

By ALISON HARDING

"What we have here is not a car of the future but a car of the present," Dr Regan said.

"The technologies, some of which were developed by the project team while others were already commercially available, include:

- intelligent speed adaptation - warns when the car is travelling over the posted speed limit, which is encoded into an in-vehicle digital map;
- seat belt reminder system - warns of any unrestrained occupant, with warnings growing more frequent the faster the car is travelling;
- forward collision warning system - warns if the car is too close to the vehicle in front or is in danger of colliding with an object in front of it;
- "may day" emergency response system - automatically alerts emergency services of the car's location in a crash or medical emergency;
- reverse collision warning - uses bumper sonar to detect if objects, such as people, are too close to the rear of the reversing car;
- route navigation system - a commercially available route navigation system that can potentially limit crash risk through selecting the most direct route from starting point to destination;
- driving aids running lights - operate at 80 per cent of normal low-beam during the day and do not need to be turned on for the car's headlights;
- "may day" emergency response system - a sensor detects any alcohol vapour and advises the driver to blow into an in-car breathalyser.

Dr Regan said MUARC would assess the effects of the technology on those driving the SafeCars over the 28-month trial period.

He said the underlying design philosophy of the SafeCar was that motorists who were driving properly would be unaware of the presence of the technology.

"The aim is that motorists who are driving safely won't see or hear anything," he said.

Aborigines' distinctive qualities were not destroyed or marginalised.

"These rights include territorial rights to land, waters and seas, rights to culture and heritage, and a right to self-determination, all of which are fundamental to achieving tolerance and respect," he said.

The lecture was established by Monash's Centre for Australian Indigenous Studies in memory of indigenous rights pioneer William Cooper to provide a forum for discussion on the effectiveness of Aboriginal political strategies.
Combined degrees give doctors of the future legal know-how

BY DEREK BROWN

Most people would be content to call themselves either a doctor or a lawyer, but not Mr Vinay Rane, soon to qualify with a combined medicine and law degree.

He and two other students will graduate at a program that allows those studying medicine to taken on a law degree at the same time. The program is a joint initiative by Monash's faculties of Medicine and Law.

Mr Rane will be completing his sixth year of medicine this year after having already completed an undergraduate and postgraduate law degree and a Bachelor of Medical Science with honours. Mr Rane, who has postponed the completion of a Masters in Law with a view to taking on a doctoral reading and concentrating on his medical studies, said the workload had not been as heavy as it sounds.

"If you are interested in something, you can do it and do it well. I started medicine and always had an interest in law, so I gave the degree combination a go," he said.

The combined Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery/Bachelor of Laws was originally created by Professor Stephen Cordner, professor of Forensic Medicine at Monash University, and Professor Louis Waller, then from the Faculty of Law.

"The medical profession needs to better understand the law to be able to fully participate in debates on how legal issues affect medical practice," he said.

"Monash is the only university in Australia to offer students a structured way to study a law degree and a medicine degree concurrently," he said.

"There is no doubt having a law degree is an additional string in the bow of any medical student."

Perl expert finds the world's his oyster

BY JUNE YU

A Perl software expert at Monash University has been awarded a $150,000 commercial grant to develop and promote the versatile programming language.

Senior lecturer in the School of Computer Science and Software Engineering at Monash University, Dr Damian Conway, will take a year's sabbatical from his position to concentrate on the project.

Perl can run on a vast range of machines and operating systems and is widely used in internet programming for database applications, text and data processing, and rapid prototyping of new applications. It is known as 'Open Source Technology', meaning it is non-proprietary and freely available to all.

Dr Conway said he had involved designing and developing software, organizing the next release of the Perl 6.8 language and travelling the world giving talks and training.

"Currently, it is philanthropic individuals who develop most Open Source software by giving their spare time and skills to create software that everyone can use for free," he said.

"If businesses gave back to the Open Source community, it would allow creators of free software to work on that task full-time, leading to more and better software that companies can use free of charge."

"Dr Conway's sabbatical is funded by Yet Another Society, set up to promote grassroots Open Source-related activities."

YAS president Mr Kevin Lemar last year began toying with the idea of raising community funding to support the Perl work of Open Source developers by funding individuals with a demonstrated track record in Perl development for a sabbatical from their other commitments.

YAS raised the $150,000 within two weeks from six commercial sponsors and 130 private individuals. As a highly qualified Perl expert, Dr Conway was considered a perfect candidate for the first grant.

For more information visit http://yetanother.org/damian/

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Eugenics: so what’s wrong with improving the quality of the human species?

The brave new world of eugenics promises to produce healthier, more capable children, possibly within a decade. But is the practice morally sound?

DR MIRKO BAGARIC

OPINION

HUMAN KIND is on the verge of a scientific revolution that has the potential to eradicate human weaknesses and frailties that over the centuries have been the cause of an unthinkably vast amount of suffering.

The human genome project, which involves mapping and sequencing the entire range of genetic materials found in human beings, has succeeded in providing at least a partial description of the genetic code of human beings. The potential benefits to humankind from the genome project are almost unlimited.

Eugenics is the science that seeks to improve the human race through the control of hereditary factors, promising to remove much of the luck involved in the birth process. It aims to go further than simply weeding out or identifying genes that cause or predispose people to certain diseases. It can also be used for enhancement purposes. It raises the prospect of identifying and using "super genes" in the procreation process.

Offspring produced with the aid of gene technology will in all probability be physically, aesthetically and intellectually superior to the rest of the community. Advances in eugenics may make it possible for each child to have the looks of Eliza Hurley, the athletic ability of Marion Jones and the intelligence of Stephen Hawking - all rolled into one neat package.

But is eugenics wrong? The first line of attack, and potentially the strongest, available to opponents is that eugenics is inherently morally wrong.

Although some genetic screening has been labelled as genocide against the disabled, eugenics does not necessarily involve the infringement of any type of recognisable, let alone important, human right or interest. Even if eugenics leads to a higher abortion rate, this does not translate into an inherent moral drawback of the practice. The decision to terminate is not a necessary by-product of an adverse genetic finding, merely a commonplace side effect.

A common criticism of eugenics is that it will result in social inequality. Permitting parents' input into the genetic makeup of their children, it is feared, will produce a "super class" with significant advantages over the rest of the community whose parents could not or would not utilise gene therapy.

Theoretically, this is unfair. But in a democratic society that already tolerates as much inequality of opportunity, it seems indefensible to argue that the type of inequality that may arise from eugenics is necessarily morally offensive.

In terms of the net result, biological advantages stemming from eugenic procedures are not different in nature to economic advantages - at worst, biological advantages will merely serve to perpetuate existing unfairness.

The problem with eugenics, then, is not that it may be practised at all, but rather that it will not be practised enough.

There is now, more than ever, a strong tendency to advance moral claims and arguments in terms of rights. The language of rights is proving to be an effective weapon for protecting individuals against inhumane and unfair practices.

There is no question that the types of beliefs and values that underscored the practices in Nazi Germany have been largely, if not completely, disavowed by most communities - at least in the West.

While there is solid evidence that eugenic ideals can lead to bad side effects by fuelling an attitude that individuals who lack the "proper pedigree" are in some sense less worthy of moral concern, this is not a decisive reason for rejecting eugenics.

Ultimately, eugenics is no different to many discoveries, such as the splitting of the atom - it can be used for good or ill. The manner in which eugenics will be used depends on the moral and legal environment in which it is practised.

There is no doubt that humankind has made enormous progress since the Second World War. There is a long way to go before something approaching a universal moral code can be decreed, but there are promising signs that some degree of convergence is emerging regarding the scope and content of basic moral prescriptions.

In its logical form, the slippery slope argument is often invoked in relation to acts which in themselves are justifiable but which, if permitted, could set a worrying precedent for more objectionable practices.

There is still a long way to go before something approaching a universal moral code can be decreed, but there are promising signs that some degree of convergence is emerging regarding the scope and content of basic moral prescriptions.
South African spiritual connection in art

By June Yu

Monash's ties with South Africa are flourishing this year with the opening of its Johannesburg campus and the arrival in Australia of the university's newest artist-in-residence.

South African painter Lallitha Jawahirilal is spending six weeks in space, time and energy, and emergence monash.edu.au the Faculty of Art and Design at Caulfield campus, culminating in an exhibition from 9 May to 2 June at the Faculty Gallery.

The show will be opened by South African High Commissioner His Excellency Mr Zolile T. Mapugo on 9 May at 6 pm.

Ms Jawahirilal draws inspiration for her mixed media and conceptual work from the activity and energy within different cultural landscapes, including her own birthplace in Ladysmith, South Africa.

"South Africa is beautiful; people there are inherently spiritual, and the land is vast and mysterious. I spent much of my childhood roaming the hills of Ladysmith," she said.

"The rich Ndebele paintings, South Africa's founders, and temple art and the religious beliefs of the diverse South African community have all been sources of inspiration for my work."

Ms Jawahirilal has travelled widely for her art and taken up residences in Johannesburg, London, Berlin, Casa Manila (Spain) and the Himalayas. Her works grace the walls of colec-


"I've had to live in so many different cultures and it's very important for me to bring that to my day art, because it's a form of respect for that country or that culture," she said.

For more information on Ms Jawahirilal's exhibition, contact Faculty Gallery manager Mr Malcolm Bywaters on +61 3 9903 3882.

Spacing out with Caravaggio

By Fiona Perry

Though Italian painter Caravaggio is renowned for his contributions to the development of naturalism in 17th century art, some critics have claimed his work is typified by distorted figures, cramped spaces and a lack of understanding of planes of perspective.

The 17th century artist's inventive and somewhat controversial use of space is examined in a new exhibition at Monash University's Faculty Gallery this month.

The exhibition, Understanding Space and its Relationship to Expression: Analysing Caravaggio's Distortions in 3D, by Monash fine arts lecturer Mr Roger Byrt, attempts to answer critics' claims and demonstrate the genius of Caravaggio's use of space through an analysis of his painting 'The Conversion of St Paul'.

The exhibition, created in conjunction with architect Robert McGuigan, compares the scene presented by Caravaggio with 3D models and computer images of the painting to show what the original work would have looked like if mathematical or 'correct' planes of perspective had been used.

According to Mr Byrt, the exercises undertaken reveal an extraordinary range of spatial techniques used by Caravaggio within the painting, ranging from the proportional manipulation and distortion of individual figures to the reinterpretation of perspective space.

"The overall effect of Caravaggio's manipulation of space, scale and perspective is to bring the action right out to the viewer, drawing the viewer closer to the action and heightening the liveliness and dramatic power of the painting," he said.

"Caravaggio's painting is far superior to the models that we created, because, through their expansion of space, they dilute the dynamism and balance of the original work."

What: Understanding Space and its Relationship to Expression: Analysing Caravaggio's Distortions in 3D

When: 11 May to 2 June

Where: Monash Faculty Gallery, Caulfield campus

For details, contact gallery manager Mr Malcolm Bywaters on +61 3 9903 3882.

ARTS SCENE

Virtual alchemy

Mr Richard Brown, research fellow at the Royal College of Art in London and currently artist-in-residence at Monash University, will present a public lecture at the Caulfield campus this month.

Mr Brown, who has a hybrid background in art and science, will give a presentation on three of his interactive installations: "Flux", "BioVis", and "Millie, the NeuralNet Starfish."

His work explores ideas about space, time, energy, entropy, and emergence through the creation of installations and artworks that amalgamate the real and the virtual.

The lecture will be held on Wednesday 9 May at 7 pm at the Art and Design building at Monash's Caulfield campus.

Composer goes to Cannes

A Monash Master of Arts (Music Composition) student has written the soundtrack for a film that has been selected for the Cannes International Film Festival.

Mr Anthony Pateras, a student in the School of Music - Conservatorium, composed the soundtrack for the film 'Servants of Self'.

Mr Pateras will travel to Cannes to attend the screening of the film this month.

Music and arts study tour

Students, teachers and those interested in music, visual arts, German and European culture and history are invited to join a 26-day music and cultural tour of central Europe in January 2002.

The tour, which is an accredited university elective, will trace the footsteps of famous Europeans including Bach, Einstein, Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Goethe, Kafka, Freud and Weill.

Musicology Prize awarded

A Monash Master of Arts student and composer has won the 2000 Musicology Prize awarded by the Musicological Society of Australia.

Mr Robin Fox, a student in the School of Music - Conservatorium, was awarded the prize for a paper titled, 'The Atomic Cafe to CHCMC: A Trans-Pacific Aesthetic Implant'.

The paper examined whether 1970s American contemporary music had a significant influence on contemporary music in Victoria in the same decade.

For more information, contact Dr Hurworth on +61 3 9903 2427 or email greg.hurworth@education.monash.edu.au

By Derek Brown

Safe, sleek and eco-friendly - a new vehicle design by Monash industrial design student Mr Dimitrios Scoutas has won the national Dyson Product Award and $10,000 in prize money.

Mr Scoutas, an honours student, received the award during the 'new design 2001' national graduate exhibition recently. The exhibition, sponsored by Dyson Appliances, showcases work by applied art and design students selected from universities across Australia.

Mr Scoutas said his winning design, 'Skipee', was a three-wheeled vehicle designed to appeal to people who would normally not use a motorcycle.

"While my design has some of the characteristics of a motorcycle, it also has quite a few variations. For example, in order to improve stability, the vehicle has three wheels, with two wheeled models - front to help with cornering," he said.

I also looked at research conducted on electrically powered motorcycles and discovered that in most cases, the accidents occurred because the other party didn't see the motorcycle. To counteract this danger, each of the front wheels has a headlight, so at night it looks like a small car to other drivers."

According to Mr Scoutas, the vehicle has been designed as an eco-friendly alternative using mostly recycled materials and running on an electric engine housed in the rear wheel.

Monash student Mr Dimitrios Scoutas with his winning prototype, 'Skipee'.

Mr Scoutas, who plans to graduate at the end of this year, will use the award money to visit Italy and Germany, world centres for motorcycle design.

Student wins prize in musicology

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**Ethnic minority girls face prejudice at school: research**

BY DEBRA BAYNE

Secondary school can be an isolating experience for ethnic minority girls, according to a Monash academic.

Dr Georgina Tsolakis, from Monash's Education faculty, claims attitudes towards gender and ethnicity within The Australian education system and school cultures create divisions that disadvantage ethnic minority girls.

In her new book, *Schooling, Diaspora and Gender*, Dr Tsolakis brings together the results of two studies, the first looking at ethnic minority girls' work and study aspirations, and the second exploring experiences of educational achievement in relation to immigrant groups.

According to Dr Tsolakis, many students who took part in the studies confirmed racism existed in the classroom and at 16 leading Australian schools.

"The issues of racism are clearly relevant to the way ethnic minority students experience schooling. In one school, Turkish girls who wore long dresses and headscarves felt they were particularly vulnerable. They claimed they received less attention from staff, were given lower marks and fewer opportunities to learn," she said.

"Teachers would often say ethnic minority girls came from families where education was not highly valued. But the girls and their families would say their education system was pitted against them, that there was an enormous amount of racism and that the system in Australia didn't allow them to get ahead." Students believed teachers' attitudes towards them were important factors in fostering or controlling racism within the school, Dr Tsolakis said.

She said students also experienced racism and sexism in school grounds, where divisions between ethnic groups and genders often created four main enclosures: ethnic minority girls and boys and ethnic majority girls and boys.

"While both groups of boys would often come together to play sports, a deep division existed between the girls, leading to the ethnic minority girls' isolation," she said.

"The division among the girls was, to me, the most profound and I think involved a whole range of issues that relate to teenage girls' sexuality and the double standards they encountered," she said.

Dr Tsolakis hopes her book will stimulate debate about current education policies and practice dealing with gender and ethnicity.

"In education we tend to compartmentalize these issues, for example, multicultural policy and gender equity policy. There is a great need to integrate these areas," she said.

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**Seeing Australian art through German eyes**

BY FIONA PERRY

An exhibition of innovative contemporary Australian photographic art originally aimed at German audiences will go on show at the Monash University Gallery this month.

*Lightness of Being: Contemporary Photography Art from Australia* comes to Germany after touring venues in Berlin, Stuttgart, Chemnitz and Velbert.

Curated by Australian Bernice Murphy last year, the show was organized in conjunction with the New Berlin Art Association, a major art centre located in the former East Berlin, situated northeast of the Brandenburg Gate. Since the fall of the Wall in 1989, the area has become a hub of active art and street life.

According to gallery marketing manager Ms Nicola Vance, the exhibition reflects Germany's strong interest in political art.

"For Germans, politics and art are intrinsically related," she said. "Lightness of Being showcases current work by 16 leading Australian photographers and audiences will go on show at the Monash University Gallery, Clayton campus.

*502 (Social Studies) 2000* by Patricia Piccinini, courtesy of the artist and Tolarno Galleries.

Laing are fascinated by scientific research and its often alienating impact on the human experience.

"I use art as a tool for critical reflection on a range of socio-political, aesthetic and technological viewpoints."

"In the exhibition, photography is used in a number of innovative ways to distort, digitalize, document and comment on various concerns in Australian contemporary art relating to feminism, post-colonialism, sexual identity, indigenous culture, technology and spirituality."

The exhibition features the work of artists Pat Brangan, Destiny Deacon, Jane Eisenstein, Anne Ferran, Fiona Hall, Helen M碣r, Peter Kennedy, Rosemary Laing, Fiona MacKay, Michael Stiff, Tracey Moffatt, John Nickson, Susan Norrie, Mike Parr, Patricia Piccinini and Robin Stacey.

Also on show are works by 15 leading Australian artists and the exhibition brings together the results of two studies, the first looking at ethnic minority girls' work and study aspirations, and the second exploring experiences of educational achievement in relation to immigrant groups.

According to Dr Tsolakis, many students who took part in the studies confirmed racism existed in the classroom and at 16 leading Australian schools.

"The issues of racism are clearly relevant to the way ethnic minority students experience schooling. In one school, Turkish girls who wore long dresses and headscarves felt they were particularly vulnerable. They claimed they received less attention from staff, were given lower marks and fewer opportunities to learn," she said.

"Teachers would often say ethnic minority girls came from families where education was not highly valued. But the girls and their families would say their education system was pitted against them, that there was an enormous amount of racism and that the system in Australia didn't allow them to get ahead." Students believed teachers' attitudes towards them were important factors in fostering or controlling racism within the school, Dr Tsolakis said.

She said students also experienced racism and sexism in school grounds, where divisions between ethnic groups and genders often created four main enclosures: ethnic minority girls and boys and ethnic majority girls and boys.

"While both groups of boys would often come together to play sports, a deep division existed between the girls, leading to the ethnic minority girls' isolation," she said.

"The division among the girls was, to me, the most profound and I think involved a whole range of issues that relate to teenage girls' sexuality and the double standards they encountered," she said.

Dr Tsolakis hopes her book will stimulate debate about current education policies and practice dealing with gender and ethnicity.

"In education we tend to compartmentalize these issues, for example, multicultural policy and gender equity policy. There is a great need to integrate these areas," she said.

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**Of Myths and Movements: Rewriting Chipko into Himalayan History**

By Manjiri Ranjan

What: *Of Myths and Movements: Rewriting Chipko into Himalayan History*

Where: Monash University Gallery, Clayton campus.

When: 22 May to 7 July

Where: Monash University Gallery, Clayton campus.

Who: For details, contact Ms Nicola Vance on +61 3 9905 4317.

Photographic artist Ms Anne Ferran will speak at a public forum titled *The Real Fantastical Issues in Contemporary Australian Photographic Art*, to be held at the Monash University Gallery this month.

In December 2000, photographer Ms Anne Ferran was awarded the Monash University Faculty of Arts Research and Development Fellowship.

Dr Michael Ackland, from the Department of English at Monash University, has also authored *The Penguin Book of 20th Century Australian Literature* and *Henry Kendall: The Man and the Myths*.

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**INPRINT**

An Introduction to Buddhist Psychology

Third edition

Padmaestri de Silva

Macmillan Press

RRP: $47.30

Twentieth centuries ago, Gautama the Buddha preached that humans could only be liberated from their fears and anxieties by an inward and intricate study of their mental and spiritual life.

Generations of followers have developed and amplified the original teachings of Buddhism to a fine and intricate study of human psychology in *An Introduction to Buddhist Psychology*.

The text analyses many of the basic concepts and issues in the psychology of Buddhism, including concepts of the mind, consciousness, behaviour, emotions and motivation. The third edition includes a new chapter on the mind-body relationship and Buddhist contemplation.

Dr Padmaestri de Silva, currently an honorary research fellow in the Philosophy department at Monash University, was formerly professor and head of philosophy and psychology at the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

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**POSTSCRIPT**

Monash graduate Dr Timothy Flannery (MSc, 1981) has recently launched his latest book, *The Eternal Frontier*, which explores the story of North America's relationship with its natural resources from economic exploitation and captured the world's imagination.

Dr Michael Ackland, from the Department of English at Monash University, has also authored *The Penguin Book of 20th Century Australian Literature* and *Henry Kendall: The Man and the Myths*.
Helping local firms go green

Some of the recycled products on display at the REBATE launch at Monash University last month.

BY JUNE YU

A new one-stop shop of 'waste-wise' resources has been established to help businesses in south-east Melbourne become more eco-friendly.

The Monash Environment Institute (MEI), together with the South-Eastern Regional Waste Management Group, has established the Regional Business and the Environment (ReBATE) network.

MEI aims to develop and promote teaching and research on the environment and sustainability. It also plays a role in promoting good environmental practice within the university and the wider community.

ReBATE now involves about 40 businesses, including Ritchies Supermarkets, The Body Shop, RACV and Phillips Lighting.

Several local councils, EcoRecycle Victoria, the Sustainable Energy Authority and the Department of State and Regional Development are also involved in the network, which is an offshoot of a city-based network called BATE.

MEI strategy and innovation manager Mr Elya Tagar said ReBATE would offer information about recycled products and environmentally responsible technologies and services and would also give advice about conserving resources such as electricity and water.

It also aimed to provide data about available government services and assistance and help set up partnerships between businesses to develop 'green' products, including assistance in market research and development.

"If a business wants to recycle its computers, the network will assist by putting it in touch with the right company," he said.

"We know of one company in the area that is producing chairs from recycled toner cartridges and another that is producing environmentally responsible fabrics. The network could help them form a business arrangement so the chairs can be upholstered using these fabrics."

MEI director Professor Chris Cooklin said ReBATE was an example of Monash's leadership in environmental issues.

"The institute has a policy of actively engaging with business to promote green practices and environmental sustainability," he said.

South Eastern Region Waste Management Group environmental education officer Mr Randall Brouillette said ReBATE offered local solutions for the environmental waste problem.

He said about 64,000 businesses in the south-eastern region generated almost one million of the 1.6 million tonnes of waste that went into landfill each year.

At least half of the waste included recyclable materials such as paper, cardboard, wood and organic waste such as food scraps.

"ReBATE is a regional business network that can help companies find the best ways of dealing with their waste and reducing the annual $250 million bill to dispose of waste into landfill," he said.

Ritchies environment officer Ms Pam Cranen said ReBATE would help local businesses collaborate on waste management issues.

"We've done a fair bit of work at Ritchies in developing and implementing an environment policy and we're very interested in sharing information and ideas with other companies," she said.

In for the long haul: Members of the Monash University Women's Rugby Union Club showed their collective strength when they pulled a 22-tonne tram 50 metres down Sydney Road in Brunswick, Melbourne, in late March. The eight-member team, the only women's team to enter the event, was taking part in the annual Tram Track Challenge, a fundraising event for the Royal Children's Hospital.