Monash wins $157 million national synchrotron facility

Monash University will host Australia's first synchrotron, a powerful $157 million microscope that will revolutionise scientific research in this country.

Victorian Premier Mr Steve Bracks recently announced that the State Government would provide $100 million for the project, with the remaining funds to come from universities, other research institutions and private sector investors.

With a diameter of 60 metres, a synchrotron is a large, circular particle accelerator tens of billions times more powerful than the best conventional microscope. It allows scientists to examine molecular structures at an atomic level.

Construction of the synchrotron, to be built on the corner of Wellington and Blackburn roads, Clayton, is scheduled to start in the next year.

Mr Bracks said the development of the synchrotron was the most significant scientific infrastructure investment in Australia for decades.

"It will provide a massive boost to Victoria as a leader of biotechnology and scientific research, create 700 jobs and add $65 million a year to the Victorian economy," he said.

"It will help our scientists make major scientific breakthroughs in areas such as the fight against cancer, the development of new computer chips and advances in drug design." Victorian State and Regional Development Minister Mr John Brumby said the synchrotron would cement Victoria's position as the scientific and technology capital of Australia and the Asia Pacific region.

"Nobel Prize winner Professor Peter Doherty has said that in five to 10 years' time 80 per cent of research for pharmaceutical products will be undertaken in a synchrotron," he said.

Monash deputy vice-chancellor (Research and Development) Professor Peter Darvall said many Australian scientists who now had to travel overseas to use synchrotrons in other countries for their research would welcome the project.

He said medical achievements such as the development of the anti-flu drug Relenza would never have been possible if Monash and CSIRO researchers had not gained access to a synchrotron facility overseas.

"A synchrotron is an essential tool for researchers at the leading edge in fields including pharmaceutics, information technology, biotechnology and mineral processing," he said.

"We want to ensure that scientific research in New South Wales is competitive and that the NSW economy benefits from the research." Victorian Premier Mr Peter Beattie said the project would create 700 jobs and add $65 million a year to the NSW economy.

"A large part of the funding for the project will come from the NSW Government, with the remainder coming from universities, other research institutions and private sector investors."

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"A large part of the funding for the project will come from the NSW Government, with the remainder coming from universities, other research institutions and private sector investors."
Sports minister launches new hockey facility at Peninsula

By JULI PRAK AND JUNI YU

A new $1 million hockey facility at Monash University’s Peninsula campus will become a central point for sporting activities in the community, according to campus director Mr John White.

Launched last month by Victorian Minister for Sport and Recreation Mr Justin Madden, the project will involve the construction of a synthetic hockey pitch, lighting, fencing and car parking.

The Monash Student Union (Monsu) will manage the facility, which will be used by local hockey clubs, schools and other community groups.

Monash is contributing $100,000 to the project, Monsu $300,000, the State Government $250,000, Frankston City Council $165,000, the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council $135,000 and local hockey clubs $50,000.

Both the Frankston and Mornington Peninsula hockey clubs, which currently do not have a home ground, will use the new facility for training and home games.

“The multipurpose, synthetic surface allows the pitch to be used for other sports including netball, touch football and soccer, and it is expected that school groups will be main users during the day,” Mr White said.

“With flood-lighting being installed, there will also be plenty of opportunity for evening activities.”

“This is a great community initiative. Students, staff and the local community will benefit from this for years to come,” Mr White said.

Mr White said the new facility was a sign of the great working relationship between the Monash Student Union (Monsu), the university and local community groups.

“Not only has Monash provided the land and contributed $100,000 for the construction of this multi-purpose facility, but Monsu has also allocated funding equipment and the science and nursing laboratories.

Other major players in the initiative include Gippsland Secondary College, Central Gippsland Institute of TAFE, and regional training companies and employers.

The Victorian Minister for Post Compulsory Education, Ms Lynne Kosky, who launched the precinct, said the project was a key initiative in improving education outcomes in the region.

She said this included improving retention rates of secondary students and providing more post-compulsory options for students.

“This exciting state-of-the-art development is a great opportunity for young people across Gippsland and the Latrobe Valley,” she said.

The facility is scheduled for completion by December 2001.

New $12 million education precinct to boost for Gippsland youth

By JUNI YU

A new $12 million education precinct in Churchill will boost Monash University’s ability to provide the best education and access to study for local students.

Monash’s Gippsland campus is a key part of the precinct that will comprise an education centre for 750 senior secondary students as well as TAFE and university students.

Funded by the Victorian Government, the facility will offer programs including the VCE, vocational education training (VET) in schools, TAFE courses, apprenticeships and university degrees.

Secondary students in remote parts of Gippsland will be able to link into these programs through a $1.5 million information and communication technology (ICT) hub.

Due to an increase in 2001, the precinct will be built on Monash-owned land next to the Gippsland campus.

Gippsland pro vice-chancellor Professor Brian Mackenzie welcomed the initiative, saying it would broaden education opportunities for local youth.

“We will help develop a targeted range of services for secondary students, including a creative set of pathways into further education such as two-year diplomas and associate degrees,” he said.

“Year 11 and 12 students will also have access to enhancement programs, which, along with articulation from TAFE courses, will provide Gippsland’s youth with more choices in post-compulsory study.”

He said Monash would provide access to the university library and resources such as information technology and rehabilitation facility in the strategic alliance.

Continued from page 1

“The deal demonstrates Monash’s desire to be actively engaged with community partners and to find partners in key areas,” he said.

Mr Butters said the arrangement meant the club had acquired a full-time pre-season training venue and an alternative rehabilitation facility during the normal season, with access to the football oval, athletics track, swimming pools, gymnasium and fitness centre, and rehabilitation services.

“It would be pointless for the club to try and replicate the outstanding facilities available at Monash,” he said.

“With the loss of more than 2000 teaching jobs.

The conference will be held from 10 to 11 am on July 13 at 4000 3000 2000.

Students suffered under school reforms: research

By ALLISON HARDING

The former Victorian Liberal government’s radical education reforms led to a culture of fear among teachers and hindered poorer students, according to new Monash research.

The research showed the Kennett government’s controversial Schools of the Future program particularly targeted schools in working-class suburbs, and it is expected there will also be plenty of opportunity for evening activities.

“This is a great community initiative. Students, staff and the local community will benefit from this for years to come,” Mr White said.

Mr White said the new facility was a sign of the great working relationship between the Monash Student Union (Monsu), the university and local community groups.

“Not only has Monash provided the land and contributed $100,000 for the construction of this multi-purpose facility, but Monsu has also

The study will include a socio-economic analysis of the region covering the availability of basic social infrastructure, government services and facilities, financial services, and the scale and economic potential of resources.

The project is the first step in a series of ADB-funded studies to enhance regional cooperation between China and Mongolia.

A taxing conference

Monash University is hosting a conference on taxation and good governance in mid-July at its Caulfield campus.

Presenters will include senior politicians such as Democrats Senator Lyn Allison, prominent economist Mr Saul Eslake and Age journalist Mr Kenneth Davidson, as well as several Monash academics.

The program will cover topics including tax realities in Australia, an international comparison of tax levels and benefits, and disadvantages of higher tax rates.

The conference will be held from 10 to 11 am on July 13 at 4000 3000 2000.

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New MUARC director to make inroads into air and rail safety

MUARC will expand its research activities into the areas of aviation and rail safety and will build links with the Southeast Asian region, under new director Dr Ian Johnston. Picture: GREG FORD

BY DAVID BRUCE

Dr Ian Johnston is about to spend a lot of time thinking about other people’s safety. As the new director of the Monash University Accident Research Centre (MUARC), Dr Johnston will lead the search for better ways to make Australians safer in cars, boats, planes and trains, in their homes and workplaces, and during recreation.

Since it formed in 1987, MUARC has worked with industry and government on more than 100 research projects that have led to major advances, that help Australians go about their daily lives with a lower risk of injury. As a former head of ARRB Transport Research and former director of road safety at VicRoads, Dr Johnston’s specialty is in road safety. However, he sees his new role at MUARC as an opportunity to draw together the full range of expertise in injury prevention research.

There are several research establishments around the country and internationally, but what makes MUARC unique is its ability to span a broad range of injury prevention strategies. There are enormous synergies across the disciplines and areas of application and each can learn from the other, he said.

Dr Johnston nominates aviation and rail safety as fields where MUARC can make a significant new impact, drawing upon its established expertise in road safety.

“There is very little basic research going on into air and rail safety. Australia has a very good accident investigation system but we don’t have a systematic program of injury prevention research,” he said.

The Safe Car project, where a prototype vehicle has been fitted with a range of high-tech safety measures, could be adapted for the aviation industry, Dr Johnston said.

“It is not difficult, for example, to con­ceive of a GPS (Global Positioning System)-based system in two dimen­sions, vertical as well as horizontal, which could be a warning system for an aircraft wandering into controlled airspace.”

MUARC’s role as an industry leader and adviser both in Australia and internationally will also expand under Dr Johnston’s leadership.

“I see us building very strong links with the Southeast Asian region. In safety terms, a lot of the developing countries from this region are where Australia was 30 years ago. Road safety is an obvious area where we can make a contribution, but it is equally true of our other areas of injury research – farm and workplace safety, for example.”

Dr Johnston’s position as president of the Road Engineering Association of Asia and Australasia provides a springboard for these initiatives.

“I see a primary role for MUARC in training the next generation of safety professionals, in Australia and throughout Southeast Asia. This will entail partnerships with other organisations and collaborative research projects, so we are building up a broad base of expertise in injury prevention in our society.”

Interactive forum highlights work-life practices

BY JUNE YU

Sequencing work, family and community commitments into a finite number of hours is a challenge for many people. To help, the Department of Management and the Work/Life Association (Vic) will give participants the chance to discuss these issues with the people who influence the policies that affect their working lives.

The half-day forum in early July, “Work-life balance: whose job is it anyway?”, will be opened by Victorian Industrial Relations Minister Ms Monica Gould. The forum will cover topics ranging from the costs of balancing work and life to current Australian practices on helping employees with families and the government’s approach to achieving work-life priorities.

The keynote speaker will be Professor Rob Drago, Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry labour relations manager. Other speakers will include ACTU industrial officer Mr Richard Watts, Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry labour relations manager Mr Reg Hamilton, Federal Work and Family Unit head Mr Jean Yeandle and consulting company Protexx Publicis Group representative Ms Martin McKinnon.

The forum will be held from 8 am to 1.30 pm on Monday 2 July at the Park Hyatt, Parliament Square, Melbourne. For more information, contact Ms Ruth Cooper on 61 3 9005 3673.

See a world in a ‘Day’

The big ‘Day’ is not far away: Monash student guide coordinators Ms Louise Elliott and Mr Daniel Robinson prepare for the biggest event on the university calendar – Monash Open Day. Held over two days in early August, Monash Open Day is the one weekend in the year when aspiring students and members of the public can visit each of Monash’s six Victorian campuses and experience university life. Activities on offer will include demonstrations, campus tours, information stands, talks, exhibitions and performances by dance and musical groups. Staff and students will also be on hand to provide information and advice on courses, facilities and services. Day One will be held at the Gippsland, Parkville and Peninsula campuses on Saturday 4 August. The Berwick, Caulfield and Clayton campuses will be open on Day Two, Sunday 5 August, from 10 am to 4 pm. For more information, visit www.monash.edu.au/openday or contact: 61 3 9055 9541.

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Model to better predict freeway travel times

By Stuart Heath

Travel time information for motorists on congested freeways could be much improved, if a traffic prediction system developed by a Monash University researcher is adopted.

The dynamic system uses traffic volume and speed data, such as that currently collected on freeways throughout Melbourne, to better inform motorists of the time it will take them to reach their destinations.

It was devised by civil engineering researcher Dr Darryn Paterson, who graduated with a PhD in May.

"The travel time information displayed on Melbourne's freeways tells drivers about the situation ahead of them at that moment, but conditions will change as they proceed along the freeway," Dr Paterson said. "What's needed, and what this new model provides, is a prediction of the type of traffic conditions drivers will experience throughout their trip.

"During peak commuting periods, changes can occur quickly. Queues of vehicles form at some places, resulting in congestion, and not at others. Accurate prediction of travel times is extremely difficult."

Dr Paterson developed a model to predict journey durations.

"The existing method works reasonably well when traffic is flowing more or less evenly, but during peak congestion times - just when it is needed most - the predictions are less accurate. By adopting my model, the signs could give much more reliable information to motorists, because it takes account of the dynamics of the traffic between them and their destination."

Developing the model involved observation of freeway traffic and the use of traffic simulation software. Observers recorded the travel time of individual vehicles and the results were cross-checked with Dr Paterson's predictions. The simulation software provided further support for the model, enabling it to be checked under a variety of extreme conditions, such as maintenance work which could not be replicated under normal conditions.

Dr Paterson's PhD supervisor, Associate Professor Geoff Reidfield, said the research was part of a series of research projects into intelligent transport systems conducted by the Department of Electrical Engineering.

Previous research by the department has been applied by VicRoads to traffic light control, and to the development of an electronic message board system. The research also provided further support for the model, said the research was part of a series of research projects into intelligent transport systems conducted by the Department of Electrical Engineering.

The best-equipped theatre outside Melbourne was opened recently by Senator John Gorton.

Named after the great Australian philosopher Samuel Alexander, the Alexander Theatre has a fixed seat capacity of 508 and a box office to be fully licensed bar and buffet.

The Alexander Theatre will be available for public hire and use by the university for performances, film screenings, lectures, conferences, and other events.

For more than 30 years, the venue has attracted many prestigious professional companies, including Melbourne Theatre Company, Sydney Theatre Company and the Bell Shakespeare Company, and shown a variety of genres including dance, drama, comedy, multimedia and children's theatre.

30 years ago - 1971

Research shows alcohol link in most road accidents

Researcher from Monash's Centre for Applied Drug and Alcohol Research are currently working with the Monash University Accident Research Centre and Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre on a major project to investigate the effects of alcohol on young drivers.

Library introduces new microfiche catalogue

The Monash Library has introduced a new catalogue on microfiche rather than on cd, produced by a computer rather than by typewriter.

Catalogue copies will be available in all branch libraries and will include all material received from 1981 on.

The Monash Librarian, Mr Brian Southwell, says there is a number of advantages to the microfiche catalogue, especially for the computers that produce them.

"As well as the sheer cost and rapid growth of the card catalogue, there is also the difficulty of making changes to it. A simple alteration may mean changes to thousands of cards, which must then be globed to hundreds of thousands of records in one operation," he said.

"New arrivals over 11 items are not sub-branches, the Monash University Library collection includes 2.6 million items. Public computer catalogues were first introduced in Monash in 1979. The library's computer-aided catalogue, Voyager computer catalogue system and produces an additional catalogue on CD-ROM.

Monash opens the Alexander Theatre

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Australia’s refugees: their rights are our concern

The Australian government’s detention of asylum seekers contravenes international human rights conventions. Their treatment should concern all of us, argues refugee law expert DR SUSAN KNEEBONE.

The then minister for immigration, Gerry Hand, justified it on a deterministic basis. He said ‘The government is determined that a clear signal be sent that migration to Australia may not be achieved by simply arriving in this country and expecting to be allowed into the community.’

H owever, almost 10 years later it is clear that this policy has not achieved the desired result. Almost all persons from newly emerging areas of conflict and violence where there is uncertainty about the status of migrants are detained pending resettlement.

The conclusion of one writer to a local newspaper summarises the issue: ‘Thanks to asylum seekers, international human rights are now a domestic issue.

For this issue concerns a clash of cultures and legal systems. On the one hand international law in the form of the Refugees Convention of 1951, to which Australia is a party, guarantees the rights of asylum seekers, as do the Human Rights Conventions.

Under international law a genuine asylum seeker has the status of a refugee. But the Minister for Immigration, asserts the sovereignty right of the Australian government to decide who shall enter our community under Australian laws. The minister insists that asylum seekers are ‘unauthorised arrivals’ not refugees.

The practice of immigration detention in Australia has a long history that is associated with early restrictive immigration laws and the White Australia policy. Immigration detention was provided for in the Migration Restriction Act 1901.

The current law of mandatory, non-reviewable detention of asylum seekers came about through amendment to the Migration Act in 1992 after the Tiananmen Square incident in Beijing when the then was an upsurge of unauthorised arrivals in Australia.

It is important to put this issue in perspective. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that there are 23 million persons ‘of concern’ in the world today, of whom refugees comprise about 12 million and another seven million are internally displaced persons (IDPs) who do not meet the refugee definition. (The refuge definition requires a person to have a ‘well-founded fear of persecution’ and to be outside their country of origin.)

Australia receives a miniscule 9000 onshore applications for refugee status each year (in comparison to Germany, for example, which receives about 90,000).

The Australian government has a national quota of 18900 places for such applicants. Of these applicants, the majority (66 per cent) arrive on some kind of valid temporary visa, whilst 34 per cent arrive without a visa. This group of unauthorised ‘boat people’ is subject to mandatory detention.

Recently, this minority group has comprised persons from the Middle East, 90 per cent or more of whom have been accepted as having genuine refugee claims. They have faced repres­sive regimes, often assisted by unscrupulous people smugglers. But do they deserve to be ‘demonised’ by the detention policy, for exercising their right of flight under the Refugees Convention?

The UNHCR stance is that ‘in view of the hardship which it involves, detention should normally be avoided’. However, it recognises that temporary detention ‘is justified in exceptional cases in order to verify identity; determine the elements on which the claim to protection is based; and protect national security and public order.

The main complaint about Australia’s mandatory detention system is that it goes beyond what is necessary; that it is a prolonged deprivation of liberty which is intended to act as a punitive regime.

The main complaint about Australia’s mandatory detention system is that it goes beyond what is necessary; that it is a prolonged deprivation of liberty which is intended to act as a punitive regime.

It is also argued by human rights watchdogs that mandatory detention is arbitrary and in breach of Article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which protects against arbitrary detention.


It was suggested that detained asylum seekers should be released on bondor visa pending the conclusion of the processing of their claims. This is the practice in other countries.

The recent report of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade (28 June 2001) recommended that a time limit of 14 weeks’ detention should be set for asylum seekers who receive security clearance.

The detention of children raises another human rights issue. The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) stipulates that ‘every child has the right to the protection and care of his or her parents’. Children under the age of 18 should not be treated as adults or prisoners. It is critical of the separation of children from their parents.

The recommendations and conclusions of the recent report of the Joint Standing Committee endorse many of these concerns and observations. The report demonstrated ‘the Committee’s belief that there are a number of concerns about the human rights of detainees and their children.

As at the report had bipartisan support, there may at last be some prospect of change. As the narratives and stories of suffering by asylum seekers become indelible in our national culture and conscience, this will become a domestic issue.

Dr Susan Kneebone is a senior lecturer in Monash’s Faculty of Law. She is a member of Monash’s Centre for Human Rights Law and recently organised a workshop at the Monash Centre under the title ‘The Refugees Convention 50 Years On: Globalising and International Law’. The papers will be published in a book of essays under that title by Angourie Publishing.
Close encounters with the extraordinary

By Fiona Perry

It’s not often that you can say you’ve had a close encounter of the spatial kind. But a new exhibition beginning at the Monash University Gallery this month aims to give viewers an experience of extra-spatial dimensions. "Spacecraft 0701" brings together works from a diversity of practices including design, sculpture, architecture, photography, jewellery and art. The one thing the works have in common is their effect on space, crating it like a tangible material, says exhibition curator Suzie Attiwill.

"The conjunction between object, space and viewer produces an encounter with space in unexpected ways," she says. In "Spacecraft 0701", the focus is on space rather than the subject or the object, says Ms Attiwill. "The viewer comes up against the object to space. This is a creative moment produced through the close encounter with the extra-dimensions of space."

"Metal Wagenfeld's ceiling fan in full flight spins with its clear acrylic blades picking up light and throwing it against the walls."

"The oversized, polished mirror, "Super Luper Vase" by Greg Bonnasser enfolds the viewer into another space. And on the wall, graphic lines of timber made by Zeljko Markovic become the shapes you get."

Monash third-year painting student Mr Colin Hyett works with students at Toorak College during his week-long residency at the school. Picture: Joe MANN

"Model 1728" by Le Klint (designed by Poul Christianesen), 2000. Others in the exhibition include Susan Cohen, Mari Panakk, Penny Gebhardt, Natasha Johns-Messenger, Le Klint, (Poul Christianesen), Simone LeAmon, Andrew Alcz, Vera Moller, Puiu Pascoe, Shelley Pem, Arindam Sen, Tony Stuart, Jon Terry, Danielle Thompson and Madan Ravindri.

One of the exhibition's works, "Model 1728", a light designed by Danish artist Poul Christianesen for Le Klint in the 1960s, was handmade last year, explains Ms Attiwill.

"With its baroque folds, the light has the presence and aesthetics of a spacecraft, as well as making space tangible through its folds and the running of light," she says.

What: Spacecraft 0791
When: 17 July to 25 August 2001
Where: Monash University Gallery, Clayton campus
Who: For more information, contact Ms Nicola Vance on +61 3 9905 4217.

Floor talks will be held at the gallery on Wednesday 1 August at 1.30 pm. Speakers will include curator Suzie Attiwill and artist Vera Moller, Puiu Pascoe and Natasha Johns-Messenger.

Taking art out into the community

By June Yu

Melbourne secondary school students are benefiting from the expertise of students from Monash's Faculty of Art and Design, under a new school residency program.

The program also gives Monash students a chance to obtain paid work and exhibition opportunities.

Monash third-year painting student Colin Hyett was one of the first participants in the program at Melbourne girls' school Toorak College.

Mr Hyett was selected for a week-long residency during Arts Festival Week at the school, where he built the installation "My Childhood Remembrance" using a variety of plastic items related to childhood.

"It was a great chance to get out into the community and work with students to produce and exhibit a piece of art," he said.

Housed in a plastic circus tent, the installation consisted of a shower of plastic dinosaurs, a tin Volkswagen beetle and plastic Christmas tree branches. Mr Hyett said introducing traditional boys' toys such as plastic dinosaurs into a girls' school environment was a way of reflecting on his own play experiences as a boy.

Toorak College visual arts head Mr Roger Wiggins said Colin's contribution to the arts festival was excellent.

"I feel sure the success of Colin as artist-in-residence at Camberwell Grammar School for the rest of the year."

Other schools to take on Monash art students as residents include Scotch College, Yarra Valley Grammar School and Woodleigh School.

Mr Bywaters said the schools residency program was part of the professional practice course that was intended to help art students get a start in the life after art school.

The professional practice course covers writing CVs and grant proposals, commercial spaces and independent artist-run spaces.

For more information, contact Mr Malcolm Bywaters on +61 3 9903 3881.

Getting back to basics with the art of drawing

By Fiona Perry

Drawing was for centuries universally considered the backbone of all the visual arts, but from the early years of the 20th century, this view came under serious question, as the proliferation of new ideas, expectations and technologies found their place in the making of art.

Today, a bewildering range of expressive mediums and technologies are available to artists, all within the content of a highly pluralistic culture. But against this background a renewed interest in drawing has emerged, captured in a new exhibition starting at Monash University's Faculty of Art and Design Gallery this month.

The exhibition, simply titled Drawing, will feature the works of many current students from different disciplines within the faculty, and is an exploration of what art students believe drawing remains an important part of their professional practice.

Drawing will include works made with graphite and coloured pencils, charcoal, watercolours and a range of collage and photo media materials.

Exhibition organiser and coordinator Mr Malcolm Bywaters said his aim was "to foster this renewed interest in drawing for its simple technology and its ability to directly and selectively encompass a wide range of ideas and experiences."

"We are fostering this renewed interest in drawing by developing programs that combine the Broadest elements of tradition with contemporary thought," they said.

"In the development of our drawing programs, and reflected in this exhibition, is our aim of helping students see and think, making drawing an essential component of all art and design studies."

What: Drawing
When: 25 July to 18 August
Where: Faculty of Art and Design Gallery, Caulfield campus
Who: For more information, contact gallery manager Mr Malcolm Bywaters on +61 3 9905 3882.
New exhibition unveils Australia’s recent past

BY DEREK BROWN

A Monash librarian has used magazines, posters and brochures – often considered the junk material of popular culture – to create a comprehensive record of Australian culture and identity over the past 100 years.

In 'Twentieth Century Australia', an exhibition currently showing at the Clayton campus, Rare Books librarian Mr Richard Overell has drawn together a wide variety of printed material from early documents on Federation to posters from the recent S11 protests.

Mr Overell said it was the throw-away nature of items on display that made the exhibition unique.

"Often ephemeral material is created for a particular purpose or need, such as wartime coupon books or brochures and pamphlets created during a political campaign. Once the need has passed, people often throw the material away, making it difficult to find," he said.

Mr Overell said he hoped the exhibition would recapture Australia during the 20th century by presenting a snapshot of the past 10 decades.

The exhibition includes a 1992 edition of The New Idea: A Women's Home Journal for Australia which, along with fiction and beauty hints, features an interview with Miss Vida Goldstein, one of Australia's first suffragettes.

One of the more unusual items on display is a set of original watercolour sketches of life in Melbourne in the 1900s. The sketches show details of the daily life of a family in Kew and we refer to relatives in England attached to letters.

Also on show is a collection of press clippings from the Herald Library from the 1940s and 1950s relating to the Communist Party Dissolution Bill and the Peter Ustinov Affair.

Pamphlets from the same era tell worried Australians how to do it to protect against radioactive fallout.

In 1950s Australia there was a fear of Communism and the outbreak of a third world war, according to Mr Overell.

Storm clouds gather at Monash

The Bell Shakespeare Company, including actors Belinda Sceby and Peter Sumner above, will return to Monash University's Alexander Theatre this month to perform Shakespeare's most mystical play, The Tempest.

Using large scale props, masks, illusion and a choir of voices creating a live soundscape, the magical and supernatural elements of the play will be explored in dramatic effect.

A story of sexual awakening and the stirring passions of young love, The Tempest is also about the tensions between the instinct to seek revenge who wronged and the much more difficult and salutary act of forgiveness.

The Tempest will be performed on Tuesday 31 July at 10.30 am and 7.30 pm at the Alexander Theatre, Clayton campus. The 7.30 pm show will be preceded by a free forum exploring the themes of the play, to be held from 6.30 pm at the Alexander Theatre.

For more information and bookings, contact +61 3 9905 1111.
Passengers play a key role in driver behaviour: research

By Sue McAlister

Research by the Monash University Accident Research Centre (MUARC) has confirmed that passengers have significant effects on driver behaviour.

It also found that these effects were sometimes poorly understood, especially by passengers and drivers, whose perceptions of the interactions were contradictory.

Dr Michael Regan, senior research fellow at MUARC, said the findings would help road safety authorities enhance the positive and minimise the negative effects of passengers on driver behaviour.

This should involve a public awareness campaign targeting both drivers and passengers, he said.

"In Australia and other countries, passengers comprise 35 to 50 per cent of people killed in road accidents, yet traditionally only drivers have been the focus of road safety research and programs."

The NRMA-ACT Road Safety Trust commissioned Dr Regan and MUARC research assistant Ms Eve Mitsopoulos to undertake the study, believed to be unique. It involved a literature review, an analysis of ACT crash data, a telephone survey and focus groups, Dr Regan said.

"Passengers were found to play a variety of roles affecting driver behaviour, such as deterring or encouraging risky driving by saying something or simply by being in the car. They could warn of approaching hazards or keep the driver awake through conversation, or assist the driver by navigating a road or adjusting the radio and other dials," Ms Mitsopoulos said that from the driver's perspective, the extent to which particular role types were played was determined by passenger age, driver-passenger relationship, and the driver's sex in relation to the passenger's.

However, from the passenger's perspective, the extent to which particular role types were played was determined by driver age only.

"This is important - it suggests passengers are unaware that they affect drivers in the ways drivers perceive that they do," she said.

Ms Mitsopoulos said it was also found that young drivers who carry their peers as passengers are a group particularly at risk from their negative influences, especially if both the driver and passengers are male.

"This is partly because of increased risk-taking in response to peer pressure. However, young males and females drive more safely if older adults, parents or children are in the car because of an increased sense of responsibility," she said.

The study recommended the ACT develop countermeasures, including a media campaign to encourage awareness of the positive and negative effects of passengers, education and driver training, passenger restrictions for newly licensed drivers and strict enforcement of these restrictions - for example, probationary drivers could incur double demerits for traffic offences committed while carrying passengers.

Sexism alive and well in bank management: research

By Sandra Bucovaz

Sexual discrimination against women is alive and well within the Australian banking industry, according to a Monash University study.

And in the few cases where women make the necessary sacrifices and achieve senior status, further advancements are hindered by an increasing number of obstacles beyond their control, the study found.

Faculty of Business and Economics researcher Ms Isabel Metz recently completed her doctorate on why so few women reach top positions in banks.

She said that while women dominated the banking workforce in Australia, they accounted for less than a quarter of the middle managers and less than six per cent of the senior managers.

Her research revealed that despite the Affirmative Action Act of 1986, gender discrimination was one of the main barriers to women's managerial advancement in banks.

And at middle to senior levels, women appear to come up against other barriers beyond their control in terms of role-dominated networks and lack of mentoring and encouragement, she said.

Ms Metz has called upon the Federal Government and banking organisations to investigate how these obstacles can be removed to stop the drain of female talent.

She noted that family responsibilities were cited as an obstacle to career achievement more often by women at supervisory level than at middle level, and at middle to senior levels, women had to follow the traditional male model of work.

Ms Metz's research showed that women had to follow the traditional male model of work.

She said the number of years of continuous work experience, training and development, work hours and switching between companies to continue work experience, training and development, was Ms Metz's own experiences prompted her to research the area "to find out what was going on".

"If I had known then a third of what I know today, it would have given me the strength to persevere," Ms Metz said.

The research covered the four major banks - Commonwealth, ANZ, Westpac and the National Australia Bank, as well as six smaller competitors, with only two of the banks agreeing to distribute the questionnaires officially.