Huge funding boost for vital research projects

By MELANIE GARDNER

Monash University has received a massive funding boost for vital research projects.

The Federal Government has allocated nearly $30 million to programs that Monash is undertaking with other research institutes and commercial organisations, while the Wellcome Trust last month announced a $5 million donation for biomedical research.

The Monash programs were three of only 15 projects to be granted funding through the government's $250 million Major National Research Facilities (MNRF) program.

The Federal Minister for Industry, Science and Resources, Senator Nick Minchin, said the funding would help provide Australia with the scientific infrastructure to build leading-edge research facilities.

The three successful Monash programs are:

The National Centre for Advanced Cell Engineering ($2.5 million). Based at Monash, the facility will supply academic and commercial research centres, nationally and internationally, with human stem cells for use in research.

The centre involves researchers from the Monash Institute of Reproduction and Development and the university's Science and Biotech-facilities, a cell biology group at Adelaide University, and two linked commercial organisations, BrestGen Ltd and ES Cell International.

The National Neuroscience Facility, a consortium venture with Monash University a key stakeholder ($18 million). Arising from the success of the Neuroscience Institute of Victoria, of which Monash University is a founding member, the National Neuroscience Facility will become the preferred location for discovery and clinical product development by leading pharmaceutical companies. This globally competitive national neuroscience centre will be achieved through co-location of platform technologies and scientific/technical expertise at Clayton (Monash University) and Parkville (Melbourne University).

The Australian Computational Earth Systems Simulator (ACCESS): research institute modelled on the successful Australian Partnership for Advanced Computing. This initiative is a 10-year project, and a key part of ACCESS will be to develop a child's independent interaction with the computer from an early age.

The NIH will soon publish its official Human Embryonic Cell Registry, a list of those institutions through which interested researchers may apply to gain access to US public funds of $400 million, recently announced by US President George W. Bush.

Professor Malcolm Horne, of the Centre for Neurosciences at Monash, said the National Neuroscience Facility funding would provide research for the discovery and development of potential therapies or drugs to treat neurological and psychiatric diseases, including schizophrenia and brain damage from trauma and stroke.

"This new funding will make the facility the hub of expertise for the Asia Pacific region and will be competitive on a world scale," he said.

Associate Professor William Hart, CEO of Neurosciences Victoria, said that in supporting the Neurosciences Victoria model and using it to create the

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News

Playground designers need to go back to school

Research has found that asphalt grounds and regimented play equipment are restricting children's development.

Untapped India a 'sleeping giant'

Forthcoming report says Australian businesses are ignoring the huge untapped market in India at their peril.

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Making babies

The story behind the headlines of the controversial research which showed that eggs can be fertilised with caffeine from other parts of the body.

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Corporate killers

A new book examines the proposed industrial manslaughter legislation.

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It doesn't make census

By JUNE YU

The just-completed Australian census below replacement level, birth rates and infrastructure and social policy, Dr Birrell said the census would not show how many children were in the household - but this gave an incomplete picture as some children might no longer live at home.

"We need all the information we can get about the social factors shaping high and low fertility rates in women, and the absence of this question impacts on this research," he said.

"For example, we can't make comparisons between the birth rates of women with higher degrees and those without tertiary education." Dr Birrell said the question about parental place of birth had been replaced by the less specific question on ancestry, which was last used in the 1986 census.

A genetic revolution

By MARY VISCOVICH

John Monash was the duke of Scotch College 110 years ago and became the namesake for the university, but the school and its 学院 don't end there.

In a dual celebration of the 150th anniversary of the founding of Scotch College and Monash University's 10th year, renowned scientist Sir Gustav Nossal AC, CBE will deliver the annual Sir John Monash lecture on 11 September.

The lecture, titled 'The impact of the genetic revolution on Australian biotechnology', will discuss how world scientists continue to make staggering progress in the battle against cancers and infectious diseases.

"Guests will also hear how Australian scientists continue to fight above their weight in their contribution to this field," Professor Robinson said.

Sir Gustav's entertaining and informative style guarantees an interesting evening for science and medical students, academics, community groups and those with an interest in the subject.

The lecture, which is held at the Robert Blackwood Concert Hall, will commence at 7.30 pm (refreshments from 7 pm). Admission is free.

A new innings for Monash

By ALLISON HARDING

Cricket players for Monash University will have a direct path into the Australian Test side following the merger of the university's club with Victorian Premier side Hawthorn-Waverley.

Monash last month announced the merger of its team with Victorian Premier Cricket club Hawthorn-Waverley. The new cricket club is named the Hawthorn-Monash University Cricket Club.

The Australian side draws cricketers from state teams, which select players from Premier Cricket teams.

Members of the newly formed club will have access to educational programs and a range of high-quality sporting facilities, while the merger provides the university with a stronger focus on cricket and a greater opportunity to be engaged in cricket and research expertise into the sporting arena.

"The merger and formation of the Hawthorn-Monash University Cricket Club highlights Monash's ongoing commitment in being actively engaged in the communities surrounding its campuses," Professor Robinson said.

"The merger provides further opportunities for students who play cricket and who have decided to study at Monash."

"The merger will create enormous opportunities for cricket in this growth area of Melbourne - we're excited by the initiative shown by Hawthorn-Waverley and Monash University and we congratulate them on forming what should be an extremely successful venture."
Migrant women face job barriers: study

By KAY ANSELL

Research is showing that for migrant women as well as white and non-white women, who aspired to higher job status were at increased risk of unemployment. The study covered career paths of women aged 25 to 50 who were employed in managerial positions. The respondents were from a wide range of industries, including education, health care, and manufacturing. Statistical analysis of the results found that certain variables, such as age, education, and English proficiency, were significant predictors of job status. Overall, first-generation migrants were more likely to be in lower job status than second-generation migrants.

Dr Charmine Hartel, associate professor of human resource management, suggests that the data raises questions about Australia's national identity, suggesting that the Aussie ethos of a 'fair go' doesn't always apply if employers identify you as an outsider. Among the study's findings was that statistical analysis of the results to training was often based on job status, after adjusting for variables such as age, English proficiency, and organizational skills and education. The study suggests removing links between tenure and training. Organisations need to monitor their recruitment and promotion procedures, she says, to ensure irrelevant factors are not barring migrants from management roles.

Top story

Professor David de Kretser, director of Monash University's Institute of Reproduction and Development, has been awarded Victoria's Father of the Year. Professor de Kretser has been recognized for his work in fertility and infant care, in particular for his role in the development of the Monash University's Institute of Reproduction and Development. His work has helped many men become fathers over the years, said infertile couples faced heavy community pressures to have babies and that men in particular deserved support and understanding.

Discrimination: Migrant women can face career barriers. Picture: IMAGEBANK

BRIEFS

Good sports!

Monash University students achieved a magnificent sporting victory by winning the Southern University Games, held in Bendigo in July. An exciting finale saw Monash sports teams overcome close rivals, for University of Melbourne.

Around 1800 athletes from 15 universities across Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia took part in the games, which serve as a feeder to the Australian University Games that will be staged in Sydney during September.

Holidays

Monash's Family and Child Care Service is running a vacation care program in Perth for the upcoming school holidays. The program, which runs from 24 September to 5 October, is open to staff, students and the public. It offers a safe, friendly and innovative program for children aged from five to 25 years, and is designed to provide a range of activities, both recreational and educational.

Smokers’ babies harder to rouse: new report

By BRIAN DIAMOND

The babies of smoking mothers may have a reduced ability to wake up in life-threatening situations, making them more susceptible to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). Monash University research has revealed that putting a baby to sleep on its back is the recommended position to minimize the risk of SIDS, the study showed that the babies of mothers who smoked while pregnant were harder to wake in that position and at the ages when SIDS cases tend to occur.

Dr Rosemary Horne, senior research fellow at the Department of Paediatrics, said studies had already shown the major risk factor for SIDS was placing babies on their stomachs, whereas studies in Australia and elsewhere have shown the baby's face uncovered, and parental suctioning. Parents have not been able to get their babies' sleep when the infants were placed on their stomachs to sleep, Dr Horne said. "Although SIDS is not the most important risk factor for SIDS, it is important to consider the risks," he said.

"If a baby did get itself into such a situation, the amount of oxygen it had available to breathe would go down. Theoretically, the baby should arouse from sleep and avoid the dangerous situation," she said. The message from the study is quite clear: infant smoking has long-term effects on the arousalability of sleep from an infant. A new study was published in the joint study by Monash's Department of Paediatrics and Research Centre for Baby Health and Research and the Women's and Children's Health Care Network. It was supported by SIDS Australia and SIDSact.

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Untapped India a ‘sleeping giant’: Monash Asia Institute

BY MELANIE GARDNER

Australian businesses are ignoring a huge untapped market in India at their peril, warns the interim director of the Monash Asia Institute.

Assoc Prof Marika Vicziany, a specialist in Indian affairs, said it was crucial for Australian businesses to make the most of the emerging opportunities.

Dr Vicziany has just completed a chapter in a major report commissioned by the East Asia Analytical Unit and European firms, are less inclined to develop strategic partnerships with Indian firms. As a result, they are missing out on the development of commercial opportunities in third markets.

In her report, Dr Vicziany analyses the Indian economy and to summarise the current situation, a decade after the start of economic reforms. All sectors of the economy have been examined, including agriculture, industry and information technology.

The final report, to be launched later this year, will be an invaluable reference resource for Australian companies considering expanding into this part of the world.

In her report, Dr Vicziany analyses the international contribution of India’s emerging IT industry and argues for the speedy development of a bilateral relationship between Australia and India in order to reap mutual rewards.

India is still the sleeping giant of Asia – and Australian companies need to take advantage of this,” Professor Vicziany said.

“Most people are unaware that India has a thriving IT industry, particularly in the area of customised software. This sector has grown up in the last 40 years with an annual compound growth rate of more than 20 per cent. India is now a global player in the IT software and services sector, and dominates particular services such as those supplied by call and transcription centres.

“Australian companies, unlike US and European firms, are less inclined to develop strategic partnerships with Indian firms. As a result, they are missing out on the development of commercial opportunities in third markets, such as those in Africa – Indo-Australian IT collaboration could expand mutually important markets such as these,” Dr Vicziany said.

Dr Vicziany said that despite the enormous poverty and illiteracy among India’s 1.2 billion people, there are many highly educated people working in the IT sector.

“This has created a technological enclave in India; high levels of IT excellence remain immersed in a sea of mass deprivation,” she said.

However, Indian IT companies are now also looking at the rural poor and the future mass market for the IT industry, and this has compelled Indian IT firms to search for IT solutions to mass poverty. Again, this represents a big opportunity for Indo-Australian collaboration, provided Australian IT firms are willing to take a longer-term perspective of the business opportunity that India represents.

The EAAU’s primary brief is to research East Asia economies. While this does not typically include India, lobbying by Australian academic and business interests prompted producing its first report on the Indian economy in 1994.

“One sign of the changing times is the sudden appearance of Indian IT firms in Australia and the development by some Australian IT companies of an offshore presence in India. The bilateral relationship remains small in volume terms, but the potential is enormous.”

The Monash Asia Institute was established in 1988 to study Asian economics, politics and languages and represents the expertise of the university’s 10 faculties. It incorporates a number of research centres, including the National Centre for South Asian Studies and the East Asia Analytical Unit.

The institute also has one of the largest databases on Asian expertise in the world, and explores the possibilities of information technology and the environment, re-trained five professionals in computing and in fostering a commitment to innovative, progressive and challenging teaching methods.

“Only genuinely committed teachers can inspire and challenge young people for life in tomorrow’s world,” she said.

Monash University, which was incorporated in 1958, has produced its first report on the Indian economy, producing its first report on the Indian economy.

Open days across the world

Schools

Experience Monash Peninsula

A one-day school holiday program for Year 10 students is being held at Monash’s Peninsula campus on Thursday 27 September.

The program will include hands-on activities in the courses available at the campus, including arts, business and economics, education, information technology and nursing.

Library activities and tours by current students will provide a general introduction to university life, Lunch will be included. For more information, contact Ms Julie Ryan on 613 9904 4015.

‘Women are IT’ Careers Expo at Clayton campus

IT careers offer exciting opportunities, the chance to work anywhere in the world, scope for creativity, and the chance to shape the future. The expo shows how IT is used in fashion, law, design, video production, medical applications and many other fields. Use this opportunity to get girls excited about IT and open their minds to the possibilities of information technology.

The Careers Expo will be held at Monash University, Clayton campus on Monday 24, Tuesday 25, Wednesday 26 and Thursday 27 October from 9.30 am to 2.30 pm.

For a registration form and details of the program and speakers, visit www.girlsgotjobs.org.

Teacher of the year

BY MELANIE GARDNER

They say you never forget a good teacher – so Ms Kerry Howard’s pupils should remember her for a lifetime.

Ms Howard, from Ballarat Secondary College, was named Secondary School Teacher of the Year at the Monash University/ Herald Sun Teacher of the Year Awards held in Melbourne last month.

Ms Howard, who spent 28 years teaching psychology and society and the environment, retired five years ago and now teaches IT, encouraging students and teachers to work on internet-based projects.

“I work with a fantastic group of people. Teachers are doing what they love and this award is something which recognises that what we do is significant,” she said.

Jointly sponsored by Monash and the Herald Sun, the awards recognise and reward outstanding teachers for their skill and commitment and acknowledge innovative, student-focused teaching methods, as well as teachers who help raise educational standards in an international level.

Monash deputy vice-chancellor (Academic and Planning) Professor Alan Lindsay said the university was proud to play a part in cultivating excellence in the teaching profession and in fostering a commitment to innovative, progressive and challenging teaching methods.

“Only genuinely committed teachers can inspire and challenge young people for life in tomorrow’s world,” she said.

Monash University, which was instrumental in establishing the VTAC Guide amendmends

The VTAC closing date for undergraduate applications is fast approaching. Prospective students and teachers should be aware of the following amendments to the VTAC Guide.

Arts/Computer Science

The Mathematical Methods prerequisite was omitted. Prerequisites should read: Units 3 and 4 – a study score of at least 25 in English (any) and a study score of at least 10 in Mathematical Methods and a study score of at least 20 in any two other VCE studies.

Arts/Information Management and Information Technology

A mathematics prerequisite was listed, which is not required. Prerequisites should read: Units 3 and 4 – a study score of at least 25 in English (any) and a study score of at least 20 in any other three VCE studies.

About 40,000 prospective students and their families flooded into Monash University’s six Victorian campuses for Open Day, held over the weekend of 4 and 5 August.

The event was judged an overwhelming success, with an enormous turn-out of parents and students, including information sessions, displays and demonstrations.

Students were able to test drive a racing car, watch the medical response to a simulated heart failure in the emergency room, use interactive animation and 3D computer programs, and see drama students rehearsing a new production.

Monash University’s gates in Roopeort, South Africa were also opened for the campus’s second Open Day.

Staff from Student Services welcomed prospective students, and current students led tours around the campus.

The South Africa campus, 20 km northwest of Johannesburg, is registered as a private higher education institution by the South African Department of Education. Monash South Africa offers undergraduate courses in arts, business and commerce, and information technology.

Above: Student Ms Nadine Fick does a health check at Peninsula’s Open Day. Picture: MAURICE GRANT-DREW

Left: Monash South Africa students ready to welcome visitors to their campus.

Ms Kerry Howard, awards eight years ago, is at the forefront of teacher education.

About 400 people attended the awards ceremony, which was held at Melbourne’s Park Hyatt Hotel. Seven awards, decided from more than 100 nominations, were presented. The other award winners were:

Primary Teacher of the Year – Bev Kane, Churchill Primary School

Primary Teacher of the Year (Team) – Yowarra Primary School, Victoria

Novice Teacher of the Year (Primary) – Kim Beattie, Ferntree Gully North Primary School

Novice Teacher of the Year (Secondary) – Rose Lee, Gippsland Secondary College

Graduate Teacher of the Year (Primary) – Melanie Lemmon, Albert Park Primary School

Graduate Teacher of the Year (Secondary) – Michelle Batterby, Horseshoe College.
At what stage is the research?

The research is in its very early stages. At the moment, it has only been achieved in the laboratory. In order to identify whether those embryos are genetically normal and will lead to a healthy pup, we really need to transfer them to surrogate mothers.

There is still a very long way to go before these studies on the genetic normality of these embryos are undertaken, and then we will have to see if they will implant and develop into healthy pups. Only once all these factors have been investigated can we say if it can be used in humans.

Ethical questions have been raised about the research.

What are your views?

Questions were fired at me, many suggesting the findings meant men were no longer required. But in my view, men are very much needed. The procedure, if it is ever used in humans, is invasive and I do not think that women will undergo 'egg pick-up' just to have a baby without a man. It is still easier and safer to have a child the old way.

Others suggested the research meant two gay women would be able to have their own biological children. This is theoretically possible and personally I would not discriminate against it - rather, it is something that should be governed by the ethical and legal regulations of any country that has IVF clinics.

The research sparked concerns that a woman could conceive using her own cells in what amounts to a form of cloning.

What do you think?

Revelations about the technique prompted questions about its similarity to cloning - but they are very different.

In cloning, the embryo will be genetically identical to the individual from which we obtained the cell. But the embryos produced by our research carry the genetic material from the mother (the egg) and from the individual from which the cell was taken. Therefore, it is similar to normal fertilisation where two individuals create the embryo.

Theoretically, if the cell was taken from the same female as the egg, then we can create a clone. I think this situation will have many developmental problems, some of which we face in cloning today. For clinical purposes, I would object to such use. Self-reproduction by this method, like reproductive cloning, is against my scientific and non-scientific beliefs.
Monash student takes glass art to Australia’s heart

Glass act: Ms Kristin McFarlane with local artist Mr Susie Boop Booja and her fused glass work depicting a waterhole.

By JOHN CLARK

In late June this year, Faculty of Art and Design student Ms Kristin McFarlane flew into the community to set up and operate a glass studio, a late addition to the new Balgo Hills art and cultural centre.

Experienced in using kiln and warm-glass techniques (her own specialty is working type into glass), Ms McFarlane built all the furniture for the new studio. Crates that had once contained glass were used to make the frame for a large table. Packaging for a window frame served a movable top.

Under Ms McFarlane’s guidance and using a glass technique called fusing, the artists could now translate their work into three dimensions. Several pieces were further ‘stumped’ to form bowls.

“They wanted to emulsify in glass the way they normally work with acrylics,” Ms McFarlane said.

“I got them to sketch what they wanted, and then I’d cut a sheet of glass to about the size of an A2 sheet of paper to form a base – a canvas, so to speak – and then glue a mixture of smaller pieces of glass and rod to create their designs. These works were then fired in the kiln.”

“Touch of glass: Local artist Mr Tjumpo Tjapanangka shows off his work depicting his country, Murrawa, and its richness.”

Before long Ms McFarlane was running two or three workshops a day. “There were days when I was knocking people back,” she said.

The three-millimetre-diameter glass rods used to form the dots proved more popular, too. After a matter of days, more had to be ordered in from Sydney. They arrived, like most of the community’s supplies, by plane.

“It was a real honour to work with the artists, and I became close to them,” Ms McFarlane said. “I have absolute admiration for their ability. There is richness in their subject matter – their country offers an unlimited supply of inspiration.

“I would go out with the women collecting their country’s healing plants. I would see all a bed of roses – it was sometimes personally challenging, but I certainly took a lot of inspiration from their work.”

ARTS SCENE

Fred Williams exhibition

The Australian landscape is on show in a new exhibition at the Art and Design Faculty Gallery at Monash’s Caulfield campus.

The exhibition displays Fred Williams’ (1859-1981) great love for the Australian landscape. His brilliance for painting Australian scenes has created arguably some of the most powerful and intuitively accurate images of the country. The works in the exhibition were selected by his widow, Lyn Williams, and include 17 landscape paintings and four smaller landscapes.

The exhibition will run until 22 September. For more information, contact the gallery on + 61 3 9905 2472 or + 61 3 9905 1022.

Indigenous explorers

A provocative exhibition that aims to dispel the wider community’s stereotypical view of Indigenous Australians is on display at the Monash University Museum of Art (MUMA) on the Clayton campus.

The exhibition, which runs until 12 September, was opened by indigenous designer and director of Melbourne’s Westpac Mr Brett Jones.

“Indigenous values and identity as they represent history and assert the life-experience history, satirising its cultural myths and sanitised versions of reality. An Indigenous Events Day to launch the exhibition will be held on Wednesday 12 September. It includes an Indigenous welcome ceremony by Warrungujji elder Joy Murphy, a performance by the Koori Youth Will Shake Spears group, and educational activities for primary school groups.

Safari suite: Victorian students

‘A Safari of Sundanese Culture’ being performed at Carey Grammar in Kew. Picture: MAURICE GRANDREW

By MARIE MUSCOVEN

School students across Victoria last month enjoyed a taste of Sundanese culture, brought to Melbourne by Monash University’s School of Asian Languages and Cultures in conjunction with the Indonesian Consulate General in Melbourne.

A performance group from Parliament Hill Independent School performed ‘A Safari of Sundanese Culture’ in state and private schools across Victoria. The students not only enjoyed the cultural performances, but also gained first-hand experience in performance, puppetry and dance.

The convenor of Indonesian in the School of Asian Languages and Cultures, Mr Basuki Koenshi, who coordinated the event, said Victorian students gave the visitors an enthusiastic welcome.

‘Students were able to play with the puppets, wear the costumes and perform the dances,’ Mr Koenshi said. “This all helped bridge the gap between different cultures which are so near neighbours.”

He said the dancers also raised the cultural awareness of Indonesian language courses, particularly those at Monash.
New stroke drug minimises disability and brain damage

BY DEREK BROWN

A drug discovered at Monash University that could potentially treat stroke brain damage has now been developed by UK-based biotechnology company AMADCO Limited.

The drug, known as AM-36, could minimise brain damage and physical impairment caused by stroke, Australia's leading cause of disability. AM-36 was discovered by Monash pharmacologist Dr Jennifer Callaway, from the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, and her colleagues, Professor Belyn Jarrott, Professor Phil Beattie and Professor Roy Jackson from the Department of Chemistry in the Faculty of Science in collaboration with Melbourne-based biotechnology research and development company AMADCO Corporation Limited.

"It won't stop strokes from happening," Dr Callaway said. "But we are confident that it could stop much of the damage that occurs in the brain after a stroke - particularly if the drug is given within hours of the stroke occurring."

"At present, there is no clinically available drug that can reduce the amount of damage in stroke survivors - whether they are elderly or young," AM-36 could fill that gap and reduce the heavy and expensive burden of care placed on families and health care services," she said.

About 37,000 Australians and their families are affected by stroke each year. Stroke most often occurs when a blood vessel is torn, the brain becomes blocked. The blockage cuts off the vital supply of oxygen and nutrients to the brain, causing brain cells to die, which can lead to physical and mental problems.

"After a stroke, it is common for free radicals - products of normal cellular processes - to build up and cause brain damage, Dr Callaway explained.

"But AM-36 can be administered, ideally within six hours of a stroke, we're optimistic that it could prevent much of that build-up, and rescue brain cells from the ensuing dystopia," she said.

Trials in rats reduced stroke brain damage by over 65 per cent, and the team behind the drug could be very effective in humans, Dr Callaway is planning to take AM-36 into healthy volunteer studies within the next few months.

The research was conducted in collaboration with and financially supported by AMADCO Corporation and the National Health and Medical Research Council.

Dr Callaway made the announcement at the ScienceNOW! forum last month. ScienceNOW! is supported by the Victorian Department of State and Regional Development and the Commonwealth Department of Industry, Science and Resources.

The research was conducted in collaboration with and financially supported by AMADCO Corporation and the National Health and Medical Research Council.

Dr Callaway made the announcement at the ScienceNOW! forum last month. ScienceNOW! is supported by the Victorian Department of State and Regional Development and the Commonwealth Department of Industry, Science and Resources.

Indonesian gamelan instrument

34 years ago - 1967

Shortages in the Halls of Residence

Staff are asked to approach friends who may have spare rooms to help with an expected shortage of places in Halls of Residence by providing accommodation to students next year.

The Student Housing Office has provided guidelines outlining suitable charges and conditions for student accommodation.

Full board would be set at $13 to $14 per week, providing a student with breakfast and dinner each week, and three meals a day at weekend ends. Personal laundry and a cut lunch may or may not be provided.

Monash University now offers a wide range of student accommodation options for each of its campuses, including assistance finding accommodation off-campus. There are five Halls of Residence as well as Normanby House and the South East Plan at Clayton, Frank Yate House at Caulfield, and residential units at the Bayview, Malaysia and Peninsular campuses. Students studying at the South Africa campus are given assistance finding suitable and safe accommodation.

28 years ago - 1973

Indonesian music draws the people

After a month-long concert series, the Music Department is halfway towards paying off its $7000 Indonesian gamelan instrument.

Compiled by DEREK BROWN. Telephone: +61 3 9905 5370. Email: derek.brown@adm.monash.edu.au.
Throwing the book at corporate killers

By Mary Viscovich

A new book by Monash University academics will be invaluable in helping companies navigate new industrial manslaughter legislation.

Mr Jonathan Clough, a senior lecturer in the Faculty of Law, and former Monash student lawyer Ms Carmel Mulheren are working on The Prosecution of Corporations, to be published by Oxford University Press.

The book looks at the criminal liability of corporations, including what the new laws expected to be passed in this spring session of the Victorian Parliament.

While other governments around Australia and the world are looking closely at such legislation, Victoria will be the first to pass an industrial manslaughter statute.

If passed, the industrial manslaughter legislation would reflect public expectations that corporations be held accountable for criminal conduct causing death, Mr Clough said.

This was evident in the public reaction to Esso’s liability in the Longford Gas explosion, which killed two and injured eight, he added. Esso was recently fined $2 million over the Longford disaster but has appealed the decision.

“We will increasingly see prosecutions against corporations,” Mr Clough said. “The public clearly expects that indi­viduals should also be liable, and I think that’s important,” Mr Clough said.

While the new laws would not affect the Longford incident, he said, the successful prosecution of Esso under Occupational Health and Safety laws gave the public confidence that large, wealthy corporations could not escape prosecution.

The new laws will also mean that, for the first time, senior officers of the company directly responsible for decisions that led to a death could face jail. “This community expects that indi­viduals should also be liable, and I think that’s important,” Mr Clough said.

While he believed the new legisla­tion was by and large sound, Mr Clough said, “the proof would be in the prosecution”.

“It will be thoroughly tested because the corporations will have the resources to afford the best counsel to contest any prosecution,” he said.

* * *

Monash donates Kelly death mask

By Corey Nassau

Monash University has donated a mysteriously acquired Ned Kelly death mask to the State Library of Victoria.

Professor Graeme Davison, head of the School of Historical Studies, made the presentation last month, ending the mask’s almost 30-year stint at the Clayton campus.

“It has long been an object of curiosity in my predecessors’ office, and now in my office, we are unusual in our feeling that the State Library, with its outstanding and growing collection of ‘Kellyiana’, is the right place for it now,” Professor Davison said at the hand-over.

Research has shown that the practice of preparing death masks for convicted criminals was well established at the time of Kelly’s hanging in 1880, when phrenologists would determine character by studying the contours of the skull.

The mask is one of only five known to exist, although there could be other, unknown samples.

Professor Davison said the mask held by Monash was probably taken from the original Kreitmeyer mould, made just hours after Kelly’s death, the Kelly legend, but there are no surviving records to reveal how or from whom Professor Turner acquired the mask.

Following Professor Turner’s death, the mask was passed down from one Australian history teacher to another. “Professor Turner was one of the school’s more colourful characters. He was a popular lecturer in Australian history and a pioneer historian of popular culture,” Professor Davison said.

He was a crucial radical who identified with the bushmen and the}