Modern dressings would save millions

Pharmacy

Nursing homes could save millions of dollars a year simply by using modern wound dressings, a Monash University Victorian College of Pharmacy (VCP) study has found.

The amount of healthcare and medical facilities could cut wound management costs by almost half, slash waiting time by 75 per cent and reduce nursing time by a fifth if the latest wound management practices were used.

The School’s clinical study of 2600 beds in 16 nursing homes throughout Victoria is one of the largest studies of its kind ever underway in Australia.

VCP senior lecturer Ms Geffy Sussman said researchers identified leading outcomes of common wounds found in nursing homes including skin tears, pressure wounds and leg ulcers. By comparing results from their separate group of modern, standardized wound management practices led to faster healing, less pain and lower costs, she said.

"Across Australia there are 140,000 nursing home beds, so if we applied these cost savings it would equate to a total reduction of almost $12 million," she said. "Our results clearly show it is far cheaper to use modern wound pharmaceutical products compared to old-fashioned and traditionally cheaper items like gauze and paraffin waxes."

"We found a one-third reduction of products cost per dressing and, by following standardized procedures, nurses spent one fifth of their usual time dealing with wound care. This proves cost-effective treatment can produce significant cost savings and improve patient outcomes."

Mr Sussman said while there had been very little data on what is most cost-effective in managing wound care patients in Australian aged-care facilities. "With our aging population and the increasing demand on aged-care facilities, this study shows there are better ways to use staff and provide better care for patients."

In light of these results, Ms Sussman has recommended changes to aged-care policy and produced a protocol template for wound assessment, documentation and treatment in aged-care facilities.

The study was funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aging through the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

Joining forces to counter terrorism

Monash University and Victoria Police have joined forces to develop counter-terrorism measures that will involve community consultation.

Police chief commissioner Mr Christine Nixon said the collaboration would provide innovative solutions that would enhance police accuracy when dealing with security threats.

The project involves Dr Sarah Pickering, Dr David White-Neville, Dr Jade McCollough and Dr Peter Lamont from Monash School of Political and Social Inquiry in the Faculties of Law and Social Work, and an advisory committee that includes representatives of government, media and community organizations including the Australian Muslim Foundation.

Police statement: Dr David White-Neville discusses the initiative at the launch, while Dr Sharon Pickering and Police Commissioner Ms Christine Nixon look on.

"The teams will provide a strong research-based focus for the police to provide effective responses to terrorism, while maintaining strong relationships with the Victoria community," Dr Pickering said.

The three-year project,Counter-terrorism policing and culturally diverse communities, has received almost $300,000 in funding over three years through an Australian Research Council Linkage Grant.

"Mr Nixon expressed confidence in the project. "I have no doubt it will be a forward-thinking strategy that will create strong partnerships and community needs, and I congratulate all of those involved in the project," she said.

Spent to save: Mr Geffy Sussman says modern wound care products cost more but save overall.

Contact: geffy.sussman@monash.edu
Ph: +61 3 9903 6919

Health model a first

Economic modelling

Monash University will use a multi-million dollar government grant to help form the first sophisticated economic model of Australia's health sector.

Funding worth $3.5 million will be used over five years to build a model that will enable policy-makers to 'read-out' initiatives and plans on paper, not on patients.

Associate Professor Anthony Harris, deputy director of the Centre for Health Economics (CHE) in the Faculty of Business and Economics at Monash, predicted the model would improve efficiency and equity in a sector of the economy that costs billions of dollars a year.

Professor Harris and his team received the grant from the National Health and Medical Research Council. The CHE shares the funding with the Centre for Policy Studies (CPS) in the Monash Faculty of Business and Economics and the National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (NATSEM) at the University of Canberra.

Professor Harris said the model - the first of its kind in Australia - would help fill the apparent gap in sophisticated analysis of economics and finance in the Australian health care sector.

"We will include the component parts of the health system such as pharmaceuticals, hospitals and doctors in the community. We will bring them all together in one model, and that will be new, but also necessary. If you make a change in one sector, it creates changes in the others.

"This way, we are treating the health care system as an integrated sector and as an important part of the overall national economy. Our health sector model will become part of the suite of existing economic models provided by CPS and NATSEM. These are used by governments here and overseas to test various economic policy initiatives in other sectors of the economy.

"Our project is ambitious one, but the vision has been recognized and rewarded through this grant," he said.

The funding is part of more than $38 million in grants awarded to Monash by the National Health and Medical Research Council and the Australian Research Council last month.

See page 3. - Robyn Anns

Contact: anthony.harris@business.monash.edu.au
Ph: +61 3 9908 4417

Australie • Malaysia • South Africa • Italy • United Kingdom
www.monash.edu.au/news
From the vice-chancellor's desk

A monthly column by the vice-chancellor of Monash University
Professor Richard Larksins

As we approach the end of 2004, I would like to reflect on my first 15 months at Monash University and to highlight some of the achievements for Monash this year.

Let me start by saying that I am more convinced than ever of the potential for Monash University to become a truly great international research-led university. It has areas of excellence in research and scholarship and the critical mass to enable the development of multidisciplinary research teams which alone or in collaboration with other institutions and industry can compete at the highest international level.

We are beginning to realize that our multidisciplinary structure, while producing some administrative complexities, provides particular opportunities both for regional alliances and international links through our developing overseas campuses.

There is a general appreciation of the opportunities presented by the Australian synchrony at our Clayton campus and the likely development of science, technology and industry hub around that campus, with the STRIP development playing a central role.

Performance in the NHMRC Project Grant round was outstanding, with Monash achieving the highest ranking for success rate by far for the second consecutive year. AHE and NHMRC Project Grant outcomes were tipped out this year, with only a few possibly unconnected with our in-house CRC and Federation Fellow applications looking promising, but we will have to await further outcomes.

In teaching and learning, the outcomes of the Monash Experience Questionnaire showed to current institution-wide data for the first time what our students think of their experience. The outcomes, like those of the Course Experience Questionnaire, were satisfactory but again show there is room for improvement, and we are putting steps in place to ensure that we will complete this.

The Faculty for Advanced Collaboration in Engineering Education, a 3DF program in 3D computer design in the faculties of Art and Design and Engineering funded by an external industry consortium led by General Motors, showed the potential for external funding of education programs allied with industry. Monash joins a prestigious group of international universities as the only Australian university to be a part of the 3DFE program.

There have been many awards to staff and students, and in a little time to describe some of these but not all.

The Vice-Chancellor’s Science Prize in Life Science Award to Dr Jamie Ronkola from the Department of Biochemistry is particularly significant.

Hugh Evans, a law science student, was named as the young Australian of the Year at the Australia Day awards and recently was named as one of 13 outstanding young people of the world for his work in establishing the Oxfam Foundation, a philanthropic organization entirely by young people adding community development, especially in Africa.

Purna Sah, a medical student, has been named as the Victorian Rhodes Scholar for 2004, the fourth year in a row that a Monash student has received this award.

We have wonderful and committed staff who are proud to work at Monash University. Our student body is diverse and talented and will be the future leaders of communities around the globe.

We are greatly privileged to have been a part of this great institution and look forward to making a contribution to strengthening its profile and the world.

I thank all the staff for their hard work and support and congratulate the students on your achievements.

I wish you all a happy and peaceful holiday season and a wonderful year ahead.

—Richard Larksins

A 2004 Outstanding Young Person of the World: Mr Hugh Evans in South Africa.

A global award for Hugh Evans

Young Australian of the Year and Monash student Mr Hugh Evans has received a prestigious international award for his humanitarin and volunteer leadership.

The Lawrence student was one of 12 Outstanding Young Persons of the World for 2004 as an awards ceremony in Japan on 26 November.

The award is sponsored annually by the Junior Chambers International world-wide federation of young leaders and entrepreneurs.

Mr Evans described his award as a great encouragement to all volunteers, especially youth. It will give us the opportunity to take our message across the world — a message that young people can make a difference in the lives of others around the world.

In January this year, Mr Evans was named Young Australian of the Year after he successfully founded Australia’s first entirely youth-run aid and development organisation, the Oxfam Federation.

He formed the organisation in 2001 after spending the previous year working at an AIDS orphanage in South Africa.

He has recently released a book, A Journey of the Mountain, which recounts those experiences. The proceeds were taken from a Zulu hymn.

Web link: www.theaustralian.org

—Robin Ann

Educational psychologist heads two centres

A leading educational psychologist is the new director of one of Monash University’s two prominent Faculty of Education research centres.

Professor Dennis Moore, who holds a chair in educational psychology at Monash, now heads the University’s Knorgold Centre for Exceptional Children and the Elwyn Mooney Child Study Centre in the Education faculty at the Clayton campus.

He took up the new positions on 1 November; the centres’ previous director, Associate Professor David Harvey, will retire at the end of the year.

After training in his native New Zealand; Professor Moore taught at the University of PNG from 1979 until 1985 — the final two years in the Education faculty.

From there he moved to the University of Auckland in associate professor in the Department of Education. He was also director of the university’s training program for educational psychology and was involved in a three-university collaborative project.

From there he moved to the University of Sydney and associate professor in the Department of Education. He was also director of the university’s training program for educational psychology and was involved in a three-university collaborative project.

"Throughout my career I have been a practitioner, researcher and teacher in education psychology, particularly in special education," he said. "During the last seven years, I have been increasingly involved in research and support of inclusive education, and have worked on strategies to help teachers face the diverse student population we face in the education system today.

For instance, a large number of non-English-speaking students have arrived in schools in Australia and New Zealand in recent years, and that presents an interesting challenge to those education systems," Professor Moore said.

He noted that his current focus was on helping children who have pervasive developmental disorders or disabilities — particularly helping children with autism — and assisting their parents.

"I am also interested in the work of the Elwyn Mooney Centre because I have a particular interest in working with children who have pervasive developmental disorders or disabilities — particularly helping children with autism — and assisting their parents," Professor Moore said.

"I have been involved in a number of research projects over the past eight years concerned with teaching autistic children and have recently completed an evaluation of a UK-based support program for parents of children with autism."

—Robin Ann

Professor Dennis Moore.

Contact: dennis.moore@education.monash.edu.au
Ph: +61 3 9905 0706

Bayview Conference Centre

10 minutes walk from Monash Clayton campus
Visit our website: www.bayviewconferencecentre.com

Bayview facilities include:
20 Meeting rooms for up to 200 people
Lecture theatre with 900 break-out rooms
Bayview employed Chef and Kitchen staff
Accommodation available

Bayview contact:
Tel: 9544 5903 Fax: 9544 5903
Email: enquire@bcrs.com.au
www.bayviewconferencecentre.com

Crash barriers for risky roads

Accident research

Victoria’s road toll could be dramatically reduced through the continued installation of flexible modular barriers on high-risk sections of Monash University research.

A new Monash University Accident Research Centre (MUARC) report reveals nearly four out of every 10 road deaths are the result of collisions with fixed road obstructions.

"Fatal and serious injuries from collisions with fixed road obstructions are the single largest component of road trauma in Victoria," MUARC senior researcher, Mr Bruce Corben, said.

MUARC crunched seven years of Victorian traffic stop signs in kilometres length, where 425 road deaths took place. Fifty roadside road barrier and vehicle collisions claims were found.

Mr Corben scrutinised seven reasons to Victorian traffic stop sign crashes, two in every four years, 250 in every five years. Nine per cent of fatal and serious injuries from collisions with fixed road obstructions are the result of collisions with fixed road obstructions.

"Roadside road bar segments that are set at an angle to the traffic flow to reduce road traffic accidents are one of the most important road safety strategies in our cities," Mr Corben said.

"Crash barriers for risky roads could be dramatically reduced through the continued installation of flexible modular barriers on high-risk sections of Monash University research.

"It is the responsibility of all of us to work together to reduce the rate of road crashes and road deaths, and make our roads safer."

—Allison Harding

Contact: allison.harding@monash.edu.au
Ph: +61 3 9905 4375

News

Monash News, December 2004
**Asthma plans need (the same) perspective**

**Medical research**

Treatment plans for asthma sufferers could be complicated because the patients and their doctors may have a different understanding of the term "asthma attack," a Monash University study has found.

In the study, a multidisciplinary team of researchers, led by the Clinical Research Centre for Asthma, interviewed 62 men and women who had sought advice for asthma in Australian emergency departments over a one-year period.

Dr Rosaline Atcheson, the team's health sociologist from the Monash Institute of Health Services Research, said optimal clinical care relied on clinicians and patients knowing they were talking about the same thing. "In our study, we set out to explore the experiences and perceptions of people living with asthma," she said. "We learned that many people had differing ideas of what constituted an asthma attack."

A key finding was that interviewees defined asthma as "an acute 'event'" depending on the degree of personal control they were able to exercise at the time of an episide.

Dr Amos said the issue was crucial because major epidemiological asthma studies nearly always pose the question: how many studies of asthma have you had in the past 12 months? "These epidemiological studies of chronic disease influence national and international public health planning and investments, so we need to ensure we are using the correct terminology," she said. "If we don't know what a person means when they use the term 'asthma attack,' we might have different people with asthma having difficulty producing an effective asthma action plan in partnership.

A small study, published in the latest Journal of Asthma, grew out of this research.

Under a cloud: coastal town's tax-funded spending on infrastructure.

As part of a study into the role of second homes in domestic tourism, Dr Frost looked at the 70 to 200 kilometre belt of towns, containing approximately 15,000 holiday homes, stretching along the coast on either side of Melbourne. His findings were detailed in a chapter written by him for the book *Second Homes in South-Eastern Australia.*

Dr Frost said many "second home" towns were poorly served because they catered for seasonal population peaks. But he said this situation would soon change, as more retirees said their suburban family homes to settle in their second homes. "The nature of Melbourne's road-house belt, and the recharge movement of retirees, could produce a red differenta for government services, he said. Dr Frost highlighted Venus Bay, a small town about 170 kilometres south-east of Melbourne, as an example. "In the 1990s, the towns resident population was listed as 385, with 978 private homes, 795 of which were unoccupied in mid-storm. There were also 2000 vehicle blocks noted for residential development," he said. "Venus Bay had four rural retail agents and two restaurants but no post office, public office, bank, school, doctor, water supply, sewage system or rubbish collection service.

"But at the town grows and experiences demographic change, there will be greater demand for local government services. At that stage, population pressure will force the local government to introduce a town sewerage system to replace the existing septic tanks," he said. "And as the resident population contains mainly of retirees, and some can be expected to move to Venus Bay, there is likely to be a strong future demand for local government services." Also, the property boom, which has seen property prices double across the board in two years, may also have changed expectations of what services should be available in the town. The question is who will pay for increased services and will the funding be generated through increased rates and taxes?" - Robyn Arnott

Contact: warwick.frost@monash.edu.au Ph: +61 3 9905 7402

---

**Monash research wins $38 million in grants**

Monash University researchers have received more than $38 million in grants, awarded by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and the Australian Research Council (ARC) in November.

The funding includes $4.5 million in ARC Discovery Projects (DP) grants, $15.9 million in ARC Discovery Project Grants and $5.3 million in NHMRC Health Services Research Grants.

Twenty-nine Monash projects received $14.7 million in funding as part of the $22.1 million provided by the NHMRC to researchers across Australia to boost research into major health problems including cancer and heart disease.

Projects receiving funding under the NHMRC grants scheme this year include a project on fatigue, attraction and sleep disturbance after traumatic brain injury; an investigation into the factors that impede blood clot formation; risk prediction in coronary heart disease; and developing a common outcome measure for pressure sores in health.

In addition to the project grants, Associate Professor Anthony Harris, deputy director of the Centre for Health Economics in the Faculty of Business and Economics, and his team received a $3.5 million Health Services Research Grant for its project modelling the economics of the Australian health care system for policy analysis.

The project is a collaboration between the Centre for Health Economics and the Centre for Health Services and Outcomes Research into the economics of health as an industry, as well as the impact of health on the national economy.

Of the $801 million awarded nationally by the ARC, Monash received $15.9 million in Discovery Project Grants for 69 projects and $4.5 million in Linkage Project Grants for 17 projects.

The funding is a $1.5 million increase on ARC grants received at the same time last year.

Funding was received for a diverse range of projects including a project intended to develop new core-efficent tools for use in exploration of buried mineral deposits; a study into fun behaviour and movement in basketball; and improved procedures for the automatic inspection and classification of fruit.

Monash deputy vice-chancellor (research) Professor Ian O'Connor congratulated all grant recipients.

"The scope of projects receiving funding this year emphasises the diverse range of areas Monash staff are working in," he said. "All staff should be very proud of this success."

- Diane Squire

---

**Light on diabetes**

**Pharmacy**

A Monash University researcher has moved one step closer to finding drugs that successfully treat the complications of Type 1 and 2 diabetes such as kidney disease, eye damage or heart problems.

Dr El-Kabashi, from the Victorian College of Pharmacy has identified two specific enzymes of lead reduction, a human enzyme implicated in those conditions.

Then, by using a synthesizer in Switzerland, Dr El-Kabashi has produced detailed images of the enzyme mixing with two experimental diabetes medications.

"This research has allowed us to take the enzyme from a test tube environment to mimic how drugs work in the body," he said. "The work on the enzymes will enable researchers to refine and improve drugs used to treat complications associated with diabetes."

Dr El-Kabashi said he planned further research at the Australian Synchrotron at Monash, when it is completed in 2007. He said results from the successful Swiss experiment would benefit diabetes around the world, including one million Australians.

The research, part of an international collaboration involving universities and drug companies in Germany, France, Japan, Switzerland and the US, has recently been reported in the journal *Peptides.*

Contact: orossia@kabashi.vicp.monash.edu.au Ph: +61 3 9905 9691

---

**Monash to enhance online news and information**

As of January 2005, the Monash University Media Communications Unit will strengthen its web-based news and information service.

The aim is to provide a central, online source for all Monash news and information – for staff, students, the media and the public – and to make that content the portal for the best up-to-date news available in Australia. This improved online resource, which is compatible with the university's open access policy on saving paper, also aims to better meet the needs of a multi-campus organisation with bases in various countries.

By focusing more on online communications, the unit will be able to:
- provide better, more convenient and more timely communications for major internal and external stakeholders;
- maximise media exposure for Monash research and educational efforts; and
- take advantage of the fact that, more than ever, journalists are using the web as a news source.

A redesigned news site will provide the latest Monash news and research stories, university announcements, media releases, access to the Monash experts database, an archiving service of media mentions and a range of interactive features. The site will be updated daily.

After June this year, the Monash News will be no longer be printed. Monash Alumni will not be affected by the changes and will continue to be emailed to all staff on Wednesdays.
BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

Business school – newest, biggest, best

Monash University has met the increasing demand for postgraduate business training by opening Australia's newest and largest business school.

The school, which opened in October, was formed through a restructuring and re-packaging of the university's suite of existing research and graduate degrees, including the MBA.

Nobel Laureate joins Economics department

Professor Kenneth J. Arrow of Stanford University in the US joined the Department of Economics as an honorary professor. In 1972, Professor Arrow and Sir John R. Hicks shared the Bank of Sweden Prize in Economic Sciences, awarded in memory of Alfred Nobel, for their contributions to general economic equilibrium theory and welfare theory.

Department head Professor Tony Dingle said Professor Arrow had paved the way for generations of academics and students in the economic sciences, particularly general equilibrium and social choice theories. He is also credited with major works in the areas of growth theory and decision theory.

CHEMISTRY

Medal for top researcher

Professor Alan Bond was awarded the prestigious Craig Medal by the Australian Academy of Science in May for his outstanding work in chemical research.

The Craig Medal is an annual award that recognises high-level contributions by active researchers.

Professor Bond, who came to Monash in 1995 as chair of chemistry, was this year appointed the R.L. Martin Distinguished Professor of Chemistry.

He is a world leader in building state-of-the-art instrumentation that can be used in environmental, industrial and research settings. The instrumentation underpins a number of current research projects funded by the Australian Research Council.

Professor Bond is involved in collaborative projects with many Australians and overseas universities.

ART AND DESIGN

Monash joins international collaboration with PACE

Monash became the first university in Australia to join forces with Parners for the Advancement of Collaborative Engineering Education (PACE).

The $16 million alliance involves the university's Engineering and Art and Design faculties, which will gain access to leading software and hardware for 3D solid modelling, 3D plant layout, computer-aided engineering/simulation, computer-aided manufacturing, product data management, digital collaboration and digital styling.

PACE is a cooperative alliance since 1999 between General Motors, EDI, San Microsystems and UGS – has contributed software, hardware, training and technical support to schools such as Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Michigan State, Northwestern and Virginia Tech, as well as institutions in Canada, China, Germany, Mexico and Sweden.

Premier's Award for arts academic

Associate Professor Bain Atwood from Monash School of Historical Studies was awarded a $75,000 prize in The New South Wales Premier's History Awards for his book Rights for Aborigines, published last year.

The book details a century-long struggle for rights for Aborigines in Australia and tracks the ever-changing perceptions of race and history.

Publisher Allen & Unwin says the book broke new ground in documenting the slow relationship that has developed between Indigenous political leaders, white activists and humanitarians on both sides in the struggle against racial discrimination.

Electronic education for Chile

Monash University education senior lecturer Dr Geoff Romano this year conducted a series of lectures and workshops in Chile to demonstrate the benefits of information and communication technologies in schools.

At universities in Santiago and Concepcion, he demonstrated best-practice use of computers, the internet, intranets and other electronic and digital communication technologies in schools.

PM award for young scientist

Monash researcher Dr Jamie Ruseh joins the head of the university's Protein Crystallography Unit, received the Science Minister's Prize for Life Scientist of the Year award for his contribution to science.

Presented to a scientist of 35 years or younger, the
awarded to his work in the fields of structural biology and in X-ray crystallography. He is one of Australia’s leading scientists and has more than 50 publications and several patents to his name.

2005 Rhodes Scholar
Final-year medicine student Ms Fanzy Sabet became the fourth successive Monash student to be awarded the prestigious Victorian Rhodes Scholarship. The 2005 Victorian Rhodes Scholar plans to take up her scholarship at Oxford University in 2006, where she will undertake a master’s degree in development studies.

The 24-year-old had been awarded the prize every year in her three years at Monash, and the Vice-Chancellor’s Prize every year in her three years at Monash, and the VeE Premier’s Awards in English and Chemistry in 1997. Previous Monash Rhodes Scholars include Mr Lucas Bluff (2004), Ms Geraldine Buckhaim (2003) and Mr Nathan Grilli (2002).

2004 News Roundup

PHARMACY
Malaria breakthrough
A new synthetic drug nicknamed Cu, developed by an international team, including researchers from Monash University, has been described as the biggest breakthrough of our generation in malaria treatment.

Professor Bill Charman from the Victorian College of Pharmacy said the drug was so powerful that it was the major weapon in the fight against malaria and could be available within three years. “Being cheap and easy to manufacture, it will be available to even the poorest nations, giving it the potential to save millions of lives,” he said.

The project is an international effort by researchers from Monash University, the University of Nebraska, the Swiss Tropical Institute and Hoffmann-La Roche, who have been working on the project since the late 1990s.

The $13m spray-on drug deal
A company called researchers in Monash’s Faculty of Pharmacy invented a method for delivering drugs through the skin that secured a multi-million dollar deal to develop its drug delivery system to treat female sexual dysfunctions and menopause.

Arroz Pty Ltd secured the US$13.3 million deal with Vivo Lix, a world leader in the research, development and commercialisation of products to restore sexual function.

Arroz Means Door Transdermal Spray technology was developed after Dr Bartle Frimat and Professor Barry Reed in the Department of Pharmacology discovered that certain compounds could penetrate the skin’s layers through the skin. Arroz was established in 1998 as that the transdermal spray technology could be licensed from Monash University. “The technology is the next generation of drug delivery,” said Dr Frimat.

MATERIALS ENGINEERING
New cancer weapon
Ms Kathryn Spurr, a PhD student in Monash’s School of Physics and Materials Engineering, is manufacturing microwaves — tiny beams no bigger than a speck of dust that could become the new weapon in the fight against liver cancer. Thousands of radioactive and magnetic nanoparticles are injected into the hepatic artery, the main blood supply for the liver.

They are picked up by the blood flow and eventually lodge in the malignant cells of the liver tumours. A magnetic field is then applied to the body to heat the magnetic nanoparticles, which works to damage the cancer cells. The procedure, so far tried in association with researchers from the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and the Austin Hospital, could replace the need for surgery.

MUARC
Middle East road safety push
Monash University Accident Research Centre (MUARC) signed a memorandum of understanding with the United Arab Emirates University in March following regular visits by the centre’s researchers over several years.

MUARC is helping to establish a Traffic Safety Research Centre at the university’s main campus in Al Ain. The chair of road safety, Professor Brian Fildes, said one of the first tasks was to establish reliable data on the number and types of crashes that lead to injury and death on the roads there.

New approach needed for young drivers
A MUARC review of licensing systems throughout Western countries revealed that vulnerable young drivers worldwide need more initial supervision and support.

The research showed that gradually introducing different driving conditions to new drivers could be the key to reducing their chances of becoming crash statistics.

The VicRoads-commissioned study showed several initiatives had a clear association on crash reductions, including increasing the minimum learner period and night driving and peer passenger restrictions.

New director
Dr AnnaMarie Pagliari, a specialist in Italian studies, was appointed the new academic director of the Monash University Prato Centre.

She commences her appointment on 1 January 2005, taking over from the centre’s founding director, Professor Bill Kent, who stepped down from the role in October.

Dr Pagliari, who is conversant of Italian studies in Monash’s School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics at Clayton campus, has had a long association with the Prato centre.

She was a member of the first working party formed to study the feasibility of establishing the centre, and in recent years she delivered courses there.

MONASH MALAYSIA
New medical school
A School of Medicine and Health Sciences will be established at Monash Malaysia campus. The school will offer the undergraduate medical course Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery (MB BS) from 2005, but for the first two years students will study through the Clayton campus while the new Malaysia campus is being built in Bandar Sunway.

The medical school will complement the School of Business, School of Information Technology, School of Engineering and School of Arts and Sciences at the Malaysia campus.

Anniversary distinguished alumnus: From left, Victoria’s Chief Magistrate Mr Ian Gray; Victorian Solicitor General Ms Pamala Tate; Monash Law dean Professor Alan Freiber; Chief Judge of the County Court His Honour Chief Judge Michael Ricketss, Chief Justice of Victoria The Hon. Justice Marilyn Warren, and President of the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal The Hon. Justice Stuart Morris (see Law).
New Monash exhibitions

The Young Cosima
By Henry Handel Richardson
Edited by Clive Probyn and Bruce Steele
Published by Australian Scholarly Publishing...p- 30.95
This scholarly edition of The Young Cosima, first published in 1955, presents for the first time an accurate text, an extensive introduction, notes, and Richardson's essay of 1930, originally titled 'Cosima as daughter and wife'. In this novel, Richardson chronicles the life of Cosima, the youngest daughter of Franz Liszt, and one of the most remarkable women of her time. Ms Richardson chooses the turbulently charged period (1855-68) from Cosima's engagement and marriage to the august musical genius Hans von Bülow, until her painful, inevitable abandonment of him to live with Richard Wagner.

Stone of the Mountain
The Hugh Evans Story
By Hugh Evans
Published by Lothian Books...p- 24.95
Some of the Mountain is the story of Monash student Mr Hugh Evans, who in 1990 travelled to South Africa on an international volunteer mission to provide healthcare education and supplies to children living in formal poverty.

The book details Mr Evans’ work at God’s Golden Acre, a home for children orphaned by AIDS or violence, who have been abandoned or have suffered abuse. In the book is a photograph of Mr Evans’ engagement ring, which he wrote to the author, would be a wonderful promise, and a child sponsorship program, help provide food parcels to orphaned households, present talks to school students about AIDS, and many other projects. During this period, the author formed deep and lifelong friendships, and was given the Zulu name Indlelindile, meaning Stone of the Mountain, recognizing his small but important contribution to the fight against poverty.

A Monash law/science student, Mr Evans is the current Young Australian of the Year who was recently named one of 12 Outstanding Young Persons of the World for 2004 by a worldwide federation of young leaders and entrepreneurs.

Corporations and Transnational Human Rights Litigation
Human Rights Law in Perspective
By Sarah Joseph
Published by Hart Publishing...p- £75
This book is an important and balanced assessment of the law and practice which recognizes the potential and limits of transnational litigation. Dr Joseph analyses the role of human rights litigation in changing the actions of such corporations and offers guidance on the nature, scope and limitation of this form of legal action.

The debate is put in context by highlighting the power of the large corporations and the difficulties individuals or groups face in taking the path of litigation. The author explores various formal and informal methods for building corporations to account, and her book will be of interest to individuals seeking redress and to corporations wishing to manage risk.

Dr Sarah Joseph is a senior lecturer in law at Monash University and an associate director of the university’s Centre for Human Rights Law.

Bidadari
Jewel of Malay Muslim Culture
By William Millar
Published by KITLV Press, Indonesia...p- $60
The wit and emotions of the verse known as romantic mais were once staple fare in Southeast Asian culture during the 18th and 17th centuries, especially in the Malay Islamic regional centres. Yet few examples survive, and academic tests on the poems are rare. In this book, the author explores the rich cultural tradition of the most influential of the romantic mais, the 'Poem of Bidadari'.

Few Malay works have been loved and admired as extensively as the Syafir Bidadari; it has been translated into other languages of the region and adapted for the Malay theatre and cinema. In this book, the author provides a translation into English of the poem, a translation of that manuscript into English, and an inquiry into the poem's virtues. Julian Millar teaches in the School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics in Monash's Faculty of Arts at Burnley campus. KITLV Press specializes in literature of the Malay/Indonesian world.

The Arts/Books
Monash News, December 2004


The playful, theatrical sculpture of Melbourne artist John Mawel and a selection of significant and measured works from the Monash University Collection are featured in two new exhibitions at the Monash University Museum of Art (MUMA) on the university’s Clayton campus.

Incident in the Museum 2: John Mawel features new work by the artist, who recently returned from a year’s research in New York where he enjoyed a prestigious Anne and Gordon Samstag Visual Arts Scholarship.

The Maud exhibition involves a study of sculptural works that have been displayed using a specially designed light installation. The centerpiece is a dramatic new work that he completed in 2003, titled ‘Black Dust: Self-portrait as Mary Magdalene, and Nude with Pitchfork 2004’. It depicts an aberrant upright figure, loosely based on Renaissance artist Donatello’s Magdalene, accompanied by another abstract, recumbent motif.

The Incident in the Museum is an occasional program of newly commissioned exhibitions, projects and events by contemporary artists.

Before Night – After Nature: Selected Works from the Monash University Collection taken as its starting point Domenico de Calo’s powerful Night Paintings of 1972-77. These evocative works study various aspects of the landscape at night.

The exhibition considers the complex associations between night, shadow, light, the landscape and the self’ explained MUMA curator Ms Geraldine Barlow.

The exhibition also features key works by Susan Norrie, John Perceval, Mike Parr and Ricky Swallow.

Show notes
What: Incident in the Museum 2: John Mawel and Before Night – After Nature, Selected Works From the Monash University Collection
When: Both exhibitions run until Saturday 17 December and then from 1 February until 24 March 2005.
Opening hours: Tuesdays to Fridays 10 am to 5 pm, Saturdays 10 am to 5 pm.
Where: Monash University Museum of Art, building 55, Monash University, Clayton campus.
Who: For more information, contact (03) 9905 4911, email muma@arts.monash.edu.au or visit www.mums.edu.au/muma.
Cost: Entry is free.

Bidadari
Jewel of Malay Muslim Culture
By William Millar
Published by KITLV Press, Indonesia...p- $60
The wit and emotions of the verse known as romantic mais were once staple fare in Southeast Asian culture during the 18th and 17th centuries, especially in the Malay Islamic regional centres. Yet few examples survive, and academic tests on the poems are rare. In this book, the author explores the rich cultural tradition of the most influential of the romantic mais, the 'Poem of Bidadari'.

Few Malay works have been loved and admired as extensively as the Syafir Bidadari; it has been translated into other languages of the region and adapted for the Malay theatre and cinema. In this book, the author provides a translation into English of the poem, a translation of that manuscript into English, and an inquiry into the poem's virtues. Julian Millar teaches in the School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics in Monash's Faculty of Arts at Burnley campus. KITLV Press specializes in literature of the Malay/Indonesian world.

Bidadari
Jewel of Malay Muslim Culture
By William Millar
Published by KITLV Press, Indonesia...p- $60
The wit and emotions of the verse known as romantic mais were once staple fare in Southeast Asian culture during the 18th and 17th centuries, especially in the Malay Islamic regional centres. Yet few examples survive, and academic tests on the poems are rare. In this book, the author explores the rich cultural tradition of the most influential of the romantic mais, the 'Poem of Bidadari'.

Few Malay works have been loved and admired as extensively as the Syafir Bidadari; it has been translated into other languages of the region and adapted for the Malay theatre and cinema. In this book, the author provides a translation into English of the poem, a translation of that manuscript into English, and an inquiry into the poem's virtues. Julian Millar teaches in the School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics in Monash's Faculty of Arts at Burnley campus. KITLV Press specializes in literature of the Malay/Indonesian world.

Bidadari
Jewel of Malay Muslim Culture
By William Millar
Published by KITLV Press, Indonesia...p- $60
The wit and emotions of the verse known as romantic mais were once staple fare in Southeast Asian culture during the 18th and 17th centuries, especially in the Malay Islamic regional centres. Yet few examples survive, and academic tests on the poems are rare. In this book, the author explores the rich cultural tradition of the most influential of the romantic mais, the 'Poem of Bidadari'.

Few Malay works have been loved and admired as extensively as the Syafir Bidadari; it has been translated into other languages of the region and adapted for the Malay theatre and cinema. In this book, the author provides a translation into English of the poem, a translation of that manuscript into English, and an inquiry into the poem's virtues. Julian Millar teaches in the School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics in Monash's Faculty of Arts at Burnley campus. KITLV Press specializes in literature of the Malay/Indonesian world.

Bidadari
Jewel of Malay Muslim Culture
By William Millar
Published by KITLV Press, Indonesia...p- $60
The wit and emotions of the verse known as romantic mais were once staple fare in Southeast Asian culture during the 18th and 17th centuries, especially in the Malay Islamic regional centres. Yet few examples survive, and academic tests on the poems are rare. In this book, the author explores the rich cultural tradition of the most influential of the romantic mais, the 'Poem of Bidadari'.

Few Malay works have been loved and admired as extensively as the Syafir Bidadari; it has been translated into other languages of the region and adapted for the Malay theatre and cinema. In this book, the author provides a translation into English of the poem, a translation of that manuscript into English, and an inquiry into the poem's virtues. Julian Millar teaches in the School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics in Monash's Faculty of Arts at Burnley campus. KITLV Press specializes in literature of the Malay/Indonesian world.

Bidadari
Jewel of Malay Muslim Culture
By William Millar
Published by KITLV Press, Indonesia...p- $60
The wit and emotions of the verse known as romantic mais were once staple fare in Southeast Asian culture during the 18th and 17th centuries, especially in the Malay Islamic regional centres. Yet few examples survive, and academic tests on the poems are rare. In this book, the author explores the rich cultural tradition of the most influential of the romantic mais, the 'Poem of Bidadari'.

Few Malay works have been loved and admired as extensively as the Syafir Bidadari; it has been translated into other languages of the region and adapted for the Malay theatre and cinema. In this book, the author provides a translation into English of the poem, a translation of that manuscript into English, and an inquiry into the poem's virtues. Julian Millar teaches in the School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics in Monash's Faculty of Arts at Burnley campus. KITLV Press specializes in literature of the Malay/Indonesian world.

Bidadari
Jewel of Malay Muslim Culture
By William Millar
Published by KITLV Press, Indonesia...p- $60
The wit and emotions of the verse known as romantic mais were once staple fare in Southeast Asian culture during the 18th and 17th centuries, especially in the Malay Islamic regional centres. Yet few examples survive, and academic tests on the poems are rare. In this book, the author explores the rich cultural tradition of the most influential of the romantic mais, the 'Poem of Bidadari'.

Few Malay works have been loved and admired as extensively as the Syafir Bidadari; it has been translated into other languages of the region and adapted for the Malay theatre and cinema. In this book, the author provides a translation into English of the poem, a translation of that manuscript into English, and an inquiry into the poem's virtues. Julian Millar teaches in the School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics in Monash's Faculty of Arts at Burnley campus. KITLV Press specializes in literature of the Malay/Indonesian world.
Champion of an unglamorous cause

"I have never understood why we spend the most money on the heart – the smallest organ in the body – but the least on our largest organ – the skin."

As a trained nurse, the Wound Foundation of Australia's Jan Rice is well aware that wound care is often the poor relation of medicine.

In Cinderella's name makes it a hard sell when it comes to obtaining funding for research and improvements, but that doesn't deter the trained nurse and midwife, who has championed the cause throughout her 30-year career.

Ms Rice has worked for the foundation since its establishment in a federally funded, independent body in 1993. In 2000, it became part of Monash University's Department of Pharmacy Practice at the Victorian College of Pharmacy.

Through the foundation, Ms Rice has educated more than half a million people in the intricacies of wound care and treated even more patients, as part of its charter to provide care and undertake research.

Improved wound care is her passion. In fact, she cheerfully admits she will talk about wound care management to anyone who will listen. Her team has educated general practitioners, nurses, occupational therapists and care in regional and metropolitan areas across Australia.

However, Ms Rice says wound care is frequently pushed to one side and too easily forgotten. She has often encountered resistance as she tries to spread the word about developments in wound care and the importance of looking after the skin.

"Doctors readily accept new technology and embrace it with open arms; but with wound management it is sometimes difficult to persuade them that modern practice needs to replace the traditional and often painful dressings of yesteryear," she said.

"We really try to educate doctors and health practitioners in the importance of using modern pharmaceutical products and to get them to move away from the old-style gauze and bandage products.

"The problem with wound management is that it doesn't win you a Nobel Prize. I have never understood why we spend the most money on the heart – the smallest organ in the body – but the least on our largest organ – the skin. There is a cardiac suite in almost every hospital but we don't invest nearly enough on encouraging and educating people about their skin."

Acknowledged as one of the world's top experts on wound care, Ms Rice regularly presents seminars on the Australian and international speaking circuits, spreading the word on the importance of proper wound management techniques.

An average week can include a four-day course in the country Victorian town of Horsham, a visit to Alice Springs in central Australia and a presentation in New Zealand. She said prevention was also an important aspect of the foundation's work, particularly with an ageing population. "The key to maintaining healthy skin is to moisturise and protect – inside and out. Drink plenty of water and buy a moisturiser with few preservatives and no perfume – and apply it every day."

To find out more about the Wound Foundation of Australia, go to www.woundaustralia.org.au

Education is the key: Over the past 10 years, Ms Rice estimates that through the Wound Foundation of Australia, she has educated more than half a million people. In the intricacies of wound care and treated thousands more.

Photo: Greg Ford

Contact: jan.rice@cp.monash.edu.au
Ph: +61 3 9903 9123

- Ingrid Sanders
Program brings help for autism carers

**Medicine**

A Monash University training program for parents and carers of children with autism has helped reduce symptoms in the children and resulted in major improvements in the emotional health of the parents.

Professor Briony Tongs, head of the Department of Psychological Medicine, and Dr April Brett, senior research fellow in the Centre for Developmental Psychiatry and Psychology with Associate Professor Neville King from the Faculty of Education, developed and assessed a 20-week education and skills training program. The project was funded by a grant from the National Health and Medical Research Council.

Dr Brett said the program was designed to help parents of young children with autism understand the condition and how it affected the children's development, play, behaviour, communication skills and ability to socialise.

It is aimed at those parents who have autistic children aged between three and five years and who have been diagnosed in the previous 12 months.

Professor Tongs said parents of children with autism were generally more affected by stress than parents of children with other disabilities. "They tend to be stressed by their children's dependency, cognitive impairment, limits on family opportunity and the prospect of the need for life-long care," he said.

"The training program helps them deal with these issues and also helps them address the behavioral problems associated with autism."

The program comprised 15 individual and 10 group sessions of up to five families and addressed the nature of autism, how it was manifested in young children, understanding and managing behaviour, communication and social problems, goal-setting techniques, changing existing behaviour and introducing new behaviour, and teaching children new skills.

Results showed parents who had attended the program reported lower levels of stress and grief and improved mental health for up to two years after the program ended. The training also led to improved daily living, communication and social skills in the children and reduced symptoms of autism.

Dr Brett and Professor Tongs have written two manuals— one for clinicians and one for families—designed to be used in conjunction with the training program. The manuals will be published in February next year by Jessica Kingsley Publishers, London.

— Diane Squires

**Creating a monument to sculpture**

Well-known Melbourne sculptor Simon Kent is on a mission to create lasting works that reflect his life experiences and understanding of art.

Mr Kent, who migrated to Australia in 1950, holds two Monash degrees—a recently completed Masters in Fine Arts (sculpture) and a Bachelor of Fine Arts (hons). He matriculated at the monumental sculpture drew on the experiences of Holocaust survivors and his own early childhood spent in refugee camps in post-war Germany.

His experiences have instilled in him a passion for people and art—passions that are reflected in major sculptural works he has completed over the past five years, while also working in an international-based fashion company.

Mr Kent has several commissions in private collections in Melbourne and Adelaide, and in public spaces. His latest commissioned work, "Mother and Child Playing," was unveiled earlier this year at the Freemasons' Hospital, East Melbourne, by Federal Minister for Sport and Senator Rod Kemp. The bronze four metre by four metre sculpture, donated by the Kentova family, took a year to complete.

It was originally constructed in wood, before being sent to a foundry where it was cast, cut and shot in bronze.

"My works are designed to be both aesthetic and functional objects," he said. "They are practical works of art to be used, not just to sit and to be touched."

Mr Kent's main academic supervisor at Monash, senior lecturer in sculpture Dr Dan Wellington, said Mr Kent's enthusiasm and drive brought much passion to the sculptural studio.

"Simon studied part-time over 12 years and demonstrated that persistence and dedication can make for success and achievement in the art world—at any age," he said. "His work is an entertaining mixture of classical humanism and conventional figurative abstraction that embraces a monumental sensibility."

"The outdoor sculpture 'Mother and Child Playing' harnesses both functional and expressive qualities in a site-specific location and should prove to be popular."

Mr Kent maintains an unbridled passion for sculpture. "It's something that excites and satisfies that someone wants to buy my work and see it," he says.

Contact: kentova@op.com.au

At the unveiling: from left, Senator Rod Kemp, Mrs Lisa Kentova, Mr Simon Kent, and Fremantle grand master Mr John Evans.