Monash leads way with PACE

Monash University has become the first university in Australia to join forces with Partners for the Advancement of Collaborative Engineering Education (PACE). The announcement was made by Victoria Minister for Manufacturing and Export, Mr Tim Holding, and Monash vice-chancellor Professor Richard Larkins, in conjunction with PACE representative Mr Denney Moseley, chairman and managing director of Holden Australia.

The $16 million alliance involves the university’s Engineering and Art and Design faculties. The Art and Design faculty is only the second of its kind—and the first outside the US—to join PACE.

Under the agreement, PACE will provide industry-specific software and hardware and facilitate the training of undergraduate and postgraduate students and staff in product development activities.

Monash will gain access to leading software and hardware for 3-D solid modelling, 3-D plant layout, computer-aided engineering/diagnosis, computer-aided manufacturing, product data management, digital collaboration and digital styling.

The PACE Engineering Centre will be established within the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the university’s Clayton campus. It will play a major role in the mechanical, mechatronics, aerospace and industrial engineering, and engineering management programs.

Meanwhile, the Art and Design PACE facilities at Caulfield campus will provide major benefits to Monash’s industrial design students.

“Monash is a major supplier of graduates to the design and manufacturing industries. PACE facilities will support the training of students in industry-specific design applications, resulting in better employment outcomes for our undergraduate and postgraduate students,” he said.

Monash Engineering faculty dean Professor Tam Sridhar said the university was excited by the prospect of further collaboration with the industry partners and other institutions.

“Our students will have the advantage of experience with high-quality, industrially relevant tools and we are introducing new projects to encourage challenging cross-disciplinary and group design work,” he said.

Art and Design faculty dean Professor John Redmond said the alliance confirmed Monash’s international reputation as one of Australia’s leading design and education institutions and as a place for excellence and innovation.

“The opportunity to learn from and work with some of the world’s leading organisations will place our students at the forefront of leading-edge design,” he said.

PACE, a corporate alliance since 1999 between General Motors of Canada (in Australia by Holden Limited), EDI, Sun Microsystems and UGC, has contributed software, hardware, training and technical support to schools such as Purdue, Michigan State, Northwestern and Virginia Tech and institutions in Canada, China, Germany, Mexico and Sweden.

— Karen Stichtenoth

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For more information, visit www.pacsecpartners.org

Lifetime achievements in fine arts recognised

Fine arts research

A Monash University academic has been recognised for a lifetime of excellence in fine arts research. Associate Professor Euan Heng received the Australian Council of University Art and Design School (ACUADS) Distinguished Research Award during a special presentation at the council’s annual conference in September.

The award acknowledges the recipient’s sustained and consistent contribution to research in the visual arts, crafts and design sector. Associate Professor Heng was recognised for his contribution to fine arts studio research, including supervision, examination and management of higher degrees by research.
Monash University has officially unveiled Australia’s newest and largest business school, designed to cater to increasing international and local demands for postgraduate business training.

Monash Graduate School of Business is based in Australia’s largest business faculty, Monash’s Faculty of Business and Economics.

It has been created through a merger and repackaging of Monash’s suite of existing research and graduate degree programs, including the MBA, as well as specialist masters degrees including accounting and finance, quantitative finance, marketing, business law, taxation, and economics.

- Robyn Arce

Monash News, November 2004

Meeting demand: Monash vice-chancellor Professor Richard Larkins, business and economics faculty dean Professor Gill Palmer and Monash GSB director Professor Owen Hughes at the school’s official launch.

Photo: Melissa Ciero

**From the vice-chancellor’s desk**

One of the privileges of my position is the opportunity to meet extraordinary people. I was truly humbled last week to have the opportunity to meet a delegation from Iraq, which included the former head of the Iraqi nuclear program that was working on the peaceful use of nuclear energy before Saddam Hussein seized power. In 1979 he was ordered by Saddam to divert his efforts to the development of nuclear weapons. He declared his innocence, was arrested, and after a period of five years he was held in solitary confinement for 10 years. During this time he was kept in a small cell, allowed no books or writing materials and occasionally given a newspaper which reported Saddam’s propaganda. After 10 years of solitary confinement, he was moved to normal prison with other prisoners for a further two years. During the Gulf War in 1991, he escaped to the mountains in Iraq and then to the West where he has been a refugee and articulate advocate for human rights before his return to Iraq following the downfall of Saddam Hussein. Incredibly, despite his ordeal he is a quiet and humble man, without obvious bitterness and with quiet reserves of strength and resolve.

Coincidentally, the weekend following this visit I travelled to South Africa for board meetings of Monash South Africa. I took the opportunity to visit other South African universities to bring them up to date with the progress of our South African campus and to inform them of our wish to work collaboratively within the higher education sector in South Africa (a position which was very positively received). Between visits to the University of Cape Town and Stellenbosch University, I had the opportunity to visit Robben Island, the site of imprisonment of Nelson Mandela and then black political prisoners during the apartheid era. I saw a tiny cell, the conditions where the prisoners spent countless days amusingly crushing rocks and the limestone quarry where they laboured in the searing heat also clear that our political cycle with the National Party in power and apartheid in place. Individuals such as Mandela and South Africa are exceptional in every way, but their values should be widely shared and endorsed. We must propagate them proudly.

In short, Monash South Africa has been awarded the Chemeca Medal for 2004. It will be the first time in its II-year history that the award has gone to a university in Africa. The new director of the centre, Dr Annamaria Pagliaro, convenor of Italian studies in the School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics, Faculty of Arts, will take up the position on 1 January 2005.

**Assessing the health of the ovaries**

A new study is helping us detect a health test that could check for ovarian cancer in the same way that a yearly smear test assesses the cervix and breasts.

The study, a collaboration between Monash University’s Institute of Medical Research, the Jean Hunter Women’s Cancer Research Foundation, the Monash University Bank Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation, will assess up to 500 women aged 55 to 100.

Chief researcher and Monash University Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology chairman Professor David Healy said the study would help create a simple test that could assist in early detection of ovarian cancer.

"The average Australian female lives to about 86, and ovarian cancer kills more women over the age of 60 than all gynaecological cancer types combined," he said.

"Currently, there are no health programs for assessing the health of the ovaries at the age of breast and the cervix."

Women who qualify to take part in the study will undergo a blood test and gynaecological ultrasound test of their ovaries. The results will help determine the normal or healthy range for ovaries that will set the benchmark for future health tests.

The study will, for the first time, assess the improved ovarian cancer test created by combining a diagnostic test for the hormone Inhibin with an existing blood test, CA125, there is a 95 per cent success rate in detecting ovarian cancer.

The study is funded by the National Australian Breast Cancer Research Foundation, Diagnostic Systems Laboratories Inc, and Inhibitex Pty Ltd.

Women interested in participating in the study should contact +61 3 9544 1959.

Contact: breasthealth@mdn.monash.edu.au
Ph: +61 3 9557 1000

**Business school for the future**

Monash University has officially unveiled Australia’s newest and largest business school, designed to cater to increasing international and local demands for postgraduate business training.

Monash Graduate School of Business is based in Australia’s largest business faculty, Monash’s Faculty of Business and Economics.

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**Briefly**

**Group of Eight centre opens in Berlin**

Monash University senior deputy vice-chancellor Professor Stephen Parker was among 40 delegates at an opening reception of the Group of Eight Australia Centre Europe in Berlin recently.

Here Dr Hans-Gerard Hursing, Germany’s Under Secretary of State for Science, formally opened the centre on 30 September. Speeches of welcome from Group of Eight chair Professor Ian Chubb and Australia’s ambassador to Germany, Her Excellency Ms Pamela Fayle, followed his address.

Jeanine Henry, chair of the Group of Eight centre from an empty building to one that will be fully to capacity for about half of 2005, with bookings still International Metropolis Conference, the world’s largest conference on international migration, has won the bid to co-host the 2007 meeting of the Group of Eight.

Professor Kent’s vision and work. Engineers in the age of weapons of mass destruction. Professor Richard Larkins, who retired as dean of the Faculty of Engineering at Monash in late 2002, has been awarded the Chemeca Medal for 2004.

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Monash research wins US$1m grant

Medical research

A study into the role of white blood cells in the auto-immune disease systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) has resulted in a Monash University research team receiving a US$1 million grant from the prestigious National Institutes of Health.

Dr Michael Hickey, Associate Professor Eric Morand and Dr Michelle Leech from the Centre for Inflammatory Diseases at Monash received the grant, based on their ongoing research into the role of white blood cells in causing inflammation in SLE sufferers.

The grant will fund a four-year study into the effect of specific proteins on the movement of white blood cells in mice with SLE.

Dr Hickey said the grant was particularly rewarding, as it was rare for the NIH to allocate grants to research groups based entirely outside the US.

In 2000, Dr Hickey and the team began studying the blood vessels of mice with SLE and found that a major contributing factor to inflammation was the occurrence of white blood cells sticking to the lining of microscopic blood vessels, called postcapillary venules.

"We were the first lab to look at vessels of lupus-prone mice in that way, and we are now aiming to study that process in more detail," Dr Hickey said.

The project will look at the impact on SLE of two proteins, MIF and iNOS, by comparing the development of the disease in two groups of mice - one that carries the protein and one that does not.

SLE, which causes inflammatory injury to tissues and blood vessels, is one of the most prevalent auto-immune diseases, affecting roughly one in 1000 people. Symptoms of the disease include arthritis, skin damage, and brain and kidney inflammation.

The condition ranges in severity and in the most severe cases can result in early death.

Dr Hickey said no new therapies had been developed for the disease in 30 years. Steroids and immune suppressants are currently the most effective treatments but despite these, life expectancy is reduced and significant side effects are common.

"There is still enormous potential for development of new therapies in this area," he said. "We hope our work will lead to more effective treatments for SLE."

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Leopards hard to spot

Wildlife conservation

Monash University researchers are working to halt the decline in South African wild leopard population, a problem caused by increased land clearing and illegal hunting.

Conservation biology student Mrs Victoria Mitchell is the Australian representative of the Mun-Ya-Wana Leopard Project, established by Monash University honorary fellow Dr Luke Hunter in 2002. Now based in New York, Dr Hunter continues to travel to South Africa with Mrs Mitchell to collar and monitor the leopards and collect data on them.

"We know that their elusive nature makes it difficult to pinpoint the size of the country's leopard population, it is recognised that they are the most heavily hunted big cat in the world.

The Mun-Ya-Wana project aims to work closely with local communities to reserve the animals.

Mrs Mitchell said that the spread of private farming, and the land clearing that is required, led to the creation of large hubs in South Africa's leopard population.

"Leopards are found in small isolated populations, and some, like the animals in our study in the Phinda Private Game Reserve, may not survive due to a range of human threats," she said.

Since 2002, the project team has collared and tracked 18 leopards in the reserve, which extends for 230 square kilometres along a narrow stretch of land in the north-east of the country.

"We have more than 1500 recorded sightings of leopards in the reserve, which, compared to other studies, is a huge amount of data," Mrs Mitchell said.

Despite the volume of information collected, only 10 of the leopards remain alive, and only two of the seven cubs born during this time have survived.

"The reasons for their decline are complex," Mrs Mitchell said. "The development of neighbouring land limits the protection available for an animal that is difficult to contain."

"Illegal trophy hunting adds to the problem because it often results in the removal of males, and that causes sexual conflict among remaining animals and often leads to leopard killing each other."

"The sustainability of the Phinda population is further threatened by its relatively slow reproduction rate and by bordering game farms where hunters shoot animals that stray from the protected reserve."

"Although the reserve is bordered with an electrified game fence, it does not guarantee containment of the leopards, as they simply slide underneath or use overhanging branches to jump over," Mrs Mitchell said.

"We are particularly concerned that there was no change during the four-year study period in hospitalisation rates for work injuries overall and for men, and that the female rate actually increased by seven per cent," Ms Cassell said.

The report showed the male work injury hospital admission rate was five times that for females, and admission rates were highest in the youngest and oldest groups of workers - 15 to 24 years-old and those aged 65 years and older.

While the figures were partly explained by the fact that more men work in hazardous industries, other contributing factors to the over-representation of males in workplace injury required investigation, Ms Cassell said.

"Women and hand injuries accounted for 42 per cent of all work-related hospital admissions over the four-year study period - more than 7000 admissions in all. Hand injuries were most commonly fractures, open wounds and muscle and tendon injuries."

"Work-related hand injuries are neglected in terms of prevention," Ms Cassell said. "A comprehensive hand injury prevention program should be developed."

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Data shows no change in work injury rates

Safety research

Nearly 21,000 people were treated in Victorian hospitals each year between 1999 and 2002 for work injuries, according to a new report by the Victorian Injury Surveillance Unit at the Monash University Accident Research Centre.

Senior research fellow Ms Erin Cassell said work injuries imposed a significant burden on the hospital system, society and the injured individual.

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The full report can be viewed at www.general.monash.edu.au/maarc/ VISARhazard/
Asking the right questions

Health care

A new personal care assessment method developed by Monash University could improve the quality of life for high-needs patients.

The Personal Care-Participation Assessment and Resource Tool (PC-PART) has been developed by associate professor of geriatric medicine Dr Petria Darlison. It aims to ensure the personal care needs of high-needs patients are met.

Over the past 10 years, Dr Darlison has been perfecting a set of 43 standardised questions designed to help clinicians produce accurate and efficient patient assessments.

To administer PC-PART, health professionals ask the same groups of questions, in the same format and order each time, to ensure a uniform and thorough assessment.

"These questions represent what clinicians should be asking their patients anyway but this makes sure it is done in a standardised, thorough and targeted way that ensures nothing is forgotten," Dr Darlison said. "The information gathered is then used to identify specific patient issues, which gives health practitioners a clear idea of what to do to improve or fix the problems.

"The assessment is not based on treating the illness, because in many cases, like a stroke, for example, it can't be cured, but it looks at what can be done to improve the patient's quality of life."

There are seven areas of personal care identification based in the 12-page assessment including questions on clothing, hygiene, nutrition, mobility, safety, place of residence and support.

Dr Darlison said developing PC-PART was prompted by inconsistencies in the system. He said the tool was particularly effective when treating elderly or high-needs patients who might forget or become confused when answering general questions.

It is currently being run in a pilot study among the Southern Grampians Glenelg Rehabilitation Program.

Roy Anns

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New research centre shines a light on workers

Employment

More than 60 per cent of Australian non-union workers are 'freeriders' who do not join unions because they believe they receive the benefits without paying fees, a Monash University survey has found.

According to the Australian Worker Representation and Participation Survey, 63.1 per cent of workers cited free-riding as the chief reason they did not join a union.

The survey results were presented at the 27 October launch of Monash University's Australian Centre for Research in Employment and Work (ACREW).

"People are being offered many benefits by their employers," Dr Darlison said. "However, when it comes to pay rises, with 71 per cent of workers reporting that they desire greater levels of influence than they actually have and 67.1 per cent wanting greater levels of influence over decisions on perks and bonuses.

"The perceived lack of influence over how much they are paid is a very important issue, given the cultural shift to workplace

Native title lawyers needed

Monash University is helping to investigate ways to address the need for more native title lawyers in Australia.

Researchers from Monash and two other universities are seeking strategies to recruit more native title lawyers, whose ranks are thin because of harsh working conditions, inadequate training and poor pay.

Monash Law faculty senior lecturer Ms Melina Curran and research fellow Mr Richard Pook are investigating native title law and practice at the University of New South Wales and the Australian National University.

The study is evaluating the training and professional development needs of lawyers working in Native Title Representative Bodies, which are the principal providers of legal and administrative services to native title claimants and related organisations.

The researchers' interviews with lawyers from across Australia have confirmed there are difficulties in recruiting and retaining native title lawyers. The research also indicates these lawyers must deal with the competing demands associated with new cultural and legal systems as well as operating in remote and isolated regions.

Mr Pook said the project provided a fascinating perspective on a relatively new area of law.

"More than a decade after the High Court's landmark Mabo decision, which marked a crucial step in redressing the inequities in Australia in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, native title law continues to be a stimulating and very complex area of practice. Many young lawyers are keen to explore the personal and professional opportunities available in this work," he said.

"Native Title Representative Bodies, which are native title lawyers, are faced with financial

Human rights

Monash University is helping to investigate ways to address the need for more

Schools

Change of Preference

The Monash University Change of Preference guide has been sent to all Victorian secondary schools. Year 12 students who have VCE magazine mailed directly to their homes will receive a copy of the guide after their VCE examinations.

Students will also get the chance to speak to faculty representatives after they have received their ENTERs, during Monash’s Change of Preference information sessions at:

- Gippsland region
  - Monday 15 December 3 pm to 6 pm
  - Edison Mission rooms, building SN
  - Monash University
- Gippsland campus
  - Metropolitan region

For further information about Change of Preference at Monash, go to www.monash.edu.au or call the Prospective Students Office on +61 3 9905 1309.

Enhancement Studies

The Enhancement Studies Program gives high-achieving secondary students the opportunity to study Monash University first-year units as part of their Year 12 studies.

Applications for the 2005 program close on Friday, 3 December 2004 for all Enhancement subjects except Music, which closes on Friday, 5 November 2004. Applications will be processed in order of receipt. Students wishing to lodge late applications should contact the Prospective Students Office to confirm that places are still available in the relevant unit. Late applications will be subject to a non-refundable late fee.

For further information, contact Ms Rebecca Hillman in the Prospective Students Office on +61 3 9905 5471 or email enhancement@admissions.monash.edu.au.

Accommodation closing dates

Applications are now open for students who may be thinking about living on-campus at Monash University next year.

Applications for the Hall of Residence at Clayton campus are now due on 30 November.

For further information about accommodation and associated procedures at any of Monash’s campuses, contact Monash Residential Services on +61 3 9905 5202 or visit www.monashres.com.au.
Globalised marketing drives design

Design, like any work of the imagination, can be considered part natural and part field. We would naturally like to emphasise the rational part. We hope to contribute to design by identifying patterns or conjecturing explanations for its various guises.

Alas, hopes for the spread of reason throughout design have reached new and unprecedented levels of implausibility. For a great unschooled field, we have endued design away from its reasonable past preoccupations of utility and aesthetic symbolic order or even an apparently inaccessible destiny. This is the force of globalisation.

My paper identifies globalised marketing and fashion as a key driver of design. Even terms which do not seem to have a conspicuously stylish look will be marketed with a judicious range of fantasies that makes them fashionable in the end. Only rare capital can afford such margin.

Advertising, which is largely the industrialisation of fantasy, is extremely expensive. The commercialisation of fantasy is now concentrated in the corporate world, and design is its principal tool.

This situation presents a challenge to design aesthetics. Formal factors in design — once the centrepiece of design — are becoming increasingly marginal in the global context relative to the subjective message-making economy which lards designs with myth and makes design appropriate for medial distribution, and hence economically viable. In many fields of design, there is little point launching a product unless it can mesh with a fantasy.

Design has moved from a discipline-oriented discipline to a sign-oriented practice. It has slipped, by dint of globalisation, to an unsustainable collision with marketing that concentrates on manipulation through images.

As an example is the baseball cap. Once a sub-cultural symbol belonging to sportspeople, it now enjoys world-wide diffusion, worn by all sorts of complexities, at least on the weekend. When distinguishing two caps is not so much their construction or fabric but the logo embroidered on front and back. Two caps of equal material value are priced incommensurably according to their tag. One with a Nike logo may sell at twice the price and 500 times the volume of a no-brand cap or even with an unknown logo. The Nike cap has more prestige because of the advertising strategy.

This immaterial element has abducted the economy of design with apparently irreversible destiny.

At the beginning of this somewhat irrational trend, it may have been possible to dismiss the promotion of hype as the expense of reason as something, economically crazy which is unrelated to design. But now, after witnessing an apparently exponential growth of marketing of institutional fantasy-identifications in advertising, and design, it seems hard to ignore as one of the key determinants of design in the global context.

And as manufacturing is constantly on the decline relative to the communication of cultural concepts, the economy of messages displaces the previous innocence of design as a classical studio activity.

To be fair, design history has long bad frivolous dimensions. Many things about design do not matter much.

On a scale that includes any important social or theoretical issue, it matters not at all that the rear of my car is square or round.

"On a scale that includes any important social or theoretical issue, it matters not at all that the rear of my car is square or round."

And the moment design consciousness procures such great moments, it is readily appropriated by scores of other designers as a style, a set of aesthetic tropes, of idle notions creating.

An instance might be the Jewish Museum by the architect Daniel Liebeskind, whose language of skewed shapes, perforated membranes and unfathomable voids was inspired as an expression of the unspeakable crimes of the Holocaust; but no sooner were these antigravity spatial propositions realised than they polarised internationally in distinctive contexts, business contexts, educational contexts, any context in which a building is determined to be a hit jumpsale.

In these fakes, remove from the expensive context of the Holocaust, the formal metaphors of disruptive space and non-rational structure are quite discretely understood at all. The language of design is traded as a stylistic paradigm, stripped of a moral symbolic order or even of serious sentimental connotations.

I miss the attempt in design research to engage with the moral context of design, through its imagery, aesthetic emphasis and metaphorical connotations.

I am interested in this evacuation of political content coupled with an equal and opposite evacuations of poetic meaning and remembrance from the studio. I long for a politicised phenomenology which might tackle the look and manipulative frameworks of design, to contest the sensory and symbolic content of design, and yield observation which is not necessarily marketing-compliant.

We all want theory which will advance the development of design, facilitate the next idea, perhaps to be the handmaidens of the creative process; and here in the studio, it must thus itself be creative. A critique may or may not be generalisable; but it at least establishes criteria from a given perspective, not universal but potentially shared.

Research in the field must be embricating, proceeding from the viewpoint and experience and background of the existent. This is itself in a non-globalised structure, with its emphasis on individual perceptions.

If it is possible to contemplate a phenomenology of design which passionately embraces social and ideological perspectives, I cannot pretend that it will do any good in a world apparently pedestrianed by globalisation; but if our discourse speaks to designers of the things that matter to the imagination it will thus become integral to the fabric of design progress and history, in the same spectacular way that art theory has done for the history of art.

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Robert Nelson is a senior lecturer and associate dean (research and graduate studies) in the Faculty of Art and Design. This is an edited version of a discussion paper he will deliver to the international design conference, FUTUREGROUND, to be held in Melbourne this month (see page 6).
Magnificent Mihirungs
The Colossal Flightless Birds of the Australian Dreamtime
By Peter F. Murray and Patricia Vickers-Rich
Published by Indiana University Press
ISBN: $125
This book is the first complete study of the extinct Dromornithidae family, the gigantic "geese" of early Australia. Made up of several genera of flightless birds, including the Mihirungs, the dromornithids were birds that ranged from the very large to the gigantic. The smaller birds were one and a half metres tall and weighed about 60 kilograms; the largest were three metres tall and weighed nearly half a metric ton.

The book provides a wealth of knowledge about the dromornithids, accumulated over the past two decades, that has led to an understanding of the relationships of these birds. The authors discuss in detail the history of the work on the dromornithids, the geological and geographical distributions of their remains, and their familial systematics, anatomy, functional morphology, and palaeobiology.

Professor Patricia Vickers-Rich holds a chair in palaeontology at Monash University, where she lectures in the School of Geosciences and is director of the Monash Science Centre. Mr Murray is curator of palaeontology and the Flinders Venetia Collection and assistant director at the Museum of Central Australia.

Disclosing Spaces:
On painting
By Andrew Benjamin
Published by Olarnman Press
ISBN: $25
Monash professor Andrew Benjamin argues that the production of art in recent decades has largely been carried out behind the critical frameworks needed to understand and appreciate art. Here, he diagnoses and addresses this failure in terms of the role of criticism itself, proposing a redefinition of the relationship between painting and criticism at a fundamental level.

He argues that an individual artwork cannot be seen in any straightforward sense as a 'particular' of an established 'universal' that we might call art. Painting always, to a determinate form, rather it evolves and encounters new territory through the constant tension of the 'work' that constitutes the art, and the work of criticism. Throughout, the argument is funneled through detailed treatment of an eclectic range of works and illustrated with the works under consideration.

Professor Benjamin is research professor of critical theory in the Centre for Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies at Monash University.

Sustainability and Change in Rural Australia
Edited by Chris Cocklin and Jacqui Dibden
Published by University of New South Wales Press
ISBN: $25
This comprehensive collection of essays, written by some of Australia's leading commentators on rural systems, explores the multiple factors that underpin the sustainability of rural communities in Australia.

It addresses themes such as social and economic change, government policy and gender relations. At the heart of this discussion lies a desire to understand how rural communities have survived in the past, how they are shaped by environmental, economic and social factors at present, and how these factors will impact on their survival in the future.

Professor Chris Cocklin is professor of geography and environmental science at Monash University and director of its Environment Institute. Dr Jacqui Dibden is a research fellow with the Monash Regional Australia Project within the School of Geography and Environmental Science.

Climate Change: A Natural Hazard
By William Kininmonth
Published by Multi-Science Publishing Co, UK
ISBN: $49.95
This book argues that the models of climate developed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) are wholly inadequate and of no value as a predictive tool, making its claims about possible levels of future global warming worthless.

William Kininmonth, a former director of the Australian National Climate Centre, argues that the models are inadequate even as a descriptive tool for the system we call 'climate', let alone as the basis for any policy-making. He also asserts that global warming is a man-made concept. He argues that a proper understanding of the complexity of the atmospheric system necessarily leads to the conclusion that the global warming we are presently experiencing is a function of the complexity of that system itself and not the result of man's tinkering with the environment.

Ms Klaisnthorn is a member of the Australian National Climate Centre, which, among other activities, develops models of the atmosphere. She argues that these models are inadequate even as a descriptive tool for the system we call 'climate', let alone as a basis for policy-making. She also asserts that global warming is a man-made concept. She argues that a proper understanding of the complexity of the atmospheric system necessarily leads to the conclusion that the global warming we are presently experiencing is a function of the complexity of that system itself and not the result of man's tinkering with the environment.

if you are a member of the Mosash community and have a forthcoming book, contact media@adm.monash.edu.au.

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- Caulfield: +61 3 9871 3277
- Clayton: +61 3 9905 1111
- Claytonplus: +61 3 9512 1771
- Peninsula: +61 3 9783 6932

www.monash.edu.au
Monash South Africa recognizes that a skilled shortage in film and television threatens the sustainability of the country's developing industry. Since its establishment in 2003, the MSA Film and Television Unit has introduced courses that are helping to turn that situation around.

This year, the unit has introduced two new courses aimed at helping young students who may have more potential than resources. The entry-level Audio Visual Production Course, which began in February this year, has already taught its first group of 20 students and the second intake is under way.

The 20-week course introduces students to the four main areas in the industry: creative, technical, production and editing. The course, funded by the Department of Labour, also offers life skills and computer literacy components and provides simulated and actual workplace experience.

The intermediate Protege Project, which began in March 2004, was developed in partnership with the Johannesburg Business Council.

This 12-week program provides measured and coached practical training as well as theoretical knowledge within the context of actual industry requirements. The training expands on current knowledge, for those who have already proved their passion for, and commitment to, the industry.

Both these courses have been designed to assist predominantly historically disadvantaged individuals who have had no formal training, or who have had to drop out of a training program, due to lack of funds.

The two new courses fit within the framework of the South African government's Film Incentive - an initiative designed to encourage and facilitate film and TV industry training.

"Out of the skills shortage at intermediate and advanced levels by providing short, intensive courses. The unit has been closely involved in the development and roll-out of the courses.

Dr Melanie Chait, consultant to the MSA Film and TV Unit, and the unit's project manager, Mr Nikki Tilley, have consulted closely with the Department of Trade and Industry during this year.

The unit is recognized as a serious provider of short, intensive courses for industry professionals.

"In terms of serving the needs of the local industry, the unit is addressing capacity building at entry, intermediate and advanced levels."

Mr Tilley said.

"Looking at international best practice, there is a need for people in the local industry to be up-skilled and kept abreast with world trends in order to be globally competitive.

"Our biggest challenge is for companies to embrace the need to invest, not only in their own staff, but in freelancers too - in order to ensure that ultimately we have an industry that can sustain itself."

Dr Chait agreed, saying industry skills must be present before production deals can be brokered. "In the industry we talk about new studios and new channels, and calls are repeatedly made on the Department of Trade and Industry to offer tax breaks to help finance feature films.

"All of this is important, but we need to build capacity - not only in terms of studios but in terms of skills - to make this a reality," she said.

"If new channels are to be established, we need the people to run, manage, program, and schedule. We are all aware of how companies and corporations struggle to find experienced people. If we do succeed in getting the tax breaks, we do not have the necessary skills to make the films. Within the industry the importance of ongoing training also needs to be acknowledged."

As well as training entry-level participants from rural and urban areas, the unit also provides extra skills for people already involved in the industry. Participants have come from Gauteng, Botswana, Eastern Cape, Limpopo, KwaZulu-Natal, Swaziland and Malawi.

Several short courses have been offered for industry professionals this year, including "Feature Directing", "The art of digital editing", "Scriptwriting for features", "Business skills development", and "Production accounting."

The unit has recently delivered a tailor-made course in promotion scheduling to participants from several South African pay TV channels.

"We also are fielding inquiries and tailoring courses for broadcasters from other African countries including Namibia, Nigeria and Uganda," Ms Tilley said. "We are collaborating with the Southern African Broadcasters Association (SABA) and delivered a presentation at their AGM in October. As a result, the director of the Asia Pacific Institute of Broadcasting has expressed interest in Monash Malaysia setting up a similar unit."
Newsreaders shed stuffed shirts

Linguistics

Television and radio news bulletins—once delivered in clipped accents by presenters in formal suits—have changed dramatically over the past few decades.

Monash University PhD student Mr. Jerry Price has found in his preliminary research that the language style used in electronic news has moved a long way from the rigid style of early broadcasts.

Mr. Price, from the School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics, is undertaking a study to track the changes in the Australian broadcast vernacular since the 1940s.

She is examining archived and current news excerpts from AM and FM radio stations and commercial and non-commercial television broadcasts as part of her research.

Mr. Price said certain radio newscasters of today have developed a conversational reading style that was quite different from broadcasts of the 1950s and 1960s, when presenters imitated the style of BBC announcers.

“While broadcasts began in Australia, we copied the pronunciation of the BBC, which was regarded as the most prestigious style of language and the industry standard,” Mr. Price explained.

“Newscasting today is much more conversational, and it seems women may be the flag-bearers of this change, particularly at the FM radio stations,” he added.

Mr. Price said that while FM radio stations appeared to have made the biggest move away from BBC English, television stations had remained more conservative in their delivery style.

Gun laws reduce deaths

Gun law reform has led to dramatic reductions in firearm deaths throughout Australia, a landmark Monash University study has revealed.

The research showed that firearm-related deaths in Victoria fell by nearly 75 percent between 1979 and 2002.

The overwhelming success of gun amnesty and buyback schemes has led the research team to ask if Vision Zero—the total elimination of firearm-related homicides and suicides from society—is possible.

The Monash University Accident Research Centre (MUARC) study investigated trends in the rates of firearm-related deaths in Victoria in the context of legislative reforms following mass shootings in Victoria in the late 1980s and in Tasmania in 1996.

The centre's chair of injury prevention, Professor Joan Ozanne-Smith, said Victoria had led the way nationally and internationally in gun law reform and buyback schemes.

The study shows steady rates of firearm-related deaths before reforms (from 1979 to 1986), but a significant downward trend of 17 per cent was recorded between 1998 and 1995 following Victorian reforms. Further declines were seen after later reforms from 1997.


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OBSERVED RATES OF FIREARM RELATED DEATHS IN VICTORIA

<table>
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<tr>
<th>YEAR OF DEATH</th>
<th>POPULATION</th>
<th>DEATHS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>3.5 million</td>
<td>164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>3.5 million</td>
<td>41</td>
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Safe school routes lead to injury drop: study

Accident research

A VicRoads program encouraging primary school children to travel safely to school has reduced casualty rates among those walking and cycling by nearly 18 per cent, a Monash University Accident Research Centre report has revealed.

The Safe Routes to Schools program was found not only to have benefits for school children but also to reduce casualty crashes for all road users during school travel times by five per cent.

The program involved students, parents and teachers, in partnership with the local council, investigating road safety issues along the common routes used by children travelling to and from school as pedestrians and cyclists.

About 200 primary schools were involved in the program, which ran from 1990 until 2000.

After identifying the most common routes to and from a school, local road user behaviour was observed and an action plan developed and implemented. The plan included making improvements to the road environment and introducing student road safety education.

MUARC researcher Mr. Stuart Newstead said an evaluation of the program revealed it had reduced road traumas among a number of road user groups, including adult pedestrians and cyclists.

“Is it really practical in reducing the frequency of crashes involving primary school-aged pedestrians and cyclists,” he said.

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Pulling the plug for the environment

Environmental research

Monash University scientists will draw the teaspoons of 2250 Olympic swimming pool's from heritage-listed wetlands in the Gippsland Lakes in eastern Victoria to breathe new life into the fragile ecosystem.

The team of 10 researchers from the School of Biological Sciences is embarking on what is believed to be one of the largest water manipulation projects undertaken in a natural environment, to provide strategies for future management of the coastal wetlands system.

Research fellow Dr. Ellis Railings said the project over the next few weeks at Dowell Morass—a 1500-hectare freshwater marsh that has remained artificially flooded for the past 30 years—would affect about 60 plant species in the area with flow-on effects to the resident bird population.

The team will focus much of its attention on the wetland's most prominent tree species—the swamp paperbark—and measure rates of regeneration over the next 12 months.

Dr Railings said findings from the Dowell Morass project could be used as a template to improve the health of other degraded wetland systems throughout Australia.

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