Monash historian will write...

Dr. Geoffrey Serle begins the long task of sifting through 100 hours of "Monash memorabilia" - starting point of the first full biography of the late Sir John Monash. It's a job that will occupy Dr. Serle for the next four or five years.

For Orientation - everything from...

Orientation Week, beginning today, is a blend of fun and the more serious side of becoming a university student.

It will introduce new students to all the facilities available at Monash from the libraries to the many social and sporting groups on campus.

Caroline Piesse, Assistant to the Union Wardens, said there had been a growing emphasis on academic orientation.

This year students will have several chances to chat to their lecturers and tutors at coffee sessions organised by faculties and departments.

The week will begin with a welcome from the Vice-Chancellor, Professor W. A. G. Scott.

Then in different theatres around the campus the Deans of Arts, Economics and Politics, Engineering, Science and Medicine will address students enrolled in their faculty.

Faculty coffee sessions will follow.

The Dean of Law's welcome will be held at 2 p.m. tomorrow (Wednesday). All libraries - the main library, the biomedical library and the Hargrave library - will be open each day and staff will answer any questions.

Champers to the stars

From a champagne breakfast to the future of the legal profession... from a bus trip to the beach to the origins of the solar system...

Caroline said many students were interested in meeting staff and finding out about their courses in the first few days - then it's on with the fun.

Today there will include a lunchtime concert by the group Ariel and palm reading session by the Psychology Society.

Other "events" planned for the week include a Soppong "match of the day" played by the Pool Club and a "mini-Olympics" featuring a hill climb of the Union building.

Fun with frankfurters

For the uninitiated a Soppong match is played by two teams (any number) who, while kneeling with one hand on their heads, attempt to hit a ping pong ball through the opposing team's goal posts with uncooked frankfurters. Everyone, including the referee, is expected to cheat.

Major forums planned for the week include Drug Use and Abuse and Contraception.

The contraception forum is held annually to give factual information. Questions will be answered.

The drug forum, chaired by Professor G. Bentley, associate professor of Pharmacology, will discuss the use of illegal drugs and the abuse of legal drugs.

Tomorrow night the Motor Cycle Club will host a rock and roll dance to which guests are asked to wear fifties dress and the Alexander Theatre Company will open its production of Waiting for Godot.

On Thursday afternoon the theatre company will hold an At Home where students can meet the staff and actors and inspect the theatre.

On Friday a bus trip to Shoreham Beach with a surprise entertainment has been organised. Students can book for this during the week.

Part-time students are welcome at all the week's activities but Saturday is for third-year students looking after a group of freshers has been organised by Ms Laurie Krauss.

More than 1000 new students have joined this scheme.

Now, however, the family of the late scholar-engineer-soldier has given Dr Serle full use of the papers "without any restriction whatever".

It is, according to Serle, one of the few great collections of private papers that have survived in Australia, ranking in size and importance with the Denkin and Parkes papers.

The collection, astonishing in its breadth and diversity, now occupies a room on the sixth floor of the Menzies Building. It's contained in 140 boxes, each measuring about 17in. x 11in. x 6in., with a total volume of more than 190 cu.ft.

Though he never knew Monash (who died in 1931) when Serle was aged 9, Serle believes he will be able to write a highly personal and intimate account of the general's life.

"Monash kept his papers in such a systematic and orderly fashion - and the collection is so comprehensive - it will be possible to produce an intimate biography centred on the development of character and personality of the subject," he says. "The amusing, humorous works of this type, a biographer is generally largely confined to the purely "public" aspects of a man's life."

The major part of the collection consists of Sir John Monash's letters (written and received).

"I haven't counted them yet, but I estimate that there is something like 50,000 of them," Serle says.

Then there are the diaries. For a period of about 10 years in Monash's youth and young manhood, these are very full. As he grew older and busier they petered out into "a few lines of daily scrawl" and, later in life, became little more than engagement books.

There are, too, masses of manuscripts, speeches, business and military documents, school and university notes, photographs (seven boxes of them), souvenirs, visiting cards, menus, theatre programmes - "thousands and thousands of items", says Serle.

"Monash wrote a beautiful clear hand - thank goodness - so there'll be few problems of legibility."
One of the country's finest private collections of modern Australian art will be exhibited at Monash this month.

The collection has been put together in the past 10 years by a Melbourne business couple, Eva and Marc Besen. As chairman of the Visual Arts Department, Professor Patrick McCAughhey, said 52 paintings from the collection of more than 200 had been lent for exhibition.

This would be their first public showing.

"It would give people a chance to see, for the first time, some of the most famous Australian paintings," said Professor McCAughhey.

The collection was one of the best private collections in Australia.

"It is an adventurous collection, starting with the "Old masters" of Australian modern painting."

The collection spans four decades - from 1936 to 1976. "I don't know another collection in Australia which does this. It's exceptional in this regard," Professor McCAughhey said.

Professor McCAughhey said that not only were the "best" artists represented but each painting was a major work of each particular artist. The basement has put together a collection of museum quality. Every picture there is one which the Canberra Government wants.

"Through these paintings the whole story of modern Australian art unfolds. The collection covers that period when modern art in Australia came of age." Professor McCAughhey said that within the collection was one of the largest collections of modern Australian paintings.

"They range from Ian Fairweather's Women with Goat (about 1937) to John Hopkins' elaborate Realist version of the theme painted in 1972."

The collection has been put together in the past 10 years by a Melbourne business couple, Eva and Marc Besen.

"Without doubt, I would say Monash's outstanding qualities were his articulateness, his powers of expression and his clarity of mind," Serle says.

"Monash was as good an example as you'd hope to get of the virtues of higher education. He was immersed in the field of education right throughout his life, having himself taken degrees in arts, law and engineering."

Serle is reluctant to set a timetable for his project, but imagines it will probably take him four to five years, working half-time (the other half will be taken up by his commitment as joint general editor of the Australian Dictionary of Biography).

And - he thinks - the resultant biography will be confined to one large volume. Which means refining more than 100 c.u.f. of material into something considerably less than one cubic foot!

"I'm thinking of about 3600 this year."

"This year there will be more than 10,500 undergraduates. The total student population will increase by about 350 to 13,000."

"And what sort of picture of Monash the Man is beginning to emerge from Serle's early foraging among the papers?"

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PUSH-BUTTON VOTING COMES TO THE UNION

Push-button voting comes into operation in the Union this year to decide student opinion polls, referenda and elections.

The system was designed and built by students in the department of computer science.

It consists of a portable polling station that will be plugged in near the Union inquiry desk, from where it will feed votes by landline to a University computer.

Results will be known within minutes of the poll closing.

The system ensures anonymity for votes, containing safeguards against a person voting more than once in each poll.

It has been dubbed MASER (for Monash Automated System for Elections and Referenda).

Deputy warden of the Union, Mr Doug Ellis, says it will handle its first poll during Orientation Week, when students will be invited to vote on having a licensed bar for students in the Union.

Besides producing snap results, it is expected to encourage more participation in student polls, he says.

MASER can handle anything from a simple yes/no choice on a single question to preferential voting in 15 elections at a time with up to 15 candidates per election.

The idea was first discussed in late 1972 after protests over a decision to leave the Union open on July 19-20 to prepare information on draft resistance.

Mechanised straw vote

"It was obvious we needed a means of collecting student opinion without the expensive and time-consuming routine of standard voting procedures," says Mr Ellis.

A mechanised straw vote seemed the logical answer.

Chairman of computer science, Professor C. S. Wallace, confirmed that his department could provide the necessary computer facilities, as well as design, build and install the system.

In 1973, students Peter Dewildt and Peter McTuckin, in consultation with Doug Ellis and Phil Herington, designed and started building the hardware as a third year computer science project.

John Rosenberg, now a postgraduate student, completed construction and testing the following year, also as a third year project.

The same year, a team of six fourth year students each wrote a part of the real-time software to drive the voting system as part of a course in real-time systems.

Early in 1975, Peter Dewildt, then a full-time tutor in the department, put all the written software together, debugged it, and tested it. A prototype was working by mid-year.

Since then, off-line software has been written, e.g. vote-counting programs, and the actual system to be used has been constructed.

To guard against multiple voting, students will punch in their ID number before recording a vote. The computer will check that the number has not been used previously in that particular poll.

It will be programmed with all current ID numbers to prevent the use of phony ones.

And to stop people feeding in ID numbers other than their own, voters will also have to punch in the first three digits of their birthdays.

Birthdays are not recorded on ID cards but will be programmed into the computer to match ID numbers.

As each student records his preferences, the appropriate ID number is marked off by the computer as having voted and the vote is transferred to a file of votes cast so far.

No other information is recorded on the votes file and it is impossible to tell how a person voted.

ASIAN SCHOLARS GET TOGETHER

A single Australian body for all Asian scholars is to be established in Melbourne in May.

The Asian Studies Association of Australia will be formally constituted at its first conference at Melbourne University from May 14-16.

The research director of Monash's Centre of Southeast Asian Studies, Mr Jamie Mackie, is the Melbourne conference committee chairman.

Associate Professor Harold Boltin (department of Japanese) is treasurer; Mr David Chandler (history) and Miss Barbara Harvey (politics) are members.

Mr Mackie said a number of Monash staff had helped in establishing the body, particularly Professor John Legge, of the history department, who was appointed to a small committee in 1972 to plan for a single permanent body.

Mr Mackie said the need for one national body covering all Asian scholars had been increasing for a number of years.

"There are now several hundred people engaged in teaching or research on Asian languages, history, politics, anthropology and other fields in Australian universities and other tertiary institutions, as well as many teachers in our secondary schools."

"Many of these people feel relatively isolated from their colleagues," Mr Mackie said.

At Monash there are about 25 staff in the Centre of Southeast Asian Studies and about 40 graduate students.

"There is an increasing need for exchange of ideas at conferences and seminars, as well as for co-ordination of contacts with government agencies, both in Asia and Australia, over matters of research policies, access to materials, visas, educational and cultural exchanges and the like," Mr Mackie said.

Professor Legge in 1974 drew up a constitution for the new body to resolve the conflicting interests of several smaller Asian groups already in existence.

More than 100 Asianists agreed to the formal establishment of the association at an ANZAAS conference in Canberra last year.

Mr Mackie said sessions of the Melbourne conference would be divided into regional and inter-regional panels.

There would be a stocktaking of the current state of Asian studies in Australia, he said.

"In all there will be about 20 different panel and seminar topics and more than 80 papers are expected.

The Vice-Chancellor of the Australian National University, Professor A. M. Low, will give a public lecture on May 14 on "The Ideas of Revolution of the mid-20th Century and their Relevance to Australia."

A concert of Asian music has been programmed in the company of the Melbourne city orchestra and the Melbourne City Singers, who have been rehearsing with the orchestra for several weeks.

Several other music lecturers are expected to attend the conference.

The lectures will take theological themes of interest to Christians and illustrate how they arose out of the New Testament.

The lectures will be held in R3 on Wednesdays at 11.00 p.m. from March 24 when the Rev. Dr J. D. McCaughey, President-elect of the Uniting Church, will speak on 'Paul and Jesus'.

"Lecturers will be from the teaching institutions associated with the Melbourne College of Divinity."

Theology lectures

The University Chaplains have organized and run a lecture Union "New Testament Themes" for first term. These lectures will take theological themes of interest to Christians and illustrate how they arose out of the New Testament.

The lectures will include a Catholic charismatic speaking about the Holy Spirit and a Presbyterian woman minister discussing Paul's attitude to women. The lectures will be held in R3 on Wednesdays at 11.00 p.m. from March 24 when the Rev. Dr J. D. McCaughey, President-elect of the Uniting Church, will speak on 'Paul and Jesus'. Lecturers will be from the teaching institutions associated with the Melbourne College of Divinity.

NEW HOME FOR HEALTH SERVICE

The University Health Services have moved from the Medical Building to the Union Building.

This is one of the major changes made following extensions and alterations to the Union last year.

The Warden of the Union, Graeme Sweeney, said the changes were needed because of a greater number of students and a bigger number of services offered within the building.

The Health Services are on the ground floor off the MAS-Lot's Wife corridor.

Upstairs there is a new balcony area at the front of the building. This includes a balcony meeting area which can be booked through the Union reception desk and a coffee bar which is expected to be open in the second week of first term.

Later in first term the ladies' hairdresser and the Australian Union of Students' travel service will move to shops opening on to the Forum.

For most of first term two new services - AUS Insurance and the Record and Music Shop will be in temporary premises.

The insurance service will be next to the Bookmarket and the record and music shop will be near the Cellar Room servery.

Near the end of first term the Foot Office, Credit Union and the Record and Music Shop are expected to move into the east wing of the Cellar Room.
EQUALITY: An impossible burden for Third World?

Professor Christopher Weeramantry, of the Monash Faculty of Law, gave one of the principal papers at the recent Quadrennial sessions of the World Congress on the Philosophy of Law, held at St. Louis, Missouri.

The Congress, attended by 400 jurists and philosophers from more than 40 countries, was held for the first time in the U.S. to mark the bicentennial of that country's independence.

Its themes, in keeping with the bicentennial, were equality and freedom.

Professor Weeramantry's paper, one of three delivered at the public sessions of the Congress, was on fundamental perspectives on equality and freedom from a Third World viewpoint.

Professor Weeramantry said the staff is jettisoning the group concepts of equality and freedom from a Third World viewpoint. 'They must seek a view of equality and freedom concepts before the most suitable is found and developed, has been denied the Third World through historical circumstances, he said. It must necessarily go through the process of trial and error before selecting a stable answer.'

Throughout the Third World, resentment and resistance against foreign concepts and procedures of justice smouldered, though articulated in varying degrees. Where there were great disparities in wealth, the introduction of formalised justice often meant the introduction of inequity.

The diversity of Third World cultures, on the other hand, could give leadership to the world, on the principle that any concept of justice for the world order of the future must have the ability to accommodate within itself a multitude of cultural needs, social backgrounds, and justice values.

"It cannot be subject to the dominance of the one or two that may at the time enjoy particular temporal power. The world is too rich for such narrowness, and equality and freedom do not run in such restricted channels."

CCE's ROLE IS EXPANDING

What better advertisement for a Centre for Continuing Education than that its staff is still learning?

The seminar was held at the University on February 27 and 28.

"Most professional associations organise some kind of continuing education programmes for their members but by and large they don't talk to one another about what they do or why," Dr. McDonell said. He also believes the centre could ultimately take a monitoring role — collecting and disseminating new ideas on the continuing education of professionals and groups of adults with common interests.

The centre is also planning a mid-year seminar for teachers involved in careers education in schools to discuss women's careers.

"How often does a 'conference' consist simply of a succession of speakers addressing a passive audience?" If a panel of speakers is presenting opposing views, members of the audience tend simply to agree with those which support their own preconceived opinions.

"Little discussion or learning takes place," Dr. McDonell said.

The centre will also play its part in the American Revolution with educational seminars by enrolling people for a 12-lecture course on the American Revolution.

The courses will begin this month and run for 34 night sessions during the year.

Two new buildings in the School of Medicine will be a major part of the University's building programme this year.

The buildings, for the departments of anatomy and physiology, are to be built in the western courtyard of the medical complex.

University buildings officer, Mr. John Trembath, expects construction to begin in September.

The extensions, costing about $5 million, are being paid for by a grant for 1976 from the Federal Government.

With other extensions planned for the 1977-78 triennium, they will enable the medical school to increase its student numbers from 160 to 200.

Two 250-seat lecture theatres for the medical school and a building for the department of microbiology, to be moved on to campus from the Alfred Hospital, are currently in the planning stage.

The funds for these are expected in 1977-79.

Building projects to be completed this year include the Monash Child Training Centre next to the education faculty and the University Club behind the Religious Centre.

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Momsager REPORTER

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Finished in April

Mr. Trembath expects the Kronqold Centre to be completed by April.

Work on the building began last month and the building should be ready by October.

The grounds staff will spend much of the year "tidying up."

Eight buildings completed late last year are now occupied and staff will be busy landscaping these areas.

These are: Education Stage 2, Library Stage 3, Biology Stage 2, Mathematics Stage 2, Mentzies Building Stage 3, Union Building Stage 3, non-collegiate housing for 118 students at the corner of Blackburn and Wellington Rds., and a second annex to the Administration Building.

Landscaping of the Forum, between the Memises building and the Union building, should be completed mid-year.

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Education was as impotent as Christianity to bring peace to the world, the Governor of South Australia, Sir Mark Oliphant, said recently.

He said education encouraged "selfishness, greed, violence, intolerance, and lack of self discipline or social discipline."

Sir Mark was speaking at the tenth Australian University Graduate Conference held in Adelaide in January.

"Yet how can we ever have peace on earth if it is not sought by the educated — the graduates?" he asked.

"In the past I have always believed that the key to a world where hunger, poverty, violence and war, no longer drove men and women to senseless inhumanity and inhumanity, lay in more and better education.

"When I see the greatest, most highly educated peoples in the world engaged in a continually escalating and brutalising arms race, enabling, through the international trade in arms, the emerging nations to engage in terrible, death dealing strife, I have serious doubts.

Sir Mark said there was a growing questioning of the value to society of compulsory education.

"Many young people cannot cope with secondary education, and some who scrape through to matriculation gain little as drop-outs from university courses."

"It is claimed sometimes, that by keeping the young at school, they do not enter an overcrowded labor market, or become out-of-work drifters.

Disillusioned, unemployable

"However they do leave the education system entirely, and if their training has not fitted them for the jobs which are available, they are apt to end up as disillusioned and unemployable, trained for a career which no longer exists."

"Unemployment among university graduates is increasing, even among those who were encouraged by the authorities to train as teachers of subjects in which sufficient staff had been difficult to obtain."

"Because of shortage of funds it has become necessary to curtail some research projects in universities, and hence to reduce post-graduate training in some fields."

"This may not be altogether bad if it results in more careful scrutiny of research activities which, in some cases, are neither interesting nor creative, but exercises designed to lead to a thesis or a higher degree," Sir Mark said.

"In all universities with which I have been associated, there are to be found what Sir Henry Tizard called 'perpetual students and fellowship holders."

"There are graduates who have not had research fellowships or research assistantships, wherever they are to be found, working earnestly but without inspiration at one thing after another, often shamelessly used by ambitious academics to do the dull jobs for them."

"Such folk, usually women, can find themselves stranded, without job or further prospects in the present economic climate."

"There are in the academic world a number of men who have climbed to success, or even to Nobel Prizes, on the shoulders of such people, and who, when the going gets tough, discard without hesitation those they have encouraged previously to be their slaves."

"I myself have been guilty of taking on research students without proper or sufficient thought about their subsequent employment prospects."

Sir Mark also criticised students who appeared to go to university to disrupt, not encourage, scholarship."

"The proportion of students entering courses and dropping out before completion has increased greatly."

"A minority of students appears to enrol at a university less to pursue serious studies than to engage in strange kinds of anarchy designed to disrupt rather than encourage scholarship.

"In this they are aided by a few members of the academic staff."

"Students taking professional courses, such as medicine, engineering and law, and those doing the natural sciences, are seldom, if ever, to be found in such activist groups. They are too busy."

GRADUATE NEWS

Community service

Monash graduates are offering their services to the community through a scheme set up by the Monash Graduate News Association.

The scheme, called the Graduate Register Programme, is designed to put graduates in touch with community groups who can use their abilities in voluntary work.

MGA president, Mr Graham Davy, said 100 graduates had joined the programme.

The association has 383 members. A consultancy service to the Careers and Appointments Office here is already underway.

The association has provided a list of members who are willing to discuss their jobs with new graduates or undergraduates.

Mr Lionel Parrott, who administers this service, said a number of posts had already taken advantage of this scheme — "mainly graduates who wanted to get a realistic feel for what certain types of jobs were like."

Ms Davy said other graduates interested in giving legal assistance and helping institutionalised children would be placed soon.

Some graduates will work tutoring nursery schoolchildren.

Ms Davy stressed that each member of the programme decided how much time he or she wanted to give to this voluntary work.

The scheme has been established after members said they wanted to help undergraduates understand career prospects and in community activities, she said.

BIGGER ROLE

Australian graduate organisations are to take a bigger part in matters concerning universities and graduates.

This was decided at the tenth annual conference of the Australian University Graduate Conference held in Adelaide in January.

The conference executive has been empowered to make statements of graduate opinion and to take action on matters affecting graduates and undergraduates.

The conference endorsed the executive's action in expressing "deep concern" to the Federal Government at the proposed drastic cuts in university research grants last August.

Delegates at the conference said graduate opinion should be expressed in the main centres of political power.

They said universities faced increasing criticism because of the money spent on them.

"The 'screws' were on universities regardless of the political party in power, " they said.

Twelve graduate organisations, including the Monash Graduates Association, attended the conference.

An offer from Macquarie University to compile a report showing which authors were studied in Australian literature courses in Australia and overseas was accepted by the conference.

Parents organise in Sale

It's not only new students who can find university life strange and confusing.

The transition from HSC to university routine can be equally unsettling for students' parents.

As one mother wailed: "It's not like school, you can't go and see the principal with your problem."

But parents may be consoled by the thought that there is a group of people here who have been through it all themselves.

The Monash University Parents' Group was formed 11 years ago by a handful of parents.

Gippsland branch

Last year the membership was 700 and in December a Gippsland branch of the MUPG was formed in Sale by parents concerned about their children's housing and social problems in Melbourne.

The group functions mainly as a fund-raising body to provide "extras" useful to as many students as possible.

In 1980 they gavè about $2500 to the library for duplicate reference books, $1000 to the Organ Appeal and more than $2000 to the Union to improve its facilities.

Their first job this year will be to assist at the official university Parent Orientation Day on March 14.

"New" parents will be taken on a tour of the university, leaving Robert Blackwood Hall at 11 a.m., hear an address from the Vice-Chancellor, Professor W.A.G. Scott, and then split up for addresses from the dean of their child's faculty.

A barbecue lunch at $1.50 a head is held on this family day. More than 1000 attended last year.

Bookings for the barbecue can be made with Mrs Marie (430 7831) or the treasurer, Mrs Peg Travis (87 3323).

On March 17 the group will hold the first of its monthly morning coffee sessions.

Above: The parents' group party were shown over an iron foundry on their visit to Sale in November. From left, Mr Eric Blash (then advisor to prospective students) Gordon Troop (Physical), Mrs Joan Marie (MUPG president) and Mr Ted Peirs (Gippsland branch president).
**New post for Dean**

**Teaching role for private hospitals**

Twelve private hospitals in Victoria have agreed to allow Monash medical students to work with their patients.

The students, with a Monash clinical instructor who has patients in the hospital, will visit in twos and threes.

The Dean of Medicine, Professor Rod Andrew, said private patients would have the same right to refuse to be examined as public hospital patients now had.

Professor Andrew said the scheme would help to overcome the present problem of inadequate numbers of patients for undergraduates to see and be taught on.

"This medical school has had the worst possible contact with its students of any university," he said.

The recent announcement of Professor Andrew's appointment as director of postgraduate studies at St Francis Xavier Cabrini Hospital from next year has highlighted the development of teaching in private hospitals in Australia.

The 310-bed Cabrini Hospital at Malvern is the largest private hospital in Victoria.

In the past undergraduate and postgraduate education has been confined to public hospitals.

Professor Andrew, who retires from Monash at the end of the year, said that although teaching in private hospitals was a new development in Australia it had been the standard pattern in America for many years.

It was even more necessary in Victoria because the State had the highest ratio of private hospital beds to public hospital beds in Australia, Professor Andrew said.

He said that until now private hospitals had simply been places for patients and their doctors to meet with little contact with the general life of the hospital.

Professor Andrew said it was generally acknowledged that teaching hospitals had the highest professional standards.

**'Godlike' doctor**

"Posts in teaching hospitals are very eagerly sought and the best people are appointed; also teaching hospitals have a remarkable range of back-up resources."

"And having a resident staff constantly on the job ensures that the patient is protected at every phase of his illness by doctors who are living their professional life in that hospital."

"The patient is under the scrutiny of a team. Nowadays it's generally accepted that the most accurate diagnosis is made not by one expert but by a team of experts."

"The 'godlike' doctor who is a beacon, diagnosed and managed a case are virtually over."

"In teaching hospitals the ceaseless dialogue between visiting staff, academics, residents, students and paramedical staff is one of the most important things in maintaining standards and keeping people up-to-date with advances."

"Total professional standards at teaching hospitals may only be 10 per cent higher but that 10 per cent can make the difference between life and death, a correct diagnosis or a wrong diagnosis."

"There is a sense of belonging, of shared experience and of a corporate life in teaching hospitals which you don't, at present, get in private hospitals."

"The St Swithin's thing is not just a jolly joke. It's a demonstration, in a amusing way, of how a hospital gets its purpose, its corporate life," Professor Andrew said.

The success of the programme will also rely on close liaison with other teaching hospitals, the Australian Medical Association, the Royal Medical Colleges, the Victorian Medical Postgraduate Foundation, government health bodies and the universities.

The Environmental Science Masters degree course at Monash has received a grant of $13,000 from the Soil Conservation Authority to research land use.

The grant is the first course has received for research work from an outside body.

The co-ordinator of the course, Dr Tim Ealey, said four students would do the work this year as part of their minor theses.

The students will be trying to develop a formula for evaluating the capability of land to be used in various ways.

They will look at cereal cropning, livestock production and mineral and wildlife capacity.

Dr Ealey said research was being done throughout the world to develop a successful land capability system but, to his knowledge, a perfect system had not been developed.

"Hopefully the system can be computerised. You then end up with a remarkably objective assessment of what any area of land would be best used for."

"For example if the system had ratings of 0 to 6, solid rock at the top of Mt Bogong would obviously score nought for use for cereal cropping but it might have a high score as a wildlife area."

"The students will undertake practical tests, develop a formula from these and then test and revise this."

The four have different areas of responsibility - J. Allinson, agriculture; P. King, surface-water production; W. Carr, mineral production; K. Bondy, wildlife conservation.

Each will be supervised by a staff member.

The staff-student team will work in close liaison with two Soil Conservation Authority officers, including the principal research officer, Mr F. Gibbons.

Later this year the Authority will pay an overseas expert to assist the team in developing the system.

The Master of Environmental Science Course has grown rapidly since it was first offered in 1973.

Eighteen students will graduate in April and another 72 are now studying for the degree.

Ninety people applied for the 25 places offered this year.

Other research projects planned for 1976 include an assessment, with the Forests Commission, of the problems caused by off-road vehicles such as trail bikes and four-wheel drives, and an examination with the Pakenham Shire of ways to solve the problem of old subdivisions too small for building.

"The aim of the course is to do things of immediate social value," Dr Ealey said.

**Equality study**

A Monash lecturer, Mrs Shirley Sampson, has been appointed chairman of a committee set up by the State Government to examine equal opportunity for boys and girls in Victorian schools.

Ms Sampson, a lecturer in education, said the committee would call for submissions soon.

The committee will examine curricula, textbooks and practices.

Matters they will assess include language and imagery in books conveying arbitrary stereotypes of men and women and differing sets of rules, rewards and punishments applied to boys and girls.

**$13,000 RESEARCH GRANT FOR ENVIRONMENT GROUP**

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High flying Summer School

UNRAVELLING the mysteries of the modern motor car — tutor Hj Dilin (left) replaces a thermostat, watched by Edgar Vucetic, Beribla Malloy and Colleen McNamee.

More than 3000 people — housewives, students, children and grandmothers — attended courses at this year's Monash Summer School. They took courses ranging from motor car maintenance to Renaissance dancing.

The Summer School organiser, Mandy Smith, said the school offered more than 100 courses this year and 70 per cent of them were full. It was the first year the age restriction of 16 was lifted from most courses. Two courses which particularly attracted people from every age group were the kite-making and flying day and a pushbike workshop organised by the university Pushbike Club.

"Children only" functions included bus trips in the Clubs and Societies bus and a New Games day organised by the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation for children from the Clayton Youth Centre. The bus trips and the kite day were funded by the Oakleigh Council.

Miss Smith said one of the most popular courses had been a three-day guitar camp at the Alpine Lodge, Mount Buller. Thirty advanced students and four tutors spent the time playing and talking about guitars. The students want to repeat the camp during the year.

UP AND AWAY — Happiness is getting your very own hand-made kite airborne.

NEAT graduate joins Union

New staff in Clubs and Societies and student welfare will replace some of the "old familiar faces" this year.

Kate Gray, 34, took over in February as the new student welfare officer. Ms Gray has seen welfare from both sides of the fence. She trained as a welfare officer at the Institute of Social Welfare partly under the NEAT scheme and for the rest of the time on a tertiary grant of about $26 a week.

Recently she has worked for the Department of Social Security in Melbourne in the Crisis Intervention Centre and the Darwin Disaster Relief Centre.

Ms Gray says she will concentrate her work this year on first-year and mature-age students. She says these two groups are often experiencing the freedom of university life for the first time.

For older students this can lead to marriage as well as social problems. Ms Gray will still work from the Contact office on the ground floor of the Union building but she also has a private room for meeting students for discussion.

Neil Wentworth, 24, has been appointed student activities officer of the Union. Mr Wentworth, a former chairman of Monash Clubs and Societies, took over the position in December. He completed a Bachelor of Science degree here in 1974 and taught at De la Salle College, Malvern, last year.

His main duties include organising the annual Summer School and the tuition courses for students held each term during the year.

Joanne Gabriel has been appointed as the club liaison officer. Miss Gabriel, 20, a full-time student at the university last year, will study part-time to complete a Science degree. She replaces Mandy Smith.
**Parlour politics, cryptic queries for academics**

November Reporter reported a suggestion from Professor Swan that a “Dial-an-academic” or telephone service be established to assist the community and small businessmen. Initial response has been somewhat less than enthusiastic.

Professor Swan’s “Dial-an-Academic” scheme, reported in your issue No. 45 (November 3, 1975), may not be without its frustrations.

Some time ago someone dialled this academic with a most recondite musical question. After several hours of intensive research he telephoned back the answer, but my curiosity led me to ask the caller’s reason for wanting the information.

The nonchalant reply was: “Oh, I’m doing a crossword puzzle, and this was the only clue I couldn’t solve.” Ancora impari!

Trevor A. Jones
Professor of Music.

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**EVERYONE NEEDS A SECRETARY**

At a recent meeting the “bosses” posed the question “What is a Secretary?” One of the ladies concerned, who wants to remain anonymous, gives some answers.

(To be declaimed against a background of moulded violins.)

Between the naivety of the teenage typist and the sophistication of the Secretary, depending on your mood, she is a paragon, she is a penance. She can be and show you photographs of her grandchildren at 10 past, or nothing much to anyone, your servant, your soother, your confidante or your chief irritant. She can be and when she asks after your lumbago you know she really means it. She cares.

But when did you last ask after hers?)

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**P.S. on Bloody Monash**

I note that you have called an end to the correspondence on the above item. As the person who originally wrote pointing out the suspect signatory to the poem, may I be permitted to conclude it.

I cannot help but be impressed at the level of scholarship that our professional colleagues demonstrate and the clarity with which they express their opinions. Intensive research across linguistic and cultural boundaries has uncovered some fascinating information on the origins of the poem and the word “bloody.”

Though some learned friends appear to have got to know each other better in the process, it is sad that they all miss the simple point that I made.

Research merely reinforces the fact that the poem could have been written by any one of a million people and that this could go back to the time when Adam was a lad.

Even more important then, that this should have been acknowledged by the named author or better still had just been left unsigned.

Yours, bloody sincerely (with acknowledgements to everyone).

— Ron Baker
Senior Lecturer, Social Work.

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**CAMPUS FENCE WORK TO START**

Plans to fence the campus in an attempt to prevent vandalism are to go ahead.

The Buildings Officer, Mr John Trembath, said work on the 6 ft. chain wire fence would begin soon.

It will be coated with black PVC so that a distance the fence will merge with the landscape.

It is expected to cost $13,000.

It will run from the Jock Marshall Reserve down Blackburn Rd., along Wellington Rd. to the main gate. It will begin again at the bus terminal and link up with fencing around the University’s houses in Beddoes Ave.

The university curator, Mr John Cranwell, said vandalism had increased in the past nine months.

There had been five cases of serious vandalism, most of them along the Wellington Rd. boundary.

In all about 800 plants, ranging from new plants to five-year-old trees, had been destroyed on the Wellington Rd. and Blackburn Rd. boundaries, Mr Cranwell said.

He said plans for a nature trail parallel to Blackburn Rd. had also been abandoned 12 months ago because of vandalism.

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**LETTERS**

The Editor welcomes letters on topics of interest to the University. The name and faculty or department of the writer should be supplied. The letter should be sent to Information Office.

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**THE ENGLISH Department library recently gained 500 volumes of English literature. They were presented to the departmental librarian, Dr Alan Dilnot (left) by the director of the British Council in Sydney, Mr McKenzie Smith. The council is scaling down its library in Australia.**
POET HAD EARLY LINKS WITH AUSTRALIA

A Melbourne author claims to have discovered evidence linking the English poet Joseph Crabtree (1754-1854) with Captain Cook's voyages of discovery.

The evidence, he says, indicates that Crabtree (under an assumed name) probably accompanied Cook on at least one of his voyages, though he may not necessarily have visited Australia.

Mr Don Charlwood, Victorian Vice-President of the Australian Society of Authors and a fellow of the Fellowship of Australian Writers, made the claim during an address to the Australian Chapter of the Crabtree Foundation at Monash on February 11.

The Crabtree Foundation was established at University College, London, in 1964, to foster research into the life and work of the hitherto little-known poet. Crabtree was born on 8th Valentine's Day, February 14, 1754, and died on St Valentine's Day, February 14, 1854. The first London meeting of the Foundation commemorated the centenary of his death.

Each year since, on the Wednesday closest to St Valentine's Day, a distinguished scholar is invited to deliver a Crabtree Oration.

**Australian chapter**

Professor Arthur Brown, now professor of English at Monash, was the second Crabtree Orator in the London series and has been instrumental in forming the Australian Chapter of the foundation. Mr Charlwood was invited to deliver the first Australian series of Orations.

Mr Charlwood said that he was first alerted to Crabtree's existence and possible involvement, in Cook's voyages by the otherwise enigmatic lines: 'O Venus, star of every pane - was known to have been sung around a Crabtree. It will be found - an obscure London antique shop.'

The only known portrait (by an anonymous artist) of Joseph Crabtree, it was found marked at 10 shillings - in an obscure London antique shop.

Mr Charlwood says he has no direct evidence that Crabtree came to Australia later in life; but he recalled that Crabtree's supposed epitaph was known to have been sung around Sydney by a "dubious ministrel" named Roger (The Rhymur) Welkorn.

The epitaph (written either on the death of a friend, or in anticipation of Crabtree's own death) reads:

*O my heart is scarce, when my all with thee I fain would splice. Ah, what is man without the boon? The ship rides shuddering down the moon."

The poem, Crabtree says, is entitled "Malus Sylvestris" - the botanical name for the crabtree, the wild apple: "a clue thrown out to sleep, over the moon, 'tis far and away from my arms, tho' close to my heart."

July wind cries, How soon? How soon? And I belove to my hammer's deep. To dream of thee as I drift to sleep, Far from my arms, tho' close to my heart.

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**HOSTS WANTED**

Leaving home — whether it's Singapore or Oodnadatta — to study in Melbourne is a big step, and often a lonely one.

But the Monash University Parents' Group has set up a Host Family Scheme to help overcome this problem.

The scheme is open to any overseas, interstate or country students at Monash.

Seventy-seven students and 54 families took part in the scheme last year and some will continue again this year.

The convener, Mrs Meredith McComas, said the group was now looking for new students and families interested in the scheme. Most of the families who took part had sons and daughters of their own studying at Monash, she said.

Last year there were not enough host families to satisfy student applications so the scheme is hoping for a big response this year.

Students and families are asked to fill in application forms for the scheme and these are matched according to interests.

Mrs McComas said host family activities could vary from inviting students home for a meal to including them in the family holiday.

Application forms can be obtained from the Union Desk or from Mrs McComas, 82,8484, after 4.30 p.m., or Mrs Joan Nankivell 56,4232.

Representatives of the scheme will be in the Union building during Orientation Week to answer any questions.

W.A. CHAIR FOR MATHEMATICIAN

A former Monash mathematics lecturer, Dr Terry Speed, has been appointed to the fourth Chair in Mathematics at the University of Western Australia.

Professor Speed gained a doctorate of philosophy and a Diploma in Education from Monash University in 1969.

He had worked here as a tutor, senior tutor and lecturer in mathematical statistics before taking up a lecturing post at the University of Sheffield.

He returned to Australia in 1974 to become associate professor in the department of mathematics at the University of Western Australia.

**Chaplains funds WORK WITH STUDENTS IS HARDER**

Chaplains at Monash and other Melbourne universities are finding their work becoming more and more difficult, says recently retired adviser to Jewish students, Mr Henry Shaw.

"We are swimming against the tide because we are not expressing fashionable views," he says.

"But I think there will be a swing back to more traditional beliefs in the near future.

Past experience had shown regular changes in polarisation between the two extremes," says Mr Shaw.

Mr Shaw is now working as chaplain to Jewish students at Federation Hillel, Community Centre for Jewish students in Melbourne.

He described his nearly six years as part of the chaplain counselling team as "a unique experience".

"This kind of atmosphere, the friendship and understanding shown by Dr Matheson, and getting to know people from overseas and the local community, was truly rewarding," he says.

It was far from being Mr Shaw's first involvement with students. Before taking up his chaplaincy post here he spent 24 years working among Jewish youth in Europe, the last 16 as director of Jewish chaplain services at London and Amsterdam universities.

**Founding director**

He started the Hillel Foundation in England in 1951 and founding a directo- rate in London and also opened a Hillel office in Holland. This year will be his last as the director of Hillel here.

But this year also sees the start of a new "career". He has been appointed to direct Australia's first degree course in Jewish studies, at Prahran CAE.

"I feel too active to sit around twiddling my thumbs," he explains.

Five major subjects will be taught as part of a diploma of arts course. They comprise Yiddish, Hebrew, and Jewish history, philosophy and literature.

"It will be almost possible to take a complete diploma in arts in Jewish subjects — perhaps with one additional subject," says Mr Shaw.

Most interest seemed to be in study of Yiddish, he adds. This was a particularly Melbourne phenomenon explained by the fact that a large proportion of the city's 35,000 Jewish community were war refugees and their Australian-born families.

While most of the refugees spoke Yiddish, their children were more familiar with Hebrew. But students wanted to learn more about the traditional language used by their parents.
In his foreword to this volume the Chancellor of the University of Sydney, Sir Hermann Black, remarks that "a history of the matter is never finally written, but it is always to be written; and it is so since new and different questions may come to be asked even of fields very much ploughed by research.

"Hence it is," he continues, "that this collection of pictures of the University of Sydney is not to be taken as definitive or final in any sense; nor do these pictures foreclose the need to produce further collections, to meet different queries about the past of the University of Sydney, now in its 125th year."

Understanding of limitations

It is important, I think, for a proper appreciation of the book that the reader should understand these limitations, and should be prepared to accept the confines within which Mr Fischer has had to work. Otherwise he will be tempted to complain about inclusions which are irrelevant to the nature of the work. The word "some" in the title is significant, and, as Sir Hermann says, has "much virtue!"

This is essentially a personal collection, and I understand that Mr Fischer was given considerable liberty of choice in the selection of material from the great body of archives under his control. It is inevitable — and he would be the first to admit it, if rather wryly — that he will suffer the fate of all anthologists in any medium: it will be attacked by all sorts and conditions of men, firmly convinced that they could have done the job better, and he will be forced in the last resort to take refuge in the phrase "this is how I saw it!"

Entertaining

And how Fischer "saw it" is, to this reader at least, both interesting and entertaining.

The contents are divided into four sections: Beginning 1849-1852; Surviving 1853-1881; Growing 1882-1945; Exploding 1946-1975, and within each section the pictures cover a wide range of people, places, and activities. Each picture has its caption written, as Sir Hermann remarks, with "the qualities of knowledge and affection, wit and a trace of irony," all admirable equipment for the archivist's role.

The quality of reproduction, especially of some of the older pictures, is at times disappointing — no doubt the question of expense was involved. But in general this is an excellent piece of work, the precursor, one hopes, of many companion volumes which will deal with more specialised aspects of the University's history.

It should also encourage other Universities to consider carefully the preservation and, where appropriate, the publication of their own archives before damage and loss create irreparable gaps, and before distortion and dullness of memories introduce falsities into the record.

Arthur Brown
Professor of English

Books received

William's Dream, Paperback Poets Series 10, by Philip Robert, University of Queensland Press. $3.50 cloth, $1.50 paper.

Immigrant Chronicle, Paperback Poets Series 5, by Peter Keneally, University of Queensland Press. $3.50 cloth, $1.50 paper.

The Hard Core, Paperback Poets Series 9, by Richard Tipping, University of Queensland Press. $3.50 cloth, $1.50 paper.

The Other Side of the Fence, Paperback Poets Series 11, by Peter Keneally, University of Queensland Press. $3.50 cloth, $1.50 paper.

Selected Poems, by Rodney Hall, University of Queensland Press. $7.50 cloth, $2.50 paper.

The Bancroft Slideshow, by John A. Scott. Maker Press. No recommended price but usually retails at about $1.25.

Contemporary Portraits and Other Stories, by Murray Ball, University of Queensland Press. $5.50 cloth, $2.50 paper.

The University has a high person to vehicle ratio. About 6000 vehicles try to get into and out of the campus at peak periods of about 3/4 of an hour, aggravating the overall situation.

Please be considerate and take care.

You are now aware of two of the major risk areas being experienced at Monash. May I ask that now being aware, each of you take personal care and reduce the incidence of accident and consequent injury.

You are your own safety officer.
TENNESSEE WILLIAMS TO HEAD HALL FESTIVAL

Alexander Theatre and Robert Blackwood Hall management have succeeded in negotiating to bring American playwright, Tennessee Williams, to Melbourne.

Mr Williams will appear at Robert Blackwood Hall on March 18. It is expected to be Mr Williams' only public appearance in Australia. Mr Williams, 61, has been brought to Australia by the South Australian Theatre Company for the Adelaide Arts Festival.

The company is presenting one of his recent plays, "Kingdom of Earth," during the festival.

His appearance at Robert Blackwood Hall has been titled "An Evening with Tennessee Williams."

Mr Williams insists he does not have the qualifications to "lecture" and in recent days he has been talking about his past work and invites questions from the audience.

The director of the Alexander Theatre, Dr John Rickard, who went to Adelaide last month to finalise the vc possibility, said there is a resurgence of interest in Mr Williams' earlier works — such well-known plays as "Streetcar Named Desire" and "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof."

Mr Williams had come to be regarded as a "modern classic," Dr Rickard said.

Mr Williams is just one of six major attractions of the Adelaide Festival which were booked to come on to Robert Blackwood Hall.

And the Brazilian folk group, Os Baturagas, will come from the Perth Festival.

The group of singers, dancers and musicians will open the hall's March programme with a Sunday afternoon concert on March 7.

They are following performances on March 11 and 12.

Busiest year yet.

The manager of Robert Blackwood Hall, Mr Don Vincents, said the 1977 program was already shaping as the busiest yet. The program was already shaping as the

The first, conducted by Hiroyuki Iwaki, will be held on April 10.

The concerts were shared between a group from the Blackwood who have been booked to come on to Reporter. More will be taken up by March 1977.

The concerts were shared between the Melbourne Symphony and the Adelaide Festival. "It's the only significant hall in Melbourne which is easy to drive to, has an enormous amount of nearby parking, is more comfortable than any other hall in Melbourne and has near-perfect acoustics," Dr Hickson said.

"The future development of the hall is going to be in the areas of entrepreneurs and the public of its virtues," he confidently predicts.

MONASH VISITORS

The following academics are expected to visit Monash during the first half of this year:

ARTS

Anthropology and Sociology: Professor M. De Roe, Division of Biological Sciences, University of Missouri, U.S.A., October, 1975.

History: Professor Prakash, Professor of Intercultural Studies in Education, University of California, U.S.A., June.

ECONOMICS AND POLITICS

Economics: Professor J. S. Staud, Professor of Economics, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada. As visiting professor, July, 1975-June, 1976.

Professor J. L. Bier, Department of Economics, University of Virginia, U.S.A. As special lecturer, July-August.

Professor G. Rose, Department of Economics, University of British Columbia, Canada. As visiting professor, dates to be set.


ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL

Professor J. S. Staud, Professor of Economics, University of Wisconsin, U.S.A. As special lecturer, July-August.


JAPANESE conductor, Hisayuki Isawa, who was so well received at Robert Blackwood Hall last year, will return this year to conduct the first of the six ABC Gold Series concerts on April 10, for a performance conducted by Handel himself in 1754.

The hall's success follows a lot of hard work in the management and the hall committee.

Dr Hickson said: "After a hesitant start two years ago, when Blackwood Hall negotiated for a group from the Adelaide Festival, we realised Melbournians would appreciate the opportunity of hearing some of these artists engaged by the Adelaide Festival who would not otherwise have had the chance to perform in Victoria."

"It's now firmly established as a major concert hall in Melbourne."

"The only significant hall in Melbourne which is easy to drive to, has an enormous amount of nearby parking, is more comfortable than any other hall in Melbourne and has near-perfect acoustics," Dr Hickson said.

"The future development of the hall is going to be in the areas of entrepreneurs and the public of its virtues," he confidently predicts.

MONASH REPORTER

March 1976

Professor Glen Weston, National Law Centre, George Washington University, U.S.A. April.

ENGINEERING

Materials Engineering: Professor Robert W. Chen, Professor of Materials Science and Dean of the School of Applied Sciences, University of St. Andrews, England. March, for six months.

Dr. J. H. D. O'Connor, Group Leader, Alloy Department, Leichtmetal Forschungsinstitut, Vereinigte Aluminium Werke, Germany. As visiting Senior Research Fellow, January 24 for three months.

Mechanical Engineering: Dr. J. D. Forrest, Civil Engineering Department, Imperial College, London, England. As Queen's Fellow, September 1975 for two years.

Professor S. Ramalingam, Department of Mechanical Engineering, State University of New York, U.S.A. As visiting Professor, August, 1975 for 11 months.

Mr G. Swed, Researcher in Civil Engineering, University of Adelaide. As visiting Professor for six months.

SCIENCE

Earth Sciences: Professor Charles T. Petch, State University of New York, U.S.A. February-September.

Pure Mathematics: Dr. W. B. Sandoe, Department of Pure Mathematics, Institute of Advanced Studies, Australian National University. As visiting Lecturer. All of 1976.


Zoology: Dr. E. J. G. Breyfogle, Assistant Professor, Department of Physiology and Cell Biology, University of Kansas, U.S.A. As temporary Lecturer, June 1, 1975-May 15.
Godot under gumtrees

The Alexander Theatre Company will open its 1976 season tomorrow with a controversial production of Samuel Beckett's "Waiting for Godot."

Peter Oyston, Dean of Drama at the Victorian College of the Arts, will direct it—his first production since returning from overseas last year. Oyston's reputation as a director has been enhanced, both in Australia and in Europe, through his association with the Alexander Theatre Company of Australia. Oyston's treatment of "Godot" is a universal production of Beckett's masterpiece, written as a modern drama for a modern audience. The play's themes of existence, freedom, and choice have been interpreted by Oyston in a way that is both entertaining and thought-provoking.

The Alexander Theatre Company will open its 1976 season tomorrow with "Waiting for Godot." This production is directed by Peter Oyston, Dean of Drama at the Victorian College of the Arts, and features a cast of four deaf actors and a bearing actor, Oliver Doff. The play opens at the Alexander Theatre on March 11, and runs through April 3, with performances at 8 p.m. and matinees on weekends.

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