TEC warns on run-down of universities

The Tertiary Education Commission has endorsed the view that universities are a national asset, essential to the long-term health and wealth of the country. It believes that Australia's interests will not be served by allowing the considerable investment in universities to be put at risk by their being allowed to run down to such an extent that they cannot meet the nation's requirement for highly qualified manpower and research.

This is one of the major themes to emerge from volume one of the TEC's Report to the Federal Government for the 1982-84 Triennium. The Report records that the Universities Council, during its visits to universities in 1980, had observed signs of decline in the quality of university operations.

Examples of this were the widespread use of obsolete equipment, deterioration of buildings and the decreasing provision of library and other services.

The Council has therefore argued that increases are necessary both in operating and capital funding to restore to an acceptable level the general quality of university activities, to permit the introduction of some new academic developments, and to allow the universities to maintain a state of readiness which will enable them to respond promptly to future community demands.

However, while the TEC agrees that university budgets have been under some pressure over the past few years, it is not prepared to recommend additional funding at the level proposed by the UC. Nevertheless, the Commission has expressed its concern over reduced staff flexibility and has stated it does not wish to see a deterioration of library services or neglect of building maintenance. It has therefore recommended some increase in recurrent funding to assist in meeting changing needs of staff and for the maintenance of library services and buildings.

GRANTS

The grants recommended for each institution will not be known until Volume II is made available, probably late in August. The actual total grants for all universities and CAEs for the years 1979-81 and the equivalent totals recommended for 1982-84 are shown in the table on this page.

The sums shown in the table do not include the $18 million for Special Research Centres over the period 1981-84 announced by the Commonwealth Government.

The TEC has recommended that funds additional to those shown in the table should be provided to enable universities and CAEs to meet superannuation expenditure beyond the 1981 rate up to a rate of 14% of the salaries paid to staff entitled to superannuation: 1983 - $3.5 million; 1984 - $7 million.

Other items of major interest in the Report include:

- The TEC believes that the 1982-84 triennium will not be one of growth of student numbers in universities, although there will be some change towards more advanced work and some shift towards those faculties which have a scientific orientation. The TEC has recommended a total student load in each year of the triennium within the range 139,000 WSU to 142,000 WSU. This student load is the same as that in 1980 and estimated for 1981.

- In looking at future manpower needs the Commission has stated that the probability of some future oversupply is to be preferred to the risk of shortages of trained manpower and that it is preferable to accept some imbalance in the short term rather than to impart instability to the intakes to tertiary courses.

In this issue

- Farm Week Inquiry report

- New book on child abuse

- Education: threats, defences

- Is Oz earlier Cockney?
A big year for Banksia artist

This is a big year for Monash University botanical artist, Mrs Celia Rolser. For a number of years Mrs Rolser has been engaged at Monash painting watercolours of Banksias which are to form a folio of prints which will be completed by the end of the year. The project was first proposed by Dr George Scott, of the Victorian Banksia Research Centre in Western Australia, and formerly a botanist with the Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney. The project is being directed by Dr Louis Matheson, formerly the Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens in Melbourne and currently the Vice-Chancellor of Monash University.

The folio — titled The Banksias of Victoria — is in a limited edition of 750 copies, of which 100 boxed sets have been signed by Mrs Rolser. A brochure on the folio is being mailed out with the current issue of National Trust Newsletter.

At Monash Mrs Rolser's assignment has been to paint all the known species of Banksia — more than 70. The project is being directed by Monash's professor of Botany, Professor Martin Canny, with the aid of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ray Martin. The first volume of "The Banksias" comprises 24 life-size paintings each accompanied with a text by Mr A. S. George, a noted expert on Banksias and formerly a botanist with the Western Australian Herbarium. A further 700 copies of this book will be printed for world-wide distribution. In May, Mrs Rolser will be travelling to London for final talks before publication with Academic Press, the printers, and the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew.

The Banksia species will be arranged in the volumes in chronological order of their being described. Coincidentally, it is exactly 200 years since the first species were classified by the son of the great Swedish botanist Carolus Linnaeus.

The first samples of Banksia — four "honeydew" berries — were collected by Joseph Banks and the Swede, Daniel Solander, at Botany Bay during Captain Cook's first landing on the east coast of Australia in 1770.

At about the same time as the book's launching an exhibition of Mrs Rolser's work will be held in the Visual Arts Exhibition Gallery in the Menzies Building. This exhibition will feature the originals from the book and, possibly, working drawings.

Another project Mrs Rolser has been involved in this year has been an Australia Post commission for stamps to mark the holding of the botanical congress for the first time in the southern hemisphere in Sydney. The subject for the stamp set and first day cover is Australian Fungi.

The photographic reference for her work on the stamps has been supplied by Bruce Fuhrer, senior technical officer in Botany.

To staff Mrs Rolser's busy year she will be awarded an honorary Masters of Science degree by Monash at the last graduation ceremony for the year in December.

What's in the TEC Report

- From P.1.

- On the subject of the intake of medical students, the Commission stated that any steps to adjust the intake should be taken cautiously, recognising the uncertainties involved.

- The TEC has estimated the number of overseas students in tertiary education in Australia to be about 10,000 in 1981. It has not taken into account the possibility of further increases in the number of overseas students in 1982-84.

- In its submission, the Universities Council had proposed the payment of "adjustment grants" to provide financial support for staff development, early retirement, retraining schemes and other means of providing increased staff turnover and career opportunities for both new and existing staff. The Commission, however, has decided that special funds should not be provided for these purposes. It believes that institutions should find such funds from within their own resources.

- To achieve flexibility in staffing the Commission is advocating more part-time staff and of contract staff. It says greater rigour in the granting of tenure and in promoting staff, secondments from both public and private enterprises, fractional time appointments, sharing staff among institutions or with non-academic institutions, limited tenure senior appointments, early retirements, retraining, and transfer of academic staff to administrative posts.

- The Commission believes that universities should make serious efforts to implement some or all of these measures.

- The Commission agrees that funds for expenditure on equipment must be increased. It says further that "the main reason for additional expenditure on equipment, however, does not relate to the expansion of student numbers; it relates to the need to replace worn-out and obsolete equipment, and the importance of using equipment which employs the latest technologies. If tertiary institutions are to play their proper role in education and training and in research and development for a high technology future, it is essential that it be provided with an adequate stock of up-to-date equipment."

- The Commission believes it is essential to establish a norm for the annual rate of building expenditure in higher education which takes account of the need to overcome the backlog within the next ten years and to meet the longer run requirements for major renovations and replacements.

- The TEC also proposes that up to $1 million be made available in each of the three years of the triennium to cover the development of community languages in universities and CAEs.

Krongold Centre needs help

The Krongold Centre at Monash requires help in the following two ways:

- It needs transport for children to and from the Box Hill and Richmond areas. There are children from special educational assistance which the Centre can provide but they will be unable to attend if transport cannot be found. The Centre would like to hear from anyone who could assist on the routes each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday arriving at the University at 9.15 a.m. and returning 11.30 a.m.

- The Centre has another child in need of educational help but requires the help of a person, who speaks both English and Armenian.

If you can help contact Leenke Robinson on ext. 2042.

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A curious voyage from prison camp to Monash

Built with any materials to hand in a West Irian jungle detention camp, the Gamelan Pontjopangravit was played in a Melbourne city hotel Saturday night.

The Gamelan was formed by a group of University officers as are designated by the Vice-Chancellor during his absence. The Gamelan was used to form the nucleus of a Gamelan orchestra.

That's how the Committee of Inquiry into Farm Week 1980 sees it. The Committee was established by the Vice-Chancellor following expressions of concern about the conduct of some Farm Week activities last year and complaints about incidents alleged to have taken place.

The adopted amendment to the Discipline Statute covers such aspects as attack and intimidation. It also deals with interference to the order or decorum of a ceremony or meeting of any body of any kind.

Farm Week: changes necessary

If Farm Weeks are to be continued, considerable changes will have to be made in the type of functions which are arranged, in the location of those functions, and in the way in which the Week is promoted.

The Committee of Inquiry set up after Farm Week 1969. These prohibitions cover the throwing of missiles and fireworks; interference with fire fighting equipment, fire doors, elevators and escalators; and presence in a University building after it has been officially closed.

The adopted amendment to the Discipline Statute in part defines acts of misconduct by students.

It covers such aspects as attack and intimidation and the threat of both, causing injury, and damage to or interference with the personal and University property. It also deals with interference to the order or conduct of any University teaching or any University building.

The Committee of Inquiry suggests that any forewarning should incorporate particular prohibitions recommended by a similar committee set up after Farm Week 1969. These prohibitions cover such aspects as attack and intimidation.

The adopted amendment to the Discipline Statute covers such aspects as attack and intimidation. It also deals with interference to the order or conduct of any University teaching or any University building.

Farm Week in the aggressive way that some did.

Nevertheless the present Committee is of the view that some of the functions organised by the Activities Committee, notably those held in the Forum, created a milieu in which unruliness was very likely to occur and that some of the promotional literature which the Committee complained that could be interpreted as an active encouragement of such unruliness.

The Committee is satisfied that the members of the Activities Committee of MAS responsible for organising the sponsored events of Farm Week did not intend or envisage that students would exploit Farm Week in the aggressive way that some did.

The two academics went to the then Australian Museum in Melbourne to which they were able to relate the history of the Gamelan Pontjopangravit which was never formally enacted.

They were these:

Among the Committee's recommendations were these:

The Forum is out as a venue for any Farm Week function.

"In the light of past experience it is clear that nothing short of this measure is likely to be effective to prevent or restrain the use of the Fire Building for serial bombardments," the report comments.

In future the Activities Committee of the Monash Student Union should arrange its program activities for Farm Week in consultation with such University officers as are designated by the Vice-Chancellor after preliminary discussions with the Activities Committee.

Students should be forewarned during the period immediately preceding Farm Week of the kinds of behaviour which will not be tolerated and which, if persisted, may result in disciplinary or legal proceedings being brought against them.

This recommendation is based on suggestions made by the Activities Committee which initiated a sub-committee to examine various problems associated with Farm Week last year.

The Committee of Inquiry suggests that any actions taken by students of Monash University.

Among other points, the students took issue with the recommendations on an amendment to the Discipline Statute and on the recommendation that the Committee of Inquiry was satisfied that the members of the Activities Committee of Mas responsible for organising the sponsored events of Farm Week did not intend or envisage that students would exploit Farm Week in the aggressive way that some did.

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Child abuse: its causes, treatment and prevention

"How is it possible for a modern society to treat some of its children so abominably?" asks Professor Peter Boss. Professor Boss has recently published a study of child abuse "On the Side of the Child."

The study of child battering and physical and emotional neglect be so prevalent in Australia, which has the material trappings that many other countries envy, he says.

Professor Boss, Professor of Social Work at Monash, explores these questions in his book, published as a paperback by Fontana, and discusses the causes, treatment and prevention of child abuse.

It is difficult to obtain reliable figures of child abuse in Australia, he says, because there are no national or statewide figures to draw on. But, using American research as a basis, he estimates that each year roughly 46,000 children in Australia are subjected to physical abuse or severe neglect by parents.

As an example of the traps involved in diagnosing child abuse, he cites figures reported for 1979 by the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne.

In that year the hospital dealt with 389 new cases of child abuse. Of these, 108 were undoubtedly of abuse; in the remaining 281, Professor Boss says, "it was judged that the child's physical and mental development had been significantly damaged by deprivation of love by the primary or other carers." Diagnostic uncertainty

"That these children had sustained damage was not in doubt," he says, "but no one was prepared to say precisely who had caused it.

"The experience of this hospital, where the staff is alerted to the problem, can certainly be multiplied across the hospitals of Australia.

"What is more, it is certain that in order to end up in hospital the injuries are pretty serious, particularly in relation to the age of the child.

"If such a state of diagnostic uncertainty exists at a first-class hospital with excellent diagnostic facilities, what about those places where the children might attend with injuries, such as non-hospital surgical practices, or, as sometimes happens, at pharmacies?"

Professor Boss says clinical writers have emphasised several personal factors which make parents potential child abusers.

One group at risk are parents who were abused themselves when they were children and unconsciously recreate their parents' pattern of raising their children. Deprived of love themselves, these parents, in turn, are unable to give it to their children.

"Plausible though this theorising is there must be doubt about the methodologies of the studies in which the hypotheses are reported," Professor Boss says.

"Parents are asked to recall events that they have been led to believe were shrouded in the mists of childhood. Events recalled may be exaggerated in order to provide an acceptable explanation for present-day abnormal behaviour."

Another factor that has emerged in reports on abusing parents, he says, is the tendency for them to have high expectations of their children's behaviour, treating them as if they were older than they are.

Studies have also sought to demonstrate the mother's severely frustrated dependency needs and an inability to empathise with their children.

Researchers also seem to agree that abusing parents lack appropriate knowledge of child rearing and that their attitudes and child-rearing techniques set them apart from parents who do not abuse their children.

Other personal factors that have emerged from research, he says, are hostility and aggressiveness (focussed sometimes on the family, at other times directed against the world at large), compulsiveness, rigid thinking and strong feelings of passivity and dependency.

In the case of fathers who abuse their children, a significant number appear to be unhappy, intelligent, worried about the availability, adequacy and use made of a family's supportive resources in the community.

"If it is accepted that social support systems are necessary, is there any hope of alleviating child abuse unless there is a concerted assault based on community understanding of the need for social support systems."

"Parents who are abused themselves when they were children, for example, were abused by parents who, because of some physical disability, are forced to stay home and look after the children — a role they dislike. They vent their frustration in swift and severe punishment."

Professor Boss points out, however, that concentration on the psychological make-up of parents, valuable as it is, overlooks the importance of cultural and social factors — society's demands on women, violence in society, social isolation, the narrow family base, poverty, and problems of economic survival which often force mothers, especially migrant mothers to go out to work as fathers.

"The pressure to buy and consume, the encouragement of what Professor Galbraith has called 'conspicuous consumption', plays a major part in the creation of the affluent society," he says. "But the social consequences of this process of high consumption and accompanying waste are only just beginning to be comprehended."

First winner

Meet Steven Prawer, Monash University's first Vera Moore scholar.

Steven, who graduated BSc with first class honours, will use the scholarship to do research for a higher degree in the field of solid state physics.

In his studies for a Bachelor's degree, he received a high distinction in every unit and, in addition, completed extra work in third and fourth year mathematics at distinction level.

The Vera Moore Postgraduate Scholarship, endowed by Mra Vera Moore, a major Monash benefactor, is worth $9000 per annum, and is tenable for one year in the first instance.

Subject to the scholar making satisfactory progress, the scholarship is renewed for a second year in the case of a Master's degree and for a second and third year in the case of Ph. D. candidature. In special circumstances it can be extended into a fourth year.

Steven, who is working towards a Ph. D. under the supervision of Professor T. F. Smith is measuring sound velocity in ferroelectric crystals.

His work is basic research in the broad field of solid state physics, which is concerned with understanding the complicated way in which atoms arrange themselves in solids and how that arrangement affects the properties of the solids.

Education position paper for OECD

"We can't do that in the quantitative sense because we don't believe it is possible at the moment given the data base."

"However, we will attempt to look at various groups of 'mature age' and part-time students who are coming along.

"When it does finally flatten out, it will flatten out at very significant levels."

Monash at US conference

Senior lecturer in the Higher Education Adviser and Research Unit, Dr Leo West, will be presenting a paper written jointly with Dr John Theobald, senior lecturer in Education, on data analysis in education research.

Other Monash participants at the conference will be Drs John Leo and Richard White, of Education, who will give a paper on dimensions of cognitive structure. He will also act as critic in another session.
The weather: Too important for idle chat

Meteorology — "a subject which dominates our casual conversation, plays an important part in our recreation and way of life, in our industry and transport and food production" — deserves better attention in our general education.

Dr C.H.B. Priestley said this while delivering the occasional address at a Monash Education, Engineering and Medicine graduation ceremony last month at which he received an honorary Doctorate of Science. Dr Priestley was at one time Chief of the CSIRO Division of Meteorological Physics and for the last three years held a part-time professorship in the Mathematics Department.

Dr Priestley said: "The only meteorological principle I remember learning at school was that 'wind is caused by hot air rising and cold air rushing in to take its place'; and I subsequently found out that even this was 90 per cent incorrect. "It would be nice to think that today, in Australia, things are much better, but I really doubt that they are." A hopeful sign was the introduction this year — "thanks to strenuous efforts by the Australian Branch of the Royal Meteorological Society" — of meteorology as an accredited topic in the HSC syllabus.

Dr Priestley looked back at a controversial point in his career — when he chaired an expert committee of the Academy of Science inquiring into the possible environmental impact of supersonic aircraft. The feature that mattered most about the aircraft, he said, was that its cruising altitude was so high that it absorbed the ultraviolet light from the sun and reducing the ozone would let more ultraviolet through with possible harmful effects to life on earth. Dr Priestley said: "After very careful weighing of the very incomplete knowledge, we considered the most serious threat to be an increase in skin cancer among those Queenslanders who went around in bright sunshine without adequate protection. "We also reported that the degree of ozone damage had been exaggerated by some scientists; that adequate monitoring methods were already in force; and that any downward trend in ozone, if it were due to stratospheric flying, would be reversible within about a year if proper regulations were imposed as soon as the trend was identified."

It was not a conclusion some members of the public wanted to hear. "The outburst of indignation from pressure groups and the media which greeted the report was quite devastating. Quite a number of scientists also came out strongly against it, arguing that the Academy had been socially irresponsible in publishing such a bland verdict, that there was need to give much more emphasis to the risk in order to bring home its reality," Dr Priestley said.

Research in subsequent years had not contradicted the committee's findings, he added, but had identified the propellant gas of some spray cans and the increasing use of nitrogenous fertilisers as chief enemies of the ozone.

Dr Priestley said: "The most important issue focused in Australia for the first time by the supersonic dispute, however, was the question of the philosophy of a scientist commissioned to make such an inquiry. "Unlike the pressure groups and the media, the Academy and my committee took the view that we must cast aside all preconceived views and individual sympathies in order to make a completely unemotional and even-handed assessment of cause and degree of risk. "Medical doctors in diagnosis and jurors in criminal trials have similar obligations to put even-handedness ahead of personal sympathies. Unlike the doctor or the juror, however, the scientist's verdict is not in itself intended to be decisive. "It aims merely to provide the fulcrum for the subsequent weighing of the case for the entrepreneur against that for the conservationist, and it is at this later weighing stage that all the diversified social and emotional undertones should be taken into account and the issue decided. "If the fulcrum is blunted, or allowed to wobble or lean, the whole of this subsequent weighing becomes inaccurate."

Earthwatch

The Australian branch of the Centre for Field Research is seeking volunteers for research projects related to its Earthwatch program. Projects undertaken by Earthwatch cover a wide range of disciplines in the sciences and humanities.

The projects are considered on the basis of academic merit and their ability to constructively utilize the assistance of volunteer staff in the field.

Volunteers underwrite the costs of research projects in exchange for the opportunity to participate in the field work.

A mailing list is currently being drawn up. Anyone interested in joining Earthwatch, or who has a project which could be undertaken by the non-profit organisation, is asked to write to Margie Cook, research co-ordinator, Centre for Field Research, P.O. Box 1, University of N.S.W., Kensington, N.S.W. 2033.

Dr C.H.B. Priestley came to Monash as part-time Professor of Mathematics after a distinguished career with CSIRO.

He obtained first-class honours in mathematics at Cambridge in 1957, and also took honours in economics in the following year.

But his career interests quickly took him away from economics into the rapidly developing field of applied mathematics related to weather and weather forecasting. He was awarded a D.Sc. from Cambridge in 1953, was a Foundation Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science in 1954, and was elected to the Royal Society in 1967.

His principal scientific work was done in CSIRO in the Division of Meteorological Physics, to which he was appointed Officer-in-Charge in 1960 and subsequently Chief in 1964.

He was Visiting Professor for six months at the University of Chicago in 1967 and was appointed Chairman, CSIRO Environmental Physics Research Laboratories in 1973.

In his citation, Professor John Swan, Dean of the Faculty of Science, said Dr Priestley's research activities had included atmospheric physics on all scales, and, in particular he had made special contributions in ocean-atmosphere interactions.

In 1974 he was awarded the C. G. Rosby Research Medal of the American Meteorological Society, and in 1973 the International Meteorological Organisation Prize, regarded as the "Nobel Prize" of meteorology.

During his appointment at Monash, Dr Priestley had made a significant contribution to the teaching and research of the geophysical fluid dynamics group, Professor Swan said.

And his special interest in ocean-atmosphere interactions had made him an important advocate for an expansion of the marine sciences in Australia — a field in which there was now a strong commitment at both State and Federal government levels, in contrast to its relative neglect a few years ago.
Liberal education - the transmission of values? - at a university - should not be justified in utilitarian terms, the Dean of Humanities at Deakin University, Dr Max Charlesworth, said at Monash recently.

Dr Charlesworth was delivering an address titled "Serving the Truth and the Deed or the Dead or the Serving Man: The Relation between Liberal Education and the Democratic Society" at a University service held in the Religious Centre to mark the start of the academic year.

He said that the role of liberal education was "to foster those habits of mind and character that are essential part of being human and to nurture those values that are intrinsic and belong to us and that we must serve."

"This is clearly not the kind of argument that is likely to win politicians and influence bureaucrats," he observed. "However, I am afraid that in the last resort this is the only legitimate way of defending liberal education. If it cannot be justified in these terms it cannot be justified at all."

Dr Charlesworth said that there are "obvious analogies" between the values and attitudes that are the basis of human life and those that are central to any religious view of the world.

"I am not trying to argue that the values that sustain liberal education are ultimately religious values," he said. "But these affinities and correspondences between the two allow us at least to say that they are complementary and not, as has so often been thought in the past, enemies to each other."

Dr Charlesworth ended his address by saying that it was Pascal, the French mathematician and religious thinker, who said that people who make no truths serve man but there are other truths and values that man must serve.

Dr. Charlesworth said: "In other words, there are things that are true and valuable quite independently of whether they are useful to us or give us power over nature or fit us for other human preoccupations and desires."

"These things are intrinsically valuable - valuable in themselves and for themselves - and not just instrumentally valuable or valuable as a means to some further end. They are, in a very real sense, 'useless' and they must be recognised as such."

Dr Charlesworth continued: "The distinctive feature of human beings is the capacity to recognize and serve what we might call a meta-human realm of values - a realm of values that underlies our immediate interests and needs."

This was Dr Charlesworth's "rough and ready" list of such "virtues":

1. The capacity for creative imagination and understanding, which means the ability to think oneself into unfamiliar situations and into different positions, and think into the roots of other and quite alien views and outlooks, to enter sympathetic understanding into other "forms of life".
2. That the capacity for empathy has to be balanced by the capacity for critical analysis, which means the ability to distance ourselves from our subjective reactions to things and to appraise them in an objective and discriminating way. To be a successful anthropologist you have to be a 'participant observer', that is, at once involved sympathetically in the life of the people you are studying and yet able to stand apart and observe it dispassionately. I would say that to be a successful human being you also have to be a 'participant observer' and to my mind the cultivation of this attitude is one of the chief virtues of a liberal education.
3. Associated with the capacity for critical analysis and objective appraisal is the capacity for methodological discretion, in other words, not to prejudge what one is looking at. So in making a decision, that of what kind of research, what kind of certainty, what expectations, are implied, or what one is doing, one is in a sense of enquiry. Thus we should not, for instance, try to investigate or discuss perceived issues as if they were separate things as we investigate, discuss and prove mathematical propositions.
4. The attitude of openness and confidence: by which liberal education ought also to foster an awareness of the historical and cultural context of truth; in other words, a sense of the的历史 and cultural relativity of human knowledge (which does not necessarily mean any kind of relativism).
5. "This awareness of the contextual relativity of knowledge needs to be balanced by an ability to think formally and abstractly, to universalise and to theorise."
6. "A hermeneutic' ability to interpret symbolic meanings and to 'read between the lines' or to discern the 'sub-text' within the text."

Ten virtues of a liberal education

Political instability - such as Australia could face this decade - is not likely to create a climate favorable for the government provision of resources for education. Mr Hugh Hudson, visiting fellow in the Centre of Policy Studies at Monash, argues this in a paper which looks at the implications for education of economic, technological and social trends in this country in the '80s.

The paper was delivered last year during the faculty of Education-sponsored public lecture series titled Youth, Teachers, Curriculum, Evaluation and the Economy. The lectures have just been published in one volume by the faculty.

Mr Hudson was Minister for Education in a former Labor Government in South Australia. There are some of the themes he identifies which together form a pessimistic picture of the likely priority to be given to education expenditure in the year ahead:

• Promises at election times are likely to concentrate more heavily than in the past on tax and social service issues and on economic questions such as inflation and unemployment rather than on the poll's that are now taken on education ranking as an issue much lower in importance than was the case a generation before on other issues, especially living standards, as having much greater importance.

• When a government perceives itself to be in political difficulties - and this is likely to happen increasingly in the 1980s," suggests Mr Hudson - there is always a temptation to focus attention on external issues. When such issues become central, the government may become necessary to increase defence expenditure in real terms.

• If the basic economic facts are that for the immediate future living standards are not going to improve as rapidly as in the past, and perhaps even deteriorate or at least for many people, it becomes increasingly difficult to gain public support for expenditure the productivity of which is difficult to assess and which is of a long term nature.

Mr Hudson also points to a precedent:

"As a matter of historical fact, in the 1930s when governments sought to restrict expenditure, education expenditure was ultimately more savagely attacked than any other."

"It is difficult to believe that if the '80s turns out to be a very depressed decade then education will not be subject to the same kind of attacks that occurred in the 30s."

"If, as an individual, one is subject to lower incomes, one automatically adjusts by postponing certain expenditures: one can postpone replacing clothes, one can postpone buying dents in the car, or maintenance on one's home."

"The same approach applies to the community but unfortunately there are now too many people who believe that education expenditure is eminently postponable."

In the paper Mr Hudson strongly criticises direct industrial action by teachers as a method of drawing attention to the plight of education. He argues that the education sector became "damp squibs" in the '70s, Mr Hudson says. That is likely to remain the case this decade unless there is a significant change of tactics by teachers.

He says: "Instead of direct industrial action by teachers, there is a need for the development of combined efforts by teachers, parents and students alike, to support the maintenance and the development of educational standards."

"Industrial action by teachers has not been effective in doing anything to damage the reputation of government schools particularly secondary schools, I refer here especially to Victoria and New South Wales." It is not supported by parents in the community and in fact makes it easier for governments to cut effective education expenditures. In circumstances of declining enrolments it is likely to exacerbate the trend and increase Treasury pressure to achieve lower expenditure of teachers by not replacing those who resign."

In a response to Mr Hudson's paper, Professor Peter Fenemahu picks up the point about co-operation between teachers and parents as a hopeful source of change.

"If teachers and parents can get together then they perhaps could be a significant educational change and even social change," he says.
British vice-chancellors have come out fighting against Government proposals which could top up to 15 per cent off their universities' income.

The British Government recently announced further spending cuts in a Public Expenditure White Paper. These cuts combine with a loss in income the universities are already suffering as a result of the Government's policy on overseas students.

The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals last month issued a statement on the cuts (published in the occasional newsletter of the Association of Commonwealth Universities, Acumen) in which the Committee's chairman, Sir Alec Merrison, calls the Government's course "a kind of madness ... in planning a destructive onslaught on the universities".

Sir Alec says: "The implications of this policy must be grasped by all those who value the achievements of British scientists, technologists and scholars of all kinds."

He says that universities were at the end of road of "managing with reduced resources through more efficiency."

"The last 10 years have seen universities reduce their unit costs by over 10 per cent, a record we think would be hard to match in any other part of the public sector," he says.

The academic student/staff ratio in British universities (excluding medicine) is already 10:1 — about the same as in sixth forms.

Comments Sir Alec: "It can hardly be said on this basis that universities are over-managed, especially when our staff have a research commitment which is unmatched elsewhere."

He says that the only way universities, by their very nature labour-intensive, can make substantial savings is by shedding staff.

There is no possibility of natural wastage accounting for the savings the Government intends, he claims.

"Such savings can be made only by stopping recruitment and thus destroying the potential achievement of a generation of our most promising scientists and scholars."

"Moreover, it is in the expensive disciplines — medicine, engineering and science — that staff turnover is greatest, and these are hardly those the country can do without, though they may be the ones which in simple financial and management terms would be the first to go."

The alternative, Sir Alec says, is to dismiss staff selectively.

"If this is to be the Government's chosen policy then it will lead in the short run to the spending of more money not less — for redundancy payments."

Indeed, because of the nature of many of the contracts of employment of most academic staff the cost of compensation payments may be very high indeed.

"This policy can therefore only lead to bankruptcy and closure of some universities who find themselves with too little money to pay their staff and none to compensate them for dismissal."
In this changing world... ‘Our’ language remains

An Australian today and a Cockney from the First Fleet would feel ‘at home’ with each other’s accents if it were possible for the two to meet in conversation.

For, so a Monash linguist theorises, Australian English had its origin in the dialect of London of the late 18th Century.

Professor Goran Hammarstrom says that if a Londoner today should scratch his head over an Australian’s pronunciation it is because the London dialect has changed over the last 200 years. On the other hand, Australian English has hardly changed.

Professor Hammarstrom, chairman of the Linguistics department, puts forward his theory in a book Australian English: Its Origin and Status published last year in Hamburg as part of the Forum Phoneticum series.

This theory has interested Professor Hammarstrom for 15 years — since he came to Australia from Sweden where he was a professor of phonetics at Uppsala University. He believes that he has read everything of relevance published on Australian English, and his book’s bibliography is a valuable guide to these other works.

The argument about the creation of Australian English — whether it be Cockney or an amalgamation of dialects — is not a new one.

The linguist S.J. Baker wrote: ‘By the early 1940s it could be said that British Theory had reached its wearsome end.’

Professor Hammarstrom calls this “wishful thinking” on Baker’s part.

London origins?

He says: ‘Unles, during the last 200 years, British dialects had undergone such changes as nobody would consider possible, a phonetic comparison between today’s Australian English and today’s British dialects shows that Australian English must have had its origin in the dialect of London, or, perhaps, in the dialects of south-eastern England.

‘Similarities in the vowels, particularly in the diphthongs, are decisive on the other hand, which is characteristic of the pronunciation of Ireland, Scotland or other parts of Great Britain can simply not be found in Australian English.’

Professor Hammarstrom supports his theory by comparing the most characteristic features of Cockney and Australian English vowels and consonants.

There is support, too, in the “strength of numbers” line: a great number of the early British settlers did come from London. But Professor Hammarstrom says that this is not iron-clad argument that the London dialect was the one adopted in the colony. Prestige undoubtedly played a defensive role.

‘What usually happens in similar cases is that the most prestigious dialects survives. And why should that not have been the dialect of the capital?’ Professor Hammarstrom concurs.

He says that what happens today most likely has happened during the past 200 years: the children of immigrants do not imitate the dialect their parents did adopt the mainstream of. The London dialect took an early foothold and from then on was impregnable.

Professor Hammarstrom says that the pronunciation of exported languages changes slowly — unless subject to the influence of other languages — and does not follow changes in the homeland. For example, there has been little change over hundreds of years in the dialect of the French in Canada. Some Swedes in the USA chose an 18th Century dialect. He believes that Australian English, too, has changed little in 200 years.

On the other hand there were changing standards in England during the 19th Century with what is now called Oxford English, BBC English or Received Pronunciation (R.P.) becoming more prestigious. A gap developed between “good” English English pronunciation and typical Australian English pronunciation.

The development of this gap is reflected in comments about Australian English by the first white settlers to arrive at the colony.

Authors who came here in its very early days praised the ‘good and pure’ pronunciation in Australia.

Comments Professor Hammarstrom: ‘One must assume that what was termed good or pure can hardly be significantly different from London pronunciation as it would hardly refer to some more “dialectal” variety. It can be said, generally, that in different languages, standard pronunciation, or one’s own pronunciation, is felt to be good, harmonious, beautiful or pure and that these judgements have nothing to do with the sound qualities as such.’

Among the early authors was a James Dixon who, in 1822, wrote: ‘The English here is excellent and now grown up speak a better language, pure, more harmonious, than in generally the case in most parts of England.’

By the 1840s, however, the first Cockney accent, which was being voiced. In 1844, Louisa Ann Meredith wrote that the children ‘born after the parents arrive in the colony have the detestable snuffle’.

The NSW School Commission of 1845-8 reported: ‘Little care is apparent taken (in NSW schools) to correct vicious pronunciations...’

This institution has a tendency to foster an Australian dialect which bids fair to surpass the American in disrepute.

Professor Hammarstrom concludes that the harshness of such comments intensified as the critics’ benchmark moved further away from the static Australian dialect.

He says that a “field study” around London could throw valuable light on the theory of Australian English’s Cockney origin. Where a dialect undergoes change, such as London’s has, it is usual to find “pockets” which have been more or less frozen.

He believes that areas might exist around London in which the residents’ speech is closer to that of Australia. A visiting English linguist

Display illustrates Germany’s contribution

A comprehensive exhibition of books, manuscripts, prints and documents relating to “German Ausstraliana” is on display in the Library of the Monash University.

The exhibition — “Australia through German Eyes” — is a joint venture of the department of German, the Centre for Migrant Studies and the Library. It will remain open until April 26.

Here, Professor Leslie Bodh, chairman of the department of German, gives some of the background to the exhibition.

Ever since its foundation, the Monash Library has collected books, manuscripts and documents relating to German Ausstraliana and research in this field has been conducted simultaneously by the Department of German and the Centre for Migrant Studies.

In this exhibition, the Library, with the help of original editions, aims to illustrate some of the main stages in the development of the image of Australia in the minds of German-speaking people, who have had a constant interest in this distant continent ever since Captain Cook’s voyages.

The exhibition displays, among other rare items, the original edition of the first essay written in German in 1877 on the penal colony of New Holland by George Forster, who, with his father, J. R. Forster, became the “Pacific expert” for the German Empire in south-eastern Asia.

Many German descriptions of Australia ranging from the popular to the scholarly and the laudatory to the critical have been published over the last two centuries.

The exhibition also shows the impact of various waves of German immigrants, ever since the 1830s, on the shaping of Australia and gives an indication of the growth of their settlements and the development of their language. The role of the settlers in the Barossa Valley and their impact on the development of viticulture is well-known.

There are also books by radical German Forty-Eighters such as Hermann Puttmann, a pioneer of German art in Australia, and have provided valuable inspirations to Australian art.

Some of the most important explorers and scientists, botanists, zoologists and anthropologists in Australia came from a German background, including such well-known personalities as Ludwig Leichhardt and Baron F. von Muller. Leichhardt’s tragic fate and its presentation in Patrick White’s novel, Voss make him of special significance for the development of the image of Australia.

We have also put on show the work of a number of Australian writers who were strongly influenced by German ideas, such as Norman Lindsay, Henry Kendall Lindsay and Hubert importance. In the 1840s, however, the first Cockney accent, which was being voiced. In 1844, Louisa Ann Meredith wrote that the children ‘born after the parents arrive in the colony have the detestable snuffle’.

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'pure Cockney'!

Australian speakers are sociolectal can Tasman home a challenge to the concept which may be missing in some other place. "

extends over the mainland and Tasmanian Aboriginal women, four their ancestors settled on the island in English which is quite different from township and some township may have "pockets" could be expected if speakers of this variety, however. In 1762 Sheridan opposed "Cockney ... in the city" with "polite pronunciation ... at the court end". Professor Hammarstrom believes that "city" pronunciation could have been close to modern Australian "broad" and "joi" - close to modern Australian "general" pronunciation. 

One change to Australia's sociolectal range has been the addition of a high sociolect influenced by British R.P. pronunciation. This high sociolect - which can be used by Australians who have learned it at home and have never even visited Britain - sits alongside a high sociolect of the Australian type spoken by educated people who do not see any reason for imitating British patterns.

"Nation of mumblers"

What of the people who criticise Australia as a nation of mumblers difficult to understand and our accent as nasal and ugly? For a start, Professor Hammarstrom says, someone from outside a dialectal group will have difficulty understanding its speakers. There can be no doubt, he says, that it is a general characteristic of Australian English to sound nasal as if it were pronounced "in the nose". But this is not in the realm of ugliness or beauty. What is ridiculed at one time is accepted at some other time or what is found beautiful in one language is felt to be ugly in some other", he says.

He says that when Australians criticize their own language they are often, in fact, only criticizing a lower sociolect than their own. And he adds that opinion about one's language is tied in with pride and confidence, or the lack of them, in one's country and culture.

A recommendation by the Curriculum Development Centre that languages other than English should not be included in a core curriculum for Australian schools has come under fire from the Australian Linguistics Society and the Australian Linguistics Association.

A joint committee of the two bodies has just published a critique of the CDC report "Core Curriculum for Australian Schools". The reply is titled "The Place of Languages in a Core Curriculum."

The CDC recommendation which the linguistics bodies challenge states: "Despite the persuasive arguments advanced for foreign and 'ethnic' languages, it would be difficult at present to justify these as part of a practical core for all students."

They feel the recommendation could have a "disastrous effect."

"Some State Education Departments may find it convenient to use this as a means of excluding languages other than English altogether from the course of study of most pupils," their paper says.

"In this way languages would be denied to children who wish, or need, to study them."

"If the objection is to 'forcing' people to study languages, then it is the concept of compulsory studies of all kinds rather than that of language studies that is under criticism. One can argue in reply that you should not force monolingualism on anyone. Taken one small step further, this objection could be regarded as a censure of the notion of a core curriculum."

Arguments for

The paper considers arguments on educational, sociopolitical, and personal and family grounds in favor of including languages other than English in a core curriculum. It points out that the CDC report advocates that the core curriculum 'acknowledge the plural, multicultural nature of our society and seek a form of cultural-social integration which values interaction and free communication amongst diverse groups as a core of Australian culture'.

"Language, the paper says, is the deepest manifestation of culture. It facilitates the expression of both universals and features specific to a particular culture."

"Only by studying a particular language is it possible for a person actually to experience what it is like to think in another way, and to project oneself into a different mode or organising reality. Lack of support for ethnic languages in the education system could leave ethnic cultures as embellishments to mainstream Anglo-Celtic culture ("souvaki and Polish dancing")".

The paper also points out that in the CDC report, "most Australian schools include "a sense of personal, group and national identity and unity in all (Australia's) people" and 'free communication among and between individuals and groups.""

National resource

The critique says: "We would argue that the language of 'groups' cannot be ignored by the core curriculum, if such are to be the aims of education...

The response of the education system of a multilingual society in a shrinking world should not be a monolingual core curriculum. Languages are not only an asset to Australia but also a resource for the nation."

Among the other points the paper makes are:

- A Canadian research has suggested that a good command of a second language appears to lead to an improvement in cognitive development, higher verbal intelligence, and greater mental flexibility.

- A monolingual core is too compatible with an attitude that denigrates all languages other than English.

- A monolingual core curriculum would put young Australians of the future at a disadvantage, compared with people of other countries. There are relatively few education systems in the world with a monolingual core curriculum.

Self-esteem

If children gain the impression at school that English is the only language of importance, those of non Anglo-Celtic background may make little or no effort to maintain ethnic languages. Their self-esteem and estimation of their family, ethnic language and culture may drop.

The paper notes the use of the word "practical" in the CDC recommendation: This suggests that, even if it may be desirable to include languages other than English in a core curriculum, this is difficult or impossible in practice."

The paper notes that the word "practical" matters involved in teaching languages other than English - the availability of teachers, improved teaching methods and the like.

Monash's involvement with its neighboring ethnic communities was well illustrated in the exhibition "Oakleigh: Portrait of the New Society" that went on show in Oakleigh and Clayton Libraries recently. Our picture, taken at the opening of the display, shows (from left): Cr Mike Schuetz, former Monash photographer Herve Allesume and his wife Alix, Cr Olge Jackson, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Martin, and Mr Race Mathews, MLA for Oakleigh.

Photo: Rick Crompton

Monash Reporter

April 1981
"Love's Labour's Lost", performed by the Shakespeare Society in association with the English department, is another in the Thought and Culture series. As usual, the University's top job at Nott. ads. with the liveliness does not quite prevent the sense that there is not much else going for it. The action of the play is really centred in its talk, and the reliance on verbal wit, much of it unconvincing, would always make this a bold choice for any student group. Recent Shakespeare Society productions have been notable for their clarity of speaking and this one showed all the signs of a very careful attention to the language. But the breezes of an autumn night, compounded by a tendency on opening night to play too far back in the space, sometimes made even the better repartee hard to catch.

Problem for courtly wits

This was more of a problem for the courtly wits, given the style of their verse, than for the comic relief; Don Armado and the schoolteacher Holofernes are each given a distinctive rhetoric, and Costard has little time for subtlety.

Among the lovers, Philip Adger's vivacious Rosaline was perhaps the most successful in communicating the wit of the dialogue; even David Mealan's stylish and zestful performance as Berowne suffered now and then from the habit of catching the racy rhythms of "a game of wit play'd" without understanding its substance.

The final scene — the longest scene Shakespeare wrote — underlined these tendencies. Despite some injections of fun from the would-be Worthies, the disentangling of the love relationships proved a somewhat slow and static affair. That is the nature of the sequence, of course, but one couldn't help thinking that something might have been done to lift it — by exaggerating the differences between the lovers, or their sameness, or perhaps by formalising their reconciliations more fully in a courtly dance.

It may be, though, that tinkering of that kind would have lost some of the charm and dignity which gave this production a distinctive touch of courtliness to the parkland of Navarre. A hazardously placed sundial was the only feature of the set which was not functional and pleasant.

The action of "Love's Labour's Lost" is out of doors and unusually spectacular in effect. This made the Shakespeare Society's choice of venue an appropriate one. But the choice of play entailed some special problems.

The plot turns on the teasing, contentions, and misconceptions of four fairly interchangeable young men (the King of Navarre and three courtiers) — in more weather, in renouncing worldly pursuits — temporarily — for scholarship) and four fairly interchangeable young women (the Princess of France and her three ladies-in-waiting).

The toings-and-froings of this group are much diverted by an inexpressible Spanish Don and a cheeky clown named Costard; but even their liveliness does not quite prevent the sense that there is not much else going for it.

Celebrating ten years of frothy Nott. ads.

The Notting Hill Hotel — "The Nott." — has been described as "local" for as long as it has existed, many a pot has clouded exactly when.

In the last ten years, however, cartoonist Stuart Roth has been capturing the rare mix of the pub where the bar mind meets the anarcho and where students rub shoulders with off-duty cops — in a regular advertisement for Lot's Wife. That is to say, the ad has appeared regularly but the characters who feature in it have been an ever-changing procession of personalities all anxious to get "Down the Nott."

That, too, is the title of a newly-published collection of the Roth ads with text by Keith Tucker.

In the past decade some of the greats like Mohammed Ali, George Harrison — even Royalty — have been depicted as aching for their first beer down the Nott. But as Tucker points out in his introduction, "All the characters are a little too well dressed and a little too well preserved to be a threat to the "local" for as long as it has existed, many a pot has clouded exactly when."

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Bar and back again, stopping only to appear in a cartoon on the way."

The book, which has had a run of 1600, is on sale at the Lot's Wife office in the Union and at Robert Blackwood Hall and the Alexander Theatre. Its cost — $1.50 — will mean foregoing just a few of those frothy glasses down the Nott.

Top job at the Gallery

The chairman of the Visual Arts department at Monash, Professor Patrick McCaughey, has been appointed the new director of the National Gallery of Victoria.

Professor McCaughey will take up his appointment late this year. He has been at Monash since 1974.

The Minister for the Arts, Norman Lacy, in announcing the appointment said that Professor McCaughey was chosen from a distinguished field of applicants from Australia and overseas.

Classical Greek thought

There are five lectures remaining in a public series on Classical Greek Thought and Culture, being conducted by members of the department of Classical Studies during philosophy. During the last term.

Tomorrow (April 8), Mr E. J. Greece, "Time", will talk on "Aristotle on Time" at 11.00 a.m. in Rotunda theatre 6 — the time and location of the other sessions also.

The schedule is:

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The schedule is:

April 15, "Fate and Free Will in Sophocles", Mr A. S. McDevitt, Classical Studies; April 22, "Plato and Aristotle on the Subject - Predicate Distinction", Dr L. B. Grant, Philosophy; April 29, "T. L. Cleland: Athletic Competition in Ancient Greece" (illustrated), Professor A. S. Henry, Classical Studies; May 6, "Aristotle on Happiness", Dr R. F. Khan, Philosophy.

For further information contact ext. 2200.

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Grant 'writer in residence'

Journalist, academic, diplomat and author...that's the varied career of Bruce Grant who later this year will be Writer-in-Residence in the English department.

Mr Grant will take up the position on June 1 for a nine week period.

One of the highlights of his 'residency' will be the giving of public lectures on the theme, "Aspects of an Australian Civilisation".

He will also explore the thesis that Australia will become, in the 21st Century, a new kind of Western civilisation, as much as America did in the 20th Century. Plans are for the lectures to be held Thursdays at lunchtime, beginning on June 11.

Own writing

As well, Mr Grant, who is 66, will be pursuing his own writing at Monash - the purse was given to him by the Literature Board of the Australia Council and the University in funding such a position.

He will also be spending time with campus writers and others interested in his work.

After graduating from the University of Melbourne, Mr Grant took a job with The Age, and then became a critic for the Melbourne Daily Times (1959-63) and Washington (1964-65).

Mr Grant was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University in 1958-59 where he studied international affairs and American literature. From 1965-68 he lectured in international relations at Melbourne University where he was Vice-Chancellor for Political Science. In the following five years he wrote a column, "Public Affairs", for The Age. Mr Grant's diplomatic career was as Australian High Commissioner in India and Ambassador to Nepal from 1973-76. He left this position amid controversy when he was then entered on the sacked of the Whitlam Government by the Governor-General.

Since then he has spurd out of the University, visiting fellow at Ormond College and a year as Research Associate at the Melbourne Institute of Arts Studies in London. For the last four years he has been engaged full-time in his own writing and research.

Among his other roles Mr Grant chairs the board of the Australian Film Theatre and is a director of the Australian Institute of Political Science. He has been president of the Melbourne Film Festival.

Mr Grant has strong Monash links - for three years from 1970 he was a member of Council. He is still a member of the University Club. He has been a member of Deakin University's Council since 1979.

Recent publications

Among his recent publications are The Boat People, which deals with the events of November 11, 1975. It was given a public reading at the Australian Film Theatre last Saturday.

He has also had short stories and articles on international affairs published widely and delivered numerous public lectures.

New Monash acquisitions in Hirschfeld-Mack show

An exhibition of works by the painter Ludwig Hirschfeld-Mack will be held in the Visual Arts Exhibition Gallery from April 14 to May 22.

The exhibition will include seven works given to Monash last year by the artist's widow, Olive. They represent a valuable and important acquisition for the Monash collection.

Also on show will be works from the Melbourne University collection.

Henry also was born in Frankfurt, Germany, in 1883. At about age 26 he entered the Bauhaus as a member of foundation. The Bauhaus in its 14 year lifetime was dogged by a shortage of funds, hostile officials and internal feuds yet it became a legend and still remains a symbol of a progressive attitude to architecture and design.

Its founder Walter Gropius involved in the project avant-garde artists such as Feininger, Klee, Kandinsky and Moholy Nagy. Their attitude to shape, color, space and form had a fundamental influence on the Bauhaus pupils. Hirschfeld-Mack, known as one of seven works donated by the artist's widow.

Grant 'writer in residence'

April 217
Choral Society (and friends) to perform Rossini work

The Monash University Choral Society is joining with several of the most distinguished members of the Melbourne music scene to perform Rossini's "Petite Messe Solennelle" in early May.

The concert will be held in Melba Hall, Melbourne University, on Saturday, May 27 at 8 p.m.

Rossini's work is neither, as its title might suggest, little nor solemn but has been described as "highly entertaining".

It will be conducted by Greg Hurworth, of the department of Music.

The work is scored for two pianos and harmonium. On piano will be Trevor Barnard, who has lectured at Monash and performed many times in Australia and the United States. Three years ago he was featured as soloist on the first record to be released by the ABC Instrumental and Vocal Orchestra. In 1976 he left the ABC Orchestra and joined the Lithuanian Philharmonic Orchestra. In 1980 he left the first record to be released by the ABC Instrumental and Vocal Orchestra.

The soloists will include Rosalind Smith (soprano) and Margaret Arnold (alto), both Monash postgraduates, Evan Zachariah (bass) who is a former member of the Choral Society and Peter Anderson (tenor), a Monash staff member.

Tickets cost $5 and $3.50 (students) and may be obtained through BASS or at the door. For further information contact 529 4662.

Three concerts by Trio Victoria

A Monash physiologist, who is also an accomplished concert pianist, is a member of the group Trio Victoria which this year will give a series of subscription concerts in Camberwell Civic Centre.

He is Brian Chapman, senior lecturer, who makes up Trio Victoria with Melbourne Symphony Orchestra musicians, Michael Klein and Steven Finney.

Their concert schedule is: Tuesday, June 9, works by Smetana, Martinu and Tchaikovsky; Monday, July 27, works by Mozart, Mendelssohn and Brahms; September, Thursday, 24, all-Beethoven program.

The trio formed in 1979 and capped their first 18 months of concerts and radio broadcasts with an enthusiastically received performance of Tchaikovsky and Mendelssohn at Melbourne's annual "Music in the Round" festival. It was on this appearance that Burlington Concert Productions asked the group to do the subscription series. Trio Victoria this year will also release its first record.

Dr Chapman was the Victorian winner of the ABC Instrumental and Vocal Competition in 1968 and has performed in concert many times in Australia and the United States. Three years ago he was featured as soloist on the first record to be released by Robert Blackwood Hall.

Mr Klein is Latvian-born and in 1972 was appointed assistant concert master of the Lithuanian Philharmonic Orchestra. In 1976 he left the Soviet Union and journeyed to Australia. He plays in the first violin section of the Monash String Quartet. He has studied in New York and California and performed throughout the United States, including at Carnegie Hall and Harvard. He was brought to Australia to join the MSO in 1978.

Tickets for the Trio Victoria subscription series can be obtained at BASS outlets (there is one at the Alexander Theatre). "A reserve' seats are $32; 'B reserve' and balcony $17.50. Single concert tickets cost $8.50 and $7. Student concessions are available for 'B reserve'.

The Mini goes up ... and in ... and the Dixons are off

It CAME to Odds and Ends' attention that Doug Ellis, Deputy Wild for the University, and Professor A. G. L. Shaw, of History, had a recent conversation about holes-in-one at Glenbrook Avenue, North Clayton.

Traditionally after such an achievement a golf club presents the player with a bottle of whisky and records her or his name on a honour board.

Doug was saying what a waste of good whisky it was when he picked up a bottle after a hole-in-one at Melbourne Golf Club last year. The bottle has remained unopened.

Professor Shaw quietly replied that, in fact, in his golfing career he had been awarded two bottles of whisky - from Metropolitan and Barwon Heads golf clubs. (We are unsure if those bottles are still in the pristine state.)

At least one other Monash staff member - Professor Ron Brown from Chemistry - is known to have won a bottle of whisky in like manner from Yarra Yarra.

When asked about the conversation Doug was at pains to point out that there was no element of boasting involved.

"My hole-in-one was anything but good golf," he said. "It was completely an act of God. The holes-in-one by the other two, on the other hand, were entirely due to their skill and a mis-spent youth. (Or did he say well-spent?)

Mozart, Mendelssohn and Brahms on Wednesday, July 29 or Di, Charles and St Paul's.

Trinity Victoria had the middle concerto of its 1981 subscription series all set for July 29 (see separate story) when the Big Date was cancelled. The musicians sized up their competition - the televised marital spectacular - and, deciding they just might come off second best, rescheduled their concert to Monday, July 27.

The next issue of Monash Reporter will be published in the first week of May 1981.

Copy deadline is Monday, April 27.

Contributions (letters, articles, photos) and suggestions should be addressed to the editor (ext. 3063) or the information office, ground floor, University Offices.

The STUDY of living creatures obviously has its more exciting moments. We note - without suggestions - the title of a Zoology seminar to be given this month by Dr B. Roberts and Sheri Wentworth: How does a fly make a hormone? Details in the Diary, F. 11.

MYSTERY is as well, at least on books "Quarks, Quarks, Quarks" in early May.

Sir: I beg to invite your kindness to the nga of Mons, whose despondency with books has been alleviated by your Relativity (latest edition) and whose attention to the insatiable thirst for enlightenmg by your Relativity (latest edition) and whose attention to the insatiable thirst for . . . well, at least books on "Quarks, Quarks, Quarks".

THE MEKK shall inherit the earth. (Or did he say well-spent?)

The Monash physicist Dr Logan Francey recently received the following flowery prose in a request for 'B reserve' tickets for his concert of its 1981 subscription series.

"Sir: I beg to invite your kindness to the nga of Mons, whose despondency with books has been alleviated by your Relativity (latest edition) and whose attention to the insatiable thirst for enlightenmg by your Relativity (latest edition) and whose attention to the insatiable thirst for . . . well, at least books on "Quarks, Quarks, Quarks".

THE EDUCATION Department of Victoria has "trialed" a new word . . . and that's it. Well, really, trialled was trialled in issue no. 2 this year of News Exchange, published by the Department's Publications and Information Branch. Considered such a success, the word was permanently in the following issue.

... ends.

Glencoe, Avenue, North Clayton, lost two of its most notable personalities - and its most prominent landmark - last month.

That was the day that Frank and Iris Dixon packed their bags, loaded up their mobile home, parked the Mini in the boot and took off for warmer lattitudes.

For the past 11 years, Frank has been Monash's garage supervisor (or chairman of the department of typology according to his nameplate) - the man chiefly responsible for the maintenance of the University's vehicle fleet (and, his tells me, for the fine safety record that the University drivers enjoy!).

And for most of that time, his wife Iris has been on the staff of the Halls of Residence.

Three years ago Frank began preparing for his retirement by investing in a '63 Bedford Coma bus that had outlived its usefulness on its south suburban circuit - but still had potential as a home for the future.

Working at weekends and nights, he took out all but three of the bus's 41 seats, installed bunks, kitchenette, shower, toilet, liftaway double bed - and garage!

And when they departed for their new life as proprietors of the Boomerang Way caravan park, Towong, NSW, on March 28, Frank simply drove the Mini up the ramp at the rear, parked it under the suspended double bed and took off...