The V-C previews 1984

‘Hold steady’ year with hopes high for future

THIS YEAR — a “holding steady” year as a difficult triennium for Australian universities draws to a close.

NEXT YEAR — the start of a new three-year funding period for which hopes are high that the level of Commonwealth support will be increased, enabling some growth and innovation at Monash.

That’s the reality for 1984 and the hope for ‘85 as the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ray Martin, sees it.

Professor Martin spoke recently to Monash Reporter about the academic year beginning this week. Here’s, some of the territory covered:

This year’s budget

In 1984 Monash will have an operating budget of $80,040,000 — slightly larger than that for 1983.

The basic component of this is the Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission grant of $78,340,000 which is in fact $20,000 below the ‘83 figure at comparable cost levels.

The 1984 grant is, however, to be augmented — chiefly by $1.5 million in funds from University earnings and from The Monash University Foundation. The Foundation was set up by Council last year with the responsibility for earning and attracting funds from a wide range of sources and allocating them wholly “for the purposes of the University” in the most effective and productive way.

Says the Vice-Chancellor about the budgeting strategy: “Our aim is to achieve stability in 1984 — to maintain the level of resources at more or less that of 1983 in the hope that more liberal funding in the 1985-87 triennium will allow us to be more innovative and improve the quality of our scholarly endeavours.

“Although the budget for teaching and research is slightly larger than the amount available last year, I still see 1984 as being a difficult year. We face inescapable cost increases and generally strained resources. Let us hope that this is the last of a number of difficult years that have faced Australian universities generally.”

There is one bright spot in funding this year — the decision by the Federal Government to return to retrospective supplementation.

“The practice of prospective supplementation introduced several years ago — where universities were given an annual fixed sum of money based on Government ‘guessestimates’ of cost increases for the 12 months ahead — made wise forward planning difficult if not impossible,” says Professor Martin.

This year nine Aborigines — from all mainland States and the Northern Territory and one from a tribal setting — will make history at Monash.

They are the first participants in the Monash Orientation Scheme for Aborigines which is a unique program in an Australian university.

MOSA aims to open up access for adult Aborigines to tertiary education by offering a full year of specific preparation for university study.

Students who complete the Orientation year — achieving a standard at least equal to HSC — will be guaranteed admission to the faculties of Arts and Law. Other faculties may wish also to enrol them.

GOAL IS ABORIGINES in the professions

The first intake — in later years it is planned to grow to about 20 — was chosen in a rigorous selection procedure.

“We were determined to get people who will stick with it,” says MOSA Director, Mr Isaac Brown.

Four of the starters are from the NT; four are women; all are aged between 21 and 31. All have reached at least Year 10 in formal education; most are employed in fields such as nursing, the public service or data processing.

Speech pathologist

Mr Brown comes to Monash from the Victorian Health Commission where he was senior speech pathologist in public health. Before that he was Director of Clinical Education in the School of Communication Disorders at the Lincoln Institute of Health Sciences.

His fellow teacher in MOSA is Dr Janice Newton, a Monash Ph.D. graduate, who has been teaching anthropology at the University of Queensland.

Mr Brown is himself an Aboriginal whose country is Iwaidja, at the top of the Northern Territory.

“Actually I have Aboriginal, Asian and European blood,” he says. “It’s the Aboriginal in me that makes me want to succeed.”

Features in this issue:

The Monash commuter

Three recent reports examine:
- Getting here
- Parking here
- Surviving here

Their findings in a ‘Chariots of Higher Learners’ special, starting page 6.
Monash’s student-staff ratio has the postponement of new developments. Maintenance is left the more expensive it becomes. Resources provided to achieve those what extent the Government will projects. Budget when it funding. for universities in the next triennium. Ability to support many worthwhile to earn on its investments and hence its ability to support many worthwhile projects. These earnings have always allowed us a little, but crucial, financial flexibility," says Professor Martin. A better 1985-87

All eyes will be on the August Federal Budget when it will become clear to what extent the Government will allocate an improved level of support for universities in the next triennium. Professor Martin believes the universities have a very strong case for better funding. He says: “It is clear that there is a widening gap between Government objectives for universities and the resources provided to achieve those objectives.”

There are, he adds, some worrying results for the years of inadequate funding at Monash. Among them:

- Some of the buildings are showing signs of poor repair. The longer maintenance is left the more expensive it becomes.
- It is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain the library as a first-class facility.
- Staff generally are under pressure. Understaffing in departments places added burdens on staff members and leads to a run down of services, research and the postponement of new developments.

Monash’s student-staff ratio has deteriorated since the late 1970s; it currently has the highest ratio of all Australian universities despite having the lowest percentage of funds allocated to administrative costs in any Australian university.

New campus buildings

“Monash faces some urgent accommodation problems,” says the Vice-Chancellor. “Funds made available for capital works in universities by the Commonwealth Government over a number of years have been hopelessly inadequate.”

“Monash has thus decided to meet some of its most pressing requirements for new buildings and extensions through its own resources.”

The proposed constructions to be first under way in the near future include an extension to the Science wing and a multi-disciplinary building which will relieve overcrowding in other parts of the University. This last building will also house a new University Gallery. A sum of $100,000 has been donated towards a “significant memorial” in this gallery to the late Australian artist, Sir Russell Drysdale, by a Friends of Russell Drysdale group which raised the money through an art auction last year.

The big project currently underway with which Monash is associated is the relocation of the Queen Victoria Medical Centre in Clayton Road, 1.6 km from the campus.

The five-storey, 350-bed hospital, due for completion in late 1986 at a cost of $91 million, will house the teaching departments of Paediatrics, and Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

But, at the moment, that side of the project concerned with the University has encountered difficulties in funding arrangements. The Commonwealth is yet to commit funds for construction of the Monash departments’ accommodation and indeed the CTEC recommendation to the Federal Education Minister on this, at $6 million, falls nearly $2 million short of the architects’ estimates.

In the meantime, as construction continues apace, the State Government is tend to build the University component only in shell form until a commitment from NHEMRC is obtained.

Student changes

Monash has been instructed to maintain its intake of school leavers at a level than 1983. At the same time, the University is following a CTEC directive to reduce its total student load (measured in “equivalent full-time students”). The planned student load for this year is 12,800 EFTS, down from about 13,110 last year.

While the Monash student population is contracting slightly, its mix is also changing in favor of science-based disciplines. It is planned that Monash’s science-based student number will grow about two per cent to 34 per cent of total enrolments by 1987. The number of students in the faculties of Science and Engineering, then, will be increased at the expense of Arts, ECOPS, Law and Education.

In Medicine, this year Monash will cut its first year intake from 160 to 145 at the request of the State Government. Overall, competition for student places at Monash is growing. This is shown by rises in the selection cut-off HSC scores in all the faculties. Factors increasing the pressure on places at Monash include a rising retention rate in the later years of secondary schools and a rising retention rate in the University itself.

Research

The Vice-Chancellor says that the level of research support that Monash attracted for 1984 should maintain the present level of activity.

Monash researchers will receive some $4,116,304 this year from the two major funding sources the Australian Research Grants Scheme and the National Health and Medical Research Council.

The University’s ARGS total, at $1.76 million, is 8.9 per cent up on last year. It does, however, reflect a further decline in Monash’s share of the national allocation ($22.4 million) from 8.4 per cent last year to about 8 per cent this year. Although that a larger share is probably going to new and growing universities.

Monash’s NHEMRC allocation is $2.36 million — up a massive 34 per cent on 1983.

Grants from other funding bodies include $128,221 from the Marine Science and Technologies Grant Scheme and $169,192 from the National Energy Research Development and Demonstration Council.

Then there is nearly $700,000 to be distributed from the Monash Special Research Fund to support some 197 projects, which might otherwise have languished for lack of support from traditional sources.

A few initiatives

The Monash Orientation Scheme for Aborigines — the first of its type in an Australian university — takes its first students this year. See separate story this issue on MOSA and its Director, Mr. Israel Brown.

The Japanese Studies Centre will get into full swing this year with the official opening of its premises by the premier, Mr. Cain, late last month. The Centre provides a base for the tertiary study of Japan in Australia.

The new Research Centre for Molecular Biology and Medicine starts its first full year of operation. It aims to accelerate research into the medical and industrial application of recent developments in biochemistry, cell biology and DNA technology, in collaboration with organisations such as CSIRO and CSL.

And Monash’s employment practices will be reviewed when the University’s Equal Opportunity Research Fellow starts work. The study, for the Vice-Chancellor, will examine why more men than women start academic careers at Monash and the reason for any differences, if they exist, in the employment prospects of male and female academic and general staff members.

MARCH, 1984
African aid 'high quality' but future in doubt

A Monash Reader in Politics is concerned that Australia may be about to scale down its already-small aid program in Africa.

The Premier, Committee, set up by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, has been reviewing the Australian overseas aid program. It has been considering whether more emphasis should be given to projects in Australia's own region.

But Dr David Goldsworthy, who late last year visited several African countries, says that Australian aid to Africa while small in volume is generally high and trading in agricultural products. He has expertise which is needed in Africa.

A 10-year project started in 1978 which the project until top-level lobbying at the last Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting won a six-month extension pending the report of a review mission.

Land settlement

The project involves settling on land to which they now hold legal title some 4000 families (or 25,000 people) who previously practised slash-burn agriculture. Aid has been in the form of teaching the population new agricultural methods, developing water resources, rehabilitating forests, constructing roads and the like.

"It is a project of good quality in that it reaches very poor people in semi-arid areas, improving their lives by giving them the means to produce on a steady basis," says Dr Goldsworthy.

If Australia were to pull out another country would probably step in, says Dr Goldsworthy.

"But such programs offer Australia the opportunity to build up great goodwill."

Other Australian aid in Africa is not so much the formal project as in the supply of skills through specialists or the training of Africans in Australia. In the latter example, Australian aid has a high profile through a significant number of Australians teaching in schools.

Meanwhile, Dr Goldsworthy has started a new theoretical study on the politics of development in the world's poorest countries.

The benefits of MOSA should be seen in the community awareness and understanding of Japan.

"This project has taken a great deal of hard work and dedication to bring to fruition, and I want to congratulate Professor Neustupny (President of the Centre) and his team and all those associated with it.

"Obviously, more will be necessary for its continuance, and I hope that more Australian companies will recognise the importance of which centers such as this can play in bridging the wide cultural gaps between Australia and other countries."

Professor Kevin Westfold, Acting Vice-Chancellor, told the gathering that from its earliest years, Monash had maintained a strong commitment to the furtherance of Japanese studies. Its scope was not confined to the teaching of language, but encompassed the whole range of Japanese culture — literature, history, politics and social organisation.

Professor Westfold said the Centre was giving growing attention to Japanese studies in the schools and was developing teaching materials and resources to encourage the study of various aspects of Japanese culture from primary level upwards.

The Premier, Mr Cain, unveils the plaque on the Japan­ese Studies Centre.

Professor Neustupny, Centre Presi­dent, looks on.

The consolida­tion of Japanese studies at Monash offered a very valuable and timely opportunity to raise awareness in the Australian community of Japan's society and culture.

"In Australian-Japanese relations, cultural awareness has followed trade too slowly," he said. "And we have a long way to go."
Dedicated
...and male

What type of men and women become Australian school principals?

Your average schoolkid might have a one-word reply.

But Monash Education lecturer, Dr Judith Chapman, puts forward a more scholarly viewpoint, having spent time working on the appointment of principals. Both reports are to be published later this year by the Australian Government Publishing Service.

Dr Chapman has done a second study for the working party on the appointment of principals (see separate story). Both reports are to be published later this year by the Australian Government Publishing Service.

Dr Chapman has constructed her "descriptive profile" of the Australian school principal from data collected in a questionnaire completed by some 1,300 principals in Government, Catholic and independent schools at primary and secondary levels, and in all States, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory. The questionnaire covered personal background, formal education, work experience and professional development.

Her study was designed in close consultation with the working party's project steering committee, Education Department, and Catholic Education Offices in each State and the Association of Independent Schools.

This is what some of the characteristics of the Australian principal are:

Personal background

For a start, the person is likely to be a "he". Some 77% of respondents were male.

Only a Catholic primary school is likely to have a woman principal rather than a man. Dr Chapman says that the majority of these women serve, however, in their capacity as members of religious orders and are more likely than their male colleagues to be over 45.

Most school principals are likely to be the first generation of their family to have completed secondary schooling or tertiary education.

The picture that emerges here, says Dr Chapman, is of an "independent school 'product'" who shares the values of the school community (often nominated or approved by the school) and a preparedness to work with parents and the wider community.

In the case of Catholic schools, a priest is also a member of the selection panel, often joining other people such as the Director of Catholic Education or the Bishop of the diocese in selection. The value of the Bishop is regarded as being greater community involvement, teaching service and appointment of principals have been established, clarified and documented in the last decade.

"The great majority — and particularly of Government principals — received financial support for their initial tertiary study. Dr Chapman says that this was usually a government scholarship under the old "bonding" schemes — "probably the only way many from the blue collar families could afford higher education".

Work experience

On average, Australian school principals report spending 46-50 hours a week performing their duties. More than one-quarter of principals spend more than 50 hours on the job.

Nearly two-thirds are engaged in regular classroom teaching.

Over two-thirds of respondents have served as principal in more than one school. Independent principals are more likely than others to have served in only one school — particularly female principals.

Except for in the NT, the vast majority of Government school principals were first appointed principal in the State in which they currently reside. Independent principals were more likely than others to have received their first appointment in a different State or country.

Principals of Government secondary schools spent the longest period in teaching administration prior to their first appointment as principal (60% — over 15 years). In addition they had experience teaching in more schools than their Catholic or independent counterparts.

One-quarter of principals had undertaken specific study in administration prior to their principalship appointment and 31% undertook such study afterwards.

Three approaches to selection

Procedures for the selection of principals of Government schools are in a state of change with the issue in question being greater community involvement, says Dr Judith Chapman, lecturer in Education at Monash.

Dr Chapman has recently finished a report on the selection and appointment of principals in Government, Catholic and Independent systems for a working party of the Schools Commission.

She says that the Victorian State Board of Education has recently put forward a proposal for school council participation in selection of Government school principals. Such a move shows respect "for localised, individual autonomy," she says.

The fundamental rationale for these schools' existence is the belief of parents that they have a right to shape a school where the values, attitudes and standards are consistent with what they wish for their children, says Dr Chapman.

"As there is no one set of beliefs, values or conventions underpinning all such schools, there is no set of procedures or criteria for the selection and appointment of principals to every independent school," she says.

But she does identify key aspects of the search by independent school councils for the "right" person — someone who shares the values of the school community and who will further move their institution to the accomplishment of its goals.

Among the criteria for selection are: commitment to the philosophy of the school, teaching and administrative experience in independent schools, personal qualities and a breadth of personal experience, leadership ability and organisational effectiveness, and a preparedness to work as partners in the educative process.

In some instances, a broad professional experience outside education or high achievement in sport or another area of personal endeavour is regarded as being of some importance in the final selection.

In Catholic parish and diocesan schools, which Dr Chapman looked at separately, procedures for the selection and appointment of principals have been established, clarified and documented in the last decade.

These procedures reflect changes in Catholic education administration associated with the times, she says.

Among them:

• The declining number of members of religious orders responsible for the administration of Catholic schools created a need for new decision-making bodies which bore both legal authority and the authority of the faith community.

• The Second Vatican Council's Declaration on Catholic Education, 1962-65, indicated that parents and the wider community had directive rights and corresponding obligations towards Catholic education, represented a new philosophy of participation in the decision-making of Catholic schools.

• The increase in Government funding and associated demands for public accountability highlighted the need for procedures and criteria which were readily known and defensible as consistent with the unique goals and ethos of the 'Catholic' school.

Dr Chapman says that ultimate authority for the selection and appointment of principals to Catholic schools resides with the Bishop of each diocese. To varying degrees this authority is delegated to the Director of Catholic Education.

While appointment is made on an individual school basis, the Director assumes a co-ordinating role in advertising, receiving, sorting and screening applicants. The Director (or his nominee) is also a member of every selection panel . . joined by a priest and at least one member of the lay community (often nominated or approved by the priest).

Criteria for selection, says Dr Chapman, are: Catholicity, personal qualities, leadership ability, teaching/educational competence, administrative competence and formal educational qualifications.

MONASH REPORTER

MARCH, 1984
Counselling Service explains its role

Some 70 staff members last month attended a seminar which provided up-to-date information on the University's Counselling Service.

The Service has in recent years increased its activities in response to an apparent increase in problems of students, which is in line with the added problems of youth generally.

Psychologist in the Counselling Service, Robin Sayes, said that by making staff — particularly academics — aware of the range of counselling facilities available, students with problems may be referred earlier.

Robin says that academics, because of their close contact with students, are often in a position to recognise a problem in its early phase.

He says: "Waiting until a problem has reached crisis stage is both unnecessary and undesirable."

The seminar was a valuable way of "getting to the bottom of false assumptions people have about counselling, Robin says.

It is not a process of telling someone what to do, giving advice or direction, or reducing the standards of our medical research — with the decline in Australia had also been very "town". The Fellowship invitation came about as a result of Dr Yamana’s association with Monash. He said Mr Jones' research at the RERF laboratories would be concerned mainly with cancer — in particular, leukaemia, with the possible effects of radiation as a special interest.

He would spend two years at RERF and "to return something to Monash and Australia" for the valuable experience he had gained during his three years here.

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Leukaemia increase

Dr Yamana said more than 100,000 people (one-third of Hiroshima’s wartime population) died in the atomic blast which devastated the city in 1945.

There was a four-fold increase in the incidence of leukaemia following the bomb. Some cases, possibly attributable to radiation, occurred quite quickly. The incidence of leukaemia reached a peak and then decreased steadily. But even now (38 years later), Dr Yamana said, more cases than normal are still diagnosed.

Dr Yamana said Hiroshima had now been rebuilt and had a population of about 800,000 — more than double its population when the bomb went off. The Radiation Effect Research Foundation was established by the United States soon after the war. It was initially financed by the US, but is now funded equally by the US and Japanese governments.

Dr Seizo Yamana, Medical Director of the Saijo Central Hospital in Hiroshima, will attempt an answer at a forum on April 8 being organised by The History Institute, Victoria.

Other events planned by the Institute for 1984 include a conference on local history, one on "Women in Australia — 1824 to 1979", and a conference on "Migration", and a postgraduate history conference.

The Institute is unique in Australia as a centre of co-operation between academic institutions and with persons interested in a particular discipline.

For further information about The History Institute, Victoria — which is located at 238 Faraday Street, Carlton — contact 341 6209.

MARCH, 1984

MONASH REPORTER
Work starts on safety proposals

Engineers devise ways to rout our road problems

If you arrive on campus by helicopter the problem will be unfamiliar. But if your "mode" is more conventional you will have encountered, more likely than not, the trouble spots that lie in wait for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians on University roads.

This is what the researchers propose for a few of the innumerable intersections and stretches:

"Education Corner"

That's where Ring Road South meets Ring Road East — opposite one of the entrances to the south-east car parks. Says the report: "This corner does not have any form of priority signing and thus, legally, 'give way to the right' applies. However, in practice, it is 'a free for all.'"

The possibility of installing traffic signals at this intersection, linked to all relevant traffic signals, would be considered.

"Holwey's Row

Another free-for-all. The greatest approach flow is from the east and poses the problem of directing traffic turning left into the University. The study observed that significant delays are common for traffic approaching Great Circle Road at Holwey's Row. "This stretch has the appearance and design features of a normal suburban arterial road rather than part of the University road system, has little pedestrian traffic and is open 24 hours a day. Intersections should be given, then, to raising the limit to 60 km/h, say the researchers."

They suggest that 35 km/h is the safe speed for the south-west corner and that advisory signs should be erected.

In a supplementary report, Dr Ogden and Mr Andreassen rule out the use of road humps as a speed control measure on Monash roads. They say that the use of humps on Monash roads would be clearly outside the guidelines developed by the Victorian Road Traffic Authority for their use.

Parking review up

The committee's brief was a reference of the parking Committee on the need for an adequate and effective means of financing parking.

On this last point the committee should continue to be self-reliant.

The Commonwealth Commission might take University that was seen to be able to subsidise parking, a "pot of gold."&n
Chariots of higher earners

Monash University is outer-suburban, placed somewhere between two of Melbourne's rail arms but close to neither, and generates a difficult place to get to unless you happen to live on its doorstep.

That seems to be a commonly held view in the community and, indeed, one which may be shaping the preference of potential students for the university they attend.

But it's not a realistic picture of the ease of access - or otherwise - to the campus by people who study and work here, according to a major report delivered to Monash Council recently by the Transport Working Party which Council established in 1981.

One of the working party's findings is that, bearing a few provisos in mind, there are no major transport problems associated with Monash. In general, the University does not experience a transport situation that differs substantively from other, large, suburban-based centres of activity.

A fact of life though is that the private car is all-important to the Monash commuter. The report points to the significance for the University of a stable parking system, the variable nature of its operations and the low density of its surroundings which make a two-tiered permit system with parking areas reserved for 'designated vehicles only' appropriate for such areas.


Access not the obstacle course popularly believed

These are the views the committee has referred to the Parking Committee for further consideration:

- Free parking should be phased out as a way of ensuring maintenance costs are spread as widely as possible among users. The committee says that it has not ignored the strained financial circumstances of a small but significant proportion of students but concludes that the current cost of an annual parking permit is negligible compared with the overall costs of running a car or using public transport.
- It suggests that all presently sealed car parks be redesignated 'restricted' in phase one and that, eventually, all areas be sealed and redesignated.
- There should be a two-tiered permit system with 'sufficient parking areas close to University buildings reserved for those members of staff who are willing to pay an appropriately-determined higher fee to avail themselves of the privilege'.
- It is recommended that further consideration be given to the future demand for visitor parking and the continuing requirements of part-time students and staff, handicapped persons, Friday market stallholders and other users with special needs.
- It is recommended that action be taken to 'defuse a significant degree of unrest' over prime parking areas reserved for 'designated vehicles only'.
- Any such action should ensure that parking privileges for such areas are for legitimate University purposes only and the Parking Committee is urged to consider the potential revenue-earning capacity of such areas.

In terms of distance, Monash is located closer to the homes of potential students than either Melbourne or La Trobe. The report says that it will become even closer as the centroid of Melbourne's population - currently located in the vicinity of Glen Iris - shifts further to the south-east.

In terms of average car travel time for the potential student, Monash has a slight edge on the other universities also. The working party has reported that the average travel time by car from 1980/81 VUAC students' residences to Monash is 32.2 minutes compared with 32.6 to Melbourne and 37.2 to La Trobe.

That's the case of potential students. The picture changed slightly when the working party surveyed the travelling habits of enrolled students.

It found that the average Monash student arriving by car took about 21 minutes, much the same time as the average Melbourne student arriving at his campus and two minutes longer than the La Trobe student.

The report says that these travel times take into account driving time only. It points out that Monash is further advantaged by the convenient, readily obtainable and low cost parking ($20 a year or free compared with $90 at Melbourne, if a permit is available).

Public transport

The situation changes when considering accessibility by public transport. The Monash commuter faces difficulties, particularly in the evenings and at weekends, the report says.

It suffers in this regard from its location, the variable nature of its operations and the low density of its surroundings which make a sufficiently flexible public transport system difficult to devise.

But the working party found that the Melbourne University public transport commuter has only a slight advantage on his Monash counterpart.

Monash is 68 minutes away on public transport from the average potential student's home, compared with 57 minutes to Melbourne University.

The survey of enrolled students found that the average public transport travel time to Monash is 58 minutes compared with 44 minutes to Melbourne.

The working party found that there are two groups at disadvantage in gaining easy access to the University - first year students and those with very limited incomes.

Many first years are too young to hold a driver's licence. Their problem is "primarily of a transitory nature," says the report, not that it has much consolation in those first 12 months.

Some 11 per cent of students who commute by rail or, and bus but this figure is 25 per cent for first year students.

The working party concludes that the scope and nature of warranted initiatives to improve transport are limited and suggests that the University explore with local councils the need for non-local rail services, as well as University student and staff records and parking records.

Ride-sharing encouraged

The Monash Transport Working Party has recommended that ride-sharing in private cars should be encouraged more widely among Monash commuters.

It suggests that present arrangements for ride-sharing - a noticeboard in the Union - could be streamlined by a computerised system able to match lifts wanted with lifts available.

The feasibility of such a scheme is to be evaluated by the Union.

With a mean occupancy rate of 1.2, cars entering Monash have the capacity to carry more people, the working party says. But it also notes that ride-sharing schemes are successful usually only when the driver is not incompensated and when it is easy to develop on a fairly informal and comprehensible basis.

Ride-sharing aside, the working party considered initiatives in bicycle facilities, minibus and public transport. For bikes, it recommends the provision of at least one fenced and locked compound to improve security. And it suggests that the University explore with local councils the possibility of establishing safe bicycle tracks, particularly around Monash.

The working party ruled out mini-bus services to the campus, saying that they would require substantial financial subsidy.

And, on public transport, the report suggests that commuters have to face the fact that services cannot be operated at acceptable cost with high frequency in low density suburban areas. Many suburban passenger volumes are low and highly variable.

"Public transport, as the experience from Monash has built up a wealth of data from surveys conducted by itself and other bodies, as well as University student and staff records and parking records."

7 MARCH, 1984 MONASH REPORTER
"Revolutionary" conference

The subject was computer science when more than 100 academic and industry figures met at Monash College recently for what has been described as a "revolutionary" conference.

The Minister for Science and Technology, Mr Barry Jones, opened the Logic and Computation '84 conference and its companion workshop on Fifth Generation Programming Languages in a videotaped interview. They were held at Monash and Melbourne universities respectively.

Professor John Crousey, of Computer Science, says that the main aim of the conference was to discuss and strengthen the ties between theoretical computer science and mathematical logic. The major areas covered were the logics of programs and logic programs, the complexity of computation and effective mathematics.

"The conference showed the immense potential for cross-fertilization between computer science and mathematical logic," says Professor Crousey.

It is expected that selected papers will appear in the Annals of Pure and Applied Logic.

The workshop covered the principles, some new systems and important applications of fifth generation programming languages.

Two researchers from the Japanese Institute for New Generation Computer Technology (ICOT), Kaname Matsuda and Ko Sakai, described some of the institute's achievements including design of a new sequential inference machine and the forthcoming parallel inference machine.

MONTAGE REPORTER

A final word on chariots

WELL TWO ACTUALLY.

- For a university where parking has always been plentiful and cheap it has, throughout the years, stirred quite a deal of controversy. Seventeen years ago, when parking the great god car was the issue of the moment, students came up with a pamphlet, all very official-looking, which circulated on campus. It proposed the Hildembrand-White Car Park for Monash. A gem of satire, we reproduce it above.

- Who does go first at the notorious Howley's/Normany Roads intersection? Here is the definitive answer, courtesy of the RACV journal, Royalauto.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

You are approaching a Give Way sign at an intersection, and you want to turn right. Facing you across the intersection is another car which is facing a Stop sign. The driver of this car wants to travel ahead.

Would you expect the other driver to wait until you have completed your turn, or do you think you should wait until the other driver has cleared the intersection before executing your turn?

This situation appears to be causing a number of motorists confusion.

As you can see in our diagram, vehicle A (wishing to go straight ahead) is facing a Stop sign, and vehicle B (wishing to turn right) is approaching a Give Way sign.

The fact that vehicle A is at a Stop sign while vehicle B is only approaching a Give Way sign does not have any bearing on which vehicle may proceed first.

The give way requirements relate to the intersection but do not apply to the crossing of the street.

Under Road Traffic Regulations a driver making a right turn (vehicle B) is required to give way to any other vehicle which has entered or is approaching the intersection from the opposite direction (vehicle A).

MARCH, 1984
Lawyers: Steep minimum fines hurting unemployed, poor

The Springvale Legal Service, which is associated with the Monash Law faculty, has urged the State Government to restore sentencing discretion to magistrates hearing various traffic offences.

Springvale Legal Service co-ordinator, Mr Simon Smith, says that the imposition by Parliament of steep minimum fines in such offences as driving an unregistered vehicle, driving an uninsured vehicle and driving while unlicensed discriminates against the poor and unemployed.

Mr Smith, a lecturer in the Monash Clinical Legal Education program, has written to the Attorney-General, Mr Jim Kennan, about the issue which has arisen in the Legal Service's casework.

Another Springvale lawyer, Ms Mary Anne Noone, spoke to Mr Kennan about the matter when he visited the Legal Service last month.

Ms Noone said: "It is absurd that unemployed and poor people are going to jail because they cannot pay high fines only imposed because they cannot afford to pay high insurance and car registration fees.

"These people should not be classed the same as drink drivers, for example. "Surely this is a case for the law to be changed to allow the court to show some mercy?""

Mr Smith points to the case of an unemployed 22-year-old man, convicted recently in the Springvale Court of driving an unregistered car and driving an uninsured car. His fines totalled $700.

At present the only sentencing discretion available to the court are to grant time for payment or to dismiss the charges as trifling, he says.

"In the above case it would take two and a half years to pay off $700 in fines at the rate of $5 a week on an unemployment benefit which is already below the poverty level," he says.

"At the same time the community would not expect the charges to be dismissed as trifling."

Mr Smith says that savage court results can inevitably affect public confidence in the legal system.

Mr Kennan has referred the matter to the Minister for Transport, Mr Steve Crabb, who administers the Motor Car Act. This Act is currently under review.

Mr Kennan has pointed out, however, that magistrates also have the discretion to find a charge proven but fail to record a conviction subject to the defendant entering a bond. Also, recent amendments to the Community Welfare Services Act will permit a program of day attendance where a person has been imprisoned for non-payment of fines.

In turn, Mr Smith says that the community would not expect a magistrate to grant a bond for an offence which clearly calls for some pecuniary penalty.

"And while the amendments will give access to attendance centres as an alternative to jail, I would think that in the bulk of cases jail is an inappropriate precondition," he says.

Prior convictions

On a separate law reform issue, Mr Smith has urged that provision be made in the Evidence Act, currently under review, for access by legal practitioners to information on their clients' prior convictions from the police.

Mr Smith says that, at present, police control the only co-ordinated record of criminal convictions. A lawyer's access to that record is entirely at the discretion of the police.

"Information about a client's prior criminal history (if any) is vital if a legal practitioner is to properly advise and prepare a client's case. It also enables the fullest possible submissions to be prepared for the assistance of the Court," says Mr Smith.

"At the moment, in the face of police reluctance to provide details of prior convictions, access can only be gained by the client making a personal application under the Freedom of Information Act.

"This procedure is both clumsy and an unnecessary expense."

Economist takes new law post

An economist, Professor Maureen Brunt, has been appointed to a part-time position as Professor of Economics at Monash.

Announcing the appointment, the Dean of Law, Professor Robert Baxt, said that for several years there had been joint Economics-Law courses and seminars in such areas as restrictive trade practices and securities legislation, but this was the first time that a formal joint application of this nature had been made.

"It has become increasingly important for economics to be understood by lawyers," Professor Baxt said.

"In the United States and elsewhere there has been an explosion in 'economics of law' studies, where the achievements of the law have been used to improve the functioning of the economy.

"Now we see the development of a new field, using the tools of economics to analyse the legal rules and processes of the court system to see whether those are functioning efficiently. It's likely that a 'cost-benefit' approach will be more widely used in the consideration of law reforms."

The new studies will look at such topics as the economics of introducing new laws in accident compensation, trade practices, consumer protection, crime control and franchising.

Professor Baxt said he believed the new courses would prove attractive to professional people outside the University, as well as to undergraduate and graduate students.

Top student in Marketing

The Attorney-General, Mr Jim Kennan, last month presented the Springvale Legal Service with a cheque for $20,050 — the State Government's share of its 1984 running costs.

The Springvale Legal Service is the busiest community legal centre in Australia and the second oldest (it celebrated its 11th birthday last week).

The Service expects to conduct some 10,000 interviews this year and arrange about 600 court representations. In addition it provides duty lawyer services at the Springvale Magistrates' Court and the Dandenong Hospital — the latter project a first in Australia.

Mr Russell Scrimshaw, of IBM, last month presented the IBM Prize for Marketing to Warwick Berry (left), the best student in ASS21 Marketing. The prize, a $150 cheque, was awarded at a lunch in the Union Private Dining Room.
Ovum donor birth — a world first

The Monash IVF team at the Queen Victoria Medical Centre and Epworth Hospital has achieved another world first: the birth of a child from a donated ovum.

The mother, who has requested that her name not be released, was implanted with the embryo because of ovarian failure. Diagnostic laparoscopy had shown that she was unable to conceive normally. Her ovaries were atrophied. The follicles (the grape-like cysts on the surface of the ovary) had not developed, and she was unable to produce the hormones necessary for the reproductive cycle.

The woman, now in her mid-20s, was implanted with a donated egg which had been artificially inseminated by her husband's sperm and cultured to the two-cell stage in the laboratory before being transferred to the womb.

The implantation resulted in a normal pregnancy and the birth in November last year of a healthy boy. The baby was delivered by Caesarian section.

The donor was a 29-year-old woman who was also taking part in the IVF program. Her infertility was due to blocked tubes. Five eggs were obtained from her during an IVF treatment cycle and she and her husband consented to donate one egg to the recipient couple.

Because the woman who received the donated ovum was unable to produce the necessary hormones herself, the IVF team had to create an artificial menstrual cycle for her.

Before and after receiving the embryo, she was given oestrogen and progesterone treatment to initiate and sustain the pregnancy until the foetus was able to "take over" the hormone cycle.

Oestrogen therapy was withdrawn at 12 weeks' gestation and progesterone therapy at 19 weeks.

The woman became pregnant before the State Government's moratorium on the IVF procedure came into effect. The moratorium on donor embryo births was later lifted.

Professor Carl Wood, Monash Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, who heads the in vitro team, says that technically the legal right of the biological mother to the baby is uncertain. But the State Government has indicated that retrospective legislation to be introduced into the Victorian Parliament next session will legally "cover" all children born under the in vitro fertilisation and AID (artificial insemination by donor) programs.

Under the proposed legislation the donor (the child's "genetic" mother) would have no rights or liabilities in respect of the child.

Neither the biological mother nor the donor are aware of each other's identity, he says. The donor has not been told of the outcome of the donor pregnancy, but, in accordance with the Walter Committee's recommendations, she will be given this information by her physician if she asks for it. So far she has not done so.

The donor did not become pregnant herself and will try again this year.

Professor Wood says the mother intends to tell the child how it was conceived, "some time in the future".

The Monash team includes Dr Alan Trowon, the IVF unit's senior scientist, who was mainly responsible for the development of research; endocrinologist Jock Findlay, from the Medical Research Centre at Prince Henry's Hospital; Associate Professor John Leeton; Peter Lutjen, a biochemist, who co-ordinated the clinical care and research; and obstetrician, Dr Peter Renou.


V-C visits ‘science parks’

Monash’s Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ray Martin, and the Chairman of the Chemistry department, Professor Ron Brown, are currently investigating ventures overseas in which universities make their expertise more readily available to industry and the community.

They will visit more than a dozen “science parks”, “innovation centres” and similar enterprises in Canada, the USA and Britain.

They will report to Council’s Planning Committee which for several years has been considering ways in which Monash might channel its expertise and consulting capacity through a company such as Unisearch at the University of New South Wales and Technisearch at RMIT.

Proposals for such a venture at Monash date back to the early 1970s when establishment of a Monash University Scientific and Industrial Community (MUSIC) was planned.

Another approach to University-industry technology transfer is the science park where a collection of high technology companies are associated with a university. There are more than 100 such developments in the US and about 20 in the UK.

Monash already has, in a sense, a science park with CSIRO divisions, the research laboratories of Telecom and BHP, and the Hospital Health Computer Service located nearby. There is no central organisation, however, which integrates the parts into a whole.

The centres in North America, Professor Martin and Brown will be visiting are in Albuquerque, New Mexico; Salt Lake City, Utah; Atlanta, Georgia; Raleigh, North Carolina; Washington DC; and the University of British Columbia, Vancouver. In the UK they will visit establishments in London, Edinburgh, Salford, Cambridge and Milton Keynes.

For Professor Brown, the study tour comes at the end of a visit to the Kitt Peak radiotelescope where he has been continuing a search for molecules in outer space.

Ph.D.'s nostalgic visit to Monash

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MONASH REPORTER

For Ros Smith, a return visit to Monash University late last year was filled with nostalgia.

The main purpose of her visit was to receive the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, but there was a bonus — a conducted tour of her first home, now the University’s Vice-Chancellor’s house.

Now married to Professor Mal Smith, formerly a lecturer in law at Monash and currently professor of law at the University of British Columbia, Canada, Ros returned home especially to receive her Ph.D., which was awarded for her Music thesis on “Gin-Ei: Japanese poetry recreation”.

After the ceremony, she and her mother, Mrs Jean O'Shea, of Camberwell, were the guests of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ray Martin, for a tour of their former home.

MARCH, 1984
Greek author’s ‘most perfect work’ translated

A foremost Greek author’s ‘most perfect work’ has just been translated into English by a Modern Greek lecturer at Monash.

It is the novella Vassilis Arvanitis by Stratis Myrivilis whose novel Life in the Tomb is regarded as the first modern Greek prose work of international standard.

The translation has been done by Mr Pavlos Andronikos, a Melbourne University lecturer based at Monash as part of the three-campus co-operative Modern Greek teaching program.

Mr Andronikos is completing a Ph.D. at Birmingham University on Stratis Myrivilis who died in 1969 at the age of 79.

The translation of ‘Vassilis Arvanitis’ has been published by the University of New England where Mr Andronikos previously taught.

He says it is Myrivilis’s most perfect work.

“There are problems in the structure of ‘Life in the Tomb’, he says. ‘It is episodic and doesn’t build into a whole. On the other hand, ‘Vassilis Arvanitis’ combines all elements into a perfect whole.’

The first version of it was published as a short story in an Athenian newspaper in 1934. It underwent several changes with the final version — the one translated — published as a separate volume in 1943.

In the novella, says Mr Andronikos, Myrivilis captures a complete way of life as he experienced it in his childhood home on the island of Lesbos at the beginning of this century.

At the time, Lesbos was a part of the Ottoman Empire and had a mixed population of Greeks and Turks who lived in the same villages but conducted their affairs separately.

‘The Greeks resented not being their own masters and dreamed of the day when they would break free from the Ottomans and unite with mainland Greece’ says Mr Andronikos.

“Mr Andronikos says that help may be financial, in the form of a subsidy, or it may be editorial. For example the committee can
• Give advice on publishers likely to be interested in a particular type of work.
• Assist with negotiations with a publishing company.
• Legally vet publishers’ contracts.
• Act as a ‘go-between’ between author and publisher if difficulties arise during production.

The committee has as its members: the ‘student revolt’ — of the late 60s.

The second volume of the Monash Poetry Society magazine, The Open Door, is now available.

In addition to contributions from 35 or so poets, the magazine carries an interview with Norman Talbot, Newcastle poet and Australia’s leading exponent of haiku, an intense Eastern poetic form which uses 17 syllables in lines of five, seven, five:

Little dragonfly —

hunter! How far, I wonder,

have you roamed today?

Chiy-jo

Talbot is currently collaborating with a Monash graduate, Jamie Fennessy, and the artist James Bennett on a major anthology of classical and recent Japanese haiku.

The magazine also contains reviews, some spirited correspondence on the use of rhyme in poetry and a poem by Karyn Sessa which begins:

There was panic in the Common Room, commotion in the Lab.,

And the Chief Researcher poured himself a drink,

For his blonde research assistant, while escaping from his grab,

Had slipped, and spilled the ova down the sink.

If you can’t wait for the Michael Edgley film to find out how the story unfolds buy The Open Door, at $2 a copy (or $5 for a year’s subscriptions—three issues), from: The Editor, Open Door, Union Building, Monash University. Back issues are also available.

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Don't you need help with publishing?

Are you a Monash staff member or graduate student and about to publish?

The Monash Publications Committee, chaired by Brian Southwell, University Librarian, may be able to assist.

Mr Southwell says that help may be financial, in the form of a subsidy, or it may be editorial. For example the committee can:

• Give advice on publishers likely to be interested in a particular type of work.
• Assist with negotiations with a publishing company.
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The committee has as its members academics experienced in publishing, it is visiting the expertise of the University’s Publications and Legal Officers.

These are a few of the publications of late 1983 which received Monash Publications Committee assistance:

Honours and Privileges in Athenian decrees: The principal formulae of Athenian honorary decrees, by Professor Alan Henry, of Classical Studies. Published by Georg Olms Verlag.

Tendenzwenden: Aspekte des Kulturwandels der Siebziger Jahre, edited by Dr David Roberts, senior lecturer in German. Published by Verlag Peter Lang.

This is a collection of papers on Tendenzwenden given at a conference in Melbourne in 1982. The volume contains a paper on the change of direction, change of political trend and refers to the reaction in West Germany to the political turmoil - the "student revolt" - of the late 60s.

The late Professor Arthur Brown’s son, Timothy Brown, presented the first Arthur Brown Memorial Prize for the best 4th year honours thesis in English to Mrs. Angela Kimura. The subject of her thesis last year was “The Poetry of Wallace Stevens.” Also in the picture (left) is Professor Clive Probyn. The Arthur Brown Memorial Prize was established by Monash University as a tribute to Arthur Brown who was Professor of English from 1973 to 1979.
Undergraduate and Bachelors’ gowns

- The sleeves tell it all. There are two basic types – the bell sleeve, which is a neatly exaggerated coat sleeve, and the closed or glove sleeve. The first in typical of undergraduate and Bachelors’ gowns; the latter of Masters’ gowns. In doctoral gowns, usage varies.

Masters’ gown

- The bencsher or mortarboard developed in Oxford and Cambridge. It was originally two separate items – a very large, flat, shallow, square cap, loose and flagging at the corners, with a coat sleeve underneath. In the early 1900s the two were joined for convenience. At the same time a bong was intro-
duced into the floppy upper part to stop the side pieces falling over the face in the middle of the 19th century, a bong was unoffically added to the tump. It was officially approved in 1770. On undergrad-
ate occasions, the bong is now only to the edge of the board, for it extends beyond the edge.

It sounds like a case of more chock than you’d expect to find on a windy day at a highland games . . .

St Patrick’s Day this year falls on the third Saturday of March (the 17th) – which just happens to be launch date for a new radio program on Scottish Gaelic.

The program, which will go to air on SEa on the third Saturday of each month at 11 p.m., will have a strong Monash-via-Scotland flavor.

Involved in organizing and broadcasting it are two staff members – Joan Mitchell, a technical assistant in Microbiology, and Neil Cameron, a senior lecturer in Mathematics.

Joan is a native Gaelic speaker from Lewis in the outer hebridean western islands of Scotland while Neil, a lowlander, was brought up by a Gaelic-speaking grandmother from the middle hebridean island of Coll.

Neil says: “The pre-recorded program of music, poetry, language, history and current affairs is in English well, really Scottish — and Gaelic.

‘Gaelic remains the first language of people in the western isles of Scot-
land and some parts of the north of Ireland, mainland, as well as parts of Canada.

‘Many others learn the language to understand better the com-
ponent of Scottish life and history.

‘The music of the Gael is well-loved by people who have no knowledge of the old Celtic language. On the program we’ll include songs and instrumental music, both traditional and modern.”

Neil suggests that one piece of Gaelic everyone — or at least every Scotch whisky drinker — ought to know is the toast to health — slainte (pronounced more like “cheers”).

Incidentally, for those whose affections lie on the other side of the Irish sea, a program based on the sister language of Irish Gaelic is broadcast on 3EA on the second Saturday of each month.

University Service

A University Service, to mark the beginning of the academic year, will be held in the Religious Centre tomorrow (Thursday) at 11.10 a.m.

The address will be given by the Roman Catholic Bishop of Sale, Bishop Dwyer.

Music will be provided by the Monash University Choral Society and organist Merrowyn Dracou.

It is a treasure for all those who have watched the academic body process — from lookalike magpies to birds of parade — and wondered what it’s all about.

Gowns, materials, sleeves, colors, hats, history — all are covered, with illustrations, in the booklet’s 24 pages.

Professor Dutton says that a great deal of the symbolism of academic dress is bound up with the history of universities in Europe and the New World over seven centuries or more.

He points to a number of factors which influenced the creation and main-
tenance of the distinctive form of dress — the evolution of universities out of monastic schools; their autonomy and increasing separation from the affairs of the town in which they were located; and their tendency to maintain their traditions (even at the risk of antiquarianism and pedantry) despite the changes in the society around them.

“A Academic Dress”, a booklet priced at $3 a copy including postage, is available from Mr John Armstrong, University of Newcastle, New South Wales, 2300.

The events listed below are open to the public.

The programs during the month of March are:

17:31: EXHIBITION — “A Melbourne Mood, Cool Contemporary Art”, from the Australian National Gallery, Monday to Friday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Wednesdays 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Exhibition Gallery, Menzies Building. Admission free. Inquiries: 2117.

18:54: SOUNDMARK — “A Melbourne Mood, Cool Contemporary Art”, artists speak about their work and the period in relation to the exhibition. 5 p.m., Exhibition Gallery, Menzies Building. Admission free, Inquiries: ext. 2177.


25:22: LUNCHTIME CONCERT — The Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. Works by Tippett, Smetana and Berlioz. 1.15 p.m. RBH. Admission free.

26:27: RED CROSS MOBILE BLOOD BANK, 9.45 a.m.-3 p.m. Arts Assembly Rooms 561-4, Menzies Building. Appointments must be made at the Union Desk. Inquiries: ext. 3143.

27: MONASH UNIVERSITY PARENTS’ GROUP — Morning Coffee. Guest speaker — Heather McCormack. 10.30 a.m. RBH.


Important dates

The Registrar advises the following important dates for students in March:

0: Orientation for part-time and mature-age students (Faculty night) 7.30 p.m.
1: Orientation for part-time and mature-age students (family day) 12 noon.
13: Publication of results for Law Summer term.
16: Closing date for change of course, subject or unit taught in the first half-year or over the whole teaching year.
19: Publication of results for Law Summer term.
30: Graduation Ceremony — Science.

The last date for return of TEAS application forms to the Commonwealth Department of Education in order to receive payment of entitlements retrospective to January 1.

MARCH, 1984