An Australian company will invest up to $350,000 in a Monash study of a completely new series of drugs which might bring relief to sufferers of asthma and hayfever.

Australian Drug Developments Pty Ltd, a company set up to capitalise on Australia's expertise in pharmacology, has signed a contract with the university to provide the money over the next three years.

The new drugs are the result of the resurrection of a successful British drug research collaboration in an effort to stimulate Australian medicinal chemistry.

The distinguished British medicinal chemist, Dr Fred Copp, worked with the young Alan Boura (now Professor Alan Boura of Pharmacology) at the Wellcome Foundation in the late fifties and early sixties.

Among other therapeutic compounds, their partnership produced bretylium, the first drug of its type for the treatment of heart attacks and still carried by Mobile Intensive Care Ambulance units in Victoria.

Dr Copp, now retired from Wellcome, was twice enticed to Monash (first as a distinguished visitor to the Medical Faculty and then with a Monash Special Research Grant) to work with Professor Boura on creating the new series of drugs. Professor Roy Jackson of organic chemistry provided laboratory space.

The idea was to design a drug to fit one of the body's widely distributed chemical receptors. "Professor Boura wanted a drug with certain chemical characteristics, and gave me a couple of starting points," Dr Copp said.

Working with graduate student Kever Kroznian, he used his 40 years experience in industrial organic chemistry to come up with a way of creating a chemical compound with the desired characteristics.

And the fifth compound of the series, code-named FCC-S, turned out to be biologically active.

Professor Boura said the team had originally set out to create a drug to treat thrombosis.

Professor Boura said the money would be used to set up a unit for design and development at the university to perpetuate the unique collaboration between pharmacology and organic chemistry.

Initially, the unit will continue studies of how best to make the new drug and related compounds. As Dr Copp must go home to Britain, this work will be undertaken by Dr John Cullen, research assistant in organic chemistry. A second set of studies by Mrs Mary Rechtman (Pharmacology) will screen for immediate and long-term side effects.

Professor Boura said he hoped the establishment of a successful drug development program could lead to an Australian drug industry which would provide jobs for young scientists.

"The paradox now is that we are doing so much medical research and the knowledge is being shunted overseas. Then they utilise it overseas to find drugs to sell back to us."

Kiss and tell — for science

Do not be surprised if Christine Forbes rushes up to you and your partner and asks if you are in love — it is all in a day's work.

Mrs Forbes, a fourth year sociology student, is testing a theory supported by many psychologists and sociologists that love changes over time from "passionate to companionate".

She is assessing whether there are differences in the way men and women see love.

"Most of the questions I ask concern where a couple sees their relationship going, and how it has affected friendships with other people," Mrs Forbes said.

"So far, the study would suggest that people are looking for an intimate friendship based on sharing." She is looking for people who have been together less than three months or more than two years, have never been married, do not live together and have at least two years university education.

They are asked to contact her on 211 5867.

However, if love is not your thing, maybe drinking is.

Mr Greg Rumbold, a Ph.D. student in Psychology, is looking for social drinkers so he can test the way alcohol affects the body.

Participants are asked to complete a task before and after having a drink and their responses are recorded.

Mr Rumbold is one of three students doing research related to alcohol effects. He can be contacted on ext 3978.
Department heads much in demand

Heads of departments in Australian universities mostly find it hard to meet the demands of their three main functions — teaching, research and administration — a national survey has found.

Conducted by Ms Ingrid Moses and Emeritus Professor Ernest Roe of the University of Queensland's Tertiary Education Unit and funded by the Australian Research Grants Scheme, the survey has pinpointed the areas that are suffering and suggests that some department heads should get help in overcoming their pressures and conflicts.

One hundred and eighty department heads were interviewed last year at four pairs of older and newer universities — Queensland and Griffith in Queensland; Sydney and Macquarie in NSW; Melbourne and La Trobe in Victoria, and Adelaide and Flinders in South Australia. The survey has continued this year, with 80 more interviews.

Findings so far show that 86 per cent of department heads reduced research activity after appointment, and 60 per cent reduced teaching loads.

"For a normal academic, teaching and research are the main activities, but a head of department has to give very large prominence to administration," Ms Moses says.

"Many said they could not perform the three functions equally, yet their own expectations, and sometimes those of departments, were that they be seen to do it; and many in fact tried."

Reductions in research activity occur particularly when the department head is an senior lecturer level. If universities allow appointment to headship at senior lecturer level at a time when research activity should be strong in the academics' careers, there

should be administrative and research assistance for them, otherwise there may be reduced input into the national research effort, and damage to the academics' careers," Ms Moses says.

"As most cut down on research and many were active researchers before their appointment, it is important that each be given time off during or after a long headship to catch up." An inherent problem is that universities tend to see department heads as administrative representatives, while heads see themselves rather as academics with temporary administrative functions.

Headship roles have changed, Ms Moses points out, since the democratisation of the universities in the 1960s and 1970s. Instead of being professors appointed for life and with complete control of resources, department heads today are increasingly elected, may be of non-professorial status, and serve limited terms.

Unlike former times, they are subject to the demands of open decision-making and accounting.

"Some implications of the democratisation process are that elected heads who know they must return to the ranks might be reluctant to innovate and confront conflicts; that more academic staff than before can expect to have a term as head, and there is greater need for training of department heads — something that has been recognised in the United States and is being increasingly recognised in Australia," Ms Moses says.

"That the head may not be the highest ranking person in the department, and the headship is of limited duration — in some universities for only two years — affects the extent to which heads can act as advocates for departments and exercise academic leadership."

Ms Moses and Professor Roe hope to publish their findings next year, and have applied for further ARGS funding for research into the output of heads before, during and after headship terms.

Making a play for peace

Paper-crane making, mini-Olympics, T-shirt printing, flag-making, poems and songs, pen pals, balloon messages, puzzles, getting-to-know-you, eating, a mystery tour, tree-planting, a visit to a school from August 4 to August 8, in a Peace Week program devised and carried out through close co-operation between the school and the Monash Education Faculty.

Fifteen science graduates doing their Dip.Ed. at the faculty spent a term at the school, working out the program with staff. The theme was chosen because this is the United Nations Year of Peace.

With curriculum decided, the 15 Monash students were joined by 45 others from the Dip.Ed. course to carry it through as a major training exercise.

"Extremely successful, we are delighted", were the comments of Dr Dick Gunstone and Dr Jeff Northfield, both senior lecturers in Education, who saw the week as invaluable teaching-training for the 60 Monash participants.

Below: Monash University Dip.Ed. student, Phil Grutzner, left, and Monash High School staff members "Queen" Virginia Rogers and Davud Ludowyk, opening the mini-Olympics at the university's Sports and Recreation Centre. Right: Monash High School students Mark Keenan (back to camera) and, from centre to right, Cameron de Grassl, Stephen Wright, Matthew Vale and Bradley Thomas join in the fun. Photos — Richard Crompton.

Union bid for liquor licence

The Union Building's long-awaited bar became a virtual certainty last month with the university's decision to apply to the Liquor Control Commission for a tertiary institution licence.

If the licence is granted, as seems likely, the bar will become part of a $1,400,000 reconstruction of the Main Dining Room and foyer areas on the building's first floor.

The result will be a modernised, integrated area which will not only provide day-to-day drinking and eating facilities, but space suitable for large functions.

But don't hold on to your thirst.

The time needed to get permits for the reconstruction, and to complete it, will mean that the first beer is unlikely to be pulled before the beginning of third term next year.

Mr Doug Ellis, director of the Sports and Recreation Association and chairman of the Bar Planning Committee, says a tertiary institution licence is the sort already held by La Trobe University.

A similar licence here would enable the Union bar to sell a full range of drinks to people 18 and over, and food would also be provided.

The permitted hours at La Trobe are from noon to 8 pm Monday and Tuesday, noon to 9 pm Wednesday; and noon to 11 pm Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Each licence, however, stipulates its own conditions.

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Higher degrees bring personal gain

If you put out the effort to achieve a higher degree, making all the necessary sacrifices on the way, what is the pay-off likely to be in life?

What does a Ph.D. or Masters come to mean in career progress and in personal growth and satisfaction?

The answers over Australian academia as a whole remain unknown, but significant progress has now been made in an important part of it.

The first volume has been published of a report on Higher Degree Studies in Two Faculties of Education 1950-1985, a project conducted by the Education Faculty at Monash and the Sydney University Department of Education.

The inquiry's purpose has been to review the provision of higher degree education and assess the role of different types of higher degrees in terms of professional and career development.

It has been conducted for the Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission under the supervision of Professor Peter Fensham, Dean of Education at Monash, and Professor Don Spearritt, of the department of Education at Sydney. Robina Duggan of the Higher Education Advisory and Research Unit at Monash has been research assistant.

The first volume deals with Monash. The second will be on Sydney and will likely be ready at the end of next year.

With more than 700 higher-degree people questioned in the Monash survey the human response, understandably, has been mixed, but the overall picture is of men and women who have made personal gains.

Interestingly, even for readers outside the field of education, the main benefit seems to have been in personal development and life-awareness rather than in material ways.

A large majority speak of their satisfaction with exposure to new ideas; enhanced self-confidence; the application of new knowledge in their work; better job performance, higher status; greater ability to communicate ideas, and ability to pass the benefits of postgraduate study on to others.

In the workplace (87 per cent of the subjects were in jobs before and during their studies) the consequences of a higher degree are not necessarily as positive gains.

Among those asked to evaluate the effect of their degree on promotion chances, only 39 per cent said it had been of use while 51 per cent said it had made no difference and 10 per cent said it had actually been a disadvantage.

The demand for Monash graduates has shown no sign of slackening, and employers are reporting difficulty in attracting graduates with the right qualifications for business, government service and some areas of engineering.

This positive picture is given in the annual report of the Careers and Appointment Service for the year ended June 30.

"If there is a downturn in the economy, we would hope that employers have learned the lessons from the past, and continue to maintain intakes of young people, both graduates and non-graduates," the report says.

"The most generally held (72 per cent) perception of positive influence is that had for higher degree status," the report says.

"That is, that through these studies the graduates would provide access to new information and a means of keeping up with current trends."

"Getting on for half the graduates reported positive influences on their present opportunities, participating in work activities, roles in the workplace, preparation of work-related activities and interaction with co-workers."

"These are not inconceivable personal gains for the price of the extra load the studies demand."

"The significance of these figures is subject to debate," he said.

Fresh initiatives, involving Monash, the schools and employers were under consideration.

More graduates finding jobs

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor designate, Professor Ian Polmear, made a surprising discovery during a recent overseas trip to attend conferences in Hungary and the United States.

He learned that the weldable aluminium alloy used to make the 20,000 kg external fuel tank of the Space Shuttle was the same he had used as a base to develop an experimental alloy while on an outside studies program in 1983.

"This experimental alloy contains critical minor additions that cause controlled changes to the microstructure, resulting in a marked increase in strength," he said, in a report to the University Council about his trip.

"Spurred on by 'delusions of grandeur' following this discovery, more emphasis is now being given to assessing the new alloy's welding capability."

Professor Polmear, 58, foundation chairman of the Department of Materials Engineering, learned about the Space Shuttle materials when he was in Baltimore in June, giving a seminar at the Martin Marietta Research Laboratories.

He was on his way to present a paper at the University of Virginia on "Aluminium alloys: Their physical and mechanical properties, as held to mark 100 years of commercial production of aluminium."

Professor Polmear has been named as Deputy Vice-Chancellor to assume office in 1987 following the retirement of Professor Kevin Westfold.

Bellamy for ANZAAS

Professor David Bellamy, noted television botanist, and Mr Clive Jenkins, prominent British trade unionist, will be guest speakers at the 56th ANZAAS Conference in New Zealand in January.

The theme of the conference, to be held at Massey University, Palmerston North from January 26 to 30, is Science in a changing society.

Lectures on social, educational, health and community science will take their place beside papers on natural and environmental science.

The conference will include a youth program and a special Maori series.

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Alloy contributes to space probe

West Sumatra and will do more fieldwork during the US Christmas break.

Dr Kartomi has the largest collection of tapes on Sumatran music in the world. "It may take several lifetimes to analyse all the tapes I have collected," she said.

She will also give a paper at an ethnomusicology conference in Portugal next year on Portuguese influences on world music.

"In 1951, the Portuguese took Malacca-Port in present-day Malaysia and brought Western instruments with them."

"This added a new dimension to the music of some trade-linked coastal areas of Merauke and the Indonesian archipelago."

"Malay and Indonesian poetry and melody styles were adapted, perhaps to European harmony on a mixture of local and western instruments," Dr Kartomi says.

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The law cuts across national boundaries

Hundreds of legal scholars met at Monash last week for the second stage of the 12th International Congress of Comparative Law, which began at Sydney University.

The congress was the first held in the Pacific region and the first to include representatives of Asian legal systems. Members of the organising committee included Professor Bob Basti, Mr Philip Clarke, Professor Eliahu Ellinger and Associate Professor Francis Trindade.

In the three-day program at Monash, topics covered included: Transnational protection of human rights; family relations in modern medicine; judicial control of administrative discretion in the expulsion and extradition of aliens; computerised legal systems; execution of judgments and means of enforcement available to a court, and the use of economic evidence in anti-trust litigation.

The International Academy of Comparative Law has been holding the congresses every four years since 1932. Its president, Emeritus Professor John Hazard of Columbia University, said the aim in the early days was the unification of law "and scholars expected that parallel studies of the treatment in European codes of given situations would eventually make possible determination of a common denominator that all could accept".

He told participants that their meeting at the 12th congress proved the vision of scholars had broadened over the years.

"The purpose of comparison today is far more sociological in nature. "Scholars now seek reasons for the variation in legal families. They examine the historical bases for legal cultures, the ideological foundations, the economic stimuli and the social order from which legal systems emerge," he said.

The annual Sir Wilfred Fullagar Lecture was given during the congress by Professor Ross Parsons from the University of Sydney, on the topic Income Tax: An Institution of Decay.

"They found some books were outdated, and in one, Professor Wu had been quoted as saying something he did not say. China is unique because the original law was destroyed during the Cultural Revolution, and the legal system is now being rebuilt at a rapid rate. Professor Wu decided to help bring our collection up to date by donating some of his own books," Professor Pryles said. Also pictured is Associate Professor Henry Finlay from the Monash Faculty of Law. Photo — Richard Crompton.

The Acting Dean of Law, Professor Michael Pryles, centre, said Chinese delegates had been concerned about the modest size of the Chinese collection in the Law Library. "They found some books were outdated, and in one, Professor Wu had been quoted as saying something he did not say. China is unique because the original law was destroyed during the Cultural Revolution, and the legal system is now being rebuilt at a rapid rate. Professor Wu decided to help bring our collection up to date by donating some of his own books," Professor Pryles said. Also pictured is Associate Professor Henry Finlay from the Monash Faculty of Law. Photo — Richard Crompton.
The Budget — how it affects your pocket

Cold comfort from Keating

The Prime Minister's ominous words were still echoing in the parlour. "The Prime Minister's ominous words were still echoing in the parlour."

The government has announced a new administration charge of $250 for tertiary education. This change will take effect from the beginning of next year. The Prime Minister has stated that this charge is necessary to bring back fees to tertiary education to a level where they are not too tough for students.

Research grants

The Australian Research Grants Scheme will receive an additional $47.5 million in 1986-87, to $3.4 billion. This is 17 per cent of total research and development funding. The Australian Research Grants Scheme (ARGS) has been increased by about 13 per cent in real terms next year (from $3.1 billion to $3.7 billion), to allow for the increased demand in research and development. The increase in real terms is expected to result in increased research and development expenditure, and increased research and development capacity.

Student allowances

The government has announced that student allowances will receive an extra $250 to cover the new administration charge. This increase is in addition to the existing $235 for full-time students and $130 for part-time students.

Fee increases

The government has announced that fee increases will be introduced to tertiary education to reflect the increased cost of providing tertiary education. The fee increases will be phased in over a period of three years, with the first increase taking effect from the beginning of next year. The government has estimated that the fee increases will result in an additional $2 billion in revenue for tertiary education institutions.

Aboriginal education

The government has announced that funds for Aboriginal education will increase by 17 per cent in 1986-87, to $2.1 billion. This is in addition to the existing $1.8 billion. The additional funds will be used to support the expansion of Aboriginal education programs and to provide additional funding for the Abstudy program.
**Not an attack of acronymphomania**

VISE is gone. MSC is going. In its stead, VCAB will introduce the VCE but meanwhile CAWP is running the show.

No, it's not just a sharp attack of acronymphomania but rather a summary of what's happening to secondary education in Victoria. When VISE expired in 1984, Lindsay Mackay, a former Monash man, disappeared into the Education Department. An old crook, strange and crooked, he's heading for the time being by David Smith with Win McDonell (a member of the Melbourne University Council) as chief executive.

Within a few weeks we will know the name of the permanent VCAB chief who will take up the appointment before Christmas, and a few months later Win will have a deputy chairman.

If this all seems rather breathtaking, it is as nothing compared to the changes about to be brought to the senior years of secondary education.

Two years ago our government began a review which came up with the Blackburn report, the major recommendations of which were for more breadth in the curriculum, especially at years 11 and 12. These changes follow increasing resistance by schools, students who had no aptitude or no taste for the then-offered HSC subjects.

With year 12 subjects were an attempt to grapple with this problem, but the acceptance of Group 2 (and even some Group 1 subjects) by students was spoiled by the universities, who took a firm line over the kind of subjects they felt were suitable preparation for tertiary study.

Most students heading for tertiary study took a broad curriculum through year 10 but then specialised in years 11 and 12. VCAB which is charged with implementation of changes to secondary education has recommended the following curriculum for the final two years of secondary schooling:

- four units of English.
- two units each of Australian society, humanities, arts, mathematics, and science/technology, making a total of 14 compulsory units in six fields of study.
- other units to be attempted making 24 in all, but only 18 need to be passed for VCE.
- I have tried here for a calm and reasonable description of what's happening and where we are going.
- For my part, I think students would be well-served if their and their science/technology requirement could be met by subjects such as home economics, human development.

**Shortcomings**

Universities would ask more, of course, of entrants to their science, medicine and engineering courses.

They should not be afraid to spell out their requirements and even consider changing the degree structure to permit, say, a four year BSc degree for students who enter with below-optimum preparation.

It is just as important that we cooperate in developing new forms of assessment and new selection procedures. I can't see any of the suggested alternatives being as cheap and easy to operate as the present VUAC arrangement, but we must acknowledge its shortcomings.

Since money will be involved, politics is bound to affect what we do and what the government will accept.

We should also maintain links with our colleagues who teach in secondary schools: their unions have already joined battle over VCE but I don't believe that they have seen how much effort will be required from teachers.

I trust that the public statements from our big sister institution (Melbourne University) are no more than forthright declarations of their ambit claims.

We will not be well served by university staff who refuse to change, any more than we will be ideologues in the government advisers' offices. The changes will occupy us for the next few years. If your child is in the early years of secondary school then you are in for a lot of fun.

'Don't we haven't heard much from parents yet, but I think we will: remember the

**‘U3AM’ incorporates as Third Age Learners**

The University of the Third Age at Monash (U3AM) agreed last month to incorporate under the name “Third Age Learners at Monash”.

The group will form a separate legal identity but will retain its links with Monash and will still be known officially as U3AM.

"The incorporation was decided on because the laws are such that if a voluntary group is not incorporated and it is then sued, the group members are all equally liable," said Dr Jack McDonell, director of the Centre for Continuing Education, which helps administer U3AM.

"Incorporation offers the members some legal protection."
Step-families are a growing concern

More and more remarriages in Australia, and more rearrangements of families in new de facto households, have led to a vast increase in the number of step-families and a heightened awareness of their special problems.

Parents, children, former partners, grandparents and others become embroiled in passions and sorrows that are rarely foreseen, or that have been foreseen but ignored in the search for a fresh start.

How to understand what is happening, and then find ways to deal with the difficulties, has become a matter of prime social concern. And the need for research is pressing.

One who has taken up the challenge is Ruth Webber, B.Ed, BA (Hons), lecturer in the department of Behavioral Studies, Christ Campus, at the Institute of Catholic Education, Oakleigh.

A paper on Living in a step-family, an educational program for step-parents which she gave to a recent conference, Making marriage and family work, is part of her Master of Education Studies project for the Monash Education Faculty under the supervision of Dr. Glenn Rowley and Dr. Chris Sharpley.

Her research has gone to the heart of the matter with programs for step-parents conducted in 1984, 1985 and this year at Tallent Street Family Life Centre, Croydon.

Intense

The 87 participants have ranged “from couples yet to co-habit, to couples who have been together for seven years; from persons not previously in a live-in relationship, to others in a third relationship...” There were widows, widowers, divorcees and newly-separated persons. The number of children involved... ranged from one to nine.

With the complexity of relationships, problems double and redouble.

When the 1986 group, for example, was given a list of 29 items and asked to say which had been problems for them at the outset of the six one-night sessions of the course, they listed between nine and all 29.

The degree of feeling involved in some issues, says Mrs. Webber’s research, has sometimes been so intense that participants have said quite openly that they would be relieved if a former partner died or disappeared.

Simplifying a complex human pattern, Mrs. Webber’s findings can be placed under six main headings:

- my partner and myself;
- my former partner and myself;
- my partner’s children and myself;
- my partner and my children;
- my partner’s children and myself;
- the step-siblings.

Over the six categories, the greatest difficulties arose from differing discipline standards and traditions, lack of communication, a child’s feeling of loss of the parent’s affection, lack of appreciation, and jealousy and resentment.

Woven in with such difficulties were problems of lack of time; of overwork and other stress; of bitterness over separation, the extreme financial uncertainties; of quarrelling and “warfare”; of access; of forced contact, and others.

Male and female attitudes can differ significantly. For example, both sexes worry more about the relationship between the female partner and the children of the male, than do about the children of the female.

“Men worry about their relationship with their former partner and the welfare of their children,” says Mrs. Webber.

“The prime concern of females are the demands that affect the relationship with their present partner.”

One striking point in the findings is that a significant improvement was achieved with the participants in all areas “except those relating to relationships with former partners”.

Another is that the most significant areas of concern for males generally “were problems associated with their past lives”, whereas “the female respondents were primarily concerned with aspects of the new relationship.”

Dr. Glenn Rowley, Dr. Chris Sharpley and Mrs. Ruth Webber. Photo: Richard Crompton.

Sound economics to invest in future

It is sound economics to spend a night on campus wrapped up in a sleeping bag rather than paying for a motel room.

So, the discovery that prospective economists do just that the night before attending the Economics department’s free Lecture Series for HSC students comes as no surprise.

For more than 10 years HSC economics students from around Victoria have given up a Sunday to gain that extra edge over their fellow students.

This year’s series will be held in Robert Blackwood Hall on September 14 from 10 am to 3.30 pm.

Dr. Graham Richards, Victoria’s chief examiner for HSC economics and the series’ organiser, says the lectures are designed to help the students understand exam material.

They attracted nearly 1300 students last year, and about 1200 from more than 80 schools have already said they are coming this year.

There will be six three-quarter hour lectures: Competitive capitalism as an economic system — structure, resource allocation, and performance, from 10 am to 10.45 am (Dr. Ian Ward); Reasons for Government intervention in contemporary market capitalism, from 11 am to 11.45 am (Dr. Graham Richards); Incomes policy — the Australian experience, from noon to 12.45 pm (Professor Allan Fels); Causes and consequences of economic growth in Australia, from 1.45 pm to 2.30 pm (Dr. Martin Watts); Macroeconomic performance and policies in Australia, from 2.45 pm to 3.30 pm (Professor John Freebairn); Fixed and floating exchange rates — the Australian experience, from 3.45 pm to 4.30 pm (Dr. Graham Richards).

Dr. Graham Richards.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

The American Association of University Women is offering a number of international fellowships for 1987-88, for one year’s graduate study or advanced research at an approved institution in the United States. Each award carries a grant of $US10,000.

Further information is available from the Australian Vice-Chancellor’s Committee, GPO Box 1142, Canberra, ACT, 2601.

Postgraduate studies are being offered at the International Institute for Hydraulic and Environmental Engineering at Delft in The Netherlands. Full-time courses are offered in hydraulic engineering, hydrology, sanitary engineering and environmental science and technology. Candidates should have degrees in biology, chemistry or chemical engineering. Further information can be obtained from the Embassy of The Netherlands, 120 Empire Circuit, Yarralumla, ACT, 2600. Telephone: (06) 73 3111.

The CSIRO is offering grants to support collaborative research and development work in information technology between CSIRO divisions and industry or tertiary institutions. Up to $800,000 will be available in 1987. Application forms and guidelines (including priority areas for research and development), are available from Ms C. Peters (ext 3073). Applications close on Friday, September 26, 1986.

The Australian Institute of Medical Laboratory Scientists is offering a scholarship to graduates for full or part-time research in the field of medical laboratory science, including administration and data processing. The award is made to cover living or educational expenses. Existing funding will not prejudice an applicant, and the award is tenable for one year in the first instance. The institute is also offering an undergraduate award of $500 for a review article of not more than 4000 words from students majoring in areas relevant to medical laboratory practice. Applications for both awards can be made at any time.

Inquiries to Graduate Scholarships Officer, est. 2009.

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most important colonial poet’

Charles Harpur: Selected Poetry and Prose
ed. Michael Ackland
Penguin Books Australia Ltd.

Most Australians turn first to men like Lawson, Paterson and Kendall for poetry from our early days. But these figures have been outstripped in importance by another lesser-known writer — Charles Harpur — according to those who champion him. In the introduction to Charles Harpur: Selected poetry and prose, Dr Michael Ackland calls Harpur “our most important colonial poet”.

He had made them “respectable” by eliminating the poet’s political and social radicalism, leaving him to be seen only as a poet of nature. About 40 years ago Australian scholars began to put the real Harpur together again, and revealed him in all his religious and social passion for justice, democracy, and an end to arrogance and snobbery.

As the son of convicts who had suffered greatly in Australia, and who was to suffer bitterly himself, Harpur now can speak directly to our times.

— Noel Hawken

Aeneid ‘essential’ to knowledge of Europe

The Chaonian Dove
Studies in the Eclogues, Georgics and Aeneid of Virgil
by A. J. Boyle
Leiden E. J. Brill 1986

"Arms I sing and a man, who first from Troy’s shores Fate’s exile came . . ."

This translation of the first words of Virgil’s Aeneid immediately reminds those who never learned Latin, or who have neglected what they knew, of the great treasures lost to them through ignorance.

Mr Tony Boyle, a senior lecturer in the Monash department of Classical Studies, is both reproving and forgiving in producing this book, The Chaonian Dove: Studies in the Eclogues, Georgics, and Aeneid of Virgil — the first book-length critical study of these works to be published in England since 1964.

"No one can claim knowledge of Europe who is ignorant of the following verses," he warns at the opening of his chapters on the Aeneid, in reference to the first seven Latin lines.

But in the book’s preface he concedes that the bulk of contemporary Virgil readership today must depend on translation from the original. The fate of Virgil depends on the interest of such readers.

— Tony Boyle

All Latin passages in the 196 pages of Mr Boyle’s text and references are lucidly and sensitively translated so that the works are available to all.

— Noel Hawken

Of moons and many things

Dr Andrew Prentice will speak about Comets, moons and the birth of the solar system at the Space Association of Australia’s meeting tomorrow night (September 4).

Dr Prentice, senior lecturer in the department of Mathematics, successfully predicted the findings of the recent Voyager probe in its encounter with the planet Uranus.

The Space Association is a non-profit public organisation for the promotion of peaceful exploration, utilisation and colonisation of outer space.

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month in lecture theatre RJ (Rutland) at 7.30 pm.

Membership is open to everyone. Further inquiries, 772 5904.

— Bruce Healey, Subdean of Humanities danced into the limelight at the annual conference of the Association for the Study of Australian Literature when he won the Frank Moorhouse Perpetual Trophy for ballroom dancing. Bruce’s dancing partner for the contest was Dr Helen Thompson a senior lecturer in English at Monash University. The event has become a light-hearted tradition of the conference which was this year held in Townsville.

Bruce. dancing partner for 

Campus, August 7

(Deakin University)
Filmy ferns, corals, fans — and the humble bracken

Most of us can recognise tree-ferns, maidenhair ferns and a few other kinds of fern, and are satisfied with that. But this straddles us at the outer perimeter of an understanding of plants that contribute richly to Australian life, despite their modest colours.

Betty D. Duncan and Golda Isaac, associates of the department of Botany, live not on the perimeter of this field, but at its heart.

Their Ferns and Allied Plants of Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia describes and illustrates all the native ferns of the three states together with groups such as fork-ferns, clubmooses (lycopods), quillworts and selaginellas.

As well as color photographs by Bruce Fuhrer, a senior technical officer of the Botany and Geology departments at Monash, the book has watercolors by Celia Rosser on the dust jacket.

Its 258 pages include not only full scientific descriptions, distribution maps, bibliography, glossary and listing of the authors of plant names, but notes on fern propagation and cultivation.

This book is for scientists, but also for everyday fern lovers.

As Professor Carrick Chambers of the chair of Botany at Melbourne University says in his foreword, the 1980s have seen "a fern craze" with "every plant shop and boutique offering potted ferns, while not only shady garden corners but also many indoor landscapes" are now decorated with them.

And major commercial growers have again been established.

Definitions and descriptions, alongside the mass of technical data, are lucid for the lay person.

"What is a fern?", the writers ask, and their answer ...

"Broadly speaking, it is a green plant with stems, roots and leaves, but without flowers and fruits, and hence seedless".

More than 9000 fern species exist in the world. Australia has a great many of them, with more than 750 species of tree-ferns alone.

The life cycle of ferns is curious, involving as it does, two phases, each with an independent existence.

So we learn of filmy ferns, coral and fan ferns, finger ferns, lady ferns, rasp ferns, water ferns and all the rest. Do not despise even the humble bracken. It too, is one of this pleasing company.

The authors take up most of two pages in expressing their thanks to the wide variety of people in Australia, England and New Zealand who have helped them. A "special debt of gratitude" is expressed to Monash for sponsoring the project, and to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Marin, for his interest.

Publication would have not been possible, the authors say, without Monash University's generous financial support, together with that of the Maud Gibson Gardens Trust, the Hecht Trust and the Ian Potter Foundation.

Good news for prospective students

Copies of the Monash Undergraduate Prospectus for 1987 are now available from faculty offices and the Careers and Appointments Service, Union Building.

The prospectus is also being distributed to all secondary schools in Victoria.

Inquiries about multiple copies should be directed to the Publications Office, ground floor, University Offices, ext 2042.
Schooling against all the odds

Administering Non-Formal Education for Thai Villagers
by Warren L. Mellor and Sumalee Sungsri
The University Press Ltd, Dhaka

It is difficult to imagine attending a "school" which has no books, no support groups, no visible government contributions and no access to transport.

The school would have even less appeal if your parents had no enthusiasm for education.

Although Australian students rarely face such problems, Thai villagers often do. Therefore, other alternatives need to be found.

This book, Administering Non-Formal Education for Thai Villagers, explores the non-schooling avenues open to those who wish to gain a general education, learn to read and write, or be taught a specific skill.

It emphasises the dissatisfaction most villagers have about education schemes and suggests that one of Thailand's biggest barriers to education is poverty.

In a bid to increase educational activities for children and adults the Thai government has adopted a Buddhist philosophy called Khit-pen, which means "having full ability to think".

The Buddhist religion teaches that happiness is the ultimate goal, but that it can only be reached when man and his environment are in harmony.

Alternative forms of education are being promoted as an aid in man's search for tools that will enable him to create this harmony.

The philosophy says that a person who masters Khit-pen will be able to approach a problem systematically and search for the appropriate solution.

In accordance with this, educational activities must provide practical information to help solve problems in day-to-day life.

The extent to which daily life makes the pursuit of education difficult is highlighted in this statement from one villager:

"I have five children. All of them are very small. We do not have our own land. I and my wife sell labor during farming season whether ploughing, growing or harvesting period. After farming season, we have to do some other thing such as catching fish or making charcoal and sell them. Some years we have to go to sell labor in some areas where they are farming through the year, otherwise we cannot survive".

This book has been published with the assistance of the Monash University Publications Committee.

BOAT HAVEN — MOR Dialloc
Side by side in the creek at cosy moorings, boats gently bump and nuzzle each other. Cormorants peastedalled on mooring poles, hang out ragged wings to dry, Out beyond the mouth the sea snaps and lungenes, waves savage the pier piles in a mad-dog froth. But here under a kindly sun, water slides silent-smooth; small bubbles in constellations like stars sail to the sea. Reflections mimic broad-beamed wooden boats with scarcely a ripple to give the game away.

BRUCE LUNDGREN

University poets from many backgrounds are featured in the latest issue of Poetry Monash, from which these poems were taken. They include H. C. (Harry) Taylor, an assistant in the Main Library; Hector Monro, Emeritus Professor of Philosophy; Edna White, student; J. D. (Jacqui) Mabbutt, wife of Dr Ian Mabbutt (History); Joanne Wilkes, English tutor; and Hasna Begum, formerly of the Philosophy department and now at Bangladesh University. Editor Dr Dennis Davison said Poetry Monash was unusual because it only accepted works by people involved with the university.

The first issue was published in 1973 and cost 20 cents a copy. Poetry Monash is now published twice a year, and is available through the English department's office for an annual subscription of $3.00.

TO MY FRIEND
(from Bangladesh)
I am here my friend
To abide by my destiny
Dewdrops vanish at the touch of dawn
Night comes twilight wears off
Red yellow orange and peacock blue
Then darkness darkness deep down there
Deepest within the core of the moon!

I am here my friend
To respond to my 'duties'
Drones are busy in meaningless hums
Eyes tired but slowly glowing wild
Demon pines over an unborn child
Then doomed doomed doomed in despair
Like a pawn on a checker board!

I am here my friend
To attend to my 'relatives'
A hundred and twenty days are gone
Half of me still trailing behind
Winding rewinding memories and friends
Wattles 'meetings' and blue grey eyes
Then hopefully hopefully life flows by
Morn may dawn again after a misty night!

HASNA BEGUM

THOUGHTS
Yesterday I was seventeen.
Today, I gather my ragged edges.
Pleated depleted, I go from
Supplesness to subtlety.

EDNA WHITE
Caltex scholarship

Applications are invited for the Caltex Western Graduate Scholarships. The Caltex scholarships provide State Prizes valued at $5000 each and a National Scholarship of $4400.

Caltex will be giving the winner an opportunity to undertake postgraduate study in any discipline.

The Caltex Woman Graduate in Australia will be an exceptional student who is able to actively in extra-curricular areas such as sport, the arts or community service.

Application forms are available from Mrs Joan Dawson, Academic Services Officer, Room 111, University Offices, ext 3011. Applications close on September 26.

IMPORTANT DATES

The Registrar advises the following important dates for students in September.

8 Third Term begins for Dip.Ed.
11 Third Term exam at end of Medicine III.
26 Third Teaching Round begins, Dip.Ed.
26 Last day for lodgement of applications for the Caltex Woman Graduate Scholarship.

*Applications should be directed to Mr Glen Jeffery on (066) 21 2267, or (066) 23 0678.

Newman lecture

Design implications of the construction progress of Australia’s new Parliament House is the topic of the sixth John Henry Newman Lectures, to be presented on Thursday, October 2, by architect Romaldo Giurgola of the firm Mitchell, Giurgola and Thorp.

The firm was selected from 329 entrants in an architectural design competition for Parliament House, which is due to be completed for the Australian bicentenary in 1988.

The lecture will begin at 8.15 pm in the Main Hall of Mannix College (Administration Building, Wellington Rd). It will be followed by supper in the Senior Common Room.

The total cost of the trip including travel, accommodation and most meals, will be $2355, at present rates of exchange.

Applications interested in taking part should write to: Mr G. Lee, Secretary, AAPME, Shalom College, University of Wollongong, North Wales, PO Box 1, Kensington, NSW 2033.

Applications close on October 4, 1985.

Springtime concert

Gerald Coney will conduct the Monash University Orchestra for its Springtime Concert on Sunday, September 21 in the Religious Centre.

Works will include Schubert’s Symphony No 3, Wagner’s Siegfried Idyll and operetta music by Giesz.

Tickets at $6 and $3 can be bought at the door.

For further information, telephone Sasheta Stepban, 859 1125.

Halls seek staff

Applications are invited from staff members interested in becoming deputy Senators for the Caltex & Richardson Halls next year.

Duties include assisting the wardens in day-to-day running. A full warden’s work is provided with free accommodation in a self-contained flat (which is suitable for children) and free meals.

Further details can be obtained from Mr Arthur Townend (Howitt) on ext 2900 or 2007, or Dr Dudley Blane (Richardson) ext 2900 or 2020.

Applications in writing must be received by Mrs Margaret Thorpe, Halls Admission Officer, Halls of Residence, no later than Friday, October 10.

Vacations wanted for host scheme

The Host Scheme, organised to help first year students meet others in their faculties, is looking for people who can spare an afternoon and an evening early next year to host.

They will be asked to organise a get-together before first term for a small group of first year students living in their own areas.

“It can be anything you like — coffee, a Trivial Pursuit night, a pool party or a few drinks at the pub,” said Mr Harvey Kalman, joint co-ordinator.

Then on Host Scheme Day, Monday, February 23, hosts take their groups around campus, answer queries, talk about university life and take them to a curry that night.

“It’s very simple and you’ll have the satisfaction of knowing that you’ve made it for the new student, a few new people during those first mind-blowing days,” Mr Kalman said.

Interested persons should leave a message in the Host Scheme’s letterbox behind the Union Desk, or phone ext 2053 (1986) and ext 4136 (1987).

Parents need goods for market

Parents are invited to apply for the Paddy’s Market Day on September 14. Enquiries should be made to the ticket office, 544 5448.

Tickets are available from December 23 to January 5. Ten dollars for the ticket, 50 cents for each additional child.

Parents and students are welcome to sell goods for the market.

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Applications in writing must be received by Mrs Margaret Thorpe, Halls Admission Officer, Halls of Residence, no later than Friday, October 10.
Disabilities Awareness Week concludes on Friday night (September 5) with a party at the Wholefoods Restaurant where you can eat, drink and be merry from 7.30 onwards.

Pamela Musumeci, president of the Disabled Students Union, says the party will be a lot of fun, and will provide an opportunity for able-bodied and disabled staff and students to get together in a social atmosphere.

Supper and drinks will be free and all are welcome.

RBH solves some special problems

When the Special Schools of Victoria needed somewhere bigger to hold their 19th annual music festival, they turned to Robert Blackwood Hall which could seat 1500 people.

But there were special problems, of course, and it took many months of planning by teachers and the hall's staff to make the August festival a big success.

"The demand to see the festival had grown; the venue was bigger and so were the hopes of the children," says Susan Bennett, who teaches music, movement and drama at the Vermont South Special School.

"The real value of the festival is the opportunity it offers. In many cases the children not only perform but assist in making the sets and decorating the hall.

"Their excitement at sharing in this experience far outweighs the many hours of preparation."

Ms Bennett said past festivals had taken place in church and school halls, the biggest of which held 600.

At Robert Blackwood Hall, wheelchair spectators were able to attend for the first time. Three rows of seats were removed to make space for 100 wheelchair-bound children from the Yooralla and Glen Waverley special schools.

Other innovations included the construction of a large ramp which made it possible for 50 performers in wheelchairs to get on to the stage.

The ramp was built in the hall's workshop by children from Vermont Special School under the direction of their teacher, Max Woolcock.

The hall's manager, Mr Don Vincent, said planning for the festival had been a joint university enterprise involving staff from Central Service, Maintenance and the Educational Technology Section (ETS) as well as from the hall.

"It strained ETS resources because of the peculiarities of integrating pre-recorded tapes and props in with what the children were doing."

Since 1980, a theme has been adopted for the festival each year. This time it was Studio 87, and each school's item had some link with a television program.

Ballet magic

The Young Dancers' Theatre rehearsing for Cinderella, a new production, in the Music of Johann Strauss, Jr. Senior Production is a school holiday event at the Alexander Theatre until Saturday, 8 September.

Performances daily from 10.30 am and 2 pm; Saturday, 2pm and 9.30 pm. Adults, $9.50; children 8-12, pensioners, $6.90. Discounts for Saturday Club members. Credit card bookings, 543 2255.

Photo — Tony Miller

Monash Reporter

The next issue will be published in the first week of October, 1986.

Copy deadline is Friday, September 19 and early copy is much appreciated.

Contributions (letters, articles, photos) and suggestions should be addressed to the editor, Lisa Kelly, Information Office, University Offices, or ring ext. 2003.