Monash scores well in $4 mill. research payout

The university has shared in four large grants in recent weeks totalling more than $4 million.

In addition to $1 million from the State Government to establish an Accident Research Centre (see separate story on page 5), Health will provide $1.4 million over eight years to upgrade postgraduate education and research in public health, the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) has announced a $1.25 million grant to support diabetes research, and Monash and the Chisholm Institute of Technology will share $535,000 from the Federal Department of Resources and Energy for stream ecosystem research.

The Health Department money will be used to develop the Master of Public Health course in the Department of Social and Preventative Medicine. It will pay to hire lecturers in biostatistics, health economics and health services research, and will help to expand the intake of non-medical graduates.

Senator Barney Cooney handed the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mal Logan, a cheque for $100,000 as the first instalment of the grant saying that Monash would be playing an important part in the Government's Bicentennial initiative to make public health more relevant and responsive to Australia's needs.

The initiative is based on the recommendations of Dr Kerr White, an American consultant who made a detailed study of Australia's public health needs.

Professor John McNeil of Social and Preventative Medicine said: "At present in Australia there are not enough people with skills in the public health area to help us make the best use of our health resources. In the past we have felt it more important that medical students learn every enzyme in the glucose breakdown cycle than how to interpret clinical trials properly."

- Associate Professor Paul Zimmet of Biochemistry, the director of the Lions International Diabetes Institute at the Royal Southern Memorial Hospital, said the NIH money was the largest grant for diabetes research awarded outside the US. It represents the renewal of a grant which has been running since 1978 for a study of environmentally-induced diabetes in Pacific Islanders.

- The NIH only gives overseas grants for research which cannot be done in the US. We have discovered definite inheritance patterns in Pacific Islanders which should allow us to pick out markers in the blood to define those at risk.

"Our long-term family studies should be able to determine which risk factors turn on the abnormality which causes diabetes, and we are close to discovering what the specific abnormality is. The field team is working closely with researchers in the Department of Biochemistry who are using the Israeli sand rat as a diabetes model." The money from the Department of Resources and Energy comes through the Australian Water Research Advisory Council and will be used to establish a Centre of Concentration in Stream Ecosystem Research.

Dr Sam Lake, senior lecturer in Zoology, said the centre would conduct research into the structure and function of Australian stream communities and the effects of catchment and stream disturbance.

"At present we understand streams poorly. We know they're getting damaged and that stream plant and animal populations, particularly native fish, have been decimated. We want to be able to prevent further damage and be able to restore streams.

"The trend in the water industry now is away from catching new water. It is starting to concentrate on bettering water quality. We will have a strongly applied emphasis, investigating things like how tree cutting, dredging and river 'improvements' affect streams."

AIDS Watch will become a regular feature in Monash Reporter. It is being compiled at the request of, and under guidance from, Professor Roger Short, specialist in reproductive biology and member of a World Health Organisation Sub-Committee on AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).

AIDS Watch

Where can you buy condoms on campus?

The Campus Pharmacy: Full range of Lifestyle, Durex and Personal brands in packs of three (from $1.20), six ($2.25) and 12 (from $4.99).

Union Building: Vending machines in the men's and women's toilets near the Control Desk. Accept only $1 coins.

Sports and Recreation Main Building: Vending machines in the men's and women's toilets between the Private Dining Room and the John Medley Library. Crest brand. Accept only $1 coins.

Halls of Residence: The men's and women's toilets in the foyers of all Halls have vending machines. DUO brand. Accept only $1 coins.

Library Association honors Whyte

Professor Jean Whyte, foundation chairman and professor of the Graduate School of Librarianship since 1975, will receive a prestigious Library Association of Australia award at the association's 50th anniversary celebrations in September.

She will be presented with the H.C.L. Anderson Award for outstanding service to librarianship and the library profession in Australia.

The award is named after H.C.L. Anderson, Librarian of the State Library of New South Wales from 1893 to 1905 and the inventor of rules for cataloguing.

A bronze statue by sculptor Guy Boyd will be presented to Professor Whyte.

In 1975, on her appointment to Monash, Professor Whyte correctly predicted the increasing role that microfilm would play in improving user access to libraries.

Under her direction, the Graduate School of Librarianship became the first in Australia to concentrate on the Masters degree as a basic qualification and, according to the Library Association, is now one of the leading schools of librarianship in the country.

Professor Whyte has held positions at the State Library of South Australia, Sydney University Library and the National Library of Australia. She will soon publish her definitive history of the Australian Institute of Librarians.
Bumper bars fail test at 5km per hour

Research in Civil Engineering has shown that few car bumper bars protect the bodywork in collisions at greater than five kilometres an hour.

Visiting Professor Norman Jones from Liverpool University and Professor Noel Murray, chairman of Civil Engineering, said the newer bumper bars were generally worse than those on older model cars.

The two decided to look at this feature because there was a lack of low speed impact research.

The greatest proportion of inquiry in the field has concentrated on high-speed accidents which cause severe damage.

"Cars fitted with some of the new bumper bars could be damaged by rolling into a post at less than three kilometres an hour," Professor Murray said.

The professors placed bumper bars from a variety of cars on a structural testing rig and applied concentrated loads (weight) on the centre of each bumper bar.

From this they could determine how much energy each could absorb as it deformed to make an indent of 120 millimetres.

Professor Murray said they calculated that an indent of greater than 120 millimetres occurred, the cars' front grilles and bonnets would crumple.

He said the problem has placed an enormous financial burden on Australia and believes a solution would be hailed by motorists.

Professor Jones, who is visiting Monash until the end of August, said he and Professor Murray had invented a bumper bar that would protect a vehicle in a 10 km/h collision.

"We believe it will be quite easy to design such a bumper bar," said Professor Jones.

"The classical example is motor racing where horrendous accidents occur but the drivers are virtually unharmed because sufficient thought has been given to design," Professor Murray said.

Mr Raphael Grzebieta, lecturer in Civil Engineering, is looking into the design of buses after the army approached the department to analyse the effects of a roll-over on some of their vehicles.

Professor Murray said that when a vehicle rolled, the ideal would be to have the passenger compartment remain intact, "like a cocoon".

"The design must allow for the passengers to have a survivable space, but lately we've seen some horrific accidents where vehicle roofs have collapsed, crushing the people inside." Professor Jones said such accidents were largely a modern phenomenon that appeared to be related to the larger windows and lighter materials used in the construction of buses.

Mr Grzebieta hopes to increase the absorption rate of the roofs and walls of the buses.

Professor Jones will be the major contributor and keynote speaker at a seminar on Structural crashworthiness and property damage accidents, to be held from 10-12 August in the Faculty of Engineering.

The seminar will cover such topics as structural crashworthiness in dynamic loading, collision protection for ships and offshore platforms, roll-over analysis of trucks and buses and design of crash barriers and bumper bars.

Further information can be obtained from Professor Murray's office, ext. 4987.

• Professor Noel Murray, left, and visiting Professor Norman Jones use a structural testing rig to assess the strength of a bumper bar from a well-known make of car.

Photo - Don McCarthy

Study on Koorie languages in schools

The Commonwealth Schools' Commission is funding a study into the feasibility of teaching Koorie languages in schools.

The study will be carried out in three regions - Alice Springs, the Kimberley Ranges and Brisbane - by Ms Eve Feis, director of Monash's Aboriginal Research Centre.

As a "Project of national significance" it has received initial funding of $40,000 from the commission.

Ms Feis says the introduction of Koorie (Aboriginal) languages into the school curriculum would be an important step in increasing community understanding of Australia and the Koorie culture.

"The languages are unique to our continent and therefore express a purely Australian world view.

"This makes them an important instrument of education," she said.

In 1788, there were about 260 Koorie languages spoken throughout Australia, but only 115 of these survive today.

"Many Australians see Koorie culture as nothing more than boomerangs, bark paintings and bush tucker," Ms Feis said.

"To teach them a Koorie language would be to teach them the Koorie culture as well."

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Getting the point in spinifex country

You really know you have been working outback when you have been stuck in the lip by spinifex—at least, that is the considered opinion of the honors students in Earth Sciences.

They should know. This year's group of 12 have just returned from five weeks making a geological map of nearly 600 square kilometres of rugged terrain about 80 kilometres to the north of Mount Isa.

The venture was a novel co-operative project between the Monash Department of Earth Sciences and the Bureau of Mineral Resources, and the resulting map will be published in color as part of the bureau's new series illustrating the geology of one of Australia's most productive mining regions.

Most copies of the map will end up with mining companies as an aid to further exploration.

Professor Gordon Lister of Earth Sciences said: "I saw students from the United States, Holland and Germany taking advantage of the chance to work with the bureau, but not Australians.

"Our students need more field experience, tackling real problems under real conditions, problems where nobody knows the answers and somebody wants the results."" And the idea of using students also had its advantages for the bureau, which has manpower limitations and is being urged by the government into a closer relationship with the universities, Professor Lister said.

With the development of remote sensing and other rapid survey techniques, classical field geology had been out of favor. But there was no substitute for the wealth of information about how rocks were formed and their subsequent history, which a trained field geologist could pick out by eye and by using a compass, he said.

"The area we were mapping is one of the oldest continental rifts on earth—about 1800 million years old. "More recently it formed a wrench fault, like the San Andreas fault in California, but it has been eroded eight to 12 kilometres, so what we are seeing is like what is being formed at the bottom of the San Andreas fault."

One of the things formed by the pressure and heat at the bottom of such faults was a string of ore bodies. Even before the students got into their mapping, they were pitted against the terrain.

"They had to make a road to get a 10-tonne truck in to Lake Julius to build a base camp, so the first thing they had to do was knock down trees and hew rocks in 35-degree heat."

"Then we took them for two very hard walks, to get them used to the topography and the conditions. It's an area where the spinifex is head-high," Professor Lister said.

The group next was divided on the basis of fitness into three roving teams of four which were sent out, each with a particular problem area.

Japanese learn to withstand Aussie push

Maintaining an ethnic identity is a necessity, not a symbolic act, for some groups of foreigners.

These people are "sojourners", spending months or years in other countries to perform particular tasks then returning home to pick up the threads of their lives.

Their special problems are now being examined in a project organised by the Japanese Studies Centre which focuses on a Japanese community in the Victorian country town of Morwell.

Some 80 Japanese families, whose menfolk are involved in a short-term pilot scheme for brown coal liquefaction, are preserving in Morwell the lifestyle, language and schooling methods of their homeland.

Extensive

The present group is the "second generation", and its members will return home when the scheme ends in about 1990.

Meanwhile, they are doing a service for all sojourners which may lead to recommendations for ways of preserving ethnic differences.

"There are about 8000 Japanese people in Australia, but as far as we know, Morwell has the only really extensive community of short-term settlers," says Dr Akito Ozaki, lecturer in Japanese and co-ordinator of the project.

"It's an ideal place to study the structure and development of such a community and to look at the way it interacts with outsiders."

"We want to know what happens to individuals in general, and to whole families."

Children from the group attend classes in Japanese and English at Commercial Road Primary, where there is a "school within a school" staffed by Japanese teachers brought from Japan.

Believed to be the first integrated school of its kind in Australia, it has been sponsored by the Australian and Japanese governments.

Dr Ozaki said the Japanese Studies Centre had done a lot of work on inter-cultural contact with the Japanese in Australia, but this was the first comprehensive study of a single community.

There was an added interest in doing the study in Morwell because the Japanese were coming into contact with a large number of people of different ethnic backgrounds.

Professor Jiri Neustupny, chairman of the department of Japanese and director of the Japanese Studies Centre, said the number of sojourners was growing throughout the world. As foreigners, they were an extremely important group who had to maintain their ethnic identities for practical purposes.

"The children, in particular, must know their own language and be able to fit into the school system when they go home," he said.

"There are many theoretical implications with this group, because most studies done so far have been of migrant communities—that is people who have come to stay."
Economics under threat

Dr Graham Richards, chief examiner of HSC (now VCE) Economics, each year runs a day of lectures which at least one-fifth of Victoria's HSC Economics students attend.

He now questions whether the new Victorian Certificate of Education will threaten the series.

"Even though it is still unclear whether Economics will remain as an independent, examinable project, I think that I will probably will survive," Dr Richards says. He feels the free lectures are designed to help students understand examinable material.

"The lectures are extremely popular and highly respected, and I can't see a decrease in demand."

"The Economics department opposes any suggestion of amalgamating Economics with other social science subjects such as Legal Studies," he said.

This year's series — the tenth so far — will be held in Robert Blackwood Hall on Sunday 30 August from 10am-3.40pm.

Last year nearly 1500 students from 110 schools in Victoria and southern New South Wales attended.

This year's program is: Competitive capitalism and political economy; economic systems: structure, resource allocation and performance; 10-10.45 (Dr Ian Ward); Reasons for government intervention in contemporary market capitalism; 11-11.45 (Dr Richards); Income policy: The Australian experience; 12-12.45 (Mr Nilis Olekalns); Causes and consequences in economic growth in Australia; 1.45-2.30 (Professor Stephen King); Macroeconomic performance and policy in Australia; 2.45-3.30 (Professor John Freeman); and Fixed and floating exchange rates: The Australian experience; 3.45-4.30 (Dr Richards).

Leptospirosis, most recently found in Townsville from 24-28 August, will deal with specific subjects in various sessions.

In addition, a four-day women's studies program on the theme Women in Isolation will focus on the physical and social isolation of rural and urban women.

Further information is available from ANZAS 87, James Cook University, Townsville, Queensland 4811, or the Information Office, University Office.

A relocation of social work resources from the older universities to the newer is necessary to keep pace with Melbourne's population growth, says Dr Thea Brown, acting chairman of the department of Social Work. Her statement comes after a large and unexpected increase in the numbers of students wishing to enter the Monash course, coupled with an equal decrease in the students accepting places at the older institutions.

Dr Brown believes this trend will continue although not necessarily at the same rate.

Monash's location in the centre of suburban Melbourne has influenced students' decisions, she believed, but wanted figures to confirm her speculation.

Mr Bob Carew, a lecturer, surveyed the students entering the course this year to gauge the reasons for their decisions.

He discovered that the location was, in fact, a major factor, along with the department's reputation.

He hopes to determine whether future large scale growth in the department is likely.

Dr Brown said: "Before this year we had been able to safely offer more places than we could cater for because a large percentage of students who were offered a place didn't accept."

This year the department offered the usual 65 positions, expecting the normal 25 or so to refuse.

"The whole 65 accepted and now we are understaffed and lack teaching space," Dr Brown said.

MAGS goes Greek

The Monash Association of Graduate Students is inviting the university community to dine and dance at "The Greek Tavern" in the Banquet Room, Union Building on Friday 7 August.

There will be traditional and modern music by the Greek band, Omega, and authentic Greek food.

The all-inclusive price is $10 for members and $15 non-members. Bookings should be made through the MAGS office on ext. 3196/7/8.

A vaccine adopted by Asian countries against the potentially fatal disease, leptospirosis, will not be considered by western nations because it has painful side-effects, says Professor Solly Faine of Microbiology.

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Accident centre takes on 'impossible' tasks

How can young drivers be given a couple of years' experience on the roads without actually being on the roads, where they are involved in three times as many accidents as older drivers?

Somehow the new Accident Research Centre, set up at Monash by the State Government, must try to find an answer to this and other equally taxing questions.

The centre is looking for new ways to fight the road toll.

It will draw on experts in many fields, including psychology, statistics and engineering, and on existing data from police and traffic authorities.

Its director, Dr Peter Vulcan, says the road accident fatality rate over the past 16 years in Victoria had dropped from 8.1 deaths per 10,000 vehicles registered to 2.7.

"Victoria's fatality rate has been consistently lower than the Australian average, but further reductions will depend on the development of road safety initiatives," Dr Vulcan said.

There had been some reduction in the number of serious injuries over the same period — but it was not as marked.

"Such injuries represent enormous trauma to individuals and relatives and a great cost to the community; that's why our research has so much potential." Among the centre's first projects will be a research program which analyses data from police accident reports and Transport Accident Commission injury claims.

"We'll be aiming for a better understanding of the how, when and why of accidents," says Dr Vulcan.

Another of our tasks is to develop guidelines for the evaluation of various road safety programs.

Police "blitzes", breathalysers and traffic engineering improvements would all be assessed for cost and effectiveness, taking into account human and vehicle factors and the road system itself.

Another project will use data on whiplash injuries, collected at the Alfred Hospital over the past few years, to "get a better understanding of the relationships of whiplash injuries to the geometry of vehicle seat and the headrest".

"Doctors have been looking at the injuries, while investigators have checked the design and structure of vehicles involved," Dr Vulcan said.

He believes that if everyone obeyed the lights and took care with their turns, there would be no need for a study to be undertaken on accidents at traffic signals.

"Twenty per cent of serious accidents in the metropolitan area occur at traffic signals and we need to find out why.

"Naturally, they are at the highest traffic locations, but in theory there would be no problem if everyone followed the rules."

"It's always clear who should give way."

He believes that "taking" so-called right of way is a cause of many accidents.

"We really shouldn't be talking about right of way, but about who should give way," he says.

Many inexperienced drivers tend to have crashes because they take right of way, assuming that everyone else will obey the law to the letter."

Dr Vulcan, formerly chief general manager responsible for road safety at the Road Traffic Authority, has been seconded to Monash for two years.

The centre's Board of Management is made up of university and government representatives, and chaired by Professor Ross Day.

The other Monash members are Professor Noel Murray of Structural Engineering, and Mr Peter Wade, Comptroller.

Government representatives for the first three months are Mr Michael Roux, chairman of the Transport Accident Commission and chairman and managing director of the Road Traffic Authority; Ms Rowena Hodgson, executive officer, Transport Accident Commission; and Dr Ian Johnston, group manager, Road Safety, Road Traffic Authority.

The graph below was provided by the Road Traffic Authority. The centre's Board of Management is pictured, right, at its first meeting, held last month. Members are, from left, Mr Peter Wade, Dr Ian Johnson, Ms Rowena Hodgson, Professor Noel Murray, Dr Peter Vulcan, Professor Ross Day and Mr Michael Roux.

Enrol for 'parent' classes

Associate Professor Maurice Balson, author of Becoming Better Parents and Understanding Classroom Behavior, is establishing a Parent-Teacher Education Centre at Monash.

Our picture, below left, shows Trish Byron (Honors Arts) receiving her windcheater, watched by (from left) Brett Maxfield (Engineering I), Nick Laffey (Arts II), and Warren Batchelor (Ph.D., Physics). The remaining team member, Adrian Gilbert (Law II), was unable to make it to the presentation.

Team to fly south for ABC challenge

Five Monash students will fly to Hobart later this month to compete with teams from 15 other Australian universities in University Challenge, a new ABC television series.

The Monash team, which will compete in Group A with teams from Melbourne, Sydney, Western Australia and Queensland universities, was chosen after a round of auditions conducted earlier this term in the Halls of Residence.

Dr Logan Francey, Warden of Deakin Hall, auditioned more than 30 males.

"It just happened that the males recorded the best results. However, the fifth placegetter was a woman — Trish Byron — and she becomes team manager and reserve contestant."

Last week, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Logan, presented the team members with Monash blue windcheaters to wear for their TV appearances.

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Vision becomes a reality— and we get a new bus service, too

A second bus heading north now meets trains at Huntingdale Station. It is the first sign many people encounter of the fulfilment of more than a quarter century of dreaming and planning at Monash.

For the printed sign at the front of the bus reads "Monash Medical Centre", and it takes passengers to the entrance of the spanking new rectangular, five-storey, $132 million hospital in Clayton Road where the Queen Victoria Medical Centre has been relocated.

One of the important visions of the fledgling Monash University in the early 1960s, was of a hospital on campus, integrated with the university, and linking clinical and pre-clinical teaching and research. Unfortunately the idea did not fit in with the State Government's general hospital planning for the south-eastern suburbs, and was officially abandoned in 1974 — but the dream never died.

"We hope to build up a network of relationships with the other hospitals of the area, such as Frankston, Dandenong and Box Hill.

"What we envisage is a co-ordinated regional program, in which each hospital has an appropriate role and we provide the specialised backup for them."

"So we see ourselves as the hub of a referral network which would eventually extend to Wessendonw and Gippsland as well, and would include general practitioners and community health centres."

"Dr Stoelwinder drew attention to a number of programs at the medical centre of state, national and international importance."

"Undoubtedly the star is our infertility program, which includes the in vitro fertilisation program, the Centre for Early Human Development and the male infertility and endocrinology units at Prince Henry's.

"But we also have world class programs in the treatment of thalassaemia, and of kidney disease in children. And our group administration has acquired an international reputation."

"Of national importance are our programs in respiratory medicine and diseases of stomach and kidneys, our handling of at-risk pregnancies and our intensive care unit."

"And we are well known at a local level for our rape crisis centre and the birth centre, which has been a great innovation in birthing practice and has been doubled in size at the new hospital."

The director of medical services, Dr Syd Allen, said while the new hospital was state-of-the-art it had not gone beyond that in design. Nonetheless, determining the layout was a complicated exercise.

All the outpatient services, for instance, are on Level Two which is also the level of the main entrances. So patients in wheelchairs or who can walk will not have to take lifts to get to where they can be treated.

The general services, such as kitchens, laundries and stores, are on Level One facing on to a wide interior roadway which runs the whole way round, and connects with lift shafts in the four corners.

In the in-patient section — above Level Two — wards are in the south block and services in the north. All the wards, whether in the public hospital section or in the 100-bed Jessie McPherson Private Hospital, are either four-bed or single rooms.

The nursing stations have been designed so that they are outside the wards, but have a good view of a series of wards. And they are all similar so that staff can transfer easily between them, where needs dictate.

In general, the labor wards, birth centre and neo-natal unit are on Level Five, children's services are on Level Four, and intensive care and adult services on Level Three.

Emergency is adjacent to radiology (X-ray) on Level Two and immediately above them are the critical care and neo-natal units, the labor wards and the

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A fish-head shower rose keeps watch in one of the children’s bathrooms.

...operating theatres.

Built on a modern terraced plan the hospital makes maximum use of windows and light. There is a large central atrium planted with flowers and trees, and a number of smaller courtyards which bring the outdoors close to such alien places as operating theatres.

Not all the new technology incorporated in the design of the hospital is in the form of complicated medical machinery. For instance, the floors make use of a new Swedish product called Smargd (emerald). It is vinyl-coated and can be coved up walls.

No longer will visitors to the hospital have to pick their way across slippery, mopped floors or be swept off their feet by polishers. The floors will be swept once a day with an absorbent fringe mop which uses a minimum of water and scrubbed with special ride-on autoscrubbers once a week.

A different fringe mop head is used for each room, and used mops are simply put into a plastic bag and washed in an industrial washing machine. Any spillages are spot-mopped, and scratches and scuff marks are filled with plastic by the autoscrubber.

By the side of each bed is a communications console which looks like a CB-radio handset. Not only can you use it to call the nurse in an emergency, but it can also act as the speaker and control for the in-house television service.

The beds themselves are another innovation. Designed and manufactured to the hospital’s specifications by Hendicare Hospital Equipment of Oakleigh South, they can be moved anywhere within the hospital, and eliminate much of the lifting of patients that made the medical orderly’s job so difficult.

The shower roses in the children’s bathrooms are in the shape of fish heads, and a special “Never-ending Story” mural, commissioned for the children’s medical service area, will keep young minds occupied for hours.

Looking to the future

The likely loss of Geelong Hospital as a teaching facility will not seriously affect the Monash Faculty of Medicine. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mal Logan, says Monash will continue to be one of Australia’s foremost medical schools.

“If we have lost Geelong completely, which is by no means certain, we must accept that — put it behind us and move ahead. We are trying to move away from the Melbourne-Monash confrontation which is counter-productive.

“The Faculty of Medicine will probably become the first in the university to hold a retreat and look towards the future,” he said.
Patrick McCaughey, foundation chairman of the Visual Arts department and present director of the National Gallery of Victoria, returned to Monash last week to open an exhibition of the University Collection.

This exhibition of 60 selected paintings and sculptures, is the first time the campus community and the general public have had the opportunity to see a comprehensive representation of the collection at Monash and to have access to it in the new gallery as a coherent whole.

The collection began in 1961, when the first Vice-Chancellor, Sir Louis Matheson, decided to allocate "a modest sum" for the purchase of works of art as a way of "embellishing" the new building.

Matheson reasoned that "to establish a collection of contemporary Australian art which would be on public display in the university buildings would be a valuable educational experience for our students".

Twenty-six years after its formation, the collection now numbers some 650 works, which have either been acquired over the years by successive Art Advisory Committees, or been given by various individual donors, particularly Professor Logan said.

The collection offers a broad range of contemporary paintings, sculptures and graphic works, principally by Melbourne and Sydney artists.

By deciding early to make a virtue out of necessity, the Art Advisory Committees spent most of their very limited funds on acquiring the work of young, emerging artists and this approach has resulted in some remarkable purchases.

The exhibition includes works by such well-known artists as Sidney Nolan, Fred Williams, Roger Kemp, Peter Booth, Robert Klippel, Dale Hickey, Jenny Watson and Lesley Dumbrell.

The latest acquisitions are a "stack" painting by Sydney artist, Imants Tillers, and the monumental sculpture, Menin, by Victor Meertens, which were purchased this year with assistance from the Visual Arts Board of the Australia Council.

The gallery is located on the ground floor of the Gallery Building (previously known as the Multi-Discipline Centre), and is open from Tuesday to Friday 10-5, Saturday 1-5. Inquiries: 565 4217.

McCaughey opens collection ‘first’

VC’s aide will oversee precinct

As executive assistant to the Vice-Chancellor, geographer Kevin O’Connor has a brief to oversee the development of a "technological precinct" on the outskirts of the campus.

Dr O’Connor’s background in urban industrial geography is just right for this purpose, says the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Logan.

Dr O’Connor, a senior lecturer, has been seconded to the post for two years. His job will include helping to prepare Professor Logan’s speeches and briefing him on lengthy documents. But his main role will be as overseer and adviser on technological developments.

"I did not hire an administrator but I wanted an academic to assist me," Professor Logan says. "I thought I have worked together and I know our thoughts are along similar lines."

MONASH REPORTER
New history series takes radically different line

The publication of the Bicentennial history series, Australians, has been the culmination of 10 years work. But the volumes themselves are just one result of this long project, says History professor, Graeme Davison, co-editor of the 'slice' volume, Australians 1888. The collaboration of many people has generated a new type of history; it has allowed a new generation to remain afloat as scholars.

When the project started, many able young historians were finding it difficult to get work in universities; the advance royalties paid by the publishers allowed them to be hired for the basic research. Australians 1888 is a distillation of material contributed to a bulletin started at Monash in 1979 with the Bicentenary series in mind. The 14 issues of the bulletin which appeared from 1979 to 1986, are "a definite Monash contribution," says Professor Davison.

"The process of developing all the research was worthwhile; it started off a whole lot of other things. "In two or three areas it has opened up topics in quite a different way, and at different stages it became a vehicle for our teaching."

John McCarthy (professor of Economics) and Alisa McLeary, a non-historian, were the other editors of Australians 1888. Ms McLeary, who has a degree in English Literature and History from Melbourne University, says her contribution was "literary to some extent". She had been working with Professor McCarty in Economic History and became involved in editing the bulletin and going to conferences.

"Eventually, there was a chapter that no one was going to write so I offered to do it," she says. Although there have been other Monash contributors to the series - most notably Marion Aveling, who co-edited Australians 1838 with Alan Atkinson, senior lecturer in History at the University of New England - Australians 1888 is the volume with the greatest Monash content.

Acknowledged in the book itself are the photographic contributions of members of the Geography department - Tony Miller, Vicki Tipping, Bruce Bigby and John Storey - who were presented with a volume by the grateful editors.

"It was all typed here, the Geography department did the maps and photographs - lots of people were involved," says Ms McLeary.

The serious writing began with a general conference five years ago in Canberra. "Graeme quickly drew up a plan and we invited 16 people to write chapters," says Professor McCarty. As editors they were given almost total freedom, but absolutely rigid deadlines.

"The authors of the original chapters gave us unlimited rights to re-write. Even the really good chapters were tailored so that Australians 1888 would read like a book by a single author. "The major linking theme is the use of diaries," says Professor McCarty.

"Alisa was the first to see the implications of using them to get realism into the year. "The diarists were chosen to represent a range of people in the community from the very poor to the very rich. "They appear right through the book, which is intended to be read from cover to cover, and if you read it through you will be surprised and delighted to meet them again." Professor McCarty said one of the most difficult chapters was Private Lives.

"Graeme wanted to work in a cycle from birth to death, but we couldn't start with a baby, we had to start with the parents. "It was a chicken-and-egg problem that we couldn't get around."

Professor Davison says there was a lot of discussion about how social class would work its way in. "We thought there would be a chapter class but we found it couldn't be isolated. "It became something written right through the book."

The editors also had to modify the optimistic voices of the contemporary diarists. "1888 was a centennial year so a lot of fuss was being made about the centenary; it was all embodying sentiment, material progress and prosperity," says Professor Davison. "But with hindsight we know Australia was on the edge of a great depression."

The land boom was coming to an end, though the full effects of the crash wouldn't be felt for another two or three years.

"We were dealing through contemporary perceptions but it was not all as contemporaries had seen.

The only real crisis during the production period was that the trio underestimated the amount of time they would need to get the pictures together.

"The editors weren't to spare time or money in getting the right pictures," says Ms McLeary.

"But we hadn't realised it would take so long and we had a last minute rush."

A taste from the 'slice' of 1888

In March 1888 Edward Dyason, a Bendigo mining agent, recorded with relief the safe arrival of his fourth child. "Thank God it is over so well... always dreaded confinement now safely over", he wrote on the day of the birth. Four days later he noted 'wife and baby first rate', and next day that his wife, Harriet, 'wants name for the baby'. A week later, when the child seemed certain to survive, he 'decided to call the baby Roger... after Grandfather Dyason'. The baby was registered as Frederick Cecil Roger, and the family called him Cecil. Dyason's fears for his wife's safety and their delay in naming the child arose from the real risk of the mother's death and the strong possibility that the child would be born dead or would fail to survive the first weeks of life.

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Chapter 14, Childhood

"When Alf Broome took up his selection on the Cann River in the wilds of east Gippsland, he made an assault on the surrounding bushland. He hacked a clearing for his house, cut the eight-metre lengths of limber into slabs and burned the rest in great bonfires. A neighbour gave him raspberry, gooseberry, strawberry and blackberry plants for his garden and later he planted a boxbush hedge. He killed snakes because they were dangerous, ducks and wonga pigeons for game, wallabies, kangaroos and opossums because they are pasture or fruit, and lyebirds for their beautiful tails. He captured a swarm of bees for their honey. Any living thing useful for his farmer's purpose he felled, burned, captured or killed."

Chapter 5, Distance

"Life's troubles sometimes parted married couples sooner than death. Many split up and formed new partnerships regardless of the laws of church and state. Some eminent people, including premier Sir Henry Parkes and former premier James Service, lived in such irregular unions. Getting a divorce was still a cumbersome, expensive and disagreeable business. In most colonies, as in Britain, a man could divorce his wife for adultery alone but a woman could divorce her husband only if his adultery was combined with cruelty or desertion or other offence. In New South Wales, women had the right to divorce for simple adultery."

Chapter 16, Marriages and Families
Sir John shows another face

Magazines from 1907 and 1908 which have been donated to the university portray Sir John Monash from a far more human angle than many history books allow.

The two editions of the Buffalo Buster, written by Monash and friends in preparation for annual holidays at Mount Buffalo, warmly refer to the man of repute as "the grand organ grinder-in-chief Thunder Roar Monash O.N.O.".

The magazines were donated for inclusion in the library's Rare Book Collection by Miss Marion Johnson, 75, daughter of the editor, "the grand infant and perpetual smoker and moss-gatherer" Emily Johnson. "I have treasured them all my life, but now I feel that they should be in a suitable museum," Miss Johnson said.

The issues contain amusing poems, short stories, cartoons, a "daily doings" segment and advertisements for fabled products.

One such advertisement refers to Monash's snoring - from which the nickname "Thunder Roar" comes. The 1907 edition, written when Monash was 41, suggests people who suffer from snoring try "Monash's world famed anti-snoring microbe destroyer - 'ANTI-SNORIETE'. Laugh and the world laughs with you, snore and you sleep alone."

Fellow "busters" kept a nightly record of the severity of Monash's snoring.

The evidence supporting their badinage is tabled on a Richter Scale in the later issue.

In Monash's biography, Geoffrey Serle, a former Monash University historian, wrote that Monash spent many holidays at Mount Buffalo exploring the region.

In 1908, the group - the "Mount Buffalo Annual Expedition and Exploration Society" - explored the underground caverns using ropes.

Monash has one of these caverns named after him.

Any "gentleman" aspiring to gain membership to the exclusive group had to meet certain criteria.

He had to . . . "be under the age of 99; have served at least 12 months in Pentridge or another of His Most Gracious Majesty's residences; be able to pay his own way; and be able to take and see a joke."

The Buster notes that . . . "if any joke is too far-fetched or distant, field glasses will be provided and only as a last resort will surgical operations be performed."

Mr Brian Southwell, the University librarian, said there was no detailed information about the magazine in the library's records.

"It's not known how many issues were originally written, but if anyone knows anything further we shall be grateful if they could let us know."

Learning the poets' trade

One of the university's little-known contributions to the outside community came to light last month at a poetry book launch at Mietta's Melbourne restaurant. Although Denise Jordan, author of Impromptu, has no formal involvement with Monash, she learned her craft at the English department's Poetry Workshop.

"This enterprise began in 1982 and, according to its founder, English tutor John Leonard, is probably the oldest regular poetry workshop in the country. It has helped many people from within or outside Monash to develop as poets.

They include Isobel Robin, Lyn Wilson and Ivan Cole, all regular contributors to the two Monash poetry quarters, Open Door and Poetry Monash.

Denise Jordan is one of several participants who had not written poetry before she came to the workshop. The Swiss-French born writer, who speaks four languages, has had her work read at Montsalvat and La Mamas and published in a number of poetry journals.

John Leonard works closely with her and with others to prepare their work for publication. "We regularly get between 30 and 40 people to the workshops," he says. "Someone puts forward a poem which is finished or three-quarters finished, for everyone to discuss. It's useful for the poet and everyone else."

The workshops were on the agenda for the three Writers-in-Residence at Monash this year - Mark O'Connor, Dorothy Hewett and Elizabeth Jolley - who all gave readings.

Industry interaction

The Melbourne office of the Department of Industry, Technology and Commerce is sponsoring a seminar on Tertiary Institution and Industry Interaction, to be held next month at the Victorian College of Pharmacy in Parkville. Discussion will include such topics as the desirability of commercialising research and ways of disseminating information about commercial research possibilities.

The seminar will be held in Cossar Hall from 1 pm to 5 pm on Wednesday, 2 September, and the registration fee of $10 per person includes refreshments. Bookings close on 27 August.

For bookings or further information contact Elizabeth Andrews, Victorian State Office, Department of Industry, Technology and Commerce, 665 6292.

Armed conflict

The Victorian Division of the Australian Red Cross Society will hold a seminar, Humanity in Armed Conflict, at the Prince Philip Theatre, University of Melbourne on Sunday, 26 August, 1987.

Guest speakers will include Professor Louis Waller (Law Faculty, Monash), Dr Gillian Triggs (Law School, University of Melbourne) and Mr Pierre Josselson (International Committee of the Red Cross regional delegate for southern Asia and the Pacific).

The Plenary Session will be conducted by Professor Max Charlesworth (School of Humanities, Deakin University).

The registration fee of $10 includes morning tea, light lunch and afternoon tea. Contact Red Cross Public Relations on 616 9911 for further details and registration.

Engaging satire

Gilbert's Engaged, "a marvellous satire on 19th century romantic plays" will be presented on Friday 7 August by the English department's Studio Players to mark end of term.

Bookings at $2 each (including supper) can be made at the English department's office, Room 707, or by sending cash or cheque to Dr Dennis Davison in that department.

The play will begin at 7.30pm, in the English Drama Studio, Room 863, Memozies Building.
Logan to head alumni
The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mai Logan, has been elected president of the newly formed Geography alumni.
Professor Logan, a former chairman of the Geography department, was elected at a function held in the Banquet Room last month to launch the alumni.
He told the gathering of about 200 people that there was a real need for alumni organisations which could advise on employment opportunities, offer information about courses, foster sympathetic contact with the community and report on research.
Dr Jim Peterson, a senior lecturer in the department and the inspiration behind the alumni, said members would receive a regular newsletter.
"It will contain an update on what some of the graduates have done since leaving Monash and information about future events," he said.
Associate Professor Jim Whitehead told the alumni about the history of the Geography department since it began taking students in 1963.
The alumni now has about 230 financial members — an astonishing figure, said Mrs Joan Stalman, who was elected vice-president.
Further information is available from Ms Sara Hill, ext. 2919.

Old maps sought
Many Council is urgently seeking a bound collection of maps which might authenticate the historic value of a Pittwater site where Captain Arthur Philip is believed to have landed in 1788.
There is a 40-day injunction against development on the site and the maps which were known to be in the possession of the late Sir William and Lady Walkley of Balgowlah, could prove the worth of keeping the site intact. Maps and sketches in the Walkley collection were signed by captains Philip, Bligh and Macarthur.
Anyone with any knowledge of the maps is invited to contact Sharry Black, Acting Director, Monash Art Gallery and Museum, (02) 949 2453.

At the alumni's first meeting were, from left, Dr Jim Peterson, Peter Box, Margaret Clark and Kay Langdon. Photo — Sandy Mains

SCHOLARSHIPS
Packer Cambridge is offering five full-cost postgraduate scholarships tenable at the University of Cambridge by citizens of Australia who have been offered a place to pursue a Ph.D. course in subjects deemed relevant to Australia's needs.
Must be citizens of Australia, under 26 years of age on 1 October 1988 and hold or expect to hold a first class honors degree. Further information from the Higher Degree and Scholarships Office, ext. 3009.
Shell Postgraduate Scholarships for 1987 are being offered for higher degree studies in Arts, Engineering and Science in U.K. Beneficiaries including costs, tuition and other allowances, plus return for two years of post-graduation close in place on 30 September 1987 with Mr Phil Kupala, Higher Degree and Scholarships Officer.

IMPORTANT DATES
The Registrar advises the following important dates for students in August:
- Second Term ends
- Second Term ends for Medicine I, II and III
- Examinations begin for Medicine IV (Part I)
- Break begins for LLM. by coursework
- Examinations commence Medicine III
- First teaching round begins, Dip.Ed.
- Examinations end — Medicine III
- Third Term begins
- Third Term begins for Medicine I and II

Second half-year for LLM. by coursework resumes.
Last date for discontinuance of a subject or unit taught and assessed over the whole of the teaching year for it to be classified as discontinued (excluding Medicine III, V and VII).
Last date for discontinuance of all subjects by candidates enrolled for diplomas, bachelors' degrees, masters' degrees by coursework, and by not-for-fee and masters' preliminary candidates to qualify for 25% refund of 1987 students' amenities fee (not applicable to candidates taking Summer Term subjects).

John Sewell, Wendon Dance Studio, Waverley Theatre Group and Avila College Choir, 2pm. City Street Stompers 10pm. Admission free.

15: EVENING CONCERT — Third Military District Band with Donald Cant and guest artist Chelsea Brown. Adults $12, conc. $8. 8pm. Tickets and enquiries: 357 2611.
16: AFTERNOON CONCERT — Jewish Children's Concert — "Uncle Moishy and the Miztvah Men", featuring four American vocalists. 2.30pm. Tickets 257 6398.
22: EVENING CONCERT — ABC Perspectives Concert No. 4, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra (cond. Wlodzimiej Lotadawski): Musique Funbre, Paroles et images, Chain 3, Symphony Number No. 3. 8pm. Tickets from BASS Box Office, 9am – 5pm.
22: EVENING CONCERT — Melb. Youth Music Council presents the Percy Grainger Youth Orchestra, John Anstall Youth Band, Margaret Sutherland Singers and Melb. Youth Choir. Adults $7, conc. $4. Tickets at the door. 8pm. Inquiries: 614 2469.

Inquiries and booking: 565 3099, 565 3091.

30: Australian Studies Film — "Australia" R6, 1pm. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 3246.
4: NATIONAL LANGUAGES WEEK — "The role of languages in tertiary education". 5.30pm R3. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 3466.
25: WILFRED FULLAGAR MEMORIAL LECTURE — "Future directions in Australian law" by Sir Anthony Mason, Chief Justice, High Court of Aust. 8.15pm Alexander Theatre
- Religious Centre. Admission free. Inquiries: est. 3160.
- RELIGIOUS CENTRE RECITAL — Ormond College Choir, dir. Douglas Lawrence. 1.10pm.
- Alfred Centre. Admission free. Inquiries: est. 3466.
- ART CENTRE. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 3160.
- RELIGIOUS CENTRE RECITAL — Ormond College Choir, dir. Douglas Lawrence. 1.10pm.
- MONASH UNIVERSITY GALLERY
- The next issue will be published in the first week of September, 1987.
- copy deadline is Friday, August 21, and early copy is much appreciated.
- Contributions (letters, articles, photos) and suggestions should be addressed to the editor, Lisa Kelly, Information Office, University Office, or ring ext. 2085.

17: Environmental Seminar — "Ecocommunication: What's in a name?" by Darryl Coulthard. 5.15pm. GSES Seminar Room. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 4622.
15: "Australia's Space Prospects", by D. Schaetzel. 7.30pm. R3 Admis. 5.15pm. GSES Seminar Room. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 4622.
10: "The place of languages in tertiary education". 5.30pm R3. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 3246.
9: "Music is Fantastic" by the National Orchestra. 7.30pm. R1, R2 Admis. Free. Inquiries: ext. 3356.
8: Special Concert — "The role of languages in tertiary education". 5.30pm R3. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 3356.
6: Zoology Seminar — "Ecofeminism - What's in a name?" by Darryl Coulthard. 5.15pm. GSES Seminar Room. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 4622.
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Youth elixir just a chemical trick

Secondary school students cheered as an old man became youthful again after drinking a bubbling red liquid at the Alexander Theatre last month.

The trick was part of a lecture on the ways chemicals are used to achieve special effects in the theatre. The Royal Australian Chemistry Institute organised the lecture, and two others, as part of its "Chemfest", a three-day project aimed at stimulating student interest in chemistry.

More than 2000 students from as far away as Wangaratta attended the Chemfest. Lectures were given by Professor Roy Jackson and Associate Professor Ian Rae of the Monash department of Chemistry, and Dr lan Dickson from Victoria College's Rusden campus.

They concentrated on Year 11 and 12 curriculum topics — energy, light and equilibrium states — and demonstrations were chosen for their visual appeal.

Each lecture had been previously given in the annual Hartung Youth Lecture Series, organised by the institute for secondary school students and given in six locations around Victoria.

Dr Ernie Nunn, senior lecturer in Chemistry and a member of the institute's Education Committee, said the Hartung lectures had become so popular that schools had requested additional sessions.

"This year the committee thought it might be a good idea to present some lectures again at a single location.

"It was also an opportunity to offer some information on careers in chemistry and tertiary courses," Dr Nunn said.

"This year the committee thought it might be a good idea to present some lectures again at a single location.

The students were given tours of the university, the Chemistry and Chemical Engineering departments and Rusden campus.

They also received "show bags" from Monash and the chemical industry, and heard a talk by a Telcom researcher about chemistry and communication.

Dr lan Dickson in disguise, with the 'assistant' he captured from the audience. Photo — Tony Miller.

Triathlon prizes

- Sandra Clark, branch manager of the Tertiary Credit Union, hands a cheque to Russell Newnham, president of the Monash Triathlon Club. The money was donated by the credit union for the first prize winners (male and female) in the club's recent successful triathlon series. In the background are credit union staff members Sharon Camilleri, left, and Ann Borack.

- A team of engineers who began playing social tennis 15 years ago has won the Waverley district "Q Special" autumn night competition. The "Engineering Mates", shown from left, are Professor Bill Melbourne, graduate researcher Mr John Lee, Associate Professor Peter Dransfield, Associate Professor Russell Mein, and senior lecturer Mr Bruce Kuhnelt. The other team member is senior lecturer Dr Clive Berger. The group meets on the Monash courts every Thursday morning. Photo — Richard Crompton.

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AUGUST 1987

Marlene shows her forms

Marlene Ryzman won a gold medal at the recent Victorian Tae Kwon Do championships and David Katie won silver.

Both are members of the Monash Tae Kwon Do Club, under the direction of Master Yong Dai Cho, an 8th Dan black belt and one of the most highly rated masters in Australia.

Marlene, a PhD candidate and tutor in Classical Studies, won the "Forms" (a section of competition which involves following patterned moves set in a sequence to fight imaginary opponents) for her weight and grade.

"This is the only sport I have ever done which has given me full satisfaction," Marlene said.

She has been learning Tae Kwon Do for just over a year, while David, a first year Science student, has only been training since early this year.

He competed in the "fighting" section, where his opponent in the finals was heavier (a big advantage in contact sport) and more experienced.

Marlene and David hope to prove themselves forces to be reckoned with at the Tae Kwon Do intervarsity championships at Monash in the last week of the August holidays.

"You can be sure we'll be doing our best," Marlene said.

Anyone interested in joining the Tae Kwon Do club can leave their name at the Club and Societies office in the Union Building.

Special show for deaf

- During the last school holidays, the Alexander Theatre ran a special performance of The Gingerbread Man which was translated into sign language for 50 deaf children in the audience. Under the sponsorship of the Ministry of the Arts, two women from the Deaf Society of Victoria stood in the wings and repeated the program to the children who were in a special block of seats where they could see both the stage and the women. The Alexander Theatre's director, Mr Phil A'Vard, said the operation was very successful and he hoped to see it repeated. Photo — Tony Miller.

- A team of engineers who began playing social tennis 15 years ago has won the Waverley district "Q Special" autumn night competition. The "Engineering Mates", shown from left, are Professor Bill Melbourne, graduate researcher Mr John Lee, Associate Professor Peter Dransfield, Associate Professor Russell Mein, and senior lecturer Mr Bruce Kuhnelt. The other team member is senior lecturer Dr Clive Berger. The group meets on the Monash courts every Thursday morning. Photo — Richard Crompton.

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