Tourism could be the way to go at Monash next year

In a move that could change the nature of the local tourist industry, Monash University will next year introduce Australia's first postgraduate course in tourism.

Students enrolled in the university's new postgraduate diploma in Australian Tourism will be able to choose from subjects ranging from the natural sciences and Australian history to the visual arts — in other words, the cultural and educational aspects of Australian tourism.

Preliminary discussions between course organisers and tourism-related bodies have indicated that graduates will be in considerable demand.

Among employer organisations which have expressed an interest in the program are Qantas, the Victorian Tourism Commission, the Japan Travel Bureau and the Victorian Arts Centre.

According to recent figures, tourism is one of the fastest growing sectors of the Australian economy — its contribution is now equal to the combined contribution of the textile, footwear, clothing and motor vehicle industries.

Rapid growth

But the increasing popularity of Australia as a tourist destination has created problems for tour companies.

In a submission to the Australian Government Inquiry into Tourism in 1986, the National Tourist Industry Training Committee said: "It is highly unlikely that the training system, given its current resources, will be able to adequately respond to the needs being generated by the industry's rapid growth."

"The problem is not just about numbers to be trained — it is also about developing new training programs for areas such as tour guiding and handling Japanese visitors."

Recent research has shown that many Japanese tourists visiting Australia are interested in the local history, natural history and culture.

With the increasing numbers of Japanese tourists visiting Australia (it has been predicted that 1.5 million could holiday here in 1992), it is not surprising that tour guides with a high competence in the Japanese language and a wide knowledge of Australian studies are in great demand.

One of the features of the new postgraduate diploma will be a subject called Tourism Japan, offered by the Department of Botany, told the information session.

"Japanese tourists visiting Australia are increasing in considerable numbers and are one of the more discerning among tourist groups. It is not surprising for tourism offices and businesses to be increasingly concerned about providing a high standard of service to this group," Dr Terry O'Brien of the department said.

Graduate School of Management, the second core subject, Field Interpretation, offered by the departments of Zoology and Botany, has been designed to develop skills in the presentation of tourism products such as guided tours.

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Students enrolled in the university's new postgraduate diploma in Australian Tourism will be able to choose from subjects ranging from the natural sciences and Australian history to the visual arts — in other words, the cultural and educational aspects of Australian tourism.

"The course will provide much more than training in hospitality management — it will create an awareness, an understanding and a consciousness of the area in which we live," he said.

Students in the diploma will be able to select from a range of optional subjects which have a predominantly Australian content, such as Australian history, geography, the visual arts and natural sciences.

The course's two compulsory subjects, Tourism Industry and Management, and Field Interpretation, will provide students with the necessary practical skills to prepare them for employment in the tourist industry.

Tourism Industry and Management, which will be offered by the Faculty of Economics and Politics, will give an overview of the industry's structure.

According to Dr Robin Shaw of the Graduate School of Management, the subject will examine the operation of tourism institutions, from the running of an airline to the managing of an hotel.

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Why research at all?

The Federal Government's decision to give the Australian Research Council the power to set national research priorities has sparked a lively debate in academic circles.

And now politicians and university policy-makers are beginning to question the issue of research itself.

Should the government decide research priorities or is this a job for the academics? Are the social sciences worth researching or should we emphasise the technologies?

And perhaps the most implausible: Why research at all?

In an attempt to restore some balance to the debate, the Australian Vice-Chancellor's Committee has urged the media to examine the current state of research in Australia by going directly to the laboratories and the libraries.

Under the slogan "If you think research is unnecessary, try guesswork!", a recent press release from the AVCC says "all too often the practitioners are ignored by the media, forgotten in the debate!"

The release goes on to say that the researchers "all have stories to tell — not just of their own projects, but of the joy of research and the delights of discovery. Some of them are concerned about life after the White Paper but others are excited by the opportunities."

In an accompanying set of profiles of university researchers willing to discuss their projects with the press, Professor Peter Singer, the director of the Centre for Human Bioethics at Monash, summarised his thoughts on the research debate.

"I am concerned that the character of our universities may be changed by the Dawkins initiatives and that they may lead to an over-emphasis on what serves the nation's economic needs, to the exclusion of other values."

"We must avoid a narrow definition of what is good for the nation. It is a mistake to define this solely in economic terms and thus to reduce the significance of contributions to the cultural, intellectual and ethical life of the community."

*Michael Kmit's The Evangelist John Mark, winner of the 1983 Blake Prize, is on view at the Monash University Gallery until 15 October as part of the Body and Soul exhibition. See story page 7.*
A symposium for your birthday?

Professor Noel Murray, Foundation Professor and Chairman of the Department of Civil Engineering at Monash, will celebrate his 60th birthday on November 5.

As a tribute to his role in building up from scratch one of the country's leading teaching and research schools in civil engineering and in recognition of his contributions to the international literature on structural engineering, his colleagues are organising a two-day symposium entitled Thin-Walled Structures: Developments in Theory and Practice.

Guest lecturers will be Professor Patrick Dowling, Imperial College, London; Professor Norman Jones, The University of Liverpool; Professor Georg Theriauf, Universitat Gesamthochschule Essen; Professor Alastair Walker, The University of Surrey.

Session on SIDS

The Centre for Reproductive Biology, with researchers from the university and Monash Medical Centre, are presenting a public information session oncot death this month.

Monash University and Monash Medical Centre are currently the centres of Australian research into Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, which last year claimed the lives of 700 babies in Victoria.

Factors which increase the risk of cot death, and why it hits one family and not another, are some of the issues which will be considered at the meeting.

Recent research findings will also be presented.

The information session will be held in the Main Lecture Theatre, Monash Medical Centre, at 7 pm on Thursday 20 October. Cost is $15.

Further details and registration information can be obtained from Ms Patricia Rogers of the Centre for Reproductive Biology, telephone 565 2765.

Ethics in review

The Centre for Human Bioethics will host a conference on Tuesday 15 November on the topic, Can Ethics Be Done By Committee?

The conference, to be held at the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, will look at the role, methods and nature of institutional ethics committees.

The registration fee of $60 ($45 for associates of the centre; $30 full-time students and unemployed) includes lunch.

Inquiries should be directed to the centre on ext. 4279.

MONASH REPORTER

Asian immigration

To provide some facts with which to sift the rhetoric, the Centre for Migrant and Intercultural Studies and the Asian-Australian Resources Centre has organised a one-day conference on Asian Immigration for Saturday 8 October in the Rotunda Theatre (R3).

Eleven experts from both centres will try to put the present debate in context and will discuss the Asian experience in Australia. They include the chairman of History, Professor Merle Ricklefs and representatives from the Chinese, Indo-Chinese and Filipino communities.

Registration will take place between 9 and 10 am and the conference will conclude at 6 pm. For further information, contact Radha Rasmussen on 565 2958 or Chooi Hon Ho on 565 2680.

Workshops for women

A series of workshops held recently by the Centre for Migrant and Intercultural Studies provided the opportunity for second-generation women of Greek origin to share their experiences of life in Australia.

The workshops, opened by the Victorian Minister for Ethnic Affairs, Mr Peter Spivker, were part of the Mediterranean Women's Program co-ordinated by Ms Srebrenka Kunek, a Ph.D student in the centre.

The 76 women at the conference discussed their lives and what it meant for them to be Greek-Australians.

One of the outcomes of the workshops was the establishment of a network connecting women of similar experience in the community, academic, bureaucracy and the government.

Participants at the workshops were also informed of the work of feminists in their country of origin.

A report from the workshops will be launched later this month by Senator Margaret Reynolds, the Minister advising the Prime Minister on women's affairs and Minister for Local Government.

The word on gender

A university publication containing everything you always wanted to know about gender-inclusive language (but were afraid to ask) was launched last month.

The authors of Language Guidelines, members of a working party attached to the Equal Opportunity Advisory Committee, believe the university's commitment to equal opportunity should be evident in official Monash publications and communications.

Pronouns, titles and salutations, occupational titles and roles, language use for minority groups and visual illustrations are all put under the gender-neutral microscope in the new publication.

Copies of Language Guidelines may be obtained by contacting Dr Margaret James on ext. 4090, or Ms Rosemary Bowen on ext. 4084.

As an exercise in preparing for the local retail world, executives of a new Japanese department store opening in Melbourne in 1981 are receiving English language training in the Monash Faculty of Education. When the Daimaru store opens at the Melbourne Central complex it will be the largest of the company's 10 international outlets. Daimaru is currently Japan's second biggest retailer.

Photographed with Daimaru staff during a recent visit to the university are (back row, second from left) Professor Aki Nisutypui, chairman of the department of Japanese Studies, (front row, left) Ms Helen Mattis, senior lecturer in Japanese, Ms Cathy Jenkins, tutor in the Faculty of Education, (second from right) Mrs Robyn Kindler, director of the English Language Teaching Centre, and Professor Lance Endebest, Pro-Vice-Chancellor. Photo — Richard Crompton.

The Japanese Studies Centre at Monash will hold a public seminar on 26 October at 7.30 pm, when the speaker will be Ms Sandra Wilson, a lecturer in history at La Trobe University.

Ms Wilson will be speaking on People and politics in Japan in the 1930s.
The fight against the nation's $3000 million problem of corrosion took a significant step forward last month with the opening of the new Australasian Corrosion Centre (ACC).

The centre, a direct outcome of studies undertaken at Monash in 1981, was opened by the Deputy Premier and Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources, Mr Robert Fordham. Associate Professor Elliott Cherry, of the Monash department of Materials Engineering, who conducted the feasibility studies in the early '80s, said that as a result of those inquiries, and approaches from the Australasian Corrosion Association, the Victorian Department of Industry, Technology and Resources had agreed to provide seed funding amounting to $549,500 over five years to establish the ACC.

The centre, with a staff of three, occupies temporary quarters in the CSIRO Technology in Normanby Road, close to the university campus. It seeks to educate industry and consumers on corrosion prevention strategies.

Associate Professor Cherry says: "One of its major objectives is to change the community's attitude to the slow and highly destructive process of corrosion.

"It will produce specialised publications which focus on corrosion solutions in the factory, the building site, the home, in motor vehicles and in marine situations.

"Corrosion protection and prevention technology has been around for years in the form of better design, correct materials, specifications, protective coatings, inhibitors and cathodic protection. The difficulty has been that engineers and chemists have not had ready access to good hands-on corrosion control information."

The ACC aims to remedy that," says Professor Cherry. Services offered by the ACC include:

• Several industry courses, including a certificate course for coating inspectors.
• Co-ordination of national research efforts into corrosion prevention.
• Investigation of failures attributable to corrosion.
• Provision of a 24-hour consulting and referral service.

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New centre to tackle costly rust problem

Ship for the World not all plain sailing

Two students in the department of Japanese Studies will be cruising the Pacific early next year, thanks to a youth program sponsored by the Japanese Government.

Ms Janice Alexander and Ms Carolyn Mei Ramsay will be among 100 Japanese and 145 other students taking part in the 'Ship for the World Youth Program', which will visit Mexico, Peru, Venezuela, Ecuador, Colombia and Hawaii between January and March.

The trip will not be all plain sailing — a major feature of the two-month cruise will be the sharing of knowledge between Tasmanian lecturers, discussions and special activities.

Ms Alexander, a fourth year student of Japanese, and Ms Ramsay, a second year student, are among 10 Australians selected for the international crew.

Learning more about policy

A new degree that links educational policy and administration will help overcome the increasing complexities of educational management, says Dr Lawrie Angus of the Monash Faculty of Education.

The Master of Educational Policy and Administration degree, currently awaiting final approval from VPSEC, is one of the faculty's responses to the changing requirements of teachers, administrators and policy-makers.

An extensive feasibility study carried out by Dr Angus and colleagues, Dr Judith Chapman and Mrs Kirsty Williamson, found that changes in school administration and the gradual devolution of authority highlighted the need for specialised training in policy and administration.

"There is an increasing need to see educational management within a bigger social, economic and cultural context, which includes a broad range of policy issues such as gender, integration and social justice," Dr Angus said.

"This new course will provide various theoretical positions and deal with practical administrative problems, as well as help people to develop a more coherent view of educational policies."

Dr Angus believes the course will also assist school-level decision-makers in formulating school policies in a climate of changing community expectations.

Mr Mick O'Brien, a former principal of Parkdale High School and now a member of staff at the Centre for Continuing Education, said that maintaining a balance between government policy and the wishes of school councils was often a difficult task.

"There are many groups on a council and all have a say in the formation of school policy, yet principals have to administer a policy within the Ministry of Education guidelines," Mr O'Brien said.

"Policy formation and good administration must go hand in hand, and this course will give practitioners in the field an opportunity to see how closely the two are intertwined."

He said the course would also prove useful for people involved in determining policy at the ministry level.

"In recent years it has become clear that people at the top need to learn a lot more about what is going on in schools."

"The location of the ministry in the city 'ivory tower' tends to typify the attitude of some administrators to people at the 'chalk face'..."

The new course may be taken on either a full-time or part-time basis — full-time students will be expected to complete the course in two years, and part-time students in four years.

A broad choice of units will be offered, from which students will be encouraged to specialise in the major areas of curriculum, school administration, educational policy, and social and administrative theory.

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Stock up on trivia

Students with an eye to a free holiday in Tasmania next year should already be stocking up on trivia, says David King, a member of the Monash team which recently took part in the ABC's University Challenge.

The televised competition provides contestants with round-trip airline tickets to Hobart, accommodation at the University of Tasmania, and meals. In exchange, they spend their days in the studios either competing or making up numbers in the audience.

Their evenings are free and fun, says Mr King, with "much intervarsity revelry and generous donations to the casino economy through the nearby casino".

Sadly, Monash was knocked out of this year's competition fairly early. As one of 10 chosen teams taking part, it had an exciting win first against Macquarie University, but lost the second game to the University of Sydney.

Mr King recommended that future players brush up on current affairs and Australian history.

"Australian questions were more prominent this year and there were questions about new movies," he said.

"But as well as needing a good general knowledge, we found that speed on the buzzer was very important."

The team members were Emma Watson and David Klempfner (Arts), Marcus Brunner (Ecops), David King (Science). They were accompanied by non-playing captain-coach Warren Batchelor, a member of the Monash team in last year's competition.

"For those who hadn't taken part in a television program before, it was a revealing experience, ", said Mr King.

"Retakes were frequent and one poor competitor, whose team was being heavily beaten, had to give the same wrong answer four times before the audio was perfect..."

The University Challenge series is being televised on Monday nights. It began on 19 September.
Poetry day forges links with Slavs

A competition established at Monash on behalf of the Slavic communities is keeping Slavic poetry alive for more than 300 Victorian schoolchildren.

The children, from about 20 ethnic schools representing Croatian, Macedonian and Serbian groups, gave recitations during the recent Slavic Poetry Day at the university. All received participation certificates and more than 60 were awarded book prizes by the patron of the competition, Mrs Toni Logan, who represented the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Logan.

Speakers at the prize-giving ceremony included Mr Ian Adams, assistant general manager of the School Programs Branch, Victorian Ministry of Education, and the Consul-General of Yugoslavia, Mr Nikola Nesovski. There was also an address by three International Teachers from Yugoslavia—Mrs Ajca Alifirovic, Mrs Sofia Mitreva and Mr Milovan Rapajic.

Potential

The competition is held under the auspices of the department of Slavic Languages, whose acting chairman, Dr Milicent Vladiv, said: "The massive organisational effort was worthwhile and necessary as an extension activity of the university. "The Monash coat of arms appears on the participation certificates, helping to establish the university as a place with a particular strength in the Slavic community languages," she said.

"The student potential is considerable and through functions such as these it can be mobilised."

The results of last week’s election might have been vastly different if we’d had this poem in time:

Exchange Guide for the newly naturalised

Option A
We stand for Christian charity,
For mateship and for fair goes,
For levelling disparity,
For pensions when the hair goes.
And, if we find a millionaire,
We love him too and let him share
The charity of Labour.

Option B
'Liberal' means 'lefty' in the U. S. A.,
In Britain it means 'somewhere in the middle',
Here it means the Party God intended to hold sway,
If others get elected it's a fiddle.

Option C
Greeting Landed Privilege the tongue takes on a civil edge,
The silver tail conceals a heart of gold.
Steadfast to Queen Victoria, we Nationals will give a pledge:
We cherish still the views she used to hold.

Option D
Our Party was, for those who mock,
A chip off the old Liberal block,
But now, of those dull ties bereft,
We outflank Labour on the Left.
For we, with artful statesmanship,
Have learned to block off that old Chipp.

Disident
Tweedledum and Tweedlediede:
Options are as normal.
I, although they wheedled me,
Staunchly vote informal.

Hector Monro
Two of Melbourne's leading print media figures broke new ground last month when they spoke at an informal information session in the Monash University Club.

They were The Herald editor-in-chief Eric Beecher, and former managing director of The Age Ranald Macdonald, currently a media commentator and journalism lecturer. They are pictured here with the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mal Logan.

The topic of the visitors' talk was "The declining power of the written word, and how The Herald is fighting it".

Earlier, The Herald had sponsored a series of events in the Union, including an exhibition of photographs and historic front pages, and a lunchtime concert.

Concert Hall venue for management conference

A management conference organised by Dr Mike Knowles of the Graduate School of Management attracted more than 320 local and interstate delegates to the Melbourne Concert Hall last month. Distinguished speakers from Australia, Great Britain, West Germany, China and Japan and the United States covered a variety of management-related issues against a backdrop of the work of Elton Mayo, an Australian who pioneered organisational psychology in the 1920s.

Among the speakers at Managers of Tomorrow was Dr Anna Bodi (pictured above), a lecturer in the department of Administrative Studies at Monash.

Twinning scheme stands up to inspection

Monash University's 'twinning arrangement' with Malaysia's Sunway College "appears to be working very well indeed", said the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Logan, after a recent visit to Kuala Lumpur.

"We were all impressed by the dedication of the Sunway staff and by the enthusiasm and performance of the students," Professor Logan said.

Sunway College has 17 students enrolled in the Faculty of Economics and Politics at present, and it is expected to offer the first year of the Bachelor of Engineering program in 1989.

Under the agreement with Monash, students from Malaysia and nearby regions are enrolled in their first year at the college, and complete their courses at the university on a full-fee paying basis.

The twinning arrangement gives the 'host' university full control over enrolment procedures, course content, teaching materials and assessment.

The first meeting of Sunway College's Academic Advisory Committee was held in Kuala Lumpur in August. Pictured at the meeting are, second from left, the Dean of Economics and Politics, Professor Gus Sinclair, the Registrar, Mr Tony Pritchard, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mal Logan (centre), and, third from right, the Dean of Engineering, Professor Peter Darwall.
The message will not be lost on the ideologues. One night they lie fearfully in their beds, they will hear the tramp of big black boots as the Committee of Equal Opportunity comes to wink at them out. That'll give them nightstalls! Soon we shall attain the promised land... where every prospect please, And only 'man' is vile.

Ian Mabbutt
History
Brilliant sense of color and composition

The work of an artist who "brought some elusive soul to the body of late 1950s art in Sydney" provides the focus for a new exhibition at the University Gallery.

Body and Soul, at the gallery until 15 October, features the work of the late Michael Kmit, a Ukrainian-born painter who derived his inspiration from traditional Slavic folk-art forms and the Byzantine icon.

Migrating to Sydney from Austria in 1949, Kmit's brilliant sense of color and composition found him immediate acclaim in his adopted country. In 1953 he was awarded the prestigious Blake Prize for religious painting for The Evangelist John Mark, now in the Art Gallery of New South Wales and included in Body and Soul.

There followed a succession of prizes through the 1950s, including the 1954 Perth Prize, the 1956 Darcey Memorial Prize and the 1957 Sulman Prize.

A nine-year absence from Australia accompanied by a change in the artistic climate led to relative obscurity in his later years, although he continued to exhibit until his death in 1981.

Michael Kmit is represented in the exhibition by 20 figurative and abstract works covering the years from 1949 to 1962.

Among the other artists in Body and Soul are Asher Bihu, Leonard French, Donald Laycock, Elwynn Lynn, Sidney Nolan and Fred Williams.

The exhibition, initiated by Dr Marko Pavlyshyn, a lecturer in the department of Slavic Languages, has been arranged to commemorate the millennium of Christianity in Ukraine. Dr Pavlyshyn also contributed a biographical sketch of Kmit to the exhibition catalogue.

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Serious reservations' on graduate tax

Members of the Australian University Graduate Conference have expressed serious reservations about the graduate tax.

They say that while the principle of graduates having to meet some of the cost of their education is a reasonable one, the Tertiary Contribution Scheme as outlined "contains anomalies and injustices in its application".

They have called upon the government to achieve a system of contributions without resorting to the graduate tax, "bearing in mind that this balance has been achieved in the past with less cost and pain".

The AUGC meets each year to discuss issues of importance to tertiary education. It is made up of representatives from graduate bodies at most Australian universities.

Recommendations about the graduate tax and about general trends in higher education were made at this year's meeting, the 22nd, held recently at the University of Western Australia and focusing on the Dawkins "White Paper".

In a press release, the AUGC's executive secretary, Mr Peter Andersen, said the meeting had acknowledged "that the government is entitled - despite its lack of constitutional power - to press for changes in educational policy".

But the meeting had declared itself "entirely opposed to State direction of existing processes to achieve these aims", and noted "with considerable pleasure the unequivocal and public support of the Hon. John Dawkins for this view".

Mr Andersen said the meeting had welcomed the government's commitment to increasing the allocation of the Gross Domestic Product to higher education to 1.06 per cent, and asked that the process of allocation be set out in detail.

It had noted "with some concern" that the allocation of increased funding would be the responsibility of bodies outside the universities "with corresponding risks to the teaching of universities and research conducted within them".

The AUGC also agreed with the need to increase retention rates at schools and to encourage members of lower socio-economic and other disadvantaged groups to participate in tertiary education, said Mr Andersen.

"However, it considers that there is a need for research to determine how best this is to be done, and in particular considers that there is evidence that the work needed to achieve this result may best be done at schools, and that funds for that purpose should be applied for and used by schools," he said.

The meeting "strongly recommended" that all university graduate bodies seek to have a minimum representation on their university's governing bodies of 30 per cent.

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Indonesian Ambassador at Ramayana

Among the audience at the Music Department's recent production of the Ramayana saga was the Indonesian Ambassador to Australia, His Excellency Mr Rosman. He is pictured (right) with Mrs Roswita Khaylah of the Centre for Southeast Asian Studies.
The recent production of Waiting for Godot presented by the English Department, directed by Richard Pannell and produced by Robin Gerster, is an original, consistent and resourceful re-reading of Beckett’s text, confidently spoken and visualised from a new perspective: the Australian outback.

The new Godot, set in the “difficult country” — the blurred “map of landscapes still unmapped” — explores the despairing but fruitful endurance of ordinary couples whose sameness resembles the exile in the “cosmic symbolical desert”.

The interpretative suggestions are mapped out in a carefully designed program meant to put the spectator in a perceptive state of mind. With Vladimir and Estragon as Mum and Dad and Lucky as Jacky/Jackie and Pozzo as Yossie, all clearly dedicated to a colonial ethos, we are in highly recognisable country.

But the fertile reality of time and space invested in the Australian adaptation helps to bring out with more clarity, relief and sense of purpose than in the traditional productions, the shape of the Beckettian idea, the forms of solitude and dependency, the poignancy of a diplomatic situation.

The Monash production has discipline of movement, sure and inventive direction and good acting that avoids token naturalism.

The Australian coloring is stylised rather than tamely antiquarian: vulnerable worn-out bodies match clothes in a state of disrepair; sagging trousers, a stained shapeless frock, sadly comic headgear, swollen bare feet and, of course, the ill-fitting boots of Estragon complement the bare road and the one tree and communicate the predictable permanence of improvisation.

This Godot exploits the energy of skilful juxtaposition of comedy and melancholy, disjunctive monologues, active and contemplative life, language undulating rapidly between conversational mannerisms and genuine emotionality.

Silences, pauses, the non-language of expression, the presence of a forgotten “elsewhere” sustain emotion. Scene changes are not rushed through, words are clearly spoken and audible, but at any moment their thin crust might break and mere breath be found underneath.

Tom Bradley (Vladimir) comes very close to the ascetically pure Beckettian puzzle. He wears an oversized shirt, the resigned droop of his mouth speaks of face-to-face encounters with a number of unwelcome truths, there is the sudden sagging at the knees, the withdrawal of the head at yet another of fate’s blows.

He combines bizarre and intelligent humor with a delicate lightness that conveys Beckett’s delight in paradox. It is a Beckettian feat to make genuine ‘feeling’ farcical and Tom Bradley marks the rhythm of foiled expectations.

A diffuse, elusive and inherently slow play, Waiting for Godot gives the impression of spontaneity and relies on an excellent cast with a flair for the credo of survival in a world changed beyond recognition.

Fiona Blair plays a memorable, vaporous, dreamy, metaphysical yet candid and direct Messager, flitting about in the dark speaking of the impossible. She stimulates a view of Beckett’s metaphysical answer to the credo of survival in a world changed beyond recognition.

The English Department’s production of Waiting for Godot is for the Australian scene — a wintry desert “where come poets and explorers to die”. It is a disturbing drama articulating the unimaginable dilemmas of remoteness and the credo of survival in a world changed beyond recognition.