Fee scheme ‘will cripple research’

The future of university scientific research is being jeopardised by a steady decline in the number of students beginning higher degree studies, says Professor Fred Smith, chairman of the department of Physics at Monash.

The Federal Government’s decision to extend the Higher Education Contribution Scheme (graduate tax) to honors students and higher degree candidates had exacerbated the situation, he said. Professor Smith made the claims at a recent conference on postgraduate education held at Monash.

He said about 40 per cent of university scientific research was conducted by postgraduate students undertaking higher degrees. If their numbers dwindled, laboratory-based research would be virtually crippled.

"There is little reason to believe that higher degree enrolments will be encouraged to increase," he said. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Logan, expressed similar concerns about the future of postgraduate studies.

The Federal Government’s attitude toward higher education held at Monash. We are consistently ranked in the top four or five universities in Australia on enrolments in Masters degrees and Ph.Ds," he said.

We have a well-established record in the progress of postgraduate research award holders and published by the Department of Employment, Education and Training earlier this year (see story). The date indicates this university has the highest completion rate of students in Australian universities, and some attention has been focused on us as a result."

To help maintain the university’s standing guidelines had been set for the supervision of graduates, and they clearly stated the responsibility of staff and students, Professor Logan said, adding that more emphasis would be placed on graduate studies at Monash.

Funds for basic research would be augmented by the university’s own research excellence fund, and also through grants for academic developments.

Professor Logan also said applied research would not be overlooked in the encouragement of new projects. "It is important for a university with large professional schools such as Monash to sustain both kinds of research."

Among the speakers at the conference were the chairman of the Higher Education Council (Department of Employment, Education and Training) Dr Gregor Ramsay, Trades Hall Council representative on the National Board of Employment, Education and Training, Mr Laurie Carmichael, and chairman of the Australian Graduates Careers Council, Mr Fergus Ryan, and The Age journalist, Mr Ken Davidson.

Other Monash contributors included the Dean of Arts, Professor John Hay, and the Equal Opportunity Coordinator, Dr Margaret James.

The conference was organised by the executive officer of the Monash Association of Graduate Students, Ms Patra Antonis.

Young talent time

Hundreds of inventions filled Robert Blackwood Hall last month during the Exhibition and Awards Day of the annual Victorian Science Talent Search. Prize-winning science projects such as a computerised tracking solar hot water system and a safe solar viewing system were publicly demonstrated for the first time by their youthful creators. This year almost 4000 students from primary school to Year 12 entered the competition, the largest of its kind in Australia and one of the longest running in the world. Among those who presented prizes were television personality, Mr Rob Gell, and the director of the Planetarium, Mr Robin Hirst. Photo — Richard Crompton.

Science Park takes shape

Work has begun on the first two buildings in the nine-hectare Monash Science and Technology Park, across Blackburn Road from the Halls of Residence.

The university is constructing a $5 million, 4000-square-metre office and laboratory building, and Coscelco Mimo Topes Pty Ltd (a joint venture between the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories and the US biotechnology company Genentech) is putting up a building of about 3000 square metres.

The Monash building will have two wings, one of which will contain dry laboratories and office space, and the other wet laboratories and offices. Executive suites will occupy the central area between the wings.

Several other ventures have shown interest in locating on the estate. Earlier this year the Victorian Government announced that an international drug testing facility would be built in the park.

It had previously put forward plans for a Biochemical Process Development Centre to be constructed there.

Site works for the park were completed earlier this year, and the new Monash building is scheduled for completion by the end of 1989.

The university is looking for tenants with research links to Monash either to rent space in the building or to lease land.
Late start, but Jean Whyte has the last word

"I had library mania, so I worked like the devil," Professor Jean Whyte said as she reminisced to Monash Reporter on her early years of study.

Professor Whyte retires at Christmas from her position as minting professor of Monash's Graduate School of Librarianship. She has just been made a member of the Order of Australia for services to librarianship. For six years (1981-87) she was a member of the Council of the National Library of Australia, an honor which has not been given to any other professional librarian. She has been on the Library Council of Victoria for six years on the Library Council of Victoria.

Jean Whyte said she had been attracted to books "from about the age of two". She lived in the far north of South Australia where there was a five inch annual rainfall and mail once a week.

Evacuation

Her father read her the English poets. ("I was stuffed with the English poets," as she put it in her no-nonsense version.) She did not go to school until she was 11. She had no allowance. She became a spare-time after-work student at Adelaide University and graduated with a double major in English Literature "but it took some time."

The State Library was near the university and concurrently with her university studies she passed her librarianship exams. Her "library mania" was evident as she prepared to evacuate her office in the Munro Building. The Munro Building was lined with tagged books and a secretary-substitute computer made it almost impossible to get in without climbing over the furniture.

"And there's another 2500 books at home taking up too much space," she says. Jean Whyte's first library appointment was at the State Library of South Australia. After 15 years she went to the University of Chicago on a Fulbright grant and a travelling fellowship from the American Association of University Women.

She took her Masters degree at "the best library school in the English-speaking world" - the Chicago University's Graduate Library School.

She returned to Australia in 1956 and was associate librarian at the University of Sydney from 1958-59 until 1972. She became a director of the National Library in the reader services branch, and in 1972 was invited to apply for her current job. "It was a new school - and that was the attraction."

Professor Whyte's friends say she is like poetry and wine. She doesn't dispute this. "When I talk about literature I guess I mean poetry," she said. "My collection is mainly Australian poetry. I was brought up on bush ballads. I write a little myself. Not much."

Focus on Malaysia as ...

A major symposium will be held at Monash this month on Culture and Politics in Contemporary Malaysia.

The symposium, sponsored by the department of Anthropology and Sociology and the Centre of Southeast Asian Studies, will provide an opportunity for Australian-based Malaysianists to discuss present issues with a number of Malaysia's leading young social scientists.

The sponsored Malaysian guests will be Francis Loh and Francis Loh, Oceanic University of Malaysia) and Ikmal Mohd Said, Kho Kay Jin and Halim Salleh (Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang). Speakers will come from a number of Australian universities including Monash, Melbourne, ANU and NSW.

The Australian High Commissioner in Malaysia, Mr Cavan Hogue, will be guest of honor at a symposium dinner.

More information about the symposium, to be held at the Rotunda on November 18 and 19, contact Professor Joel Kahn, Anthropology and Sociology, ext 2969, or Dr Francis Loh, Politics, ext 2357.

... Anthropology joins the current debate

In the past, one of the main activities of anthropologists was the description of the culture of peoples in societies other than their own.

The stress has tended to be on otherness, the more exotic the better. But as recent debates within the discipline, as well as in other disciplines, levelled against its practitioners by representatives of those cultures they have sought to study, have shown, the whole exercise is now seen to be much more problematic than previously assumed.

Gone are the days (thank goodness) when a professor could simply call on an old school chum in the colonial office to place a student among one or another group of exotic cultural subjects, who had little say in and presumably even less knowledge about the ways in which their society was perceived. The way of being used to settle some theoretical debate in universities back home.

Anthropologists have, as a consequence, come increasingly to reflect about the ways in which their ideas about other cultures are embedded within debates in the home society, where anthropological knowledge is frequently used either to criticise or to defend cultural practices in the West.

Witness, for example, the recent publicising given to Derek Freeman's denunciation of Margaret Mead's early work on Samoa. Clearly there is much more at stake here than the nature of Samoan society.

Instead, the debate spurred by Freeman's polemical attack on Mead raises questions about gender relations, attitudes towards sexuality, child rearing, family life, and the nature of human nature in the West as well.

While issues such as these must certainly be included in an analytical anthropological project, it should not be assumed that they completely undermine it.

On the contrary they raise new and equally important areas for research. For if we realise that the cultural debates in the West, to which anthropology has made such an important contribution, are themselves extremely significant and, moreover, that very similar debates are taking place in many of the countries in which anthropologists have traditionally worked - then, as participants in these debates, are anthropologists not in a unique position to study them?

One such case is contemporary Malaysia. Work on Malaysia is certain to remain of particular symbols of traditional Malay culture. These images are being built by government, academics, the national media, the tourist industry and museums.

And the current debate over what constitutions the essence of Malaysian culture, what elements are selected to represent it, and the ways the cultures of Malays, Chinese, Indians and other groups are represented are precisely the kinds of issues with which anthropology has always dealt.

And wine? "I like wine. Who doesn't? I don't claim to be an expert on it. I don't belong to a wine club. I don't like a fuss about wine. It becomes too indulgent."

She remembers going to Sydney in 1938 and being astonished to find people sitting in restaurants drinking beer. She had been brought up on wine, in a wine state.

Professor Whyte retires at Christmas. She has just been made a member of the Order of Australia for services to librarianship. She has been on the Library Council of Victoria for six years on the Library Council of Victoria.

Jean's friends and colleagues hope it isn't.

Dancing girls

"Then I want to travel overseas to see friends in America and England before I get too old and creaky. Then Africa perhaps? I've been to South America, the Galapagos Islands, Thailand, Nepal..."

An alumni seminar, "Anthropology in Malaysia," will be held at the university's city premises (41 Exhibition St) from November 18-21 to honor Professor Whyte.

Local librarians and librarians from other states, most of them graduates of Jean Whyte's courses at Monash, will participate.

The seminar will open with a public lecture by Australia's top library authority, Harrison Bryan, entitled "Libraryship in Australia: Lion, Lamb or Lemming? and there will be a reception sponsored by the Library Association of Australia.

A celebratory dinner on the Saturday night promises "... dinner speeches, songs, poems and reminiscences..." Some of them wrote limericks, the unclubbable Jean Whyte said. She wasn’t sure that there wouldn't be any dancing girls.

The last paper in the seminar is to be delivered by Jean Whyte. It is entitled The Last Word.

Jean's friends and colleagues hope it isn't.
"A thing of beauty ..."

In his address, Dr McCaughey likened the volume to the beautifully illuminated manuscripts of the early Middle Ages.

"Inevitably I thought chiefly of the Book of Kells, the product of a monastery in Ireland in the tenth century, a harbinger of the Middle Ages ... the forerunner of the university as we know it. "

"Here in the late 20th century, a university has within its ranks a rare botanical artist, and helps to sponsor a book within which the natural world is depicted with the same loving care and accuracy as the mediaeval illuminator gave to the Gospels."

Dr McCaughey said that Mrs Rosser and Mr George together had produced a definitive work of great beauty. "Science and art go hand in hand."

He added: "The great tradition of book making has been perpetuated in the choice of paper, the selection of the typeface, the printing of the plates and the quality of the binding; and all done in Victoria."

"A thing of beauty is a joy forever: Its loveliness increases; it will never Pass into nothingness."

Former Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ray Martin, who has been closely involved with the publication of both volumes, told guests at the launching ceremony that Volume II was a remarkable production that would ensure Australia's place in the history of botanical art.

Professor Martin paid tribute to the many people involved in the venture - among them, Mr Arnold Hancock, chairman of the State Bank and a member of the Monash University Council, and other members of the bank's management and staff; Mrs Lee White, a former Monash Publications Officer, and Mr Frank Atkinson, former Government Printer, who acted as editorial and printing consultants; Mr Norman Field, managing director of Southbank Communications Group; Dr George Scott, formerly of the Monash department of Botany, who served as adviser and confidant to the author and artist, and Mrs Val Baxter, who typed the original manuscript.

Professor Martin praised the generosity of Academic Press (London), who donated 172,000 sheets of the special hand-made paper, as well as stocks of the cover boards and folders, and all of their holdings of unsold copies of Volume I.

The benefaction was valued in excess of $1 million and would ensure that Volume III, which will complete the series, will appear in exactly the same form as the two preceding volumes.

Professor Martin described the partnership of Celia Rosser, the artist, and Alex George, the author, as the "Torvill and Dean" of the botanical world in their dedication to the highest level of excellence in art and writing - a level unmatched in the publishing world today.

Alex George's contribution, Professor Martin said, was not confined simply to writing the text, but included invaluable advice to the artist on the characteristics of the various species, exact locations, flowering times, ensuring the correct plants were collected, and checking the botanical accuracy of the paintings.

Mr George is currently editor of Flora of Australia for the Bureau of Fauna and Flora. He is the author of two books on Western Australian Proteaceae and of the standard taxonomic text on Banksias.

Celia Rosser, who is now two-thirds of the way through her mammoth task of painting all the known species of Banksia, is largely a self-taught botanical artist, Professor Martin said.

She completed a diploma in fashion illustration at RMIT and worked in this field for a few years before marriage, but later, as a young housewife and mother in rural Victoria, she developed an interest in flower painting.

As her skills blossomed, she took a position as artist in the Science faculty at Monash, and eventually, having mastered the techniques required of a "botanical artist", was commissioned for the very special task she is now engaged in.

Professor Martin says: "In spite of the strong support given by Monash University, Celia Rosser had to invent for herself the techniques and artistic standards of her work. There are no artists in Australia attempting a project of a comparable magnitude, and few in the world."

He adds: "In the field of botanical art, there is probably no work of this quality and scope that has had the benefit of an artist of the highest calibre working closely with an expert botanist. No single genus approaching the size of the Banksia has ever been painted by an artist of this standard."

Buying a copy of The Banksias, Vol. II?

There are some things you'll need to know...

- First, rearrange your bookshelves. It's a big book - 2ft. 6in. by 1ft. 10in.
- Talk to your bank manager. It's expensive - $2800 a copy.
- It will help, though, if you already have a copy of Vol. I. In that case, you can get Vol. II at a special pre-release price of $2500.
- Either way, you'll receive (free) an extra six half-size prints.
- If you like, you can buy both volumes at a special price of $4500 (Vol. I on its own now costs $2000).
- A further alternative is a folio set of 24 full-size prints, together with introductory text, at $2200.
- Finally, you'll be joining a fairly select group of buyers: only 720 copies of the book and 150 portfolios have been printed.
In September this year, representatives of several hundred universities assembled in the Piazza Maggiore of Bologna to sign a document of peculiar relevance to Australian universities in these post-White Paper days. The document was the Magna Carta of European Universities, drawn up to commemorate the 900th anniversary of the University of Bologna, Europe's oldest. Two Australian Vice-Chancellors - Professors John Scott (La Trobe) and Professor John Ward (Sydney) - were among the signatories. Here, Monash Reporter reproduces the Carta in full.

PREAMBULE

The undersigned Rectors of European Universities, gathered in Bologna for the ninth time, and in Europe, four years before the definitive abolition of boundaries between the countries of the European Community; looking forward to far-reaching cooperation between all Europe's nations and believing that peoples and states should become more than ever aware of the part that universities will be called upon to play in a changing and increasingly international society.

Consider:

(1) that at the approaching end of this millennium the future of mankind depends largely on cultural, scientific and technical development; and that this is built up in centres of culture, knowledge and research as represented by true universities;

(2) that the universities' task of spreading knowledge among the younger generations implies that, in today's world, they must also serve society as a whole; and that the social and economic future of society requires, in particular, a considerable investment in continuing education;

(3) that universities must give future generations education and training that will teach them, and through them others, to respect the great harmonies of their natural environment and of life itself.

The undersigned Rectors of European Universities proclaim to all States and to the conscience of all nations the fundamental principles which must, now and always, support the vocation of universities.

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

1. The university is an autonomous institution at the heart of societies differently organised because of geography and history, and willing to enrich their minds with cultures to know and influence each other.

2. Teaching and research in universities must be inseparable if their tuition is not to lag behind changing needs, the demands of society, and advances in scientific knowledge.

3. Freedom in research and training is the fundamental principle of university life, and governments and universities, each as far as in them lies, must ensure respect for this fundamental requirement.

4. Rejection of intolerance and always open to dialogue, a university is an ideal meeting-ground for teachers capable of imparting their knowledge and well-equipped to develop it by research and innovation and needed skills, able and willing to enrich their minds with that knowledge.

Continuing the language debate...

Threadbare cloak?

How, we wonder, would a student react if, like Ian MacBett's letter (Monash Reporter 8-88), sought to hide its intellectual poverty under so threadbare a cloak?

If only such overworked silliness were funny! Better still, if only he had the honesty to state his case behind secondhand, third-rate carnage!

It couldn't be, could it, that he'd be ashamed to own the arguments if he actually had to lay them out for your readers?

Would such humorists continue to be scornful of those who object when the language makes women invisible, if they bothered to purse their eyes and ears?

Would they go on patronising those who complain that gender-distinctions are the 'developmental' sine qua non, if they bothered to raise their heads and see what is happening in the world?

Copy of the Monash Reporter is available in the Monash Education Office, located at the corner of Grange Road and Balaclava Road Level 1, Science and Engineering Faculty, Monash University, Clayton 3800.

ACCUSED

"3.3 Review of Language Guideline..."

The Committee expressed its concern that by publishing a review critiakiing the Guidelines in a frivolous manner, the Monash Reporter was once again in violation of the University's policy as adopted by Council.

It was noted that the staff of the Information Office had been invited to comment on the draft of the Guidelines and that their views had been taken into account by the working party. The Committee requested the Chairman to write to the Information Officer about the matter.

(From the minutes of Meeting No 4/1988 of the Equal Opportunity Advisory Committee, 6 October.)

MONASH REPORTER Page 4 NOVEMBER 1988
A proposal to change Monash’s official color — turquoise — to a deeper azure, or heraldic blue, met stern resistance on campus during the year and was eventually rejected by Council.

The suggestion came from an external advertising consultancy which had been engaged to devise a new ‘corporate image’ for the university.

Objections came from many parts of the university, and finally found expression in a motion tabled in Council in August by Mrs Win McDonell, a long-time Monash identity, and discussed at length at the September meeting.

The motion read:

“That this Council endorse the decision of Council to change Monash’s official color from turquoise to deeper azure on campus during the year.”

In November 1963 was presented in azure blue.

The negotiations with the College of Arms proved both protracted and tiresome and many in the university considered the exercise a waste of time when it became obvious that Australian emblems were almost non-existent on the register. The Southern Cross was the only symbol that survived, and even the stars in that were not drawn as on the Australian flag.

In the event, the Professorial Board never accepted the crest as granted by the College of Arms.

Monash Ph.D. students have the highest completion rates in Australia, according to a recent draft report of the Department of Employment, Education and Training.

The report compared the completion rates of a nationwide cohort of 1979 postgraduates who studied for their degrees on government and university awards.

Of the seven universities surveyed (New South Wales, Melbourne, Monash, La Trobe, Adelaide, Western Australia, and Australian National University), Monash Ph.D. students had the highest completion rate irrespective of the type of scholarship they had received.

The finding contrasted with the general assessment that students on Commonwealth Postgraduate Research Awards had a longer completion rate than those on university awards.

The report showed at Monash 84 per cent of CPRA holders and 86 per cent of university award holders completed their degrees.

It also revealed that Monash students who received other awards (e.g. awards from bodies such as the Australian Wool Corporation and bequests handled by the university) had a 93 per cent completion rate.

Variables

Following the publication of the report, DEET asked the Higher Education Advisory and Research Unit at Monash to undertake a survey to account for the notable performance of the students.

HEARU’s survey of the completion rates of every Ph.D student who had studied at the university since 1961 confirmed the figures contained in the government report.

The unit concluded that “whilst it may be possible to explain post hoc why certain postgraduate students did or did not complete at a particular rate, it seems unlikely that it will be possible to predict who will (complete) because the complexity of the interactions between the variables involved.”

According to the HEARU report the variables included gender, student’s age, faculty of enrolment, type of scholarship and the country in which the qualifying degree was obtained.
Language: the key to identity

"Language is the most important means of communication; it is a way of identifying people and finding out how they identify themselves," says Professor Michael Clyne, who heads the Master of Applied Linguistics course and says the study of language helps the hamburger industry to vary its application.

"By studying language we find out a lot about what goes on in people's minds and about societies and cultures," Professor Clyne says. He has just been appointed to a personal chair in Linguistics, says there is a general interest in language and linguistics in Australia. This partly due to the government's National Policy on Languages, but it also reflects our growing multilingualism.

"Almost one-quarter of families in Victoria speak a language other than English at home," he says. "There's a pressing need to cater for these families at all levels."

Professor Clyne said Monash had this year introduced a new postgraduate course in which linguists aimed to meet the needs of a multilingual society. The inter-departmental course, which leads to a Master of Arts degree in Applied Linguistics, is being taught by people who are international experts in their fields.

"It's particularly suited to teachers and those involved with multicultural and language policies, but we can adapt it to suit people in other fields such as the health of language, religion and counselling," says Professor Clyne.

Qualified

As from next year, the course will contain strands of particular interest to all primary teachers, particularly those who want to teach languages, he says.

"For instance, the course on second language acquisition looks at the ways people acquire a second language, the processes involved and the ways that they differ between adults and children. "It also looks at whether people with a first language go through the same stages in the development of the same second language, and whether second language acquisition is first language acquisition the second time around."

Dr Keith Allan, acting course co-ordinator while Professor Clyne is on study leave, says many people assume that being able to speak a language qualifies you to teach it.

"School teachers have a lot to gain from an understanding of linguistics; it's an advantage for them to understand how language is structured," he says. The course is offered full- or part-time.

Inquiries should be directed to the acting co-ordinator, Dr Keith Allan, on Ext 2299. Professor Clyne will return to Monash at the end of the month.

Poetry in sound and vision

In a small graveyard outside a town in rural Canada, there is a headstone that records the births and deaths of five young children. All brothers and sisters, they were born around the time of World War One, and each died before his or her first birthday.

In his stark Found Poem in a Cemetery Near Dauphin, the Canadian poet Jars Balan has underlined the grief of child mortality in his transcription of these tragic epitaphs. But 'found poetry' represents only one aspect of Balan's work, which he describes as "exploring the grey areas between literature and media".

During a recent visit to the department of Slavic Languages where he lectured on Ukrainian writing in Canada since the second World War, Balan spoke about his 'sound poetry' (to be read aloud) and his visual poetry.

In one of his drawings (below), an alphabet is washed in a Writewasher (manufactured by Lexomatic) before being hung on a line to dry. The son of a Ukrainian father, Balan has written a book on the history of the Ukrainian people in Canada, Salt and Braided Bread, and is completing a history of Christianity in the Ukraine.

He has also edited a number of books on ethnicity and writing in Canada. Although Canada is home to about 500,000 Ukrainian imigrants, Balan says it has only been in the last 15 years that writers among them have become prolific.

It is the second and third generation Ukrainian-Canadians who are writing on immigrant themes, he said.
Some graduates who have made news this year:

- Ian Anderson — B.A 1975. Appointed Australian editor of New Scientist magazine. Mr. Anderson, a former editor of Monash Reporter (1971-74) spent most of the past 14 years (except for a brief interlude in London) freelancing in California. He will be returning soon to Australia.


- Annette Benger — B.Ec 1988. Menzies at Rialto has appointed Annette Benger, a Japanese-speaking Australian, as its first guest relations officer.

- Dr David Callaghan — B.Sc Hons 1976, Ph.D Science 1980. 1988 winner of the Gottschalk Medal awarded by the Australian Academy of Sciences. Andrew Cockburn is now a lecturer in zoology at ANU.

- Dr Elizabeth Dines — M.A. 1974, Ph.D Arts 1980. Has been appointed Academic Registrar at the University of Adelaide. Dr Dines's daughter, Dr Amanda Dines, M.B, B.S 1985, is also a Monash graduate.

- Garry Disher — M.A 1978. His second collection of short stories, The Difference to Me, was published and praised. These are five stories from Garry Disher, with a maturity and strength in the writing," said The Australian's reviewer.


- Dr Nancy Hogan — M.B.A 1984. Appointed chief executive at Sacred Heart Hospital.

- Dr R. Kaldawi — B.Sc Hons 1982, Ph.D Science (Biochemistry) 1986. Pioneering a series of anti-drink-driving courses in community groups in the Dandenong region. The courses, which cover understanding the relationship between alcohol, road safety and legislation, also include information about the addictive effects of alcohol. They are approved by the Road Traffic Authority.

- Dr Marilyn Lake — Ph.D Arts 1984. Appointed first senior lecturer in Women's Studies at La Trobe University. Marilyn Lake is a member of Monash University Council.


- Dr Vin Massaro — B.A 1971, Ph.D Arts 1980. Appointed director (planning and development) of the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee.


- Paul McNamee — B.Sc 1976. The champion tennis player has turned businessman. As Paul McNamee Enterprises Pty Ltd he is involved with Eviancos, a West Australian government agency, in organising and launching the Hopman Cup world team tennis championship to be held in Perth at the end of the year.

- Simon Moleworth — B.A 1975, LL.B 1977. Conservationist. Chairman of the National Trust (Victoria) and recently appointed to the part-time position of Commissioner of the National Heritage Commission.

- Dr Barry Perry — L.L.B Hons 1969. Appointed by the Victorian Government as deputy ombudsman to investigate complaints against police, replacing the defunct Police Complaints Authority.

- Mandy Rashleigh — B.Sc 1984. After joining the ANZ Bank as a graduate trainee four-and-a-half years ago, Mandy Rashleigh, 25, is now the youngest woman bank manager in Australia.

- John Rundell — B.Sc 1972, B.Eng Hons (Chemical) 1974. Won Australian Small Business of the Year Award for the company he founded as a sole operator 10 years ago. Process Group International now employs around 80 staff providing a range of specialist engineering assistance and equipment for the chemical, oil and gas, food and allied industries.

- Paul Takac — B.A Hons 1979. Appointed director of RMIT's new Centre for Technology Policy and Management.

- Dr Simon Schofield who will relinquish the post at the end of the year. Professor Porter was appointed to a Chair in Physiology at Monash in 1967, and remained at Monash until 1980, when he became director and Howard Florey Professor of Medical Research at the John Curtin School. During the past 20 years he has had a major involvement in medical research policy and its administration in Australia. His own medical research interests are in neurophysiology and the control of movement.

For your interest

John Kearton, administrative officer in the Department of External Relations and Alumni Affairs, has extracted the following figures from the computer system of graduate records.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Profile of Monash Graduate Population</th>
<th>MALE</th>
<th>FEMALE</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total population including 96 honoraty graduates</td>
<td>25,062</td>
<td>17,155</td>
<td>42,217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>96 honorary graduates (bracketed)</td>
<td>(86)</td>
<td>(10)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total population excluding known deceased (210)</td>
<td>22,463 valid addresses</td>
<td>15,221 valid addresses</td>
<td>37,684</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>90 per cent</td>
<td>89 per cent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,451 invalid addresses</td>
<td>1,872 invalid addresses</td>
<td>4,323</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10 per cent</td>
<td>(11 per cent)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Overall figure of 4,323 graduates with invalid address out of population of living graduates 42,007 = 10.3 per cent reflects success of efforts made searching lost addresses.
Professorial moves

- Dr Thea Brown, 47, senior lecturer and currently chairman of the department of Social Work has been appointed to the position of Professor of Social Work. She succeeds Professor Peter Boss, who held the Chair from 1974 until his retirement in 1986.
- Professor Robert Chenhall, 44, of the department of Business Economics at La Trobe University, has been appointed to a Chair of Accounting and Finance. Professor Chenhall graduated in Economics at Monash in 1965.
- Associate Professor Michael Clyne, 49, of the department of German, has been appointed to a Personal Chair in Linguistics. He has taught at Monash since 1963.
- Dr David Francis Anthonisz Koch, 62, a former chief of CSIRO’s Division of Mineral Products, has been appointed to an Honorary Chair in Chemical Engineering.
- Mr Huck Tee Lim, 52, Foundation Chief Librarian at the University of Science, Malaysia, has been appointed University Librarian at Monash to succeed Michael Southwell who retired last year. Mr Lim, a graduate of the University of Malaya in Singapore, was instrumental in the development and administration of a computerised cataloguing system for all the Malaysian university libraries and the National Library of Malaysia.
- Dr Bill Russell, 42, a former state government department head and research director, has been appointed to a Chair in Public Service Management in the Graduate School of Management’s Public Service Institute. He graduated in Economics at Monash in 1972.
- Dr Robert John Parry, 44, a distinguished analytical philosopher and Reader in Philosophy at La Trobe University, has been appointed to a Chair of Philosophy at Monash.
- Dr Stewart Sykes, 47, senior lecturer in Special Education and Psychology in the Monash Faculty of Education, has been appointed director of the Krongold Centre for Exceptional Children, to succeed the founding director, Emeritus Professor Marie Neale, who retired at the end of last year.
- Dr Fred Symons, 51, assistant director, Strategy Development at Telecom’s Research Laboratories, has been appointed to the newly-established Telecom Chair of Telecommunications and Information Engineering at Monash.

Two Monash groups which extend the university’s work into the community have been given $30,000 grants by the Federal Government.

- Under the Higher Education Equity Program, the Careers and Appointment Service and MOSA (Monash School of Agriculture) each received the awards for their outreach programs.
- The Careers and Appointments grant will be used to extend the Schools Link project, in which students from selected schools are encouraged to enter tertiary study.

The number of full-fee paying students at Monash has increased rapidly over the past two years and the university is actively promoting its courses overseas.

- More than 200 full-fee paying overseas students were enrolled at the beginning of the year, compared with about 40 last year, and more are expected to begin in July in the Master of Business Administration course.

The Victorian Education Foundation has awarded more than $700,000 over the past three years to the Department of Communication and Cultural Studies. The foundation has awarded more than $11.4 million.

The three-year project, initiated by the faculty of Law and overseen by a committee drawn from a number of Aboriginal and ethnic organisations, saw the incorporation of multicultural material into some first-year law courses.

The Victorian Education Foundation has agreed to contribute $550,000 over five years to enable Monash to offer a graduate program in Aboriginal law.

The Federal Government has awarded $375,000 over three years to the Centre for European Studies, $300,000 over three years to the Department of Social Work, has been appointed Professor of Social Work. She has taught at Monash since 1963.

- Mr Justice Gobbo of the Federal Court, who died on December 20, was born at Liverpool, England, in 1924. He was educated at the University of Melbourne and the London School of Economics before returning to Australia in 1953.

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Breaking new ground

Monash has achieved another 'first' with the publication of a teaching manual that breaks new ground in Australian legal education.

The Process of Law in Australia: Intercultural Perspectives, is published by Butterworths (RRP $39). Ms Bird is pictured, above, with Mr Justice Gobbo who launched the book in Melbourne.

Baxt appointment

Professor Bob Baxt, 49, Dean of Law, has been appointed full-time chairman of the Trade Practices Commission.

Professor Baxt was appointed to the Sir John Latham Chair of Law in 1972 and became Dean in 1980. He is expected to return to the university at the conclusion of his three-year term with the commission.

Library phone link

Monash has one of the largest law libraries in Australia and its coverage of Australasian legal literature is comprehensive and up-to-date.

Now, for the cost of a local call and an average fee of between $1 and $3 depending on connection time, a lawyer anywhere in Australia with a telephone-linked personal computer or terminal can now search the library's index for legal information contained in Australian and New Zealand law journals, conference proceedings and book reviews.

This information can then be stored and printed out.

The library’s index is a commercial electronic database, based on the Federal Government’s Lawyer Information Network (LINK) program, which was established in 1980 to make legal information available to all lawyers in Australia.

One of the major achievements of the LINK program is the provision of a comprehensive, up-to-date database of legal information, which is indexed and searchable by an electronic retrieval system.

The LINK program has been developed by the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) and is managed by the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) and is managed by the Library Network, a company which provides access to a wide range of legal databases.

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Monash chemists join in Telecom search

The university's Chemistry department has become an important part of a multi-million dollar research effort initiated by Telecom Australia to produce an infra-red optical fibre communications system.

Such a system would be less subject to interference than conventional visible light systems, and would therefore be ideally suited to the long distance transmissions which occur in Australia.

Teams of Monash research chemists are working on two different aspects of the development.

One group, led by Dr Doug MacFarlane, has just renewed a three-year contract with Telecom to investigate using heavy metal fluoride salts to make the glass for infra-red optical fibres.

In order for opto-electronic devices to work effectively, the chemicals from which they are made must be 99.9999 percent pure, a feat which demands great skill and expense, and high technology.

At present, all of Australia's chemical feedstocks must be imported. Cadmium sold by Australia as raw metal for $3.80 a kilogram comes back as dimethyl cadmium for between $30,000 and $100,000 a kilogram — that is, if it comes back at all.

Because infra-red telecommunications have great military application, those countries which have developed feedstocks and manufacturing expertise are loath to part with them.

This holds out the promise of a vast export market for a country with Australia's raw materials, if it could develop new, more effective feedstocks or more efficient ways of manufacturing the conventional feedstocks.

The Greek connection

Monash has joined the Australian Archaeological Institute in Athens, a move which will provide many benefits, says Professor Alan Henry of Classical Archaeological Institute in Athens, to promote Greek studies in Australia and to make the University of Sydney, to promote Greek studies in Australia and to make the Greek studies.

It now owns a building in Athens — bought with money raised by the Sydney Friends of the AAIA — which accommodates an office, a small hostel and a library.

Professor Henry said the institute did not deal only with ancient Greece.

"It supports research in many areas including classical art, history and literature as well as Byzantine and modern Greek studies."

"It also has a permit for an annual excavation, which is presently being undertaken at Torone, in northern Greece, by researchers from member universities."

Professor Henry said membership of the institute brought an added benefit to Monash, as "it is the only Australian postgraduate students and staff."

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Euro peptide science

A Monash student, whose special area of study is 15th century Florence, was one of three winners of postgraduate scholarships awarded by the European community in recognition of Australia's bicentenary.

Father Peter Howard, an honoree in history, took up his Australian Bicentennial Scholarship in September at the European University Institute at Badia Riesolana, just outside Florence.

Rhodes winner

Stuart Rae, 22, research assistant in the department of Physics, took up a national Rhodes Scholarship at Oxford in October.

Stuart gained first class honors in Physics at Monash last year for his work in the area of laser development.

He is the son of Dr Ian Rae, Associate Professor in the department of Chemistry.

European scholarship

The European University Institute, which opened in 1976, was created by the 12 Member States of the European Community to contribute to intellectual life through postgraduate research and teaching in history, economics, law, and political and social sciences.

Holiday program

When Student Welfare distributed a questionnaire earlier this year to gauge interest in an on-campus school holiday program, the response was overwhelming.

The newly-appointed Child Care Co-ordinator, Bernadette Muir, organised a program (the first at Monash) for the 'June-July holidays, and again in September, with up to 160 children being cared for on a full- or part-time basis. Staff and students were given equal access to the program, which was rated a great success.

Judo victory

The Monash University Judo Club won the men's and women's teams events at the National Intervarsity Judo meet in September at the Australian National University.

Judo meet in September at the Australian National University.

Further, the Monash Men's Rowing Club represented Australia in the inaugural World Boat Race in Brisbane this year.

The club, which came fifth, had won selection at the annual Universities Rowing Championships.

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MGA tackles the big one

By its very nature, Monash Graduates Association has always had to be a general and broad-based association embracing graduates from all disciplines of the University.

The MGA committee is aware of new trends within the university, and greets the formation of faculty and department-based alumni associations warmly, recognizing the affinity that many graduates feel to the discipline or faculty from which they graduated. MGA wishes to encourage such ties and form links where invited with such associations.

The association was founded about 20 years ago by some of the earliest graduates. Its aim was always to act as a representative for graduates.

Its major official function is to represent the university at the yearly Australian University Graduate Conference. The AUGC is a forum for Australian university graduates to meet to discuss and debate issues which affect university graduates. This year's conference was held at the University of Western Australia. MGA was represented by Anne Langdon, to attend this conference. This was a significant conference, and almost wholly devoted to discussion of the Dawkins White Paper.

The conference issued a press release strongly urging graduates to hold their AGMs and AGMs Out at Tax.

Whilst the conference recognised that the principle of graduates having to meet some of the cost of their education was reasonable, it considered that the Tertiary Contribution Scheme as presently set forth contained anomalies and injustices in its application. The conference called on the government to achieve a system that allowed graduates to meet their financial responsibilities without injustice.

The press release also indicated that the conference opposed state direction of existing processes to disrupt university autonomy.

The release also called for greater graduate voice in university governance and viewed with alarm the proposal to reduce the number of council members in a particular university who are elected by the convocation of the university, whereas the students are allowed to have a vote for their representatives.

The traditional role of MGA is to provide opportunity for graduates to meet and discuss these issues.

MGA's next function will be held on November 19 at Camelot Receptions in Clayton. The guest speaker will be Mr Charles Nason, Victorian State Ombudsman. The outgoing President, Jan Maclean, presented the Alumni Undergraduate Award to Anne Langdon.

The Master of Ceremonies for the evening is Campbell McComas, and the guest speaker was Mr Charles Nason, Victorian State Ombudsman. The outgoing President, Jan Maclean, presented the Alumni Undergraduate Award to Anne Langdon.

MGA also plans to establish a scheme for student bursaries. These will be a small contribution to finance students' studies.

LAW

The Monash University Law Alumni held its AGM and Dinner at the Dorchester on 12 October.

Elected to office for 1988/89 were:

- EXECUTIVE: Campbell McComas — president, Chris Jessup — vice-president, Damien Lockie — treasurer, Louise Crockett — secretary.

- COMMITTEE: Jan Maclean, Tony Massone, Bruce Moore, Jack Hammond, Jenny Hargrave, Brent Hutchinson and Marilyn Pittard.

The first meeting of the Alumni and Friends of the Department of Music took the form of a late-afternoon reception on the Mezzanine floor of Robert Blackwood Hall on Thursday, September 1, followed by an evening concert.

At the reception, about 100 people heard the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Logan, speak of the value of an alumni to the department.

The Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Professor John Hay, launched the first issue of the Newsletter of the Department of Music, Mousetk, copies of which were distributed to all those present.

The concert, which was presented by the Department of Music, took three very different forms: the Malaysian and Java — of the great Indian epic Ramayana in dance and dance drama form, accompanied by orchestral music played on the traditional Thai and Javaneese orchestras by staff and students, as well as a guest Indian ensemble.

Several hundred graduates and friends of the Department of Music who were not able to be present on the occasion received copies of Mousetk in the mail.

Those wishing to be included in future activities of the Alumni and Friends are invited to contact the department (565 7330).

Dr Paul Gardner

MENA

As the Monash Reporter goes to press, the finality of the percentage charge deposit and the raising of all fees has been confirmed.

When MGA was established in 1963, the Monash University Law graduates were the first members of the Alumni and Friends of the department.

The Alumni has always been a broad-based association, and the committee is aware of the affinity that many graduates feel to the discipline or faculty from which they graduated. MGA wishes to encourage such ties and form links where invited with such associations.

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Dr Paul Gardner

MENA
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS & ALUMNI AFFAIRS

Flurry of activity here and overseas

The Vice-Chancellor, who hosted the function, told the group how proud he was of Monash University's strong link with Malaysia and how heartened and encouraged he felt by the warm response of the graduates. He was also delighted to welcome to the function the Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia, Mr Cavan Hogue.

Singapore

The Australian High Commission was the venue of a reception also in mid-August for some 140 Monash graduates and members of Australian Alumni Societies in Singapore. It was an evening of merriment and nostalgia as graduates who had lost contact with each other met again.

Prof. Logan said the higher education system had been "turned on its head" in the past six or seven months and universities were being called upon to be more efficient and more responsible to the Australian taxpayers. There was ample time for talk about the "good old days" and much quizzing by the "good old days" and much quizzing

Perth

The inaugural meeting of the Perth Monash Alumni Western Australia was held in October when the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Professor John Hay, was the special guest. Almost 200 graduates and guests had previously attended a reception hosted by the Vice-Chancellor in February when he was in Perth on the occasion of the Commonwealth Universities' Congress. Subsequently 11 alumni volunteered to join as Interim Steering Committee. Thanks go to Geoff Giddings (B.Ed 1972, M.Ed 1978) for organising the February meeting and to Ken Fehily (B.Ec 1980) for his preparedness to steer the committee. (Photos p.13)

Kuala Lumpur

In mid-August, almost 500 Monash graduates crowded into the ballroom of the Hotel Equatorial to meet with old friends and reminisce. Peg Wong (B.Ec Hon 1985) had done a tremendous job in organising the function which attracted much interest and favorable comment.

Survey of graduates

We need your help! If you are a graduate of Monash please complete this survey to let us know the value you place on your time at Monash, your sense of belonging to the University and ways in which we might maintain contact.

The survey is anonymous unless you choose to complete the final section. A report of the findings will be published in 1989.

Please return this survey form using the Precept number as shown at the end.

Please mark the appropriate boxes below:

1. Sex
   - Male
   - Female

2. Age
   - 20-25
   - 26-30
   - 31-35
   - 36-40
   - 41-45
   - 46-50
   - 51-55
   - 56-60
   - 61+

3. Faculty
   - Arts
   - Law
   - Economics & Politics
   - Science
   - Engineering
   - Medicine
   - Education

4. What years did you attend Monash as a student?

5. Describe briefly your current occupation

6. If you were applying to enroll again for University for the first time, would you choose Monash?
   - Yes
   - No

7. In your experience, how valuable was the time you spent at Monash?
   - Very valuable
   - Moderately
   - Waste of time

8. How would you rate the quality of the formal/professional education you received at Monash?
   - Excellent
   - Average
   - Poor

9. Looking back at your time at Monash, how valuable was it in terms of your personal development?
   - Very valuable
   - Moderately
   - Detrimental

10. What did you value most about your time at Monash?

11. What did you value least about your time at Monash?

12. Would you recommend the course(s) you did at Monash to prospective students?
   - Yes
   - No
   - Not sure

13. How strong would you say in your sense of identity with Monash?
   - Strong
   - Moderate
   - Non-existent
   - Continued over page

MONASH REPORTER

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NOVEMBER 1988
When Dr Erich Olbrich, chemical engineer, decided to spend four months study leave working with Heat Exchangers (Australia) Pty Ltd, he thought it would be an interesting extension of the time he spent with the company in 1979, developing one of the interactive design programs for a type of heat exchanger.

Another attraction was that he knew the managing director of Heat Exchangers, Murray Moon, very well. He supervised Mr Moon’s Ph.D at Monash from 1971 to 1976.

However, he was in for something of a rude shock and was, in both his words and those of Murray Moon, “thrown to the wolves”.

The company had just lost its thermal design engineer and Erich Olbrich became the first point of contact for clients who, in many cases, didn’t always know what equipment they wanted.

“I had to learn that the customers for this sort of equipment come in distinct groups and that each group has certain habits and pet sloppinesses — if I can say that.

“So that, for example, mechanical engineers or those who are selling compressors have a certain jargon talking about what they want when they ask for an after-cooler,” he said.

Apology

“One of the first experiences I had was with a chap who said he wanted something that would handle so many cubic feet a minute and I said, ‘Well, can you be precise as to whether it’s cubic feet per minute at atmospheric pressure and temperature, or whether it’s at the discharge conditions of the compressor?’ ”

“He had only two choices and he picked the wrong one. And his final comment to me was ‘I’ve never been asked so many technical questions in my life!’ I had to apologise and say, ‘Look, I’m new in this job’.”

One of the major difficulties in being transplanted in this way, Dr Olbrich says, is that the academic is supposedly the expert.

Also, when one comes from the university environment, one expects all the information available to be presented, to enable the best possible solution to be worked out.

In industry, information can be withheld for a range of reasons, including industrial secrecy: “They give you only as much as they think you need for the job and that’s it.”

This particular aspect of his experience at Heat Exchangers will be reflected in the teaching of his students. He sees “useful modifications” to the design procedures which students are currently taught, that would take this incomplete information into account.

It will not, he says, be a major change, but one he feels students should be aware of so that, as graduates in an industrial environment, they will be better prepared.

Erich Olbrich now has, he says, “more respect for industry, and I’m half of them research personnel of chemical engineers (certainly other branches of engineering may not feel so strongly) who have to be able to talk to chemists, liaise with mechanical engineers and electricals as well — really have to be the catholic engineer to the extent that that’s possible in a modern environment.

“Everybody tries to specialise and it’s fun specialising, but it was marvellous like this, you’ve got to know enough about the other person’s speciality and the nature of their contribution to a given project, to know when to stop and ask for advice.”

Being able to work with Murray Moon was, he said, “fortunate”, and echoes an observation he made in an earlier period of study leave in a German technical university (Erlangen, near Nuremberg).

While there, he was taken by the professor of the department in which he was working, to a technical seminar held by the large German chemical manufacturer, BASF, near Karlsruhe.

“There were about 50 people there — "technical vision" of our entrepreneurs, who must see a clear ultimate commercial advantage in such activity.

And how does Murray Moon feel, being a former Ph.D student of Erich Olbrich, now managing director of Heat Exchangers and, at least for the duration of his study leave, Erich’s boss?

Besides feeling it “was marvellous having him here”, Murray saw Dr Olbrich’s main difficulty being “getting used to the standards and conventions and ways of going about designing specific heat exchangers that you only get by experience — and knowing what the industry expects.”

“The ultimate name of the game is to design something to fit the purpose at the right price on time. There’s no point in being carried away with any of the niceties if you’re not going to get the business.”

(Contributed)
Mr Rigby, who moved to Queensland because he is anti-poikilothermic and addicted to rainforests, graduated with a Bachelor of Science (Zoology) degree from Monash in 1965. His memories of the university’s early days are very fond ones. He admits he should have graduated in 1964, but fell third year after “getting in with a mob of medics”.

He was founding president of the Monash Zoological Society, and found president of Deakin Hall residential college.

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Until recently he managed a theatre-restaurant, The Love Boat Follies, in Rocklea, Brisbane.

Healing a friendship

It has taken 10 years for former students Michael Kornfeld and Indra Patel to renew their friendship.

But when they got together again at the Monash University alumni function in Brisbane, the two doctors discovered their careers had followed similar paths.

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Monash was the local point for the reunion of Chung Ling Alumni Association at the end of July. The Vice-Chancellor is pictured welcoming participants to the opening ceremony in the main hall of Chung Ling School in Penang, Malaysia and its alumni association comprises 18,000 with 28 branches throughout the world, including Australia, China, Ireland, Japan, Thailand, UK and the United States.

Discern card
A Monash Alumni ID card will entitle you to a number of benefits:
- Eligibility to apply for Special Membership of Monash University Club at only $30 a year.
- Savings on Thomas Cook Travel Products through Monash Alumni Thomas Cook Travel Club - discounts on holidays within Australia, international airlines, cruises, insurance and commission free travelers' cheques.
- Bonuscard rates at Southern Pacific Hotels, The Parkroyal Collection, Travelodge. Bonuscard rates can save you 10%, 20% and even 40% a night on your hotel accommodation.
- Special rate for Monash Alumni at the Hyatt on Collins, Melbourne.
To enjoy these rates — and others as they become available — apply for a Monash Alumni ID card by sending a donation of $10, together with your name, address, degree and year of graduation to the Department of External Relations and Alumni Affairs, Monash University, Clayton 3168.

Perth

Mentor scheme for engineers
A mentor scheme has been organised by Monash Young Engineers to take place next year at Monash.

The aim of the scheme is to give guidance to engineering students.

It is particularly aimed at helping students develop an understanding of the duties and responsibilities of a professional engineer and to give them an insight into the work done by practicing engineers.

Other aims are to provide guidance on how best to approach job interviews and find suitable vacation employment.

Monash Young Engineers seek expressions of interest from Monash engineering graduates who are willing to participate in the scheme.

Please address your expressions of interest or requests for further information to: Ms Madeleine McManus, Monash Young Engineers, c/- Department of External Relations and Alumni Affairs, Monash University, Clayton, 3168.

ALUMNI DIARY

Education

19-20 November
10 year reunion (1978).
Inquiries: 565 4318.

Monash University Gallery Until 26 November
Dale Hickey Retrospective.
6 December to 14 January
Out of Sight/Out of Mind — Australian Prison Architecture. Hours: Tuesday-Friday 10 am-5 pm; Saturday 1-5 pm.
Inquiries: 565 4217.

International Affairs

18-19 November
Culture and Politics in Contemporary Malaysia. A weekend symposium.
Inquiries: 565 2357 or 2960.

Professional Development

23 November
Evaluating Microcomputer Statistics Packages for Engineering Data Analysis (Civil Engineering/Centre for Continuing Education) $160 or $145 earlybird.
Inquiries: 565 4718.

Friends of Monash University

23 November
Annual Christmas Buffet $24.50 inclusive, Union Banquet Room.
Inquiries: 565 5007.

MATENGA

Annual Alumni Dinner.
Inquiries: Chris Berndt 565 4930.
and discuss issues of mutual interest. To this end, such issues as the development of private universities in Australia, charges for overseas students, the independence of universities, and the vexed question of fees and charges for Australian students have been discussed at committee level, and taken up by the subsequent AUGC conference.

Special projects

When requested by its members, MGA takes up domestic issues. The introduction of a yearly library levy by the Monash Library has caused some graduates distress and this matter has been taken up with the University Librarian. There has been a pro-tem arrangement to waive the fee.

Monash Graduates Association seeks also to assist Monash students and has established a short-term loan assistance scheme which is administered by the Students’ Loans Officer. The scope of these loans has been widened to include a Students’ Special Projects fund whereby students may borrow funds to finance a research project relevant to their studies.

Monash Graduates Association, by virtue of its foundation, considers itself to be the senior representative body for graduates of the Association. Representing Monash graduates at the Australian University Graduate Conference, seeks to provide an informal link for graduates with the university. Its aim is to continue to look after the more broad-based and general issues of interests to graduates.

The MGA committee feels that there are many graduates not linked with other alumni associations within the university, for whom MGA is the association which would most suit their graduate needs.

MGA extends to such graduates the opportunity to meet with the committee at their regular meetings. Ms Sue Knight is the contact person on campus (565 2089). Mrs Anne Langdon (c/o home) or Mr Len Watson (editor - The Monash Graduate on 565 2089) can be approached to give further information.

Anne Langdon
President

Piper (Western Mining Corporation) who has taught many graduates over the years at the recent Exploration prize, Rick Valenta (Computer Knowledge) and a growing post-graduate school. Among its major achievements in the pipeline - the most exciting being the introduction of a new coursework MA in Australian Art, beginning in February, 1989. This will be open to both pass and honors graduates.

The closing date for applications is 2 December, 1988.

Inquiries are welcome about the Australian MA and other post-graduate studies in the department.

Professor Margaret Plant, Chairman

EARTH SCIENCES

While the Earth Sciences Alumni Association is still in its early stages, we hold an extremely well-attended Prize Giving Graduation Dinner on 20 April 1988.

Awards were presented by the Vice Chancellor, Professor Logan, to the following people: Liz Patillo (BHP Petroluem and CRA Exploration prizes), Jean Gray (Esso and Australian Society of Exploration Geophysicists prizes), Rob Piper (Western Mining Corporation prize), Rick Valenta (Computer Knowledge prize), Mark Pownesey and Andy Wilde (Chairman of Earth Sciences prize).

This event will now become an annual one and we have planned the next for 26 April 1989, so keep this in your diary.

We also have a newsletter planned which should be published early in March 1989.

MEDICINE

Premature though congratulations may be, 1989 is the 10th anniversary of the formation of the Association of Monash Medical Graduates Inc. (AMMG) and plans are already underway to welcome the Association of Medical Graduates to the Annual General Meeting/Annual Dinner to be held at The Dorchester on Friday, May 19, 1989.

AMMG Members, Associate Members and non-Members please note this date in your diary of important events now!

Dean Graeme Schofield, who met with us, encouraged a group from amongst the first graduates to establish an alumni, has continued to provide immeasurable support to the association.

He has helped forge the close ties which exist today between the association and the Medical Faculty. Professor Schofield is to be guest speaker at the AGM and Dinner in 1989.

From its foundation in 1979, with just 25 enthusiastic members, our association has grown steadily and now has a membership in excess of 1100, with all years well represented.

Those who have not yet paid the late membership subscriptions, or who would like to join the AMMG are asked to contact Valda Twaddle at the MGA office, telephone (03) 565 4318.

In 1987 the first associate members were welcomed into the AMMG and we hope to welcome even more during this and future years.

Since its gestation, the AMMG has been very fortunate to have had many dedicated members serving on the Committee and, on behalf of the Association, I extend grateful thanks to each of those members, past and present, for their effective contributions in bringing the AMMG to its current strength.

The AMMG maintains close links with the faculty, with representation on Faculty Board and several standing committees, and is an Associate Member of the Victorian Medical Postgraduate Foundation.

EARTH SCIENCES

The Department of Japanese Studies Alumni Association was launched at a very successful cocktail party in June this year.

Our second function was an informal dinner with a guest speaker on 28 September in the Monash University Club. About 20 people attended, and thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with old friends, and to hear the interesting address given by Dr Ross Morison, who came to Monash in July.

His title was Industrial Relations: Rethinking our Models of Japan for the 1990s.

Our most recent function was a farewell dinner for drinks and conversation for three members of the department who are leaving Monash this year, and have taught many graduates over the past nine years.

This will be followed by a HANAMI (flower-viewing picnic) in Jels Park on 12 November 1988.

Further details can be obtained from Robyn Spence-Brown, Department of Japanese Studies, on 565 2376.

The Geography Alumni, now into its second year, is continuing to offer lectures, newsletters and social activities to geographers.

The alumni committee recently employed an executive officer, Mr Paddy Rapson, on a part-time basis to help co-ordinate and organise this fast growing alumni.

Over the past 18 months members have enjoyed several stimulating lectures.

Dr David Mercer and Mr Peter Gell, from the Geography department spoke on the controversial issue of the timber enquiry and logging in East Gippsland's forests. Dr Warneyd from the University of Lund, Sweden, gave a lecture on Sweden to geographers in the university's city offices in August. He was in Australia for the International Geographers Congress held in Sydney this year.

Continuing the tradition of geography as intrepid exploration for adventurers, 10 alumni members are going hot air ballooning at Rutherglen this weekend.

Medical undergraduates are also supported in several ways with the provision of financial assistance, funding for research and the awarding of a Final Year Prize and medal to the most outstanding student.

The association is especially proud of the continuing excellent standard of the quarterly Newsletter and the new editor (Rosemary Wright) would be delighted to receive articles for forthcoming editions. Members wishing to contribute should forward articles (with B&W photo if possible) to The Editor, c/- Faculty of Medicine. "Grads Gossip" is always welcome on any scrap of paper!!

Monash Medical graduates are now of an age where they have reached the third of the 20 Year Reunions. Congratulations this year to the "Class of 1968"... reports received to date indicate that your Reunion at Erskine House, Lorne on October 13-14 was an outstanding success.

The 10-Year Reunions continue to be highly successful and it is hoped to extend best wishes to the "Class of 1978" for their 10-Year Reunion on November 19-20, 1988. Advice about the "Class of 1973" 15-Year Reunion will be forwarded shortly by Peter Radford.

The AMMG also best wishes to the "Class of 1988" with their first 5-year examinations and looks forward to welcoming those graduates as members of the association in the not-too-distant future.

If unable to attend the Annual General Meeting/Annual Dinner held in Melbourne in May of each year, interstate and overseas members are reminded that, if they wish to organise a dinner with other AMMG members located in their area to coincide with the Annual Dinner, the AMMG subsidises the cost of such a function. Please contact Valda Twaddle (Faculty of Medicine, telephone (03) 565 4318) for further information.

AMMG President 1987-1989

Alumni members farewell Dr Stewart Duncan on his retirement from the department after 25 years at the first Annual Dinner in November last year. Mr Duncan was made a life member of the alumni in recognition of his services to Geography at Monash.

This year our Annual Dinner will be held at Bobo's Chinese Restaurant, Pinewood Shopping Centre, Mt Waverley, November 24 at 7.30pm, $20 a head. Phone Paddy Rapson - 565 2911 on Wednesdays.

Alumni inquiries should be directed to Paddy Rapson, as above, or Joan Szalman (565 2787).

SOCIAL WORK

The department of Social Work holds regular reunion dinners and puts out a twice-yearly graduate newsletter.

At the last reunion the Monash alumni association was formed led by Paul Sharkey c/- 16 Kimros Ave, Nth Caulfield.
Some 290 materials engineers have graduated from the Faculty of Engineering and moved into industry. Some have later returned for a part-time Masters course. A strong student association remains.

CIVIL ENGINEERING

The Alumni Association in the Department of Civil Engineering entered its fourth year in 1988. It has over 700 members and has started an Asian chapter. This year the alumni had its annual dinner in August, with alumni, staff and students from the department. The event has been very successful. The alumni association is now known as MATENGA.

Distribution of Work Function
- A: Sales and Marketing 8%
- B: Quality Control and Production 10%
- C: Technical Service and Development 16%
- D: Research 45%
- E: Other 21%

Distribution of Work Interest
- A: Metallurgy 40%
- B: Plastics/Composites 30%
- C: Ceramics 14%
- D: Other 16%

Five graduates from the department came along and talked about their careers with fourth year students, most of whom attended the meeting. The alumni association is now known as MATENGA.

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NOVEMBER 1988


**1988: THE YEAR IN REVIEW**

## ENGINEERING

### Given top rating

The Faculty of Engineering at Monash has been praised for its aims and objectives in the Williams Committee's Review of the Discipline of Engineering.

Under the chairmanship of the former Vice-Chancellor of Sydney University, Professor Sir Bruce Williams, the committee investigated all 25 schools of engineering in Australia, and its three-volume report was released in July.

In its review of Monash, the committee said the "faculty's aims and objectives are to some extent visionary, but their credibility is supported by achievements to date".

The committee attributed the faculty's success to a strong industrial support for research, which was reflected in an international level of teaching.

### Deanship for Darvall

Dr Peter LePore Darvall, 46, Reader in Civil Engineering at Monash University, was appointed to the deanship of the Faculty of Engineering this year, to succeed Professor Lance Endersbee.

Professor Darvall came to Monash in 1970 as lecturer in the department of Civil Engineering. In 1974 he was promoted to senior lecturer and in 1983 to Reader.

His main area of academic interest, in which his expertise is internationally acknowledged, lies in reinforced concrete structures.

During his career at Monash, Professor Darvall has been actively involved in the policy, planning, politics and administration of tertiary education.

### MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

The Mechanical Engineering Alumni association was formed in 1984 to maintain contact between graduates.

Meetings are held periodically, but due to members' work and family commitments they were poorly attended and achieved little. This year all that has changed.

Jacek "The Slasher" Stecki took the helm at the beginning of 1988 and has brought about some major changes to the style and effectiveness of the association, promoting exchange between the department, current students and graduates.

"Obviously," says Jacek, "there should be benefits for everybody involved. We have tried to make meetings socially enjoyable as well as providing a forum for members to establish personal and professional relationships."

Earlier this year Jacek, Associate Professor Arthur Williams and Professor Bill Melbourne (chairman of the department) made a trip to Malaysia and Singapore to meet local graduates, and were impressed by their willingness to participate; some of them travelled for up to five hours to attend the dinner in Kuala Lumpur.

Since then, the association has adopted the "business lunch" format that worked so well during the Asian trip. Graduates from different years have been brought together again and the events seem very successful. The format is to change again to a "cheese and wine" affair to be held at the department (beer should also be available!), so that members may refresh their memories of the facilities available at Monash while refreshing themselves.

The department is actively involved in research and consulting for industry and has state-of-the-art equipment at its disposal, employed by recognised experts, who somewhat disguise themselves as lecturers, in fields such as mechanics and vibrations (John Crisp, Len Kons, Robin Alfredson, Y.C. Lam, Terry Berreen), thermodynamics (Bob Gani, Charles Ambrose, Arthur Williams), fluid power and control systems (Peter Dransfield, Jacek Stecki), wind engineering (Bill Melbourne), machine condition monitoring (Joe Mathew, Bruce Kuhnell) and fluid mechanics (Jon Hinwood, Deane Blackman).

The other major aspect of the alumni association is to foster pride and a sense of tradition in the department which was rated one of the best engineering departments in Australia by the Williams Committee — possibly the number one Mechanical Engineering Department in the nation.

"I'm not saying we should enforce an old tie network," said Bruce Kuhnell, "but it would be nice to have one." The better the members feel about the department, the better the perceptions they will lend to those who are not graduates, which will in turn further enhance our reputation for producing (or perhaps just guiding) geniuses.

Graduates such as David Williamson, the playwright, and John Bertrand, skipper of the victorious Australia II, serve as testimony to the level of students who have studied at the department (no connection with David's play).

Only time will tell how effective the Monash Mechanical Engineering Alumni Association will become, and graduates are encouraged to speak to those actively involved at present.

The department is "giving full support", according to Professor Melbourne, and ex-chairman Professor John Crisp, who are very keen to maintain the department's associations with the best and most entrepreneurial engineers in Australia.

The cheese and wine function is to be held on November 25 to introduce new members to the Association, and to other members. Please contact Jacek Stecki on 565 3523 if you have any queries. If not, see you there.

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### Ceramics grant

Monash has emerged as an important player in the national research effort into the application of new high temperature ceramic superconductors.

A project put forward by a consortium of the Monash departments of Materials Engineering, Physics and Electrical Engineering, the CSIRO Division of Materials Science and Technology, the State Electricity Commission of Victoria (SECV) and Olex Cables has attracted research funds totalling nearly $750,000 including more than $660,000 from the Federal Government as a Generic Industry Research and Development (GIRD) grant.

The group proposes to use the new superconductors to build an efficient electricity storage device to help stabilise power grids.

### Anti-rust centre

The fight against the nation's $3000 million problem of corrosion took a significant step forward last month with the opening of the new Australian Corrosion Centre (ACC).

The centre, with a staff of three, occupies temporary quarters in the CSIRO Division of Materials Science and Technology in Normanby Road, close to the university campus.

Its aim is to educate industry and consumers on corrosion prevention strategies.

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**MONASH REPORTER** Page 17

**NOVEMBER 1988**
Drugs: poor at risk

A survey of 80 Melbourne pharmacies by staff and students of the Monash Department of Social and Preventive Medicine has found demand for needles and syringes by suspected drug users is significantly higher in poorer areas.

The survey, conducted by staff and students of the department of Social and Preventive Medicine, was aimed at monitoring the public's demand for needles and syringes in helping to prevent the spread of AIDS among intravenous drug users.

It showed that demand was clearly higher in Melbourne's northern and western suburbs.

It also found a 20 times better than normal chance that a pharmacy in the top third as regards demand for needles and syringes, would be located in the least privileged third of local government areas as ranked on the basis of an index devised by Dr Ken Ross of Deakin University.

The co-ordinator of the project, Dr John Powles, said the results of the survey seemed to be clear evidence against the idea that intravenous drug use in Melbourne was a middle-class phenomenon.

Victorian pharmacists were urged by the National AIDS Task Force in September 1986 to consider selling needles and syringes in accordance with a policy recently adopted by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia.

The idea was to try to minimise the spread of AIDS among intravenous drug users through sharing of needles.

Nearly half the pharmacists surveyed said they were willing to sell needles or syringes to drug users.

Green light for stage two

The State Government has given the go-ahead for development of the second stage of the Monash Medical Centre at an estimated cost of about $167 million.

Stage Two will see 164 additional beds at the Clayton campus (taking the total to 600), upgrading of facilities at the Moorabbin campus and the establishment of 100 new private beds adjacent to it.

The development will add the specialist services of the Monash Prince Henry's Hospital campus to those relocated to Clayton from the Queen Victoria Medical Centre.

The state government's announcement of a go-ahead for Stage Two will make the health service the most comprehensively resourced in the nation.

Dr Davies thinks it is likely to be more than a year until any vaccine is developed to the stage where it can begin to be tested.

A research team in Microbiology believes it is well on the way to developing an effective vaccine against the world's most common bacterial infection, gonorrhea.

At present gonorrhea is easy to treat with antibiotics, but more and more resistant strains are appearing, so a vaccine could become very important.

Dr Davies says there are already vaccine candidates in the pipeline and it is hoped that a vaccine could be available in five years.

The Centre for Human Bioethics is establishing a Master of Bioethics degree in Melbourne.

From the beginning of 1989, up to 40 students a year will enrol in the degree, which is the first in Australia.

The course represents an important move into teaching for the centre which, since its establishment in 1981, has rapidly become one of the most influential research institutes in the world.

The coursework units will consist of two compulsory subjects - Ethics and Legal Issues in Bioethics - and two elective subjects from a group which will include Ethical Issues in Life and Death, Issues in Reproductive Technology, Health Economics and the Allocation of Medical Resources, and History and Philosophy of the Health Care System.

Many of the elective units will be taught by guest lecturers from departments such as philosophy, law, economics and community medicine.

The Monash Department of Medicine and the Prince Henry's Department of Medical Physics have established a body composition laboratory at the Prince Henry's campus of the Monash Medical Centre.

The unit will be the most comprehensive of its type in Australia and the first to be located in a hospital. Already it has been equipped to measure protein levels in patients, and there are plans also to measure body water and potassium.

Professor Mark Wahiqvist of Medicine, a world authority on human nutrition, said that one of his most important objectives when he came to Prince Henry's was to set up a human nutrition unit which would be recognised as a centre of excellence for the measurement of body composition.

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What else is there but Kalumburu?
David Maraltajd ("Ngun"), 31, right, is a first-year Science student in the Monash Orientation Scheme for Aborigines (MOSA). He came to Monash from Kalumburu in the northern tip of Western Australia.

Student viewpoint

One day walking pass the office
I walked in and found a slip of paper.
Wrote my name and address
It was mailed and gone
Got my answer within two weeks, said I was accepted.
As far as education go
I think the teachers are great.
But the accepting is most welcoming by Ihe Director of MOSA

Kalumburu

With palm trees on the road
Walk towards the mission, see the lovely faces of the blackfellas,
The blue stream side of the mission
The King Edward sound
Its outlet runs seven miles to where the salt and the fresh meet
Where barramundi bound
And we sit, wait for the day.
Well, I love Kalumburu
For its richness in soil
For its atmosphere
For its surrounds
I love Kalumburu for its gorges and beaches
And during the rain when the rain finishes
And the blossoms come
And the sweet scent of the flowers are sent over the mission.
When we have the north west winds
We smell the scent of the seas at the evening when it’s nice and cool.
And for the wild life in Kalumburu.
Go by the road and its Kangaroo, birds and lizards,
For bush honey and bush yams,
For drawings In caves.
What else is there
But Kalumburu.

‘Awful’ beginner takes the prize

If at first you don’t succeed, try four more times — at least.
Ms Wilson doesn’t believe she should have won the prize earlier.
"My poetry was awful in the beginning," she said. "It got better but was unintelligible.
"Last year was my transmission year when I decided that the important thing was to transmit my thoughts clearly and in poetic form."

Her poem Women and Weaving evolved from her classical studies and a visit to her mother’s for lunch.
She said she had translated 38 Hellenic poems by women, most of them
epigrams. From them she retained an image of a woman crying over the death of a friend and of Greek women weaving, a constant occupation.

At lunch with her mother and passing the playgrounds of her childhood she had a sense of deja vu, "I put it all together — and it worked," she said.
Ms Wilson is an enthusiastic member of Monash’s Monday poets’ workshop, attended by up to 15 students and poets from the community.
She has also been editor of Poetry Monash for a year, and edited for Medal Poets Small Clay Birds — a selection of the work of Anne Elder.
Ms Wilson said she was thrilled to win the Monash Poetry 1988 prize. It was valued at $150 "and that takes my earnings to $190, the said. Her ambition now is "to write better poetry — and to publish."

This poem, by Ms Lynette Wilson, won the Monash University Prize for Poetry — 1988. (See story.) Ms Wilson is the editor of Poetry Monash, a magazine published three times a year by the English department. Contributions from students, staff, alumni and others are welcome. They can be sent to Ms Wilson, 33 Swinburne Road, Chirnside Park, 3116.

Women and Weaving

A woman
unheroic, Hellenistic cloistered
sits silently, deep inside
homespun walls made of
weaving and warps, compliance
to imperatives and men.
Tearing her mind with sharp thoughts
she frets out a grave inscription
for a friend —
one who death claimed just before
a marriage veil screened her bright eyes, and
muffled the squeals and laughter
they shared, before
new apple-fresh fingers could loop tightly
round her heart.
Feeling the moist fragrant palms
of a baby son close gleefully over
my eyes, I think of her.
Yesterday I walked
within touch of my schoolyard
to hear shouts still ringing
whispers of older contests and unions
bouncing off the playground.
These sounds danced around me, slipping
in then out of the warp
and web of time
and I knew some motifs are woven
unrevelled, then reworked ...
Embroidered wedding days framed by
golden pages and silky tassels,
children’s cries threading pale nights,
and shining prize,
golden pageants and silky tassels,
and weft of time
of a baby son close gleefully over
my eyes, I think of her.

I sit here, translating, obedient
to a pattern, a labyrinthine order
I can sense, but not see
intervening another thread.

Lynette Wilson

Grand concert for RBH

Hear all your musical favorites in a Grand Concert presented at Robert Blackwood Hall on November 27 by Seaview House Theatre Productions.

For the Love of Music, directed and produced by Keith Knapp, will present music from Romberg to Offenbach, Hammerstein to Andrew Lloyd Webber. It will be comprised by Maurice Katz, made with conductor Maestro Eric Shade and performers including The Sweet Adelines, the Eltham Concert Band, soprano Glowden Mercer, baritone Clive Hearne, and pianist Celia Rowley.
The concert begins at 2 pm. Tickets are $12 (adults), $10 (pensioners and students). Family packs are available at $35 (two adults and two children under 12). Bookings are essential and can be made by calling 578 4890, 563 8334, or Robert Blackwood Hall Box Office, 544 548.
Robin Gerster's *Big-noting: The Heroic Theme in Australian War Writing* is a meticulously researched and deftly written book which, in the ensuing encounter are sensibly and respectfully evaluated, before being systematically discounted. It is a task bound to generate hostility from those individuals and social groups who cling to an outmoded perception of 'Australian-ness'. Yet as Gerster points out, the re-valuation and re-shaping of this self-image in the war literature of the past 75 years has been a crucial stage in the movements towards 'an enduring and robust Australian nationalism'.

Gerster notes that: "Australian prose of the Great War was based on one fundamental premise: that Australians excel, even revel in battle". The mythic accounts of the 'Anzacs' exploits at Gallipoli where, according to the English poet John Masefield, they 'walked and looked like kings in old poems', led to the emergence of the tall, lean, sun-bronzed 'Digger', fearlessly charging into the fray, pursuing an apparently natural instinct for 'deeds of valor', became frozen into a stylised posture against which all subsequent renditions of Australian manhood were measured — to the latter's inevitable detriment.

The Anzac, a larrikin bushman in khaki, and one of the focal points of the national identity, presides over the book like an omnipresent deity. Yet as Gerster, the ironic iconoclast, points out, he is no more than an idol, a false God, the invention of "propaganda hacks, misguided ego-trippers, self-styled modern Homers" desperate for a favorable national symbol to mark Australia's arrival on the world scene.

In their urgency to promote the 'Digger' — and the Great South Land which he represented — the publicists ill-served their attributes and accomplishments, turning brave soldiers into pathetic cartoon characters. Witness the account of R. Hugh Knyvett:

one of our men, who was champion woodchopper of Australia before the war ... drove his bayonet through a German and six inches into a hardwood beam, and as he could not withdraw it had to unship it, leaving a German stuck up there as a souvenir of his visit ... these Fritzes must have thought us a race of Samsons.

Indeed, Gerster notes how Australian literature of the Great War and beyond enshrines — and perpetuates — a paradox which lies at the very heart of the cultural cringe, in that while their "involvement in the Great War ... thrust isolated Australians onto the world's stage, the effect of this broadening of the national experience was to confirm the culture's essential insularity.

The perennial reverance for, and loud celebration of, the towering figure of the bronzed and brutal Anzac, according to Gerster, symbolises a crippling cultural insecurity in that it reflects an inability to break away from a self-image defined along the most primitive — and exclusively masculine — lines. Cultural definition easily slips into cultural hegemony, and Gerster has performed an invaluable service by isolating, identifying and demythologising the process and its protagonists of this cultural sterility.

However, one of the more fascinating elements of this highly readable and entertaining book is that, onoccasion, it shows itself to be susceptible to the very myths and literary practices which it subject to such a radical and revealing critique. For example, having derided the narrow concept of masculinity which the myth enthroned, seeing in it a reflection of the nation's cultural adolescence, Gerster then defends the writers of 'prisoner-of-war' literature for their successful adherence to these very values: "Survival, indeed, is the very essence of the struggle and courage of the prisoner-of-war. By any standards of service and self-sacrifice, they could claim to have their manhood verified by the test of war."

Similarly, whilst Gerster praises Barney Roberts for his anti-patriotic sentiments, the book is, in every sense of the word, patriotic: the outstanding proficiency of the Australians as Warriors is accepted as a sine qua non, and the text is studded with breathless references to the "kudos" they won the world over.

Thus Gerster has carried out a subtle literary and cultural service in identifying, analysing and demythologising the "big-noting" which characterised the majority of the Australian war literature of the first and second World Wars. That his own book bears only the faintest traces of the selfsame process should be taken both as a measure of the potency of the myths which he has so successfully exposed, and an indication of the maturity and 'robust nationalism' of which this book so handsomely representative.

Kevin Foster
Finding skeletons in the Boyd family closet

Martin Boyd: A Life by Brenda Niall has just been published by Melbourne University Press (RP $39.95). Dr Niall, senior lecturer in English, is the author of two other books, Seven Little Billabongs: The World of Ethel Turner and Mary Grant Bruce. (1979), Through the Looking-Glass: Fiction 1830-1980 (1984). She spent five years working on the biography of Boyd, the novelist member of Australia's most famous family of artists.

In a sense I began at the end; I read first the diaries Boyd kept in the final years of his life, so that before I knew much about his early years I had an image of the old man dying in Rome in 1972.

Then I went back to the beginning; his childhood in Melbourne before World War One, London in the 1920s, Cambridge, Sussex and Rome, and here a'Beckett Read, and his nephews the first his diaries Boyd kept in the nineties, and then a quick fortune as the founder of the Melbourne Brewery in the 1830s. His only child, Emma, made a runaway marriage with the son of Sir William a'Beckett, the Chief Justice of Victoria.

The brewery in Flinders Lane and other city property bought by a'Beckett's firm's first land sales in 1837 brought Emma a very large fortune; and as a beautiful and well-educated young woman, she was welcomed to the a'Becketts. The fact that she was a convict's daughter was a well-kept secret.

None of the present-day Boyds had ever heard the story of their great-great-grandfather Mills. Most of them thought the brewery was the family skeleton: it was "trade" in a family of gentry, and therefore not mentioned in the family in the nineteenth century.

As well as Chief Justice a'Beckett and the convicts, Mills, Martin Boyd's immediate forebears included Captain John Boyd, ADC to the Governor of Victoria in the 1850s, and Dr Robert Martin, a pastoralist who owned the Viewbank and Banyule estates in Heidelberg. It took two months to read Emma a'Beckett's diaries, in their small, cramped handwriting, with faded ink and many cross-outs. Emma made daily entries from the time of her marriage in 1835 until 1906. The late diaries describe Martin Boyd and his brothers as small children. They are a wonderful source of insight into Melbourne life and European travel in the 19th century.

As well as the public records — certificates of births, marriages and deaths, wills, shipping lists, convict records which were consulted, I was given access to many private papers. Six series of diaries — including those of Martin Boyd himself — have contributed to the biography.

The oral history was as important as the public records. Individual voices — most of them on tape — make the public records intelligible; they come alive as people talk about their memories. Some of the people interviewed were — and are — after so many years, new about dates and details. What they gave was the sense of personality a biography needs.

Most of those interviewed were happy to have their memories recorded on tape. One of them — Joan Lindsay (author of Picnic at Hanging Rock) — who was Martin Boyd's cousin and close friend — put a cushion on top of the tape recorder, so that she would not be conscious of its presence. That interview sounds rather muffled.

My work takes time. It can be very expensive — especially if the subject has been an expatriate as Boyd was. In 1985 I went to England, and I talked to some of the expatriate members of the Boyd family, including Mary Boyd, now the wife of Sir Sidney Nolan, who lives in a remote part of Wales. I had already visited the painter Arthur Boyd at his Shire, Philip's Acres in New South Wales and his brother David Boyd at Wentworth Falls.

The novelist Guy Boyd and his wife Phyllis were especially helpful. Their house in Sandringham, Victoria, once belonging to his novels comes from his experience in the trenches in France in 1916.

Members of the Boyd family opened up their photograph albums — some of them dating back to the 1860s — so that the biography was richly illustrated. It gives a record of life in early Melbourne through four generations of this remarkable family as well as a study of a complex personality and a very gifted novelist.

My work on the biography was made possible by research and travel grants from the Australian Research Grants Committee and the Australian Council.

The Monash Department of English has a strong interest in biography. Malcolm Fraser, the Monash biographer, has written a biography of James Harris, a key figure in eighteenth century literary and medical circles. Professor Clive Probyn has just published a biography of James Harris, a key figure in eighteenth century English literary life.

Now, with my Martin Boyd film packed away, and the biography in the bookshops I am thinking about the next project, almost certainly it will be another biography.

Brenda Niall

NOVEMBER 1988
FUND IN MEMORY OF JOSEPH GISCIO


Born in Calvello, Italy, in 1935, Joe moved to Australia with his family in 1962.

He completed all of his secondary education at Newlands High School (Canberra), graduating HSC in 1971 with five "A" grades results and Special Distinctions in English Expression and for General Excellence.

He studied with great distinction at the University of Melbourne, graduating in 1975 with First Class Honours in Italian and French.

In 1985, he was awarded a French Government Scholarship to study at Strasbourg University, where he graduated with a First Class Honours in Comparative Romanic Linguistics (1977).

His thesis, "Il dialetto lucano di Calabria," was published as a book in 1985 by Franz Steiner (Stuttgart, West Germany). After further studies in linguistics, Joe returned to Australia in 1978 to take a Diploma in Education in 1979.

His first university appointment was at Griffith University, Brisbane and he taught for five years at James Cook University, before his appointment in 1986 as lecturer in charge of Italian at Monash.

His task was to introduce and develop Italian— for the subject had not previously been taught at the university. In less than two years, Joe succeeded in establishing a thriving Italian Section with a distinctive "modern" orientation, and in laying the foundations for its future growth.

He was immensely appreciated and respected by his colleagues for his commitment to academic excellence, his devotion as a teacher, his superlative administrative skills, his good humor, his good sense, his personal warmth and his courage in the face of illness.

His friends will miss him very much.

Joe had totally committed himself to the development of Italian studies and there is nothing he would have liked more than to see Italian studies at Monash grow and prosper.

A fund in Joe's name is therefore being established with the probable aim of awarding an annual scholarship or prize.

Any financial contributions will be greatly appreciated. They should be made payable to Monash University and addressed to the Joseph Gioscio Italian Studies Fund, c/o Department of Romance Languages, Monash University, Clayton, 3168.

Inter-city rivalry ends in a draw

The age-old battle for supremacy between Melbourne and Sydney seems to be over—with both cities winning.

That's the opinion of Monash geographer Dr Kevin O'Connor who, together with Dr Chris Maher and research assistant Sandra Beard, has just compiled Monitoring Melbourne, 1988, the first city performance report for Australia.

Dr O'Connor said that data accumulated for the report compared with similar data for Sydney clearly shows the two cities are becoming more similar and different from each other.

"Sydney has won the fight to become Australia's international finance centre and headquarters of the media, but Melbourne dominates research and development and the manufacturing and transport industries," he said.

Monitoring Melbourne, 1988 presents in graphical form with a minimum of text, a series of key indicators which taken together, provide a snapshot of the metropolitan area's economic health and progress.

The idea is to create a database which can be used to analyse Government policy and allow people to ask more intelligent questions about where the city is going.

Monitoring Melbourne, 1988 is available from the department of Geography and Environmental Science at $55 a copy.

AIDS research

We are engaged in a project, supported by the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation, to compile a comprehensive registry of all epidemiological, social and behavioral research currently being carried out in Victoria in the area of AIDS and AIDS-related conditions.

Our ultimate goal is to identify specific research needs and make recommendations concerning priorities for funding.

If you are engaged in research into epidemiological, social and behavioral aspects of STDs and AIDS we would like to hear from you urgently.

- Sandy Gifford (526 6452) (Social and Benetial Medicine, Melbourne)
- Dr Meredith Temple-Smith (344 7952) (Community Medicine, University of Melbourne)
- Priscilla Pyett (565 2970) (Anthropology and Sociology, Monash).

RNSH REPORTER

BOOKS RECEIVED

MARGIN NO 20, 1988

Contents include a translation by Marlene Buechele (Monash Library staff) of a German pamphlet of letters written by early settlers in NSW to their family and friends in Germany.

MARGIN is published three times a year by the Department of English, Monash University. Subscription $5, post free.

* * *

Journal of Inter-University Studies Vol 9, No 1, 1988

Published twice yearly by the Centre for Migrant and Inter-Cultural Studies, Monash University. Yearly subscription: $21 individuals, $30 institutions. Single copies $12 each.

Page 22

KASPERLE BRINGS CHAOS

There was chaos in the German department on Open Day after word got around the local community about the German Children's Program.

Hundreds of people packed into a seminar room to watch participants stage a puppet play about Kasperle, the German Punch.

The visitors were wanting to find out more about the programme, which has been running at Monash since 1991 and enables young children from all backgrounds to acquire a very sound knowledge of German.

Enrolments have more than doubled since then, and at least 40 children regularly attend the sessions from 10 am to 5.30 pm on Fridays in the German department.

The instructors are senior students and native speakers. They teach through play and conversation, and children of school-age are also taught to read and write.

No English is used during the teaching sessions although the children range from as young as kindergarten age through to middle-school primary.

Early Start

"Some have a German background. German-speaking friends or parents who travel," says senior lecturer, Dr Silke Hesse, who provides guidance and help to the co-ordinator of the program, Ms. Heike Reich.

"Others take advantage of the opportunity to gain an early start in a foreign language.

"At their age, perfect pronunciation and an unselfconscious use of vocabulary can be readily achieved." This year Melissa Rogerson became the first "graduate" of the program to enrol in German at Monash.

NOVEMBER 1988

Powerful play draws hearty response

The Classical Studies presentation of Seneca's Trojan Women attracted small, but appreciative audiences for its six performances at the Alexander Theatre.

Even if it had played to an empty house, Tony Boyle, a senior lecturer in classical studies, would still have had a measure of satisfaction.

Mr Boyle translated the Seneca tragedy while he was a visiting professor at the University of Southern California for four months earlier this year. And in his opinion the Monash performance "did ample justice to the translation."

He said that Trojan Women was a powerful play calling for a large stage and big performances. The production handled superbly the tension between the play's surface aesthetic beauty and its inner theme of deep pain and human suffering. The actors and actresses were most impressive, he said.

People came to the play from country Victoria and Sydney.

Sue Dodd (playing Andromache, widow of Hector and mother of Astyanax) had the audience "crying their hearts out" by five past nine each night.

Mr Boyle also praised the chorus, the lighting, the set design by Flute and tape - composed by Stuart Greenbaum, and the playing of flautist Helen Williams.

Mr Boyle plans to become professor of Classics at the University of Southern California.
Tom May re-elected

The Registrar's department has had a number of inquiries about the results of the recent election of a graduates' member of the University Council.

The results of the election, held on 19 October, show that Mr Anthony Henry (Tom) May was elected to hold office until 19 October 1992.

The counting was as follows:

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The number of electors on the roll as at 15 August 1988 was 12,788.

Mr May (B.Eng, LL.B) was first elected to the University Council as a graduate representative in 1972 and has been re-elected three times since. He is the longest serving member of Council.

Mech Eng to host school

Mechanical engineers from Hong Kong, Malaysia, Sarawak and Singapore will visit Monash early next year to take part in a residential Mechanical School sponsored by the Electricity Supply Association of Australia.

The school will be the eighth organised by the association, a voluntary body representing public and private bodies involved in the generation, distribution and transmission of electricity. Monash organiser Dr Terry Berreen, a senior lecturer in Mechanical Engineering, says that hosting the schools provides benefits for staff in the exchange of ideas and the gaining of contacts in industry.

"The schools provide a revision of basic theoretical knowledge and updated information about the latest developments in power station design, operation and maintenance," he said.

"They are a valuable source of continuing education for engineers in the field of power generation."

People attending will come from the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Authority, the Water Authority of Western Australia, and from Mount Isa Mines.

Housing problems?

Professor Stephen Cordner of Forensic Medicine has a refurbished three-bedroom flat available for rent in London.

Located in King Henry's Road within easy walking distance of Regent's Park, it will be available from the beginning of October for 12 months in the first instance.

Rent is £280 a week. Inquiries to Professor Cordner on 614 3109 (business hours) or 417 2877 (after hours).

Northern Rivers College of Advanced Education at Lismore, NSW, is offering cheap holiday accommodation to staff members from tertiary institutions and government departments.

It has flats and houses available for rent from 17 December 1988 to 18 February 1989.

Inquiries should be directed to Mr Glenn Jeffery, Northern Rivers College, PO Box 157, Lismore, NSW, 2480.

Updating our records

This year's final issue of Monash Reporter is being sent to more than 57,800 graduates. As in previous years, we are asking your help to keep our massive address list up-to-date.

If your copy has been forwarded to a new address or if your address has changed, we would appreciate you providing us with the new details.

TO: Mr John Kearton, Department of External Relations and Alumni Affairs, Monash University, Clayton, 3168

Surname at time of graduation:...

Given names:...

New surname if applicable:...

Last address notified:...

New address:...

Degree and year graduated:...

Student I.D. number, if known:...

Postcode:...

Phone 509 8188.

The author of Monash's best student play for 1988 describes her prize-winning work as "an exploration of the relationship between the dominant and the marginal through the interaction of two households". Margaret Mappin, who is majoring in English, was awarded the PLOTS (Playwrights On The Skids) prize for Double Strokes. Negotiations are underway to stage the play at La Mama next year. Senior lecturer in English, Mr Richard Pannell, one of the judges of the competition organised by Student Theatre, is pictured at a recent ceremony in the Union before he awarded Ms Mappin (second from left) the prize of a cheque for $100.
Moving to the rhythms of West Africa and India

Musical styles of West Africa and India are now an established part of the teaching program at Monash, according to senior lecturer in Music, Dr Rels Flora.

Visits this year by experts in Ghanaian and Indian musical performance have enhanced the teaching of traditional music genres, he said.

Indian musician Ashok Roy, an acknowledged master of the sarod and sitar (stringed instruments) and tabla (drums), spent the year introducing students to the theory and stylistic features of the music of the subcontinent.

His teaching began with lessons in traditional singing, a necessary prelude to the intricate microtonal variations of Indian music.

As Indian instruments are basically an extension of the voice, the training provided an excellent starting point for students, Dr Flora said.

Mr Chris Leser (above), leader of the Melbourne-based African musical-dance group, Adzohu, gave students of Sub-Saharan music their first ‘hands-on’ experience with African instruments.

According to Dr Flora, Mr Lesser’s instruction in African music meant that the department’s set of Ghanaian drums had their first complete work-out since they were purchased a few years ago.

The music of Africa and India will figure prominently next year when the department continues its first-year courses which do not require prior music training, says reader in music, Dr Margaret Kartomi.

Students who enrol in Introduction to Western Music and Introduction to Asian, African and Popular Music will be grouped according to their musical background by a diagnostic test.

Those with a higher level of musical ability may go on to further studies in the department, while for the first time other students may take the courses for the year only.

In Introduction to Western Music, students will examine the master works of the Western classical tradition, from the Middle Ages to the present. The emphasis will be on learning how to appreciate and enjoy music, and on studying its social and historical aspects.

Introduction to Asian, African and Popular Music will look at the most interesting genres of Asian, African, African-influenced American popular music, Australian folk and popular music and Aboriginal urban and traditional music.

Students will also take part in group performances of Asian and African ensembles.

COMING EVENTS

ALEXANDER THEATRE

DECEMBER

3: EVENING CONCERT — Victorian Children’s Choir Christmas Celebrity Concert. 8pm. Ticket inquiries: 890 4575.

4: AFTERNOON CONCERT — Victorian Boys’ Choir Family Christmas Concert — A program featuring sacred and secular works, inc. the opening movement of J.S. Bach’s “Christmas Oratorio”. 5.30pm. Adults $10, conc. $5. Ticket inquiries: 232 1142 or R.B. Hall Box Office: 544 5448.

10: EVENING CONCERT — St Gregorius Dutch Male Choir 11th Annual Christmas Concert with The Victorian Boys’ Choir, Diana Griffa (soprano), Tony Fensell (piano), John Arwel (organ), Peter Thomas (corners). 7.45pm. Adults $12, conc. $8. Tickets and inquiries: 762 1328.

11: AFTERNOON AND EVENING CONCERT — Melbourne Youth Music Council presents The Melbourne Youth Orchestra, Melbourne Youth Choir, Percy Grainger Youth Orchestra, John Antill Youth Band, Margaret Sutherland Strings, Junior Strings and The Melbourne Youth Symphonic Band. 2pm and 8pm. Adults $7, conc. $5. Tickets at the door. Inquiries: 690 8624.

14: EVENING CONCERT — Australian Boys’ Choir Annual Christmas Concert. Also appearing: The Vocal Consort and the strings of the Philharmonia of Melbourne, supplemented by brass, harp, percussion and organ (cond. Noel Anscl). Program of traditional music, with works by Bütten, Rutter, Reeth and Kodaly. 7.45pm. Adults $14, conc. $10. Tickets: 51 2280 or 20 6607.

16: EVENING CONCERT — Monash University Choral Society Annual Christmas Concert featuring traditional carols and other Christmas music. 8pm. Admission free.


LECTURES, SEMINARS, EXHIBITIONS

December


17: SE ASIAN STUDIES SEMINAR — by David Henry. 11.15am. Rm 515 Menzies Bldg. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 4993.


MONASH UNIVERSITY GALLERY


12: LECTURE — Three speakers will address issues raised by “Out of Sight, Out of Mind”, to do with architecture, social history and the law. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 4217.