Structure of the new university begins to emerge

A CLEAR picture of the academic structure of Monash University at the end of 1990 has emerged from recent decisions of the councils of the university, the Chisholm Institute of Technology and the Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education.

In this article, we see how the merger of Monash and Chisholm will take place, and what the new university will look like.

The enlarged Monash University will cater for more than 25,000 students and will have a budget approaching $200 million a year.

The merger of Monash and Chisholm will lead to an institution structured around the existing seven Monash faculties with new faculties of Business, Computing and Information Technology, and Professional Studies.

The Vice-Chancellor of Monash University, Professor Mal Logan, said: "This will make Monash a much larger, a more complex and potentially more exciting organisation extending over four campuses in Caulfield, Clayton and Frankston, together with a constituent university college in Gippsland which, among other things, will be responsible for distance education.

The enlarged Monash University will offer students access to a much wider range of courses, and allow transfer of students from one course to another. It will have greater diversity of courses and programs extending from PhD level programs to those targeting more directly to business needs.

In contrast to other mergers elsewhere in Australia, the Monash-Chisholm-Gippsland merger has been achieved with a great amount of goodwill and with an attempt to detail that not only looks after the staff working in all three institutions but ensures that student views are taken into account," Professor Logan said.

The Director of Chisholm, Dr Geoff Vaughan said: "The new university presents great opportunities to meet the educational needs of Australia in a rapidly changing world."

But, it was said, it was now up to government to help make a success of the merger.

"It is imperative that the Federal Government provides the expanded Monash University immediate and continuing support through increased growth, capital, operating and research funds to ensure that it holds its pre-eminent position in higher education."
Greater Monash gives more options

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mal Logan talks about how amalgamations will affect the university.

As most readers of Monash Reporter will know, the Council of Monash University has resolved to merge with Chisholm Institute of Technology and Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education as from 1 July 1990. This will make Monash a much larger, a more complex and potentially more exciting organisation extending over four campuses.

In contrast to other mergers elsewhere in Australia, the Monash-Chisholm-Gippsland merger has been achieved with a great amount of goodwill and with an attention to detail that not only looks after the staff working in all three institutions but also that student views are taken in account.

In explaining this most important decision, it is necessary to consider previous government decisions, notably those flowing from the recommendations of the Martin Committee in the early 1960s, as well as the policies set out by the current Federal Minister and his State counterparts.

The major decision to be implemented from the Martin report was the establishment of a binary system of higher education, consisting of a university sector, primarily engaged in teaching and fundamental research and funded more generously, and a polytechnic sector with more emphasis on teaching and designed to meet the immediate needs of industry and funded less generously. It used the views of the government of the day, but there was extremely little educational rationale given for the binary system.

Over the time the binary divide became an extremely troubled one, with colleges moving in what was largely seen by some as the territory of the universities and vice versa.

It was inevitable that some colleges such as RMIT, QIT and NSWIT should move toward offering PhD programs in the same way as it was inevitable that universities should seek the interface with business and industry. In short the system was fatally flawed and its continuation as it was, was not likely to work.

The current Federal Government resolved the problem by establishing a Unified National System and by encouraging, with the states, the merging of colleges with universities.

Monash has worked closely and cooperatively with Chisholm and Gippsland toward a merger; in fact our discussions with Chisholm started before the publication of the Green Paper.

The enlarged institution will offer students access to a much wider range of courses and the transfer of students from one course to another.

The continuation of courses offered in the three institutions will be essential because of the very high student demand and the support they receive from a large number of employers. Internally, then, Monash will have a greater diversity of courses and programs extending from PhD level programs to those being taken by some as the territory of the universities and vice versa.

None of this can be achieved quickly or easily. We have to appreciate the greater variety of views inside the institution and learn how to handle attitudes and approaches that come from a somewhat different cultural milieu. But the basic Monash academic structure will remain and we will have a more stimulating and exciting institution than existed previously.

It is far easier to provide an educational rationale for the future Monash than for the preservation of a binary system that funded responsibility is to turn this to our advantage, maintaining all that Monash values so highly but allowing new developments in new areas of knowledge that will take us into our second great phase of expansion.

What then are some of the characteristics that will drive the new Monash? Briefly they are as follows:

- greater attention to teaching.

Monash agrees to sponsor ACT university

MONASH has signed an agreement with the Canberra College of Advanced Education to act as a sponsor in the process whereby the college will become the University of Canberra.

The arrangements which will govern the relationship include Monash approval of all higher degree programs and senior academic staff appointments at the new university.

Monash would be represented on the Council and senior academic administrative committees. The two institutions will promote academic interaction, particularly in the area of distance education.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Logan said the university would have the right to withdraw from any agreement at a moment's notice, and that he had insisted that all costs be met by the University of Canberra or the Commonwealth.

To that end the Commonwealth already had promised support, he said.

Monash Reporter

The next issue will be published in February-April 1990.

Contributions (letters, photos) and suggestions should be sent to the editor, Alan Murphy, Information Office, Gallery Building, Box 2085.

DECEMBER 1989
Bruce awarded natural history medallion

A UNIQUE talent for photography and an enthusiasm for Australian plants has proved a winning combination for Monash University botanical photographer, Bruce Fuhrer.

Mr Fuhrer, a senior technical officer in the Department of Botany and Zoology, was awarded The Australian Natural History Medallion last month at a special meeting of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria.

The medallion is awarded annually in recognition of services to Australian natural history by increasing popular or scientific knowledge or by assisting in the protection or propagation of Australian flora or fauna.

Both in his work at Monash and outside, Bruce has always demonstrated a keen interest in natural history. Using his photographic skill, he has produced several publications on native flora, fungi, lichens, ferns, seaweeds and liverworts.

He also contributed a substantial number of photographs to the first comprehensive illustrated guide to the flora of Victoria, *Flowers and Plants of Victoria*.

Mr Fuhrer is perhaps best known, however, for his study and popularisation of the Australian fungi. Primarily from first hand experience in the bush, he has provided botanists with a wealth of information on what is widely regarded as the least well-known and taxonomically most difficult of plant groups.

He has discovered many species previously unrecorded in Australia and also many new species — most of which await formal description because there are few mycologists working in the country.

He also has a fungus, *Calostoma fuhreri* and a liverwort, *Fossombronia fuhreri*, named after him.

Bruce became interested in non-flowering plants precisely because there was little known about them at the field naturalist level.

"There was no popular literature on lichens, fungi and seaweeds and I realised if I was going to find out anything I had to do it on my own," he said.

A self-taught photographer, Bruce began his career in Portland operating a commercial photographic studio. He gradually developed an interest in plants and plant photography.

"Photography is also my way of communication with natural history. I see the beauty in plants and I try to put that forward in my work," he said.

Mr Fuhrer's enthusiasm for natural history has also made him a popular lecturer and leader of field excursions. In 1988, he conducted a Natural History Awareness Week in the Stirling Ranges in Western Australia and often leads field trips for junior and senior field naturalists and university undergraduates.

Apart from his work at Monash, Bruce has been instrumental in establishing several naturalist clubs in Victoria, particularly for children.

"I enjoy helping people to become aware of our natural heritage and who better to do that with than kids," he said.

Monash University awarded Bruce an Honorary MSc last year in recognition of his work in botany, natural history and photography.

Monash input into radical law reforms

THE most radical changes to maximum penalties in Victorian criminal law in more than a century is to be introduced by the State Government.

The reforms to Victoria's sentencing laws aim to bridge the gap between the prescribed penalty, the sentence imposed by the courts and the time actually served.

Monash University academics, Richard Fox and Arie Freiberg, both readers in the Law Faculty, made a significant research contribution towards the reforms.

In a report written for the Sentencing Task force headed by Mr Frank Costigan, QC, Fox and Freiberg recommended categories of maximum sentences for offences according to their seriousness.

The Task Force, of which Mr Freiberg was a member, submitted its 230 page report, "Review of Statutory Maximum Penalties in Victoria", in September this year.

Its recommendations, and those from a previous report of a committee chaired by retired Supreme Court judge, Sir John Starkie, were approved by Cabinet last month.

The reforms involved a re-setting of all penalty provisions contained in the Crimes Act 1958 and the formulation of a new 13 penalty scale for all offences.

"We completed the report in three and a half months. The project is a form of self-government," Fox said.

Monash Reporter

Awards winning photographer, Bruce Fuhrer zooms in on some of the plant life around the university. Picture: RICHARD CROMPTON.

"Our whole system is geared to training kids to become competitive and aggressive in a tough world, so I want to help kids to develop an appreciation of natural history."

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"Photography is also my way of communication with natural history. I see the beauty in plants and I try to put that forward in my work."
Research centre reviews 25 years of Asian studies

The proposal to the Arts Faculty Board in 1964 to set up the centre involved a number of significant choices, "Herb Feith and I had in mind the Cornell model based on a graduate operation. The idea was that undergraduates would receive a basic training in one or two disciplines and then go on to focus on an area at graduate level."

Having established a teaching approach, the two academics then had to determine the geographical extent of the area that would be the centre's focus. "Rightly or wrongly we chose a narrower scope (than other institutions). Since 1987, the centre has offered a visiting fellowship to academics who specialise in the Southeast Asian region."

Emeritus Professor John Legge chronicled the centre's beginnings in a commemorative lecture at its silver jubilee celebrations in October. A specialist in Indonesian affairs, Professor Legge was one of the driving forces behind the centre's establishment.

Professor Legge was quick to point out that he and Herb Feith had in mind the Cornell model based on a graduate operation. The idea was that undergraduates would receive a basic training in one or two disciplines and then go on to focus on an area at graduate level.

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Having established a teaching approach, the two academics then had to determine the geographical extent of the area that would be the centre's focus. "Rightly or..."
Universities unite on resources

MANY of the important challenges for Australia today are to do with the changing structure of the planet — the Greenhouse effect and global climatic change, the destruction of the ozone layer, the search for resources, erosion, salinity.

With help from the Victorian Education Foundation and the resources exploration industry, Melbourne's three universities — La Trobe, Melbourne and Monash — jointly have established the Victorian Institute of Earth and Planetary Sciences in order to face such challenges effectively.

The institute will have an initial fund of $2.5 million. It will encompass people and departments that already are leaders in fields related to global change and resources mapping and management, for example, Professor Andrew Glaudow of Geology at La Trobe University on processes in the earth's crust; Professor Bill Doherty of Geology at Monash University on Antarctica; and Professor Martin Williams at Monash University on global climatic history.

The idea is to collaborate in teaching and research and to share expertise and expensive equipment between the eight groups involved, La Trobe's departments of Geology and Physics, Melbourne's department of Geology and Meteorology, and the Monash centres for Dynamical Meteorology and Computational Mathematics and departments of Earth Sciences, Geography and Environmental Sciences.

The institute will be able to upgrade significantly undergraduate and postgraduate course offerings from next year. New courses, framed in response to strong industry demand, will be offered jointly by all three universities in the fields of petroleum and mineral geophysics, geomechanics and image processing.

There will also be five new full-time lecturing positions, extra part-time lecturers, new library acquisitions, new equipment, an administrative office, and even a fleet of three mini-buses to move students between campuses.

The financial catalyst for the institute was a grant of $375,000 from BHP Petroleum. To this the Victorian Education Foundation has added $1.3 million, the universities themselves $550,000 and Shell, $50,000.

Already, Monash has been able to purchase the latest trace element analysis equipment with funds contributed jointly by the departments involved in the institute.

Professor Gordon Lister, the chairman of the Monash Earth Sciences department said: "The institute is one way of helping to overcome a chronic lack of funds for research in areas of great importance both to Victoria and Australia.

"We hope it will increase research opportunities and make us more attractive to both Government and industry, and to potential students. What we envisage is a research body of international standing such as the Scripps Institute of Oceanography in San Diego or the Lamont Doherty Geological Observatory in New York."

Linter also spoke of plans for a hit team for environmental disasters, such as the oil spillage in Alaska or the salinisation of the Murray-Darling basin. "Such an environmental impact unit would be charged with collecting factual information and acting as a repository of knowledge."

The group would welcome close affiliation with CSIRO divisions in Victoria. Several joint research programs are underway already between the universities and with industry and the CSIRO.

The members of the institute see as necessary important strategic research in areas such as evaluation of mineral and fuel resources, remote sensing and land management, the long-term evolution of the Victorian landscape and the prediction of periods of floods and droughts.

A SPECIAL "infant stress unit" to assist mothers suffering severe post-natal depression and babies with early developmental problems could be established at Monash Medical Centre (MMC) if one of Professor Bruce Tonge's goals is realized.

Monash University's new professor of Developmental Psychiatry, Bruce Tonge has a particular interest in the problem of post-natal depression. "It can interfere with that very crucial and important time, when mothers are laying down a relationship with a new baby," he said.

Professor Tonge said although post-natal depression was a common disorder suffered by many normal women, it tended to be a hidden problem. "They don't want people to know about it, they feel rotten and guilty and unhappy, they feel no-one understands them, their relationships with their husbands get distorted, and some of them become increasingly housebound — they won't go out at all."

Professor Tonge is critical of the fact that one public hospital residential unit for treating mothers with post-natal problem has closed this year. "I was very concerned about that, because we're not talking here about five star hotels to give upper middle class women a break after they've had their babies, we're talking about essential services for women who are having genuine, very real difficulties relating to their babies, and their babies to them."

Professor Tonge sees a more sinister long-term effect of letting these problems go untreated.

"If we don't intervene at that point in time, we're creating difficulties that in the long run are going to be a drain on the health services... things like the development of psychiatric disorders in that child, family problems, marital breakdowns, and ongoing psychiatric illness for that woman."

Another of Professor Tonge's special interests is childhood autism, and he has been involved in producing a film on autism with the Victorian Health Promotions Unit.

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Professor Tonge feels that an important aspect of dealing with child patients is the ability to connect with the child in oneself. "One of the things we aim to teach medical students is how to communicate effectively with children — you don't just do it with words but also with play and drawing."

Professor Tonge will also be looking at the way family relationships and childhood illnesses interact.

"Take, for example, asthma — we know that sometimes very complex and disturbed family relationships can be set up in families where there's a child with severe asthma, and that family therapy is an intervention that offers really quite some promise in helping children with asthma, and their families, recover."

Professor Tonge has been interested in psychiatry since his days as a medical student. "In my early years as a doctor, I saw a close link between family factors, life pressures, psychological factors, personality issues and physical illness," he said.

"So patience is required, but perhaps more patience is required in dealing with bureaucracy and administration than clinically with the children with whom you're working," he commented wryly.

Professor Tonge's interest in children is not confined to his professional life — he describes his own three children as "a great joy to me," and spends his spare time sailing with them, gardening with his wife and has an interest in choral singing.

The wheel has turned full circle for the university's engaging new professor — he graduated in Medicine from Monash in 1970.

Professor to support depressed mothers

KIM MINTERT

DECEMBER 1989

Page 5
WHEN Monash University opened in 1961 the north-east corner of the campus was a bare patch of red clay which had been levelled to pour the concrete floor for a large factory. That same area now is home to more than 1000 members of the university in the five Halls of Residence.

The man who, as the first warden of Deakin Hall, pioneered that development is Dr Jack McDonell. At the end of the year he will retire from the university after 28 years of service.

When Deakin Hall opened in 1962, it was only the second co-educational residence in an Australian university. Bruce Hall at ANU had opened in 1961 with separate buildings for men and women. But Deakin was the first to house male and female students in the same building, and it set the pattern for all the future halls.

Almost every year during the 60s a new building was added to the complex. When the Central Dining Halls completed the complex Jack McDonell became the Executive Warden.

In this position he not only consolidated a standard of life for student residences which was different from the more traditional colleges at older universities, but he also developed a management structure which included student representation, and was flexible enough to respond to the rapid changes in lifestyle that occurred later.

By the end of 1972 when he left the Halls, the red clay patch had been turned into the pleasantly landscaped site we see today. The complex stands as a tribute to the early year of the academic staff association (SAMU).

He also contributed to the establishment of sport at Monash as the founding president of the Monash Baseball Club, even coming out of retirement to play for the club early on. (Jack was awarded a Full Professorship of Melbourne University, and still remembers with relish playing before a crowd of about 20,000 at Princes Park in the days when baseball was used as a curtain raiser to VFL matches.)

Jack often participated in student/staff and interdepartmental cricket matches. His theories about off-breaks delivered outside the leg stump were contrary to his knowledge of physics and a definite danger to those fielding close to the bat.

He was an active member of the Staff Drama Group which provided some of the earliest theatre on the campus, including several of the initial productions at the Alexander Theatre when it opened in 1967.

In his retirement Jack hopes to spend more time helping to develop another pioneering venture in education. In the early 80s he and three other Victorians picked up news of a new movement in Europe—the University of the Third Age (U3A), the age of active retirement.

They set up the first U3A group in 1985, and in four years this has grown to 25 groups in Victoria with total membership of about 4000. U3A groups also have been established in all other states. Jack is president both of the Monash group and the Victorian network.

First lunch for law foundation

A MONASH University Law School Foundation is being established to promote teaching and research within the Faculty of Law.

Three major banks have already agreed to become members of the Foundation. The State Bank and Westpac have both pledged $100,000 over five years and the National Bank has agreed to donate $45,000 over three years. In addition, the Victorian Bar Council is considering contribution of $25,000 to the Foundation.

According to the Dean of Law, Professor Bob Williams, although Monash already has a University Foundation, it is vital for the Law School to be able to attract its own funds.

"The government is not prepared to give universities enough money to do their job properly. Bodies within the university, therefore, are either going to have to attract funding from outside sources or they are going to drift into becoming second rate organisations which don't have funds available to do the research they are supposed to be doing," he said.

Professor Williams said a law foundation would be able to attract funding from sources that would not necessarily contribute to a general university foundation.

"Anyone who puts money to the Foundation will know it is being used specifically for the benefit of the Law School," he said.

According to Professor Williams, a priority for the law school at the moment is the ability to attract and retain middle rank and senior staff in the areas of commercial and business law.

"It is my wish to establish with outside funding, two specialist chairs in the areas of commercial law," he said.

"A primary purpose of the Foundation therefore would be to gather together contributions to help achieve this aim."

A foundation luncheon was held on 20 November to thank the three banks who agreed to become members of the Foundation. Representing the banks were Mr Ross Barnett, Community Affairs Manager Marketing, State Bank of Victoria; Mr Geoffrey Kington, General Manager for Victoria, Westpac Banking Corporation; Mr Ian Buchanan, Regional Manager, Westpac Banking Corporation; and Mr Peter Shephard, General Manager Personal Banking, State Bank.

Present at the luncheon were the Chancellor, Sir George Lush, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Bob Williams, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor John Hay, and the Registrar, Mr Tony Pritchard, together with many of the senior members of the Law Faculty.

Speaking at the luncheon, Professor Williams said: "The value of a legal education is becoming more and more recognised as a sound preparation for careers in all areas of business, including banking. Banking Law is an area we are seeking to develop, and the active support of three of Australia's leading banks is particularly gratifying."

English journal on sale

THE latest edition of the English Department's journal, Margin, is now available.

Margin, No. 21, 1989 features Marcus Clarke's first Australian publication, discovered by Monash English Ph.D student, Nan Bowman Albiniski. Other articles include "The Kowalski Chronicles" by Marie Claire Le Mogne-Mussat and a review of Edward G. Dyson's "The Authentic Early Depiction of Donahs and Larrikins", by J.S. Ryan.

Margin is edited by Dennis Davison and published three times a year. Subscription costs $5, post free.

DECEMBER 1989
Max Teichmann was one of the first appointees to the Politics Department at Monash University. In the last few years he and Herb Feith have been joint Fathers of the department, but also the second postgraduate student at Oxford, but also Montsalvat. Richly experienced, he has always been a man of words — fluent, entertaining, trenchant, freewheeling; the best talker in Melbourne, but also the AIF; not only strategic, trenchant, freewheeling; the best talker in trenchant, freewheeling; the best talker in Melbourne, but also the AIF; not only pretence, lies. self-seeking and all the a man of words - fluent, entertaining.

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WHILE the color green pulses through the veins of most environmentally-aware Australians, Monash appears to have undergone bypass surgery. Of the 170 tonnes of paper, 300 tonnes of bottles, 42 tonnes of aluminium cans and half a million polystyrene cups used by the university each year, only paper is being recycled in any quantity, and even this scheme is facing severe problems. For as the other used but reusable material, the tips are getting bigger: only three per cent of glass and two per cent of aluminium is recovered from the Monash waste stream. (This compares with a recovery rate of about 33 per cent for glass and 54 per cent for aluminium in municipal schemes. The $600 worth of polystyrene cups discarded each week by the Union cannot be recycled at present.)

The report reveals that if a comprehensive recycling scheme were introduced at Monash, the sale of recoverable waste would raise almost $22,000 a year, at the same time reducing the waste removal bill by some $5,500.

The report was compiled in response to a growing concern about waste disposal on campus. The Constant Mews, a lecturer in medieval history and a member of the Monash Conservation Group, believes that Monash could become an important supplier of recyclable materials.

"In the long-term we would like to see the university engaged not only in recycling but in recycling for its own use,” he said.

It is an achievable aim in a state that leads the world in the industrial development of recycled material, but one which may never be realised under the present system of recycling.

To the miniscule collection rates of recyclable materials can be added the possibility that a 12 month old agreement with Australian Paper Manufacturers (APM) to recycle high-grade office paper may be on the verge of collapse.

Like waste paper, there is no official collection of glass and aluminium from Monash, so the introduction of self-sorting bins in the University is timely.

The Envirobin is a Monash-designed device that sorts both glass and aluminium at source. Co-invented by Environmental Science student, Mrs Elsivey Hogan, it is designed to make the disposal of glass and metal both clean and efficient.

But interest in this home-grown invention is not limited to the campus, nor to Australia. Organisations in the United States and the United Kingdom are looking at the possibility of selling the Envirobin there as part of efforts to solve a world-wide problem.

Centre open for business

ALTHOUGH the Sir John Monash Business Centre was only opened last month, it is already proving to be an educational and financial success. Situated adjacent to the CAE, on the fifth floor, 252 Flinders Lane, the centre is strategically placed in the heart of Melbourne’s central business district.

The centre has the flexibility to provide a full range of business and management training; from basic programs in computer and office skills to advanced work at post-graduate level, including the first year of the Monash Master of Business Administration (MBA) course.

The centre also has a complete range of consulting and conference services including a lecture theatre, three conference suites, a board room and catering facilities available at the centre has been extremely positive.

The centre is already functioning close to capacity as a conference venue, justifying its value as an inner city project and assuring its financial success.

According to Professor Allan Fels, director of the Graduate School of Business Centre, the centre should prove to be a very successful joint undertaking.

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Mapping the gains of multiculturalism

If a stranger to this country were to scan the contents page of the Journal of Intercultural Studies they would soon grasp the meaning of Australian multiculturalism.

Take the first issue of Volume 10, published in 1977. It includes a story on the treatment of German nationals in Australia between 1939 and 1947, one on Chinese communities here; and a description of the problems faced by second-generation Italian women in Australia seeking their own identity.

The journal is one of the more visible results of the work of the university’s Centre for Migrant and Intercultural Studies. For 15 years (it celebrated an anniver­ sary in October) the centre has been in­ vestigating social change at a time when multiculturalism, from the services provid­ ed to newly-arrived migrants to the benefits of SBS Television. One of the oldest research organisations at Monash, the centre has always relied on a grant. It supports its operation and the goodwill of a core of committed academics for its survival.

Professor Mr Michael Clyne was ap­ pointed its first chairman in 1974 the cen­ tre’s annual budget was $400, which was used to cover the costs of visiting speakers.

By 1987 the budget had “ballooned” to $2650 — and there it remains.

Multiculturalism itself may not be quite so static, but it terms unlikely the issue will ever capture the public’s imagination as it did at the height of the Whitlam era, when the term was first coined.

“People at the time were conscious of a changing and maturing national identity,” Professor Clyne said. “It was a time of pressure groups and lobby groups. We used to get up to 120 people attending our regular Monash Monday seminars.

“These forums were a catalyst for a great deal of social change at a time when there was a policy shift from assimilation to multiculturalism.

“The centre has provided some in­ teresting interaction between research­ ers, practitioners and ethnic politicians, who were just beginning to make their presence felt.

“This all happened within two years of the election of the Whitlam Government. When the electorate was voting for Labor. Policy-makers met those who were putting policy into action. And when new ideas were introduced the centre evaluated them.

Some of the issues it looked at in those heady days were migrants in the workplace, the teaching of English as a second language, the ethnic press, ethnic language. and the ethnic aged.

Today multiculturalism only comes to the fore when people feel threatened, such as by cuts to migrant education or the proposed merger of SBS and ABC Television, Professor Clyne said.

“People nowadays are more secure with changed attitudes and new policies, and there are more forums in which they can discuss ideas.

“There isn’t the same idealism today as there was when the centre was established. There is no longer the need for struggle now that many of the original initiatives have been accepted.”

Although multiculturalism was a fact of life in Australia, the gains made in the past 15 years are constantly under threat, Professor Clyne said. “It is imperative that such an organisation exists to review the initiatives and ensure that they continue.”

As well as hosting prominent visiting scholars, the Centre for Migrant and Inter­ cultural Studies also publishes the influen­ tial Journal of Intercultural Studies.

First published in 1977, it provides an international forum on ethnicity, multiculturalism, multilingualism and migration, by drawing on disciplines such as sociology, anthropology, linguistics, politics, education and social work.

As the scope of its journal suggests, the centre is truly interdisciplinary in nature, even its budget. Each of the five particip­ anting faculties — Arts, Education, Economics and Politics, Medicine and Law — contributes to its upkeep. (The Faculty of Arts provides the centre with a room, equipment and a part-time administrator.)

Professor Clyne said an interdisciplinary approach has given people attached to the centre an opportunity to broaden their focus, with plenty of cross-fertilisation from different disciplines and perspec­ tives.

One of its most important and enduring roles has been to provide a link between academia and the ethnic community.

The present chairman, Associate Pro­ fessor Peter Hanks of Law, said: “There is a high level of support in the university for the centre’s work, providing as it does both speakers and academic advice.

Typically, a proposal of general interest would originate at some level in the system, it would be referred to faculties and, decisions would be based on the flow of opinions from depart­ ments to faculties to Professional Board to Council.

No longer is that the case. Now, impor­ tant decisions are made at the levels of the Vice-Chancellor, Deans, or Fac­ torial Board and are then transmitted to Council. The decisions are then announced (often after 4am) and then confirmed or con­ tradicted in SOUND.

Departments and faculties have had no say in such important matters as whether Monash should amalgamate with some or all of Gippsland, Chisholm, Victoria Col­ lege and La Trobe Universities, the Police Academy, or Playbox Theatre. And if departments have no say, that means the sub-professorial staff have no say.

There was a special Science Faculty Board meeting on 19 October called to discuss the merger with Chisholm. Recom­ mendations for the meeting were for­ mulated by a working group, on the morn­ ing of the meeting, and tabled for discus­ sion at the meeting. So much for careful consideration.

The dean ruled out of order any discus­ sion of whether the merger should take place, on the grounds that the matter had already been decided by the Professorial Board. This, in spite of the fact that of six academic departments which had previously voted on the matter, all six were overwhelmingly against the merger because of its lack of any educational basis.

At a meeting on 12 September with some Arts and Mathematics staff, the Vice­ Chancellor was challenged with the com­ plaint that communications with both the academic and general staff were bad. His reply was to the effect that the output of SOUND had been doubled, and that on the two occasions the main committee on the end­ department had met, it immediately produced a newsletter.

He also asked for a majority of staff to support him on the Chisholm merger, and in his plan to turn Monash away from a British model towards an American model of education. (If there is a preferred American model for what has been decided for Monash, I have yet to hear of it!) What is now missing at Monash is a two­ way flow of information. The administra­ tion cannot expect a majority of academics to support a policy about which they have not been consulted and for which no rationale has been produced. And the pro­ blems are not confined to the academics only. The administration has not negotiated seriously with the general staff about their two-year career freeze. It is high time it did.

Alienation of sub-professorial and general staff is hardly in the best interests of the university.

Geoff Waterson
Mathematics Department

Former warden recalls prank

A FORMER colleague and Farrer Hall denizen has just drawn my atten­ tion to your theme and column in the September 18th issue of the Reporter with the caption “Antedilu­ vian innocence” and your request for information concerning the “prank”.

As the then warden of Farrer Hall (from row, semi-rectangular; a position only slight­ ly more dignified than the previous year’s, first-year, dumpy, brown and dried Nareen style, tweed hunting and fishing hat, jacket, carry­ bag and walking stick) the residents of Howitt Hall. But I could be wrong on this. Certainly such an explanation was fully in keeping with other periodic activities such as the dropping of water bombs, lighting fireworks into the Hall quadrangle and other such prohibited behavior.

Whatever the explanation for the dampening experience I and several others underwent, the photograph brings back many happy memories of people and occasions.

For my wife, as well as myself, the several years at Farrer were among the best we have had, not merely because of the opportunities we had to become more closely involved with students than most academics could ever do but also because, from the position of Warden, it was so much easier to get to know people in all parts and at all levels of the university community — from Vice Chancellor to student andeverything in between. There would normally have been possible even in the relatively small community that it was then.

Much thanks for all this, of course, must be given to the Halls’ first Executive Warden (and Warden of Deakin Hall), Dr Jack McDonnell, for it was he who established the basic ethos of the Halls and by his own administrative activities made it possible for full-time academics simultaneously to assure wardenly responsibilities in the other Halls of the complex.

Professor Murray Wilson
Geography Department
University of Melbourne

DECEMBER 1989
IF the seeds planted at a recent meeting of international lawyers bear fruit, Professor Christie Weeramantry's world vision of a future free of nuclear weapons may come closer to reality.

Professor Weeramantry, the Sir Hayden Starkie chair of law at Monash, has just returned from the inaugural world congress at The Hague of the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms, IALANA.

As IALANA vice-president, Professor Weeramantry is hopeful that a case being prepared by the organisation will lead to the outlawing of nuclear weapons.

Through the agency of the United Nations, IALANA is hoping to push for an official judgement from the International Court of Justice.

Professor Weeramantry describes the current attitude of countries suspected of possessing nuclear weapons as "you say it is illegal - you prove it."

"There is no comprehensive treaty that makes them illegal ... there is no document having the force of law which says that nuclear weapons are illegal," Professor Weeramantry said.

"We extract these principles from customary international law but we don't have a treaty or a judgement which says that the sources of international law is treaties, and another is judgements."

The congress resolved to work for the declaration of the illegality of nuclear weapons.

According to Professor Weeramantry there are several forms by which the organization can make a strong case to the International Court of Justice.

"Under the principle of proportionality, you cannot use weapons that cause damage which goes far beyond the purposes of war, so weapons that cause a disproportionate amount of damage would therefore stand outlawed by that principle," he said.

The principle which forbids causing damage to neutral states who are not in the war would also prohibit nuclear weapons, as their use would result in devastation to countries other than those at war with each other.

A third principle is the prohibition of any action or weapon which causes unnecessary damage and suffering.

"This principle outlaw any weapons which would cause more destruction than is necessary in a war (as nuclear weapons would)," Professor Weeramantry said.

Professor Weeramantry's case would also argue for the outlawing of storing nuclear weapons for use as a permanent deterrent.

He said there was a growing view that we need to conserve the ecosystem of our planet, and the use of nuclear weapons would destroy the life support systems of the earth and constitute a crime against humanity - another argument for IALANA's proposed case for the International Court of Justice.

Professor Weeramantry has long been interested in the responsibilities of scientists in regard to the development of nuclear weapons. He is the author of a book entitled Nuclear Weapons and Scientific Responsibilities, which has sparked off a debate in the United States drawing in scientists who advise the Pentagon on nuclear weapons.

IALANA has been developed as a result of several recent writings on the illegality of nuclear weapons, including Professor Weeramantry's book.

The association receives strong support from the American Lawyer's Committee on Nuclear Policy, the Procurator General of the Soviet Union (who is also president of the Soviet Lawyers' Association), and influential members of the Swedish Parliament. The first world congress attracted 200 lawyers from 30 countries.

With this committed global membership, Professor Weeramantry is confident that the organization's long-term goal of completely outlawing the development, storage or use of nuclear weapons will be achieved.

### Monash honors fire heroine

**FIRST year engineering student, Tanya Redfern, received a copy of John Monash: A Biography, recently for a courageous act.**

Tanya saved 20 elderly people from a fire which extensively damaged an aged people's home at Murrumbeena in September. She was working as a relieving night supervisor at the home and was the only employee on duty when the fire started.

The book was presented to her by University Council member, Win McDonnell on behalf of Monash University.

### Albert Langer's chem partner makes news

THE name Albert Langer is one most people associate with Monash's turbulent past but these days it's his chemistry prac partner from those early university days who makes news.

Carol Austin is the director of Public Affairs for BHP, one of Australia's biggest companies, and enjoyed her laboratory work with Mr Langer during her science course in the 1960s.

"Albert had a brilliant mind and was a very interesting fellow student. Those were the days of the Vietnam war demonstrations so there was a lot going on around me at university that added color to university life," she said.

But was Ms Austin a radical student?

"I was only involved on the periphery - I wasn't one of the student radicals or heavily involved in the SRC."

"I listened to the lunchtime discussion as we all did and participated in the debates in the interminable coffee breaks we had, but I was by no means a student radical!"

Ms Austin's extramural interests lay more in the fine arts area, and she was involved in getting a pottery studio on campus.

Following her graduation in science in 1969, she set off with her new husband for Papua New Guinea, where she worked for the local Bureau of Statistics.

She then became involved in trade and economic policy, which was what sparked her interest in economics, leading to a degree in the field from Australian National University.

The law targets nuclear arms

While her husband studied for his Master's degree at London University, Ms Austin worked with the British Department of Trade and Industry.

Following her economics degree at Australian National University on her return to Australia from Papua New Guinea in 1978, Ms Austin worked as a research economist for the Reserve Bank, and then with the Australian Industry Development Corporation.

If Ms Austin's face looks familiar, it's probably from her role as an economic commentator on the now defunct Carleton-Walsh Report on ABC television.

She was approached by head hunters looking for a suitable Director of Public Affairs for BHP.

"It was an opportunity to draw on the experience I'd had in Papua New Guinea, to utilise my training and background, and to diversify out of a narrow specialist role as an economist, so there were a lot of aspects of it that were attractive," Ms Austin says.

Ms Austin sees the role of Director of Public Affairs as combining issues of management and communication.

"The area I find most rewarding and challenging is issues management. It requires you to make judgements about what are the important external developments which are likely to have an impact on our operations, and to be able to read those signs early in the process," she said.

Ms Austin feels it is important to be able to interpret what these signs mean for the company, and to encourage BHP to respond appropriately.

On the communications side, she says business does not always understand the difference between providing information and communicating - something that she knows from television brought home to her.

"The real challenge there was not to work out what the right answer was, but to know how to respond in a way that you could communicate with a very diverse audience," she said.

"It's a real challenge to reduce complex proposals to simple terms without trivialising them." Ms Austin find the most difficult aspect of her position is the breadth of the job.

"It is really very far reaching, and to be able to offer a sensible comment you really do have to have some appreciation of the whole range of the company's operations."

Away from her high profile job, Ms Austin has definite ideas on the best way of coping with the demands of her role as BHP's Director of Public Affairs.

"My idea of relaxing is to call friends over and sit by a pool and drink a glass of wine, or visit an art gallery, go to a concert - but not to have to talk economics to people outside of work!"
GORDON Taylor, a member of the Language and Learning Unit of Monash's Faculty of Arts, has helped generations of our students to write better.

My own department, History, with which Taylor has worked closely, owes him a particular debt for his teaching and advice — generously given not just to beginning students with serious writing difficulties, but also to more advanced students (and staff) seeking to express themselves with the utmost clarity and precision.

The Monash community should be glad — proud indeed — that Taylor's experience and expertise in these vital areas are now available to an international student audience in this handsome and reasonably priced book.

There is all the plain and practical advice one would want here on questions ranging from the need to use "I" and "the" academic prose to how to avoid the dread "dangling modifier", and all of it conveyed, in clear, almost conversational, prose.

This is — let me hasten to add — a sophisticated and stylish book which postgraduates and others will read with advantage, but it is also one that should be accessible to senior secondary school students. Among practical writing manuals, which are twopence a dozen and frequently offputting in the extreme to students, Taylor's book is a very superior example.

The Student's Writing Guide is, however, much more than a manual of grammatical do's and don'ts, hardly surprising because Gordon Taylor is not so much a grammarian as a rhetor. That is to say, his book is about rhetoric in the medieval, renaissance and ultimately classic sense of spoken and written eloquence.

In a medieval Italian university, Taylor would have taught the art dictaminis, the practical art of good writing and oration.

Language cannot be divorced from thought, "writing is not merely a skill we employ to record our knowledge, but the very moment at which we confront what learning and understanding are all about" (page xi).

Students often complain when what history teachers correct their grammar, or comment that an essay would have received a higher mark had it been written better. What right have historians got, they sometimes say outright, to "mark their English", as if to imply that good style is merely the cream on the cake, or just rhetoric in the pejorative sense of the word.

Gordon Taylor has heard all of this, and will have none of it. Badly written history (or whatever) is bad history. Good history is all the better for being written in clear and expressive prose.

This excellent book is thus, as much about clear thinking and constructive reading in the Arts and Social Sciences as it is about writing well, and from this classical humanistic concern with the essential unity of language and thought comes the practical art of good writing.

Now, when academic prose is often jargon-ridden and university administration jargon-ridden and university administrators jargon-ridden and university administrators, academics have no choice but to use real or recede from it. About what "they really want", Dr Love said Neild was considered to be the most influential of the Australian Medical Association's founding fathers. Neild also spent a long period as the unofficial (and unpaid) medical advisor to the theatrical profession — a neat way of wearing both hats at once.

Aside from his professional interests, Neild found time for a wife and several charities, as well as some extra-marital activities, amusingly documented by Dr Love.

Another of Neild's pet hates reveals him as a reviewer ahead of his time; he particularly loathed the stylised 18th century method of frequently addressing the audience.

Neild wanted actors to make the audience forget they were in a theatre. "I have come to regard dramatic performances very much as I regard pictures which are painted, and to approve or condemn in proportion as they approach to the real or recede from it".

Neild felt having wizards perform led to the theatre "being perverted from its legitimate uses", and in his review he claimed that the wizard's tricks relied heavily on a concealed assistant and the compliant spectator.

The Review spanned a number of unflattering descriptions of Neild, from his "malapert apothecary" to "pill-peddling dilettante who poses as a journalist in order
A tradition of Buddhism in Australia

IN REVIEW

A History of Buddhism in Australia 1848-1988
By Paul Croucher

New South Wales University Press, 1989, with the assistance of the Monash University Publications Committee.

PAUL Croucher is a young Australian Buddhist who studied Asian history and Japanese at Monash.

He had just spent a year in Japan, Thailand and North India, when in 1984, while doing an Introduction to Japanese Studies, it happened that he was taught by Les Oates, who was to figure prominently in his later study which became this book.

Croucher writes in part for himself, to formulate a tradition of Buddhism in Australia as part of his own cultural heritage and also for other Buddhists to give them a perspective of various branches of Buddhism in Australia.

The book is also no doubt aimed at a non-Buddhist readership, to serve as an apology for Buddhism. However, key Buddhist concepts are not explained in detail for the uninformed, although a concise (even too brief?) glossary is included. Despite this insider’s perspective, the book is not narrowly sectarian. Neither does it clearly espouse one branch of Buddhism at the expense of others. The author favours an ecletic approach to religion, or a “peaceful and dynamic Buddhist anarchism”.

The history of Buddhism is hardly a major current in Australian history. One might imagine that there would not be enough to fill a book, and that before the counter-culture of the late sixties and early seventies only a few crackpots and eccentrics were attracted to Buddhism.

Croucher provides an amazing array of evidence for a longstanding, constant presence in Australia long before white settlement through Asian traders in Southeast Asia, and Japanese at Monash.

His later study which became this book is remarkable that there was no strong establishing mother church in a Buddhist country. This is no doubt partly to do with the fact that Buddhism is sometimes seen as not being a religion so much as a philosophy.

The book is studded with mini-biographies of people significant in the development of Buddhism in Australia. People like Marie Byles and Leo Berkeley, who stressed meditation and were among the founders of organised Buddhism in Australia, and by qualified native teachers from Sri Lanka, Burma etc. who were professional world tourers of English-speaking countries.

It is remarkable that there was no strong foundation in the form of links with an established mother church in a Buddhist country. This is no doubt partly to do with the fact that Buddhism is sometimes seen as not being a religion so much as a philosophy.

The book is also a history of how Buddhism has adapted, and been adapted, to a new environment. An expanse of compromise was responsible for many years of stagnation, as when Jackson and Knight in Sydney played down ritual and meditative practices, but obviously some adaptation is necessary. He is optimistic that Buddhism will acquire a secure place in Australian life, and that a “synthesis between Buddhism and Western humanism” will emerge.

Croucher emphasises the dangers of organisations and committees, and favors anarchism. This is a danger common to all religions. How can Buddhism alone avoid this?

This more readable and compelling history is also an essay on the nature of Buddhism in an Australian context, and will be of interest to Buddhist and non-Buddhist Australians alike, for revealing a new aspect of Australian history and culture.

Alison Tokita

Japanese Studies Department

Books

Hawke, Ken Wriedt, poets Bernard O'Dowd, Max Dunn and Harold Stewart, artist Margaret Preston, Aboriginal poet Colin Johnson, all illustrating points of contact with mainstream Australian culture and history.

Croucher shows he has the foundations of an excellent history writing technique; he handles a broad sweep of events, incorporating particular characters and themes with considerable assurance and narrative skill.

He has an ability to bring out broad themes within a plethora of detail, yet without using sweeping generalisations. He manages to surprise the reader, by carefully withholding developments till the right moment.

His use of quotation of primary sources - diaries, letters, newspaper reports, Buddhist newsletters and journals - is always vivid. He traces the establishment of bookshops such as Thesosophical Bookshops, as well as Buddhist societies, showing the kinds of reading matter material that was available to people in an era when this was the main access to Buddhism. He also details the contacts with qualified teachers. This solid methodology is supplemented by extensive use of oral histories and interviews.

One of the major themes which emerges in the book is that of acculturation. “Buddhism is a universal religion and thus a basically transcultural, but ... Australian Buddhism will only have found its own identity when it gives rise to a larger number of authentic, home-grown teachers”.

It needs to adapt its practices to some degree for its new environment. An excessive degree of compromise was responsible for many years of stagnation, as when Jackson and Knight in Sydney played down ritual and meditative practices, but obviously some adaptation is necessary. He is optimistic that Buddhism will acquire a secure place in Australian life, and that a “synthesis between Buddhism and Western humanism” will emerge.

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Graduates on the move in 1989

SOME graduates who made news this year:


Dr Barry Perry - LL.BHons 1969. New deputy Ombudsman to investigate complaints against police.


Bruce Rosengarten - BSc 1979. Manager of the new Myer department store in Rundle Mall, Adelaide.

Dr Pam Rosengarten - MB, BS 1979. New director of accident and emergency services at Frankston Hospital.

Barry Rowe - BSc 1975. Appointed State Agriculture and Rural Affairs Minister.


MB. BS 1979. Emer­

-Using the MARWIN portable weather balloon system for research in the Antarctic.

Grant helps weather research take off

VAISALA Pty Ltd, the Australian subsidiary of the Finnish company Vaisala Oy, has given Monash University a high tech atmospheric measurement system worth nearly $400,000 to support a continuing program of research into fronts and storms.

The portable radiosonde (weather balloon) system, known as MARWIN, will add to the capacity of the Centre for Dynamical Meteorology to mount sophisticated experiments to investigate and model storm activity in Australia.

The system includes weather balloons launching equipment, instruments to measure and transmit upper air temperature, pressure, humidity and wind data, as well as portable data storage and processing equipment. There is also a personal computer and software to analyse the data further.

It already is in use near Darwin in a joint research project with the Bureau of Meteorology Research Centre. The researchers from MIT will bring another MARWIN radiosonde system with them. Together with the Darwin airport radar, the three measurement systems will be stationed at three vertices of a triangle, and used to track weather systems across the expanse of the country to the east of Darwin.

Vaisala recently won a substantial contract to update and supply measurement packages for the Bureau of Meteorology's radiosonde network. It has given the equipment in part to fulfil offset obligations, but it also is a company with a long tradition of supporting meteorological research.

The Centre of Dynamical Meteorology, in collaboration with the Bureau of Meteorology Research Centre and NASA Goddard's Laboratory of Atmospheres, has been at the forefront of research into the workings of cold fronts, trapped fronts, island thunderstorms, squall lines and monsoonal activity.

Professor Bruce Morton of Mathematics said: "Vaisala's generous gift greatly increases our capacity for field investigation of the fundamental processes which drive the world's weather."  

With the support of the Bureau of Meteorology, Monash will be inaugurating a Chair of Meteorology in its department of Mathematics next year.

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:

Profile of Monash Graduate Population

MALE FEMALE TOTAL
Total population including 26,180 18,347 44,527
99 honorary graduates (59 per cent) (41 per cent)
(10)
Total population excluding (89)
known deceased (229)
23,085 valid 16,067 valid 39,152
addresses addresses
(89 per cent) (68 per cent)
2,932 invalid 2,214 invalid 5,146
addresses addresses
(11 per cent) (12 per cent)
Overall figure of 5,146 graduates with invalid address out of population of living graduates 44,298 = 11.69 per cent.

If you know of any graduates who have not received a copy of this issue in the mail, please ask them to contact this office, using the change of address coupon on page 12. They may be among the 5,146 "missing persons"!
Diet could slow ageing process

THE onset of old age may be slowed or modified by simple dietary supplements if a new theory of ageing proposed by biochemists from Monash and Nagoya universities proves to be correct.

The theory published earlier this year in the influential British medical journal, The Lancet, also provides support for the controversial practice of using large doses of Vitamin C as preventive medicine.

In the Lancet paper Anthony Linnane and Associate Professor Sangkot Marzuki of the Monash Centre for Molecular Biology and Medicine and two Japanese colleagues suggest that ageing and several degenerative diseases are caused at least in part by a lifelong build up of mutations in the genetic material of the mitochondria, the cell’s energy production centres.

The mitochondrial genetic material is responsible for the construction of 13 enzymes (catalysts) critical to the body’s system of energy storage and release. These enzymes are linked together into an energy production line, in such a way that the product of one reaction becomes a necessary ingredient of the next. Hence a defect in any one of the enzymes can render the line, and the mitochondria containing it, inactive. The researchers argue that over time, as the number of cells with a high proportion of mitochondrial containing defective genetic code increases, the body’s capacity for energy production decreases.

The researchers have in fact found evidence of a decline with age in the amount of energy produced in muscle mitochondria. This data was published in a companion paper by Marzuki and Dr Ed Byrne of St Vincent’s Hospital, Melbourne in the same issue of The Lancet as the hypothesis.

And a German worker has now shown that the proportion of cells with defective energy production mechanisms increases from almost nothing in young children up to about 50 per cent at age 50.

Because the enzymes further down the line still may work perfectly well, it might well be possible to by-pass a single blockage in the energy chain so that the cell can carry on its activities, the Monash researchers say.

In fact, Linnane and Marzuki propose that certain substances, if taken in large enough amounts, can be used to by-pass these “breaks” in the energy chain of cells. These substances are present in common foodstuffs and include Vitamin C, the less well-known ubiquinone which occurs in both plants and animals, and a Vitamin K-like chemical, menadione.

A few such supplements are already in clinical use, and, the researchers argue, new and more effective supplements could be designed artifically to treat degenerative disease.

Professorial moves

• Dr Bill Kent, 47, reader in the department of History, has been appointed to a personal chair in history. Dr Kent is known internationally for his work in the field of Italian Renaissance history.

• Dr John Hamill, 31, senior scientific officer at the Agricultural and Food Research Council Institute of Food Research, Norwich, UK, has been appointed to the Chair of Developmental Biology.

• Dr David Healy, 41, senior lecturer in the department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, has been appointed to a chair in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. He graduated in medicine at Monash in 1973.

• Professor Bruce Tonge, 42, of the department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the University of Sydney, has been appointed to the Chair of Developmental Psychiatry. He graduated in medicine at Monash in 1970.

• Dr Joe Monaghan, 50, a reader in the department of Mathematics, has been appointed to the Chair in Applied Mathematics.

• Professor Gordon Clark, 39, of the School of Urban and Public Affairs, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, has been appointed to the second chair in Geography and Environmental Science. He graduated in economics at Monash in 1973.

• Professor Bernard Barry, 54, of the Cranfill School of Management, UK, has been appointed to the Computations chair in management in the Faculty of Economics and Commerce.

• Associate Professor Sangkot Marzuki.

Coselco first in technology park

A RESEARCH company making use of a revolutionary new technique to study and design vaccines and medical tests has become the first tenant of the Monash University Science and Technology Park.

Coselco Mimotopes Pty Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories (CSL), has just opened a laboratory complex worth more than $4 million on the park which is being developed across Blackburn Road from the university’s northeast corner.

The laboratories have been designed to the highest safety standards and are equipped with the latest flame cupboard and chemical and biological containment technology.

In its new premises, the company will undertake research and development employing technology which allows the rapid construction and testing of hundreds of protein fragments at once. The method, developed by company founder Dr Mario Geyen, could lead to new or improved vaccines, new diagnostic tests and advances in the study of the mechanisms of diseases.

Proteins are long chains constructed from about 20 different kinds of amino acids. Up till now the method of building them in the laboratory was to bind the first amino acid to a resin, and one at a time in order join on subsequent amino acids to make up the chain. Once the chain was complete the first amino acid could be cleaved from the resin by treatment with acid.

What Geyen recognised was that the process of attachment for each amino acid was the same. The whole action of building up the chain was repetitive — in each step only the amino acids changed. So he designed a simple piece of equipment made out of special plastic, a top with an eight by 12 array of pins which fitted into a bottom of 96 wells. By attaching starter amino acids to the pins and plunging into appropriate biochemicals into the wells (differing only in the order the amino acids are added), 96 different chains could be made at once.

Recently it has been recognised that, while protein chains may be thousands of units long, they rely for their biological activity on a region or fragment of perhaps six to eight amino acids.

This being so, using Geyen’s technique, it has become relatively easy to construct thousands of small protein fragments of different combinations of amino acids, and screen their activity systematically.

The method holds such promise for the design and development of new vaccines and tests that CSL have put up the money for the new facilities and have agreed to back the fledgling company for five years.

Several scientists of more than 10 years standing with CSL have been induced to trade in their employment security and go work for the new company.

Already Coselco has begun a series of collaborative ventures with several international institutes and drug companies.

A senior researcher, Dr Tom Mason said he thought that the first products of the company would be medical diagnostic tests, because their development was less likely to involve the exhaustive safety testing associated with vaccines.

In the longer term, he said he was excited by the potential of pure research using their technique to investigate cell receptors work.

“These are the switches, if you like, which control the action of cells,” he said. “If we could mimic the hormones that stimulate or inhibit them, it could lead advances like an oral version of insulin to give much better control of diabetes, for instance.”

In the meantime, Coselco is marketing its technology in kit form through Cambridge Research Laboratories in Cambridge, England. The kits include the plastic holders, pins, software, chemicals and instruction outlining different strategies of use.

Coselco Mimotopes hopes to establish a close relationship with Monash involving collaborative research and the use of services. At present it is negotiating access to the university’s libraries, health service, sports and recreation centre and other services on a fee paying basis.
**Eve leads the way for other Koories**

THE way language was used to conceal a covert slave trade in Australia led to Dr Eve Fesl becoming the first Koorie to complete a doctorate of philosophy.

Dr Fesl, the director of Monash University’s Koorie Research Centre, says her thesis, entitled “Language policy and implementation in regard to Koorie languages”, is probably the first sociolinguistic study to show how language has been used to oppress a people.

She received her Ph.D at a graduation ceremony in May.

Dr Fesl claims that as she traced the history of language policy, a pattern began to emerge which showed that language policy and its usage had played a major role in both promoting and concealing slavery in Australia.

The term Koorie means “our people”, and is the name by which descendents of the native peoples of Victoria, New South Wales, Tasmania, and Southern Queensland refer to themselves and others of their group.

Dr Fesl belongs to two clan groups; her mother is a Gabbie-Gabbi and her father is a Gangulu.

She joined the Koorie Research Centre as a research assistant, then became the secretary for a year, and finally was appointed the first tutor in Aboriginal Studies.

Dr Fesl feels the initiation of the Monash Orientation Scheme for Aborigines (MOSA) is one of the success stories of the Koorie Research Centre.

The MOSA scheme provides mature age Koorie students with a full year of specific preparation for university education.

Dr Fesl says the most important thing about the Koorie Research Centre is that it is the only centre of its kind in Australia run by Koories, and directed towards their interests.

### Sensing through the nose

A GROUP of Monash researchers has produced the first documentary evidence of a land animal sensing electricity.

The team of physiologists, led by Dr Uwe Proske and including Emeritus Professor Archie McIntyre, has found electro-sensory glands packed into the tip of the snout of the echidna.

These glands closely resemble electro-receptors discovered earlier by the group in plants. The first recorded incidence of an electro-sensory system in mammals.

“We had a pretty good idea before we started that the echidna also was equipped with electro-receptors, but it was very exciting to have our suspicions confirmed,” Proske said.

The group pinpointed the echidna electro-receptors and has been able to record nerve transmissions to the brain triggered by their electrical stimulation.

In addition, the researchers have run a series of behavioral tests which showed that echidnas are able to use the system to discriminate between electrically different environments.

The group found an echidna could discriminate effectively between the presence or absence of an electric current tiny by comparison to what can be felt.

Proske said: “It is extremely unlikely that such a sophisticated sense would not be used by the animal.

“We know, for instance, that echidnas always have a runny nose. That’s just where the receptors are, and we think that the nasal secretions provide a low resistance pathway for the conduction of electricity from environmental sources.

But so far, we have not been able to pick up where it is sensing electricity in its environment.”

For example, he said, the group had placed electrodes in termite mounds — termites are a favorite echidna food — but had not been able to pick up a signal. Neither could the researchers pick up a signal in the laboratory from moving termite mounds.

The group is still looking, and would be glad to hear from anyone who knows of sources of electricity in the echidna’s world.

### Study of brown coal shows growing uses

**VICTORIA** is not called the Garden State for nothing. Its sits on the remains one of the world’s largest compost heaps — the brown coal deposits of the Latrobe Valley.

In fact, brown coal has gone a stage further than compost, but it is a good source of humic materials, which are formed during composting. It is a good source of wonderful effects of humic substances on plants and micro-organisms, particularly micro-organisms have worked over plant breakdown products remaining after the amount of fertiliser needed per hectare.

Brown coal has gone a stage further than compost in terms of growing micro-organisms. Dr Tony Patti, a chemist from the School of Applied Science at the Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education, has been studying the differences between humic extracts obtained using different chemical treatments.

Now that he has a feel for the chemical composition of the humic extracts from Victorian brown coal, Patti is beginning a series of collaborative projects aimed at determining their biological activity.

Most of the projects are applied in nature. For instance, he is collaborating with horticulturalists, Debeo Pty Ltd in a study of the use of brown coal as a means of making trace elements available to plants.

A second line of research is to investigate reports that humic substances enhance the efficiency of conventional fertilisers.

It has been claimed that humic acids in combination with conventional nitrogen fertilisers can increase plant yields by up to 30 per cent over the fertilisers alone.

There are sound environmental and economic reasons for looking at these claims. If they turn out to be true, the use of humic extracts could lead to a drop in the amount of fertiliser needed per hectare. This would mean less runoff into fresh water systems, reducing what is becoming a significant environmental problem.

A further claim in the literature is that humic substances can stimulate the growth of micro-organisms. If true, this could have an important impact on the fermentation and biotechnology industries, which depend on growing micro-organisms.

Patti is working with Dr John May and Khoi Yu-Trong of the Monash Microbiology Department on a series of experiments to test the effect of humics on yeast.

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An ongoing study by a research team in the Botany and Zoology Department has uncovered what is thought to be the most widespread and ancient example of co-operation between species.

Members of about a quarter of the families of woody flowering plants possess little bumps or pits called domatia on the underside of their leaves. They are particularly common in rainforest vegetation. The researchers believe that plants grow them deliberately to shelter mites. In return the mites either protect or groom the leaves by eating other small creatures which feed on leaves or removing parasitic fungi.

This would open up two interesting prospects. As the wild relatives of several agricultural crops are among the plants that carry domatia, it could hold the potential for improving crops by learning to manage better this form of biological pest control and by introducing it to new crop strains.

The second benefit would be the discovery of a manageable system for studying one of the great unknowns of ecology—the interaction between species known as mutualism.

Research team leader Dr Dennis O'Dowd said: "Interactions between species are a glue holding biological communities together. The three most important interactions in this respect are those between predator and prey, competition between species for a scarce resource and mutualism."  

"Comparatively little work has been done on mutualism, although it could be very important to the understanding of the biological world. Using the plant-mite system, very large experiments on mutualism could be set up in a small space."

O'Dowd’s research group has been accumulating evidence on the mite-plant relationship since 1986. The first task was to demonstrate whether or not mites were associated with domatia. This was done by examining tens of thousands of domatia for any evidence of mites, either the animals themselves, or their eggs, or even their faeces.

In fact, mites accounted for about 90 per cent of insect-like creatures in domatia. They occurred in about half the domatia and on about 70 per cent of the leaves, with a preference for older leaves.

It is easy to show that domatia are grown by plants deliberately; that they are not galls formed as a reaction to mite invaders. Not only do domatia grow in the absence of mites, but they can also be detected in embryonic leaves within the bud.

And the structure and position of domatia would seem to suggest that they are not specialised for use by plants as glands, or insect traps or for absorbing water or gases.

The researchers found that the mites harboured by domatia fell almost exclusively into two groups: mites which feed on fungi and other plant parasites on leaves, and predatory mites which eat plant-damaging insects and mites, their eggs and larvae.

"Domatia provide the mites with a useful humid shelter where they can lay their eggs in safety and gain a measure of protection from the things that eat them," O'Dowd said.

During the course of its work, the research team has discovered that the relationship between mites and plants goes back a very long way indeed. Palaeobotanist Dr Dave Christophel is studying ancient assemblages of leaves trapped and mummified in the Anglesea coal field and in a sand mine at Golden Grove, near Adelaide. These leaves have been preserved from a rainforest which was growing in the mid-Eocene, about 43 million years ago. And on the underside of their leaves, many display domatia.

As well as the leaves, the group has found fossilised mites. Not only have they turned out to be from tree-living species, but at least one of them is from a species closely related to one commonly found living in leaf domatia in Queensland rainforest.

Playbox becomes a Monash centre

FROM the beginning of 1990, Melbourne's Playbox Theatre is to become a Centre of Monash University.

The university Council and the board of the Playbox Theatre Company Limited have signed an agreement to establish the Playbox Theatre Centre of Monash University.

Under the agreement, the university will lease the Malthouse Theatre Complex in South Melbourne, fit it out, and make it available to the new centre.

In return, the centre will develop and present innovative Australian theatre, providing both popular entertainment and experimental drama, and balancing theatre education with performance.

The formal linking of Playbox with Monash follows the staging at the university's Alexander Theatre of Play Season '89, Australia's first suburban season of professional drama. Two of the season's three productions came from the Playbox, and the whole exercise was such a success that there are plans for a repeat performance next year.

The idea is to bring theatre closer to where people live. As Alexander Theatre manager, Mr Phil A'Vard, puts it: "Nowadays, Monash isn't too far out. The city is too far in."

Interaction between the Playbox and Monash dates back to the mid 70s, when the Playbox held workshop readings of new Australian plays on campus. And the Alexander Theatre has, in past years, borrowed Playbox artistic director, Mr Carillo Gattner, to star in several of its homegrown productions.

The new Playbox Theatre Centre plans to support Australian playwrights and help them develop and refine new scripts. Its programs will also include international works from groups whose performances are pertinent to Australian artists and audiences. Particular stress will be laid on cultural links with Asia.

The chairman of the board of the new centre will be Mr Graeme Samuel (the present chairman of the Playbox Theatre Company) and the deputy chairman will be the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mal Logan.

The agreement calls for a review of the new centre after two to five years of operation.
Alumni highlights: here and overseas

MONASH alumni groups have been particularly active this year with a variety of functions being held on campus, interstate and overseas.

MELBOURNE
Following the success of the Science Faculty's 10 year reunion, which was organised by a small voluntary committee of graduates in conjunction with the Department of External Relations and Alumni Affairs, it is planned to extend the number of 10 year and 25 year reunions to be held in Melbourne each year.

Such events are a regular part of the program of long-established alumni groups such as Medicine and Law, but up until now, faculties such as Arts and Science have not featured.

With the indications of support and offers of help received through responses to the graduates' survey, there is every reason to be optimistic about a gradual brightening of activity in 1990 and beyond.

It is hoped that some new disciplinary-based groups will get off the ground in 1990, including Linguistics and History. Meanwhile, a big thank you to all those involved in running the many groups for their good ideas, energy, enthusiasm and hard work.

QUEENSLAND
A thoroughly enjoyable dinner was held at the Allegro Restaurant in Brisbane on 19 September. Guest speaker was Mr Murunuma MP, Deane Wells (BA Hons 1972, MA 1976, LLB 1980). Mr Wells gave a witty and entertaining address on the role of the parliamentarians. Since parliamentary matters in Queensland are in a state of significant and continual flux, his address was both topical and informative.

Special thanks to Mr Wells for his contribution to the evening and to all those who attended the dinner.

NSW/ACT
The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mal Logan, hosted receptions for Monash graduates living in the ACT and New South Wales on 17 and 18 November.

If you did not receive an invitation to these functions but are living in NSW or other groups at the Annual General Meeting Dinner recently.

MGA is filled with optimism

THE past year has been one of optimism at committee level. Several new members have joined the committee, bringing with them fresh ideas and enthusiasm.

The committee has functioned in past years with a nucleus of committed members who have carried the load with unfailing dedication, and the assistance of new committee members will give new impetus to the association.

The MGA committee has sought to create informal links with other alumni groups at Monash, and were heartened by the audience of representatives from other groups at the Annual General Meeting Dinner recently.

Thirty-five members and some member's partners attended the AGM Dinner. The dinner was hailed a great success, and was much enhanced by the after-dinner speaker who was none other than Monash's own Mr Doug Ellis, Director of the Sports and Recreation Association.

Mr Ellis is a foundation staff member of Monash, and his anecdotes of Monash as generously to the Annual Library only he knows it were both interesting and hilarious. The AGM Dinner is to be an annual event, and details for next year's dinner will appear in Monash Reporter and in SOUN.

All executive offices were filled at the AGM, and other members indicated their willingness to serve on committee. All this indicates a productive year for 1990.

The office bearers for 1990 are: President — Anne Langdon 650 3248 (Home); Secretary — Jean Grey 787 2192 (Home); Treasurer — Sylvia Evans.

London reception attracts our alumni

ABOUT fifty Monash graduates attended a social function held in May at Victoria House, London.

There are about 200 Monash graduates in Britain, and the invitation to meet over drinks marked the start of our effort to bring them into closer contact with the university.

Associate Professor Ian Rae was host for the evening and welcomed the graduates on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor Professor Mal Logan.

Mr Ian Haig, Agent-General for Victoria, also welcomed the Monash visitors and reminded them that they were always welcome at Victoria House on The Strand.

The suggestion was made that Monash graduates in London might consider making Victoria House a focal point for their activities and a regular meeting point at specified times for Monash visitors to London.

Preliminary steps have been taken to establish a small interim steering committee, comprised of graduates living in the London area. This will gradually be extended to include graduates who volunteered their services from cities as far apart as Edinburgh, Southampton and Bristol.

The graduates' various response to the letter of invitation is greatly appreciated. A directory of Monash graduates living in Britain is now being compiled and will be available to interested graduates.

Where are the graduates?

Library appeal

MONASH University graduates gave generously to the Annual Library Appeal this year.

Graduates from the years 1964 to 1974, who were asked to contribute for the first time this year, made an average donation of $70 each.

The money will be used to buy books in those areas of interest specified by the graduates.

There have also been many other generous supporters of the library, some of whom have donated regularly for more than 13 years. These donations, which average about $60, are vital to the continuing expansion of the library collection.

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EDUCATION

DURING the past 12 months members of the Monash Education Alumni have enjoyed several functions with guest speakers and have also seen the first Peter Fensham Scholarships awarded to six post-graduate students in the Education Faculty.

At the Annual General Meeting in February, Dr Barry McClay, director of the Australian Centre for Education Research was guest speaker. The topic of his speech was issues of assessment in upper secondary education.

Executive committee elections were held at this meeting with all former committee members indicating that they would be willing to serve on the committee for the following year. Mrs Julie Johns and Associate Professor Dick Gunston were also voted on to the committee. Dr Paul Gardner was elected convener, Joy Vogt, deputy convener and Neil McInnes, treasurer. Joan Szalman was re-employed as executive officer.

The State Education Minister Joan Kirner was the guest speaker at a dinner in June. This was a very successful function giving alumni members the opportunity to meet with the Education Minister and hear her talk on the future directions of education in Victoria.

In 1988 the alumni established the Silver Jubilee Fund to provide scholarships and Court on education. These scholarships were seen as a practical way by which the alumni members could help new graduates and the university.

The scholarships were named the Peter Fensham Scholarships in honor of Professor Peter Fensham who has just retired as Dean after two terms in the Education Faculty. This year the first Peter Fensham Scholarships were awarded at the alumni annual dinner in November.

The recipients are PhD students B.M. Bandaranayake, Graeme Hawthorne, Anita Lintig, Jamsheeda Khan and Majorie Horne and Masters student Norine Hill.

The Federal Minister for Science, Customs and Small Business, Barry Jones, was guest speaker at the annual dinner. Mr Jones, a former teacher, spoke on ways science and the teaching of science must improve and grow in the future.

The next function for the Education Alumni is the annual general meeting on 22 February in the Gallery Theatre, cost $6 for members, $7.50 for non-members.

Membership subscription for the alumni is $18 ordinary membership or $13 country/overseas membership. For further information please contact Joan Szalman, Monash University, Clayton, phone (03) 565 2787 or write to Education Faculty, Monash University, Clayton.

Joan Szalman Education

GEOGRAPHY

THE Geography Alumni started off the year with an address by noted anti-nuclear activist and environmentalist, Dr Helen Caldicott.

Dr Caldicott spoke at a lunchtime meeting of students and staff and later addressed alumni members at an evening meeting held in the Gallery Building.

At the lecture, Dr Caldicott expressed real concern for the future of the earth and stressed how immediate action was needed to save the planet.

Another highlight of the year was the careers night held in August. More than 90 geography students packed the theatre in the Gallery Building to hear from past geography graduates, who spoke on their careers and advised current students about obtaining jobs as geomorphers. The function was so successful the alumni hopes to make it an annual event.

The Geography Alumni of Monash University concluded its 1989 activities on a high note when members gathered in the Banquets Room for the annual dinner.

The new chairman of the Geography Department, Professor Gordon Clark, who has returned to Monash after 15 years in the United States, addressed members and commented on the differences in attitudes of Australians and Americans to modern social issues.

He also praised the real world relevance of geography as taught at Monash and ranked Monash geography most favourably against the type commonly taught in prominent universities in the US.

Members of the Geography Alumni is open to past students of the Monash Geography Department. For information please contact Paddy Rapsom, Geography and Environmental Science Department, Monash University, Clayton 3168 or phone 565 2946.

LAW

HIGHLIGHT of the year was the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the founding of the David Derham School of Law.

More than 550 graduates, staff members and friends gathered at the Savoy Ballroom of the Hyatt on Collins at the end of May.

Thank Bob Gell, our guest speaker at this year's dinner, as well as those who attended. Also make a note in your diary that the dinner is held each year on the eve of the VFL (AFL) Grand Final.

If you know of any past residents who would be interested in receiving the association's newsletter or becoming a financial member ($20 a year), contact Mannix College to obtain details.

MANNIX COLLEGE

THE Mannix Old Collegians Association steering committee has been kept busy this year drafting a constitution with a view to formalising the association in 1989.

Other activities have included organising the annual ball and monitoring past residents' address changes.

The association takes this opportunity to thank Rob Gell, our guest speaker at this year's dinner, as well as those who attended. Also make a note in your diary that the dinner is held each year on the eve of the VFL (AFL) Grand Final.

If you know of any past residents who would be interested in receiving the association's newsletter or becoming a financial member ($20 a year), contact Mannix College to obtain details.

MEDICINE

THE Association of Monash Medical Graduates has continued its involvement with the faculty, with the graduates, and with the undergraduates.

We have representation on the Faculty Board and are playing an active role on the Curriculum Review Committee. We have recently conducted a survey of all our graduates and HEARU have helped collate the material. The report will be published in the next Newsletter.

We are having discussions with the Dean, Professor Robert Porter, to ascertain how a junior medical graduate could be incorporated in the proposed new faculty building on campus.

The Annual General Meeting and dinner was held at the Dorchester again in 1989 - sadly the last time at this venue as the Melbourne City Council in its wisdom has withdrawn the lease. It was a gala occasion with the "unveiling" of the association's Portraits of Professors Rod Andrew and Graeme Schofield and the presentation of their past studies, following which Professor Schofield gave the after dinner address. The association is looking forward to confer Honorary Life Membership on Graeme Schofield. We again thank him for all his support and encouragement and wish him well in his retirement.

Please note in your diaries that next year's AGM/Dinner will be held at the Tudor Court on Friday, 18 March. Associate Professor Eric Glasgow will be our guest speaker.

Rosemary Wright has continued the tradition of excellence in the production of our quarterly Newsletter. The association continues to send one complimentary issue per year to all non-member graduates and to all clinical undergraduates.

We have continued with offering assistance in organizing 10, 15 and 20 year reunions. These functions are generally very well attended and voted a huge success.

This year we have given a scholarship to a PNG medical student to come to Monash for his elective and we are hoping he will write an article for our newsletter to be published.

We will be presenting the final year prize at the final year dinner held at Leonida. Last year's winner was Dr Susan Wigg. We continue to provide interest-free loans to clinical students who find they are facing financial difficulties.

We hope to see many members, associate members and potential members at the next AGM/Dinner on 18 May.

For further information phone Valda Twaddle on (03) 895 3456.

J.R. Elderton

President

Report on the Troup abroad

NEWS from abroad has reached the Monash Reporter.

The son of Dr Gordon Troup, a reader of the Physics Department at Monash University, has been recently appointed consultant gynaecologist to the West Suffolk Hospital in Bury, St Edmunds.

Dr Michael Troup has been living overseas for about six years with his wife and their 11 month old baby daughter.
The Materials Engineering Alumni Association (MATENGA) is now entering its fourth year!

Peter Aird, as our Founding President, has done a marvellous job in setting up the basic infrastructure of our association. He has returned to the ranks of our committee, having completed the maximum number of terms as president that is possible under our constitution, and Yvonne Payne has taken over his position.

The new year also saw a change in much of the committee. A note of appreciation is extended to the retiring members who have done much to make the association viable.

The mid-year dinner still remains the major activity of MATENGA. On these occasions it is quite surprising who “comes out of the woodwork.”

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

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

Jacek Stecki took the helm at the start of 1988 and has brought about some major changes to the style and effectiveness of the association, promoting exchange between students and graduates.

This year two Alumni meetings were held overseas with Jacek meeting graduates in Singapore and Dr J. Mathew attending meeting in both Singapore and Kuala Lumpur.

Later in the year members from Singapore and Malaysia returned the visit and were given a tour of the department.

THE Society of Monash Electrical Engineering Alumni (SMEEA) has now been going for three years and boasts more than 300 members.

It has been a busy year for the Department of Electrical and Computer Systems Engineering, one of the highlights being the SMEEA’s second dinner on June 2.

A directory of members listing more than 300 names has also been produced and costs $10 (cheques to be made out to SMEEA).

Although membership continues to grow, it is still only a third of the total number of graduates from the department. Anyone who would like to join should phone Dr Chris Berndt on 565 2907 or Dr David Morgan on 565 3483 or leave a message 565 3486.

GRADUATE SEMINARS

The SMEEA organised two talks this year to undergraduates who may be feeling lost or are unable to see where the course is leading. The speakers were from the Victorian Division of the National Heart Foundation, the Pennslyvania Heart Association, and Asea Brown Boveri.

The message of the evening was reflected in both the careers of the graduates and the seminar’s closing remarks by Dr G. J. North, as our Founder, President, and is being distributed to all members who were unable to attend the dinner.

A directory listing the 1978 and 1979 graduates was distributed at the reunion and is being distributed to those who were unable to attend the dinner.

SMEEA

SCIENCE

If Monash science graduates have anything in common other than their degrees, it is that they show extraordinary diversity in their careers.

At the 1978-1979 Science Foundation dinner held in August, there were entrepreneurs, computer consultants, those with a career in the Defence Department, nurses, hospital consultants and solicitors.

The message of the evening was reflected in the careers of the graduates and the seminar’s closing remarks by Dr G. J. North, as our Founder, President, and is being distributed to all members who were unable to attend the dinner.

SMEEA

SPECIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

These days Robyn Charwood is very much in the public eye. As newly appointed head of the nutrition program at the Victorian Division of the National Heart Foundation, her overall task is to get across the message which links good nutrition very positively to heart health.

This may take the form of speaking to groups of health professionals, supplying information and resources to the public and overseeing health promotion programs.

Robyn was heavily involved in producing the “Heart Health” menus at the Victorian Arts Centre and has appeared on Channel 9’s “Current Affairs” program talking about the myths associated with heart disease.

According to Robyn the general level and awareness about the role of good nutrition in health is encouraging.

“People are realising that nutrition can do something about nutrition, probably because they are close to it at least three times a day!” she said.

Combined with the knowledge of other factors related to heart health of weight, cholesterol, blood pressure, smoking and exercise, Robyn believes it means that “we can take control of our lives in a very tangible way.”

With a background not only in clinical nutrition but also as an art researcher and director’s assistant at Sotheby’s, Robyn believes that a background of art is a great asset to any career, giving invaluable training in thinking clearly and logically.

Entrepreneur, Harry Ramdan put the Monash network to good use when he set up his company, Unique Micro Design, six years ago.

After graduating in 1978, Harry worked in the research department of ICI as an information scientist. According to Ramdan he had also regarded this time as a “stepping stone” to forming his own company.

With brother Geoff (a Monash Electrical Engineering graduate), Peter Worth (formerly with the Monash Computer Centre) and John Crossland, an accountant who holds a Monash degree in economics, Ramdan formed Unique Micro Design (UMD).

Ramdan said the enterprise fulfils a long term aim to “have a powerhouse of graduates doing high level work.”

UMD conducts research and developments in electronics and manufactures microprocessor-based devices such as magnetic cardreaders, bar code readers and point of sale displays.

The company’s links with Monash extend well beyond those making up its working team. The Mechanical Engineering Department and the Department of Physics of the company’s clients for whom the UMD team have been working for some time on the development of a vibration analysis and other systems.
Survey results

In the last year's Graduates' Special edition of Monash Reporter, we sought feedback from graduates on their involvement with the university and what value they placed on their time there. The responses have been illuminating and have helped us to think in what ways we might maintain contact.

The overwhelming number of respondents would choose Monash again if they were to apply to enrol at a university again—88 per cent as against 12 per cent. One of the classic reasons given for choosing Monash again was: "Because I liked it." Others included, "Monash was (and is) about excellence" and "It is the most forward-looking university.

There were some obviously biased answers however; "Monash is the best university in existence!" The "delightful grounds" and "beautiful campus" also featured, which will hearten those who have been responsible for landscaping the campus over the years.

Graduates were also asked to state on a scale of one to five, how valuable their time was at Monash. Only one person gave it a "five"—a complete waste of time. The other respondents would rate their time as "very valuable" (one); 31 per cent gave it a "two"; 16 per cent gave it "three" and two per cent gave it a "four".

How did they rate the quality of the formal education received here? Excellent (1) 29 per cent; (2) 49 per cent; Average (3) 18 per cent; Very good (4) three per cent and (5) Poor.

And how valuable was it in terms of personal development? Very valuable (1) 45 per cent; (2) 23 per cent; Moderate (3) 25 per cent; (4) six per cent; Detrimental (5) one per cent.

Responses to the question "What did you value most about your time at Monash?" can nearly all be summed up in one answer: "It expanded my horizons"—This was the outcome of opportunities provided through lectures and tutorials, clubs and societies, sports, recreation, living in halls and through developing an independent mind and spirit and meeting lots of different people.

And what did people value least? Exams, lack of funds, lack of time, the wind and the weather, lack of money, lack of funds, lack of time were some obviously biased answers with issues and continuing professional education. There has to be a top priority. In fact, 77 per cent of respondents sought some form of regular communication from the university.

Graduates also experienced interest in other activities:
- 64 per cent indicated that they would appreciate access to library facilities
- 54 per cent indicated their interest in professional development courses
- 41 per cent responded positively to the question of travel opportunities
- 36 per cent indicated their interest in library facilities
- 36 per cent wanted hotel discounts
- 25 per cent indicated an interest in being a member of alumni

The information gained from graduates' responses to this survey has been enormously helpful in determining program priorities. It has also provided important information for those involved in other areas of the university including the library and continuing professional education.

Thanks to those around the world who offered their service to help formulate the alumni program. The great deal of interest shown in alumni activities should lead to increased contact between the university and its graduates and among the graduates themselves.

The time and trouble of all those who responded is greatly appreciated as are subsequent letters and phone calls from interested graduates.

For further information about the survey contact the director of External Relations & Alumni Affairs, Monash University, Clayton, 3168.

Jennifer Beck
External Relations and Alumni Affairs

The colors

NYMPH's thigh is one prescribed colour in the dictionary of Colour Standards that Monash University has not selected for its academic dress.

However, rose beige, peacock blue and banana silk are among the colours adopted by different faculties to adorn the academic gowns at graduation ceremonies.

Director of External Relations and Alumni Affairs, Jennifer Beck, recently presented a history of the development of academic from the 1200s to Halls' residents. Tutors acted as models for the occasion.

According to Ms Beck it was not until the 1500s when academic dress became significant.

"It was by this time that faculties felt a need to assert themselves as a unit and to make their common aims known to the university as a whole," she said. "It also secured them against unlawful perpetrators."

The Monash University faculty colours are: Arts — old rose, Economics — peacock blue, Education — banana silk, Engineering — rose beige, Law — white, Medicine — victrix blue and Science — primrose silk.

Updating our records

This year's final issue of Monash Reporter is being sent to more than 100,000 graduates. As in previous years, we are asking your help to keep our massive address list up-to-date.

From last year's mailing of the graduates' Special, there were 1020 corrections, or 2 per cent of the mailing, and new or updated address were found for 525 (51 per cent) of these.

If you give insufficient information we may not be able to identify you.

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:

New title if applicable:

Last address notified:

Postcode:

New address:

Postcode:

Degree and year graduated:

Student I.D. number, if known:

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The McGowans take life by degrees

GRADUATING from university is a milestone in anyone's life, but for Marie McGowan, the word graduation has a special significance.

While not a university graduate herself, she could lay claim to being part of degrees ranging from medicine to law.

Mrs McGowan is the mother of 12 off-spring who will soon have 17 degrees have come back from the national Gallery of Victoria copying the works of the European Old Masters.

Rank Xerox Copy Centre sponsored the publication of the substantial catalogue which is still available at the Gallery (price $7). The exhibition will close on 2 December.

The friends of the Monash University collection will host a champagne Christmas Party on Tuesday 28 November in the Gallery. Music will be provided by the Early Music Society Ensemble. The friends will present two drawings to the University Collection which have been acquired with funds generously provided by its members.

From 6 to 20 December, an exhibition of recent acquisitions, loans and gifts to the Collection will be on display in the Drysdale Gallery. Gallery hours: Tuesday to Friday 10 am to 5 pm.

The Gallery will be closed from 20 December and will re-open on 28 February 1990 with a retrospective exhibition of paintings and drawings by the distinguished Monash University artist/engineer, the late Edwin Tanner.

Jenepher Duncan
Monash University Gallery

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The following activities are scheduled for Robert Blackwood Hall in December:

1: 7:00pm - Melbourne Youth Music "Often rural women do this kind of full-time parenting, and then get this amazing result at the end of it," she said.

1: 7:30pm - Melbourne Youth Combined Choirs Concert - Children's academic achievements.

2: 8:00pm - Melbourne Youth Music Academy Annual Concert and Award Presentation - The Melbourne Academy Boys' Choir, directed by Andrew Blackburn. 2pm. Ticket inquiries: 560 1513.

3: 9:00pm - Chime Christmas Concert - Boys and girls choirs as well as ensembles combining in a concert of arts, science, medicine and surgery, economics, social work, engineering, education, parenting, law and agricultural science.

The McGowans take life by degrees...