On wombat, loons and big taboos

On the trail of euphemisms, authors Keith Allan and Kate Barridge have pondered the question: how is a wombat like a man?

They have also asked what are euphemisms? How do they use them and how do they develop. They have contemplated taboo, jargon, slang and obscenity, and wondered why some words are more offensive than others.

Words, and their colloquial meanings as euphemisms, are investigated by the authors in How Is A Wombat Like A Man?: to be published next year by the Oxford University Press, New York.

In the book, Dr Allan, a senior lecturer at the University of Melbourne, and Dr Barridge, a linguistics lecturer at La Trobe University, explore the use of language as a shield (euphemism) and as a weapon (dysphemism). There was a constant turnover of euphemisms in the spoken language, Dr Allan said. The euphemisms of yesteryear were replaced by new ones as people created alternative expressions to avoid offending others.

Euphemisms provided a way for human beings to talk about potentially distasteful, taboo, fearsome or uncomfortable subjects such as body parts, death and sex.

For example, the use of bathoom or loo for toilet, underprivileged instead of poor and needy, senior citizens instead of old people, or pass away instead of die.

Then there was 'gender' instead of sex, 'made redundant' instead of sacked, 'industrial action' instead of strike, and 'tactical withdrawal' for retreat.

Often a euphemism degenerated over a short term through association with the taboo topic. Undercover police, for example, were called police, police and sometimes police. Often for the person taking care of funerals.

Wheels within wheels

Second-year physiology student Telford Scully is put through the hoops by an Aerotrain, a device that started life as an aid to acrobatic skiers but is now used by several air forces to stimulate the balancing systems of air sick pilots. There was no shortage of potential skiers/pilots during its short tryout last month in the Physiology Department. Picture: RICHARD CROMPTON
Teaching the Filipino teachers...

A group of Filipino physics teachers is studying at Monash this year under an Australian aid program which is helping to restructure the Philippines' secondary education system.

The 34 teachers are fellows of the Philippines-Australia Science and Mathematics Education Project (PASMEP), set up as part of Australia's increased aid to the Philippines since 1986.

Professor of Science and Education, Peter Fensham, was part of a mission to the Philippines which established the project's structure. Associate Professor, Dick Gunstone, travelled to the Philippines last year to complete details of the project in consultation with education authorities there.

PASMEP is being co-ordinated in the Education Faculty but the Physics Department has been involved in advanced teaching and the ELICOS centre in improving the fellows' language skills.

"They are studying an advanced program to train them to run in-service programs in the Philippines, tied in with the introduction of new curricula in science and maths throughout that country," Dr Gunstone said.

"When they return, they will be teaching an intensive six-week program for other teachers. The project aims to produce more people with science and mathematics skills and to improve the quality of teaching and learning."

"The bottom line is the new curriculum in physics with its new topics and increased emphasis on technology and society. What we are doing with them, however, covers much more than just the new course content."

"We have been teaching physics to the group as well as showing them alternative ways of teaching - looking at learning, ways of structuring the in-service courses, teaching to adults and problems of introducing changes to a system."

"It's the first time we have had such an extended program for this sort of specialised teacher education program in the department. However, we have had many strong links with Asian countries through other shorter projects, visiting staff members and people working here on higher degrees."

Dr Gunstone and Professor Fensham both have conducted UNESCO-sponsored teaching programs in the Philippines. He said the PASMEP program had been fortunate in attracting good staff and the response from the participants had been extremely good, after some early problems associated with settling in.

"After all, the situation was a novel one for both the fellows and Monash staff. They had to come to grips with understanding why we were doing things differently," Dr Gunstone added.

"We have spent a lot of time getting to know them and helping them to understand alternative ways of going about the teaching of physics and other subjects."
Studies in July.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Senator Gareth Evans, officially launched the university's Institute for Contemporary Asian Studies in July.

Speaking at the ceremony in the Alexander Theatre, Senator Evans, a graduate of Melbourne University, conceded that in Asian studies Monash was unrivalled in Victoria, if not Australia.

He said: "While it is a little painful for someone who studied and taught at Melbourne University ever if not Australia. ty. conceded that in Asian studies Alexander Theatre. Senator Evans, years been unrivalled in this state, without some competitive claims from the ANU, Griffith and Mur­ doch — in the whole country."

The institute was established in 1988 to increase understanding of Asia through teaching, research, publishing, and briefings for the business community.

It brings together the university's expertise in Asian studies, including that of the Federal Department of Asia-Pacific Studies and studies departments, and its centres of Southeast Asian Studies, Japan, Loneliness, Unemployment Studies and Asia-Pacific Education, as well as the Graduate School of Management.

Senator Evans said: "If Australia is ever to catch up with our geography, to accept all the conse­quences — political, economic and cultural — of living in the Asia-Pacific region, then the kind of work being done here at Monash under the umbrella of the institute, and the kind of creative new ways of co-ordinating and presenting that knowledge base to the wider com­munity, will be of vital importance to the country's future."

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mal Logan, said that for too long Australian universities had seen Asia as external to our own culture and therefore something simply to be studied.

"At Monash we have to begin to build into all disciplines right across the teaching of things Asian. All theoretical, philosophical and scientific material, especially in broad introductory courses, should come to include Asia as well as Europe-based intellectual content," Professor Logan said.

The director of the Institute for Contemporary Asian Studies is Professor Margaret Kartomi, and its ex­ecutive officer is Dr Joan Grant.

Mr Robyn Leeson helps country student Marcus Smith, of Edenca.

Adjusting to big city life

The problems of country students adapting to living and studying in the city were discussed during a recent visit to Ballarat by Ms Robyn Leeson, a tutor in the department of Geography and Environmental Science.

Ms Leeson was invited to speak on Ballarat's public radio station 91.9 FM by Mr Martin Merley, co-ordinator of the Vocational Infor­mation Centre, Ballarat.

Appearing on the centre's weekly program about youth, education and training issues, Ms Leeson, originally from Lang Lang, talked about the difficulties country students face in adjusting to city life.

The program also featured Mr Gary Bourke, a former Monash student, now careers teacher at Mount Secondary College in the Wimmera region.

"Staff and other students tend to forget what sort of problems country people have in a new environ­ment," Ms Leeson said. "You live in a small town for 18 years and then suddenly you're in a community of 17,000 on campus."

"If you are from a small town, as I was, you know everyone in the street. (At university) it's probably the most people you have seen in one place in your life; and there's no-one to say hello to."

She said country students lacked the support network of city students, many of whom probably were still living at home. "If you're from the country you have to find accommodation and perhaps a part-time job at the same time you are leaving old relationships and trying to form new ones," Ms Leeson said.

Ms Leeson said Monash University's Halls of Residence provided support for first-year country students simply because there were many others in the same cir­cumstances. (Applications for residence in the Halls for next year should be made before 22 Novem­ber, Contact the Halls admissions office on 544 8133 or 73 5930.)

Getting a foot-hold on campus could be as simple as joining one of the many clubs or societies, she added. (The University Union can pro­vide information and contacts for campus sporting, cultural, religious, political, theatrical, ethnic, faculty and general interest groups.)

Loneliness can be compounded by the surroundings and lack of direct family support were common prob­lems among country students. Ms Leeson said the end of first year was a "make or break time" when students decided whether to con­tinue in their studies or drop out.

"If they have made it to the end of first year, they've started to get a balance between how often to go home and perhaps breaking off some relationships at home," she said.

Students also came under pressure from family and old friends. "If they have made some sort of transi­tion they have changed quite a lot and when they do go home they don't seem to fit in as well as they used to," Ms Leeson added.

"Some students have real problems adjusting to isolation and breaking down of relationships but most have found their feet by second year."

Ms Leeson said tutors should be aware of the needs of country students. "First-year country students speak up a lot because they are really desperate to be understood. Tutors can make them feel they belong just by knowing their names, knowing where they are from, or just by saying hello."

Industry grants for key centre

The National Key Centre in Industrial Relations in the Graduate School of Management has received two major grants totalling $110,000.

A recent grant of $60,000 from the Federal Department of Industrial Relations is to investigate workplace change following the implementa­tion of award restructuring.

A series of case studies will be conducted in a range of industry throughout Australia, making the project the most comprehensive of its type. Mr Richard Gough, formerly of the department's Work Environment Branch, has been ap­pointed to the centre to co-ordinate the studies over 12 months.

The project will involve 15 academies at institutions in Victoria, NSW, Queensland and South Australia in up to 25 separate case studies.

"The aim of the project is to assess the extent of workplace change and to look at the factors which are promoting or hindering this, with a particular emphasis on award restructuring," Associate Professor Richard Curtian, of the key centre, said.

"Initially, the information will be useful for the Australian Industrial Relations Commission in its review of the award restructuring process. We don't think anybody else is looking in a systematic way at what's go­ing on at the workplace level."

An earlier grant of $50,000 from the National Board of Employment, Education and Training under its In­novative Grants Scheme is to establish industry-education links in the south-east of Melbourne.

"A network of industry consul­tants and experts from relevant disciplines in higher education, in­cluding TAFE, will be set up to pro­vide specialist advice to industry on a consultancy basis," Associate Professor Curtian, the project's director, said.

"We plan to establish contacts between the industry consultants working from TAFE Colleges of Dandenong, Frankston, Moorabbin and Hobsonieng, experts from the disciplines of business planning, engineering and industrial relations at each of Monash's campuses, as well as Swinbourn Institute of Technology and Victoria College.

"The project will act as a 'clearing house' by linking requests for specific assistance from industry with the appropriate information and expertise in the area. It will run over nine months to assess whether it can generate enough work to be self-funding."

He said the two projects would enable the centre, which opened in March this year, to demonstrate its expertise.

"We have already completed a project for the Business Council of Australia in conjunction with the In­dustrial Relations Research Centre at the University of New South Wales," he said.

The 16 Business Council case studies will be published at the end of September.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mal Logan, receives a cheque for $60,000 from the Minister for Industrial Relations, Mr Peter Cook.
Bovine abroad

Outside studies program report
by Dr Barry Bovine, senior lecturer in the department of Ballistics and American Culture.

The purpose of my two-month visit to the United States was to gather material for a sequel to my recent book "Lost in the Mist of Wine," and to study the viticulture of California.

I arrived in Los Angeles to find my luggage gone on to New York. I considered this a mixed blessing, as no one was surprised to hear that I was wearing one of my sister's tee-shirts, which carried a message alluding to my state of light-headedness. I was, however, able to escape by taking the back door.

Fully aware now of the danger, I stepped out onto Redondo Beach trying to ascertain the popularity of late 1960s Californian wine. Until one day I overheard someone say that I looked like a talk show host. Quickly I returned home, raided my sister's wine wardrobe, and changed into something a little less conspicuous. I parked myself back on the forecourt and made copious notes, at the same time trying to avoid the unwanted attentions of local businessmen.

None of my notes had anything about the wine trade. Still, I agreed with their remarks. I do look good in pastels. I visited several wine-growing areas over the ensuing weeks. As myself. And in the process learned to discourage the jibes about talk show hosts. I would turn on my accents and tell them that I was researching the forgotten years of Californian viticulture. At first my eyes glaze over as if they had just stepped into a cowpat. My notebooks were beginning to fill. I became convinced there was a professorship — at the very least, a readership — in unscrambling the key to one of wine's great mysteries. At this time the cat returned. His arrival happened to coincide with that of my sister, who introduced us both to the front door in rapid succession.

With a stray cat under one arm and six weeks' worth of research under the other, I stepped out onto the expressway looking like a talk show host headed for a retirement village. The cat stayed with me until my lecture friend had also signed the agreement at a ceremony held in the James McNeill Room.

Privacy law urged

Victoria is the only eastern Australian state not to have in place privacy legislation to protect the individual, according to senior lecturer in banking and finance at Caulfield campus, Mr Greg Tucker.

He was commenting on the release of a report by the Victorian Parliament's Legal and Constitutional Committee, which recommends introduction of comprehensive privacy legislation.

Mr Tucker, who conducted a review of international data privacy legislation while a research fellow at the OECD in Paris in 1988, gave evidence to the committee and was quoted extensively in its final report.

His work on data privacy legislation has been published in the latest OECD Science, Technology and Industry Review, and he has been invited back to Paris in 1991 to do a three-year update on developments in this area.

Mr Tucker said Australia had lagged behind other OECD nations in the introduction of individual privacy legislation. "In Europe there has been sweeping privacy legislation introduced, beginning with Sweden in 1973," he said.

The OECD privacy legislation guidelines for western countries were adopted by Australia in 1986. However, no legislative action was taken until 1991.

"The Australia Card proposal sharpened our focus on the privacy issue," Mr Tucker said.

"Privacy legislation is designed to protect personal information about the individual, which is held in many forms. "Information may be gathered about individuals through the use of plastic cards, passports and the tax file number. In some cases there is no awareness that data is being collected."

There were problems with determining the accuracy of information, the extent of the data, if it was kept up-to-date, and what it was used for. Security controls on access to the material also were vital to prevent unauthorised use.

Mr Tucker said privacy legislation was needed to make sure that information was not being abused and that when it had served its purpose, it was destroyed. "If a person collects information about you, you have the right to ensure that your personal privacy is not invaded," he said.

Examples of organisations which kept data on individuals were health insurance companies, financial institutions and the police.

Universities were required to recognise privacy rights in their jurisdictions. In the report, Mr Tucker's evidence is cited in relation to drafting new legislation, rather than extending existing legislation. His view that prevention of abuse was the cornerstone of privacy law also was reported.

"The emphasis should be on education of data controllers and employers, rather than having court action available to people. I also urged the committee to look at world trends in privacy law and to use international experience as a guide to legislation here," he said.

The committee's report has been referred to the Victorian Attorney-General, Mr Jim Kenan.

Telecom accord signed

A memorandum of understanding was signed last month between Monash and Telecom Australia to develop teaching and research in telecommunications engineering at Monash. Under the agreement, the university's Centre for Communications and Information Engineering will receive special support over five years from both the university and Telecom. Significant funding also has been received from the Victorian Education Foundation. The executive general manager of the Telecom Research Laboratories, Mr Harry Wragge (left), and the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Max Lagan sign the agreement at a ceremony held in the James McColl Room.
Professor Roger Short displays some condoms of the future: a plastic male condom (left) and a female condom. Picture: GREG WILLIAMS

**Women denied safe, convenient birth control methods**

Australian women in their middle and postmenopausal years were disadvantaged, compared to women in all Western nations and many Third World countries, through lack of choice in hormone replacement therapy (HRT), Dr Elizabeth Farrell said.

Dr Farrell, director of Menopause Services at Monash Medical Centre, said Australian women were being denied all the more convenient and safer forms of these therapies because of "the restrictive nature of our drug regulatory procedures."

"Pharmaceutical companies are less inclined to consider Australia as a site for research of new and improved HRT methods," she told the Reproductive Health Meeting.

Hormone replacement therapy is used for the treatment of menopausal symptoms, the prevention of osteoporosis and fractures, and for protection against cardiovascular disease. Most women require both oestrogen and progesterone treatment.

"HRT is available in this country in a limited number of oral preparations, some of which are available here only as a subcutaneous implant of oestrogen. Therapy should be safe, have minimum side effects and be easy to take," Dr Farrell said.

"Oral forms of HRT unavailable in Australia include convenience packs, similar in appearance to the oral contraceptive, in which the required dosages of both the oestrogen and progesterone are included in one tablet for each day of the month. These packs are much easier to use," he said.

"The development of these forms of oestrogen have provided newer and safer forms of replacement therapy," Dr Farrell said.

"The patch provides physiologic levels of circulating oestrogen in a sustained manner and a lower overall dose, but sufficient to alleviate menopausal symptoms. The patch is very well accepted by the user, as it is easy to use and the dosage schedule is simple," he said.

"In proportion to the cost of developing a new drug, evaluation is not expensive. If a clinical trial costs even $20,000, that's very minor in terms of the cost of developing a new drug which can be $100 to $200 million," he said.

Dr Neil Mitchell: "No patient who needs a drug has been denied."
Monash gains an all-rounder

Take the sports-minded product of a non-academic family, then let him play rugby for Australia and bake prize-winning bread in his spare time away from his career as an organic chemist.

Put all that together and you come up with Monash University's new deputy vice-chancellor, Professor Geoff Vaughan, formerly director of the Chisholm Institute of Technology.

Born in Sydney, Professor Vaughan went through the state education system before studying a science degree, a master's, and finally a doctorate in chemical microbiology. "As a child I always wanted to be a scientist. I was so impressed by my maths and chemistry teachers in high school that I wanted to use my own maths and chemistry in future life," Professor Vaughan said. "Their inspiration set me on fire, and there was nothing else in my mind other than studying science at university." Although he had full parental support, the wider family thought Geoff was being "a bit different", for he was the first of a whole generation of brothers and cousins to attend university.

Following his work in chemical microbiology, he began academic life as a lecturer at the Victorian College of Pharmacy. He stayed there in various capacities from 1979 to 1986, by which time he had been appointed chairman of the department. Having become very interested in the wider field of higher education, Professor Vaughan took the opportunity to apply for the position of director of Chisholm, a post he held for three and a half years until his recent arrival at Clayton.

"There's a big challenge with Chisholm merging with Monash. We now have a very large and diverse multi-campus institution, but it's been exciting to be associated with the change," Professor Vaughan said.

The deputy vice-chancellor's role at Monash encompasses a blend of administrative and academic responsibilities. His portfolios include student services, the student union, halls of residence, and overseas students. General staffing, including industrial relations, is another aspect of Professor Vaughan's work.

"I'm also involved with the coordination of communication and contacts across the campuses. I'm well placed because I obviously know two of the campuses - Caulfield and Frankston - very well."

One thing that the deputy vice-chancellor is not enamoured of is red tape. "I don't like red tape - I don't like bureaucracy. I like to see things happen. But first I've got to learn the Monash system and find where the links are across the university before I can make them happen," he said.

Professor Vaughan was quick with a pithy definition of the ideal length of a meeting. "As short as possible, provided you can get the work done."

"I like short meetings, but that depends on everyone having done their homework," he said.

With the merger, Professor Vaughan sees Monash becoming an even more diverse institution in the next few years. And he hopes that students will be able to move across campuses and courses more than they have been able to in the past.

"With a more diverse university we have very few courses now that students have to pick and choose across faculties, whereas previously many courses were highly regimented and students had to go along a given track without much option for electives or alternatives," he said.

In private life, Professor Vaughan is married to Janine, an agricultural scientist, and the couple have four adult children: a farmer, a doctor doing postgraduate work in surgery, an agricultural scientist, and a veterinarian.

He suggested laughingly that his wife's genes had more success than his. "She ended up with two agricultural scientists and a vet - but I have no scientists."

Professor Vaughan is a self-confessed sports fanatic. "In my younger days I played rugby for Australia, and still plays a great deal of tennis."

He takes great pride in the fact that his son is captain of the Monash University football team. "I'm an ardent follower of them on winter Saturdays, but as I have responsibility for the Sports and Recreation Association at Monash I'm caught between two allegiances."

"Homebots' could build cities of the future

Robotic technology could be the key to improved productivity in Australia's construction industry, according to a civil engineering lecturer at Caulfield campus.

Mr Murray Munro's vision of "homebots" replacing human workers on building sites received national media coverage at the National Conference on Robotics, held in Melbourne in June.

The paper described a "homebot" ensemble of truck-mounted robots which would carry out on-site production line, turning out roof trusses and standard-sized panels for walls, floors and ceilings. Other robots mounted on gantries would put the pieces together.

The robot truck would then move to the next vacant block and build another identical house.

Murray Munro: A vision of 'homebots'.

Mr Munro said that the use of robots in manufacturing industry was growing rapidly but the construction industry had been slow to capitalise on the array of technology now available.

He said the homebot concept, which stemmed from a research project he undertook at the University of Illinois, could become economically viable given rising housing costs and the continuing need to keep a lid on building industry unionism.

"Productivity in the housing industry has been static for the past 20 years, while manufacturing productivity has increased by almost 100 per cent in the past decade," Mr Munro said.

The construction industry had led the way in the 1970s by using robotics to maintain competitiveness in manufacturing at a time of rising energy costs.

"What we are trying to do now in the 1990s is to apply the same sort of approach to construction, and again the Japanese are leading the way. They are the only ones dedicated research and development money to this sort of robot development," he said.

"They are allocating increasing resources to identifying viable applications. The relentless advances in robotic technology in non-construction fields are providing a pool of ideas and technical configurations that lend themselves to almost immediate transfer to construction."

"The use of robots for building construction is an idea whose time has come," he said.

However, Mr Munro said funds for research and development in Australia were non-existent. Even prototypes built so far in Japan were only "a drop in the bucket" compared to the potential construction applications.

He said robotics could at first be used to provide cost-effective methods in high rise development, in underground, polar or undersea construction, and could be applied in space and in nuclear applications.

"For now, I think it's a matter of getting people comfortable with the idea," Mr Munro added.

"The construction industry has been inward looking for too long because we have been a protected and isolated market. It needs to start thinking globally, like manufacturing."

He said it was important to build up knowledge about construction robotics in Australia so that we could take advantage of the technology when it becomes available.

Robotics is not a part of any civil engineering courses taught in Australia, Mr Munro said.

An ancient tradition enters the 20th century. The Australian head of the Chihokan School of Shukakutsu, Mr Riley Kelly Lee, plays the shukakutsu in an exotic musical evening entitled "1000 Years Of Japanese Music". held recently at Robert Blackwood Hall, accompanying Mr Lee was another Japanese musical expert, Mr Satoshi Odamura, who delighted the audience with the range of music he produced on the koto, a traditional stringed instrument. The concert was presented by the Japanese Music Archive, with the support of the Japan Foundation Sydney Liaison Office and the Vera Moore Fund.
Examining Australia's health care

The well-being of Australia's health system will be examined by a new national research centre, established with federal and state grants worth almost $2.5 million. The National Centre for Health Program Evaluation is a joint venture between the Graduate School of Management's Public Sector Management Institute and the University of Melbourne's Department of Community Medicine. The two universities are providing accommodation and other infrastructure.

It is being funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council ($300,000 a year for five years) and the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation ($850,000 for the first three years), with some assistance from the Vice-Chancellor in its establishment phase.

The centre also is expected to attract outside funding for specific health program evaluation projects. The directors of the centres are Professors Jeff Richardson and Professor Chris Selby Smith of Monash and Dr David Dun of the University of Melbourne.

Its proposed research program is not yet finalised but is likely to include:

- the economic and health impact of the introduction of new technologies
- evaluation of health services for particular groups such as women, ethnic groups or minorities
- evaluation of immunisation and screening services and preventive activities such as alcohol and drug abuse programs
- the provision of institutional care for the aged in the light of growth in numbers and costs
- the economic and health impact of the provision of institutional care
- the provision of health care and services in particular groups such as Aboriginals and the aged in the light of growth in numbers and costs.

Professor Selby Smith said the centre's main role would be in the evaluation of health programs throughout Australia, with particular emphasis on evaluation from an economic point of view. It also would undertake training, consultation and development of better evaluation methodologies, he said.

The work of the centre would involve many disciplines, including academic and practical perspectives, clinical and health care services, evaluation and survey/sampling skills, as well as economic expertise.

He said at Monash there would be collaboration between the faculties of Medicine, Economics and Politics. The centre is supported by Monash's Faculty of Medicine whose Dean, Professor Bob Porter, is a member of the centre's advisory committee.

"We will be trying to forge close relationships with other people who might be interested in aspects of health care evaluation. We want to produce high quality academic work that is relevant to people working within the health system," Professor Selby Smith said.

"It's going to be a challenge to make it work, but the aim is to contribute to the better development and provision of health care and services for Australians in the long run," he said.

"The health care system is huge; it employs about six per cent of the Australian workforce and represents about eight per cent of Gross Domestic Product. We have to be realistic about what we can achieve because the industry is very large and very complex.

"There is a very wide range of things that could be done by the centre, and although there are never enough resources to do everything, it is important that we maintain high standards of quality in our work.

"I'm sure there are a number of areas in the health system where we can make decisions better. We are looking for ways to get better value for money out of the health dollar.

"We don't have to make much difference to pay our way, relative to the very large total of health care outlays. We will be trying to balance the ratio of benefits to cost to ensure we get as much as we can from our limited resources."

Professor Selby Smith said the centre would have a range of research associates from universities, government and the health care system.

Among them will be Dr Ian McDonald, head of the Cardiac Investigation Unit at St Vincent's Hospital and the medical evaluation expert on the Commonwealth panel which looks at expensive new health technologies.

"The centre will help to link people with common interests and it's very important that we are open to outside suggestions. We will be seeking to develop links with a wide range of relevant individuals and organisations both overseas and in Australia," he said.

"We are already involved in teaching health economics and health service evaluation. We also can act as a contact point for visiting academics and health professionals."

From left, Dr David Dun, Professor Jeff Richardson and Professor Chris Selby Smith.

Egyptology finds Hope at Monash

A full-time lecturership in Egyptology will be established at Monash next year. The position in the Classical Studies Department is believed to be the university's first privately-funded lecturership. It is also the first full-time Egyptology appointment in Victoria.

The new lecturer will be Dr Colin Hope, formerly a research fellow in Egyptology at Oxford University. Originally from the UK, Dr Hope has lived in Australia since 1981, holding research positions at Macquarie and Melbourne universities.

The Classical Studies Department has been encouraged by the popularity of Dr Hope's course in Egyptian history this semester which, although not advertised in the university handbook, attracted 60 students. This was the department's highest ever enrolment in a second or third-year course.

Supporters of the lecturership have raised about $80,000 through private donations and fund-raising activities, including a sale of donated Mediterranean antiquities.

A one-day symposium on Mediterranean civilisation in June in conjunction with the Museum of Victoria attracted 250 people, the biggest attendance ever at an Arts Faculty event of this type.

The department can afford the lecturership in 1991 and 1992 but aims to raise at least $300,000, which would be invested to provide income to fund the position in perpetuity.

Among several fund-raising activities has been the formation of the Egyptology Society of Victoria to promote public awareness of Egyptian culture and support the teaching of Egyptology at university level. The society hopes eventually to provide a studentship for travel to Egypt.

"The university is very happy for us to have an Egyptology lecturership but there are no funds for it," she said. "I think we are going to see a lot more of this sort of sponsorship."

Dr Hope said there was a great deal of interest in Egyptian culture.

"I've been teaching adult education courses in Egyptology since 1981 and they're always packed," he said.

"I have had students from universities coming to these classes because Egyptology has not been offered at tertiary level. We want to introduce the subject on a full academic scale."

Dr Hope said an aim of the Egyptology course would be to incorporate archaeology into the study of ancient history.

For more information about the lecturership or membership of the Egyptology Society, contact Ms Bowen, Department of Classical Studies, ext 75 3264.

Noted Egyptologist and now Monash lecturer, Dr Colin Hope.
The Victorian State Government's Green paper entitled Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation explicitly recognised that there is widespread support for action to reduce and resource depletion problems. We must address the institutional structures within which these resources are used.

In the case of cars, using them ef-

ciently is most effectively ap-

proached by increasing their ef-

ciciency rate. Instead of vast invest-

ments in engines, which might bring a few percent improvement in ef-

iciency, putting a second person into the car would cut fuel con-

sumption in half. The crucial issue as I see it in a dif-

ferent scenario is the concern that we have lost our sense of Biblical

literacy.

Mr Sugars said.

"There are many Christians on campus, but most of them would shy away from the title fundamen-

talist — they would claim to be conserv-

eve, and probably even charismatic," he said.

The difficult task of coming up with a term that would most accurately reflect the meaning of fundamentalism was felt by Father Steve Russell.

"The crucial issue is not just a question of attenuation towards the Bible. The church "is generally a person who is more expert in the Bible, incapable of error of any sort, whereas liberal Christian scholars are not bound by the idea of Biblical inerrancy," suggested Father Steve.

The student liberal Christian Fellowship, with Mr Sugars pointing out that it has lost its meaning, has been renamed into an epi-

cemonymy.

"The word fundamentalism is normally used in a derogatory way, and most people don't want to associate with it," Mr. Sugars said.

"The actual term .. fuodamen-
talist is a certain attitude towards the Bible. A fundamentalist is generally a person who is more expert in the Bible, incapable of error of any sort, whereas liberal Christian scholars are not bound by the idea of Biblical inerrancy," suggested Father Steve.

Mr Sugars described the mode of operation of the church, the group with which he works.

"What we do is encourage people to join churches or other groups, they can be well taught from the Bible and be encouraged in their relationships with God and can be outward look-

ing in their Christianity.

"If that happens in a mainstream church, then it is good, but if it doesn't, then go somewhere else," he said.

A noted authority on the management of mental disorders in the elderly, Dr Daniel William O'Connor, has been appointed to the Chair of Psychogeriatrics at Monash University.

Dr O'Connor graduated MBChB from the University of Adelaide in 1976 and completed a Diploma of Obstetrics the following year. He held several positions between 1976 and 1984, including that of registrar at the Auckland and Kingscote hospitals, while undertaking training in obstetrics and psychiatry. The latter part of his training was devoted to managing and redeveloping psychiatric services at Kingscote Hospital.

In 1985, Dr O'Connor was awarded a research fellowship at Hughes Hall, Cambridge, and was appointed to the position of honorary senior registrar at the East Anglian Regional Health Authority. With social anthropolo-

gist Dr Penelope Pollit, he established the Hughes Hall Project for Later Life, a long-

term experimental study of the efficacy of providing practical help to elderly people with mental disorders and their families.

The project is one of the largest and most comprehensive of its kind ever to be completed. In 1988, he took out the degree of MA from the University of Cambridge.

Dr O'Connor has acquired an international standing as an epi-
demological and clinical investigator in psychogeriatrics, and has published widely and delivered papers at several international conferences. The School of Nursing at the Franklin campus is looking for pregnant women to take part in its Adopt-a-Mother scheme, in which third-year Diploma of Applied Science (Nursing) students "adopt" an expectant mother-to-be and assist in her antenatal care, the delivery of her baby and of her infant. The students normally visit the family before the delivery, then with the mother's agreement — may either attend the birth or visit her within 48 hours and make a final visit about three weeks later.

Those expecting to give birth before November and who would like to participate in the scheme should contact Ms Brown Sleep on ext 74 4355 for further details.

Reader in biochemistry, Dr Peter Panagiotopoulos has been appointed to a personal chair in the department of Biochemistry at Monash.

Dr Nagle was educated at the University of Melbourne and was awarded a BSc in 1967 and completed his MSc in 1969. In 1972 he was admitted to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at Monash University, where his BSc was conferred in 1985.

Applications are now invited for the university's Bachelor of Social Work by either distance education or on-campus study. Applicants must have completed at least two years of an arts, humanities or social science degree by the end of 1990, or have obtained an Associate Diploma in Welfare Studies. Some special entry places are available for those with different qualifications.

Special consideration for enrolment in the distance education course will be given to country applicants and those already employed in the welfare field.

For further information and application forms, contact the department of Social Work on ext 75 4299 or 75 4291.

Applications should be lodged with the department by Friday 28 September.

The director of the Koori Research Centre, Dr Eve Feil, has been appointed to the Aboriginal Arts Committee of the Australian Council. She will serve on the committee until 30 June 1991.

Dr Feil has also been appointed chair of the Literature Panel for the same period.

Membership of the Australian Fulbright Association is open to all those who have participated in Fulbright and other United States government-sponsored education and cultural exchange programs. Established in January, the association aims to support and promote such programs, and to encourage continuing relationships among those who have benefited from them.

The association's patron is Sir Zelman Cowen. The foundation officers are: president, Emeritus Professor William Walker (Flinders and Monash); vice-president, Emeritus Professor DonNicholas (WAITE); secretary, Professor John Sharpshar (Ballarat University Collec-
ces); treasurer, Dr Howard Bradbury (ANU).

A day-long conference, to be at-
tended by several distinguished U.S. Fulbrighters, will be held in

A delighted Meredith Ellis accepts the inaugural Merck Biochemistry Medal from the managing director of BDH Chemicals Australia Pty Ltd, Mr Allan Dewar (right). Meredith won the award for being the most outstanding honors graduate in biochemistry in 1989. Looking on is the chairman of the Biochemistry Department, Professor Milton Hearn.
Industry chief to market Monash

If his past achievements in the world of industrial and managerial relations are anything to go by, Brian Powell must have a silver tongue to match his hair.

The new managing director of the university's business and commerce arm, Monash, has an impressive record in Australian industry.

Following a period in senior management at the Ford Motor Company, Mr Powell spent 12 years with a high public profile as chief executive of the Australian Chamber of Manufactures.

His early life included some future important university associations, as he was at Monash's present dean of medicine, Professor Bob Porter.

Unlike Professor Porter, however, Brian Powell did not plunge straight into a university career.

"After a couple of terms at Adelaide University I decided it wasn't for me, so I literally can see away for a year," Mr Powell said.

After serving as an officer in the Royal Australian Navy, he studied at the Australian National University for a degree in economics with a political science major.

Mr Powell's role at Ford as manager of traffic customs and government services brought him into contact with governmental decision making.

"I learned the logistics of the company, and had to plead Ford's case with government on anything from tariffs to transport to foreign exchange rules.

"We had a very professional and very good relationship with government services brought him into contact with governmental decision making.

"We had a very professional and very good relationship with government.

Mr Powell also spent some time at the Trade Union Training Authority, which gave him a close relationship with many trade union people.

"After 12 years at the Chamber, Mr Powell felt the call of the consultancy world, and decided to go on his own.

One of his proudest achievements as a private consultant was a government assignment to win the Anzac ships contract for the Williamstown dockyard, and oversee its privatisation.

"That was the most enjoyable exercise I've been engaged in for a long while," he said.

Mr Powell is clear about how he sees Monash's role. "It's all about improving the relationship between industry and government, and establishing a national and research organisation and the community it serves.

"It's getting the message of the university across, getting our research into industry and getting industry to think about the university when it has a problem, to see if the university can fix it," he explained.

Mr Powell wants Monash to develop in such a way that business, government and industry can understand how the university can contribute to the improvement of economic and social conditions.

"Montech is free of red tape. We can make decisions and act on it, and then we have to survive through our board. It's very similar to industry, where you have to set standards, live by them and lead by example," Mr Powell said.

Mr Powell is hoping that Montech will be able to syndicate more in university research.

"If that can be achieved, it requires not only a commitment from investors, but a commitment from government to allow that form of investment to get research breaks in taxation," he suggested.

Mr Haig said originally an Asian focus was envisaged for the centre but it now had an international outlook and would draw on expertise at Monash in many disciplines.

The centre for International Briefing is the result of an initiative by the Institute of Contemporary Asian Studies, which facilitates teaching and research on Asia in all faculties at Monash.

It is being established with funding of $4 million over five years from the ANZ Bank. Its main office is at the Monash Centre, corner of Exhibition Street and Flinders Lane.

Mr Haig said originally an Asian focus was envisaged for the centre but it now had an international outlook and would draw on expertise at Monash in many disciplines. It would also conduct individual and group briefings for travellers as well as those planning to live in another country. Briefing also would be provided for business people coming to Australia.

The centre would act as a bridge between tertiary educators, business and government. "Educators need to find more ways of applying their knowledge effectively with business and government negotiators," Mr Haig said.

The first courses during October will be on the countries of Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore, and Taiwan, Korea and Hong Kong. In November the focus will be on Europe 1992 and the Eastern Bloc countries.

Next year's program will include courses on Japan, India, Laos/Cambodia/Vietnam, Papua New Guinea/Pacific region, the Middle East, China and Indonesia/ASEAN countries.
Universities in moral crisis

Are universities suffering a moral collapse? Has the word education lost its true meaning? The debate about the root causes of problems in universities came to Monash recently with the visit of eminent American philosopher, Professor Bruce Wilshire of Rutgers University, New Jersey.

Professor Wilshire, author of The Moral Collapse of the University: Professionalism, Purity, and Alienation, gave three lectures on the Clayton campus.

Most observers agree that undergraduate education in large universities is gravely flawed. Some state that education lost its true meaning? What is education? What ought we to expect from education? Are universities suffering a moral collapse? Has the word education lost its true meaning?

The debate about the root causes of what is happening is so serious that it is one of the most important events in our species. Too much is at stake. To ignore obvious considerations of the student's welfare is to live as fully conditioned like a rat or dolphin.

Breakdown

I assume the existence of an educational establishment, the United States, and am mainly interested in its moral dimensions. I think the reasons for the breakdown can be summed up in a single word: breakdown.

Conditioned

By contrast, the mere instructor builds a wall around the student from whatever facts or skills the instructor regards as important - there for whatever reason and by whatever means. Perhaps the student is conditioned to the point where he is a dolphin. If a dolphin, say, is instructed or conditioned to detect and destroy explosives, then it is the instructor who is the good of the instructor, not the instruction. We can speak coherently of instructing someone to be a slaver; we can only condition slavers. Education should be the ultimate oration experience in which the student is least expected to submit to the world - local, planetary, cosmic - as the place where the instructor is the good for the good of the student.

Neglect

One of the most serious causes of hyper-specialisation is neglect of undergraduate studies in research universities. Most of the world's universities have not yet identified areas where the skills are exercised. If the field is altered, one's skills may become obsolete. But since the costs of hyper-specialisation are so great and are now so obvious, I think it is most plausible to suppose that in addition to obvious egoistic, irrational forces at work, there are irrational, irrational forces also at work.

Irrational

It is hard to explain the self-defeating effects of hyper-specialisation. The problem is not present in the faculty, the students, or the administrators. It is present in the student. The student is conditioned to the point where he is a dolphin. If a dolphin, say, is instructed or conditioned to detect and destroy explosives, then it is the instructor who is the good of the instructor, not the instruction. We can speak coherently of instructing someone to be a slaver; we can only condition slavers. Education should be the ultimate oration experience in which the student is least expected to submit to the world - local, planetary, cosmic - as the place where the instructor is the good for the good of the student.

I think the injection of nutritional materials is generally ignored by educators. It is not seen that the injection is generally not regulated, processed, and hence purified by physicians, pharmacists, or biochemists. The injection is generally not treated as a learning situation but as a gesellschaft, as a group activity.

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Eastern Europe steps into the unknown

Eastern Europe would become economically and politically diverse in the wake of last year's democratic revolution, according to Professor Agnes Heller, of the New School for Social Research, New York.

Professor Heller was at Monash last month to deliver a series of lectures and seminars on Central and Eastern Europe in the 1990s. She said that over the next 20 to 30 years each country in the region would develop in different directions. Some could develop industrial, fully-fledged democracies, while others would face nationalistic or partly totalitarian forces.

"There's no prediction for better or for worse but whatever happens is a step forwards," she said.

However, the tendency of these countries to see themselves as a part of the East had completely gone. There was a new consumerism, new expectations, and a desire for reunification.

"Each government, each country wants to fit into the new arrangements. They want to become Western and this wasn't always the case. Western means modernity, and it means a type of modern development," Ms Heller continued.

She said the events in Eastern Europe had shown that liberal democracy, as a model of statescraft, now was preferred in Europe to all types of totalitarian systems.

"Totalitarianism was one of the many experiments of the modern world and it's turned out to be the poorest and most devastating experiment - both economically and in human terms," she said.

"Eastern Europe had not produced a political system which deserved to be preserved.

"Violence is inherent in totalitarian systems; they cannot function without it. Either you wage war against your own people or against another population, but you must wage war continually," Professor Heller said.

"I would not dare to speak in terms of any benefit. What developed (under totalitarianism) was an inferior economy with a government that was totally criminal and totally wasteful.

"In Europe it might be an understatement to speak of 100 million victims, including 20 to 30 million under Russian Stalinism."

Professor Heller said the single most important factor in the European revolution was the passivity of the Russians. "They would not march in or send their tanks and planes or back-up the secret police," she continued.

"Once the hopes were gone, that was enough to get the momentum going."

She said that even five years ago she had been very gloomy about the expansion of totalitarianism regimes throughout the world. However, their growth in Central America and Asia had been almost completely reversed.

Professor Heller predicted that Chinese communism would not survive the country's next popular uprising, which would probably occur within the next five years.

Professor Ferenc Feher, also of the New School for Social Research, said at Monash for the lecture and seminar series, said describing the Eastern European revolution as a triumph of capitalism over socialism did not take into account the complexity of the situation.

"What cannot be denied is that an economic change has to be implemented. We will see market economies which will be part of the global system," he said.

"The 1989 revolution means that reducing it to one factor - capitalism versus socialism - is no longer possible. What can be said is that the socialism experiment failed."

"It's not at all certain that they will be very prosperous on the basis of a market economy. They certainly will be free to choose their own employment and lifestyle.

"Before, you either belonged to the ruling elite or you were a State employee. But even if the economy doesn't flourish, I don't believe people would want to go back to the old Soviet system, because it's slavery."

Scholarship strengthens Ukraine links

Monash University's links with the Ukraine have been strengthened by the establishment of a new graduate scholarship in Ukrainian studies.

The first graduate from the University of Kiev will study here next year under the scholarship scheme. Details of the scheme were finalised during a trip to the Ukraine earlier this year by senior lecturer in Ukrainian studies, Dr Marko Pavlyshyn.

The scholarship is equal to the value of a Monash graduate degree. In exchange, the University of Kiev will pay the living expenses of Monash students who study there.

Dr Marko Pavlyshyn visited two major Ukrainian cities - Kiev and Lviv - between March and May as part of his outside studies program.

"As a result of the trip to Kiev, we now have direct links to leading personnel in the National Association of Ukrainian Studies and with the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian SSR," he concluded.

"This is a level of contact unheard of even a few years ago. There have been very real advances in freedom of speech and the academic world is uniquely placed to take advantage.

"It was astounding, particularly from my point of view as a literary scholar, to see how writers and critics had been reanimated as a political elite.

"These are people who are taking leadership positions, not merely as spokesmen, but also as organisers and leaders of new political organisations."

In researching contemporary Ukrainian literature, Dr Pavlyshyn interviewed many of the country's leading novelists including Oymyro Bobrovsky, now a prominent politician in the Ukrainian Democratic Party.

"While I was there, it was still generally thought that a declaration of independence was a long way off. This illustrates how quickly the political development of the republics and fragmentation of the USSR is advancing," he said.

"Everyone was in favour of cultural development and most are in favour of separating from the Soviet Union. At least in the short term a confederacy seems to be the most likely outcome."

"In the long term, I think we should be looking at the possibility of complete separation. It's very likely we will see a division of the Soviet Union along ethnic lines."

However, most ordinary people were concerned more about the failures of perestroika to effect real economic change.

"There was a very deep level of frustration at the deterioration of supply of basic consumer goods. It will be a while before we see any economic consequences of the recent social changes," he said.

Building confidence with wood

The look of pride on children's faces when they have created something out of wood gives Frankston campus's Bob Greaves a great deal of satisfaction.

For 10 years, Mr Greaves, of the School of Early Childhood and Primary Education, has been giving children aged from four to 14 the opportunity to organise donations of materials and arrange the activity to the Royal Melbourne Show.

According to Mr Greaves, it's an enormous logistical exercise to get all the materials together.

"Bowens Timber and Hardware organise donations of materials and tools and the Royal Agricultural Society pays my motel bill and that sort of thing," he explained.

The activity is staffed by third-year education students who are given credit for it in their coursework.

The biggest benefit, says Mr Greaves, is the way it raises children's self-esteem.

"You see children come in with low shoulders and drooping body postures, and they'll go out with raised shoulders and beaming faces, saying 'look what I've made!'"

"You can show that to parents because they can see it happening, and they also see quality teaching taking place by our students," Mr Greaves associates.

Bob Greaves is also author of the forthcoming second edition of Child Art and Craft Handbook, which will be launched by the Art and Craft Teachers' Association.

The book is written to impart importance to parents of drawing as a communication skill, and the evolution of early scribble into written language.

"There's very little general information about what children's art is about, so the book is aimed at parents of kindergartens children in a language accessible to all people," explained Mr Greaves.

Copies of the book may be ordered through the Art and Craft Teachers' Association.
Bilingualism on the rise in Victoria, workshop told

Bringing up children bilingually was the subject of a workshop held at Monash last month.

In Melbourne, more than 75 community languages other than English are spoken and about 23 per cent of people use a community language in the home, compared to the national average of 14 per cent.

The Language and Society Centre (LASC) at Monash, part of the National Languages Institute of Australia, organised the workshop to provide information and support for bilingual families.

Dr George Saunders, senior lecturer in languages at the University of Western Sydney, told the workshop that raising children bilingually presented difficulties.

These included unrealistic expectations on the part of the parents, uninformed criticism from relatives, and reluctance by children to use a non-English language.

A case study was used to show that children in a two-language family could attain a good level of bilingualism as infants and, with parental encouragement and assistance, maintain and develop proficiency through to adulthood.

He said parents did not necessarily have to have an ethnic background to succeed in raising children bilingually.

Michael Clyne, of the Linguistics Department, said that bilingual children may have intellectual advantages over children who spoke only one language.

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Chinese student scores double

Postgraduate education student Xia Guangzhi has returned to China with an impressive double achievement to his credit.

Mr Guangzhi is the faculty's first graduate in the Master of Educational Policy and Administration degree, and also the first student from the People's Republic of China to complete that qualification.

Unlike the majority of Australian students, Mr Guangzhi's educational path involved work as a farm laborer in the countryside, and two years as a bricklayer in Nanjing.

Following a nine-year courtship, Mr Guangzhi married Cao Li, but had to leave her for his studies in Australia within a month of their marriage.

However, after two years Ms Li was able to join him at Monash as a guest of the English Department.

On the couple's recent return to China, Mr Guangzhi took up a position as program officer at the State Education Commission's Bureau of Overseas Studies.

His role involves arranging for students to study in the USA and Australia— an experience Mr Guangzhi speaks warmly of.

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Carving music from trees

The dramatic history of a 64-year-old homemade Indonesian orchestra was presented at the Alexander Theatre last month. The Gamelan Digul was created in 1926 at an Irian Jaya prison camp from jungle trees, stolen door hinges, and prison cooking pots. How it found its way to Melbourne — and eventually to its permanent home in the Monash University Music Department — formed the storyline of a musical-dramatic production in Indonesian and English. The authentic atmosphere of the production was enhanced by Indonesian culinary delicacies on sale. Pictured are students from the departments of Music and Asian Languages and Studies, which presented the performance in association with the Consulate of the Republic of Indonesia.

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A taste of rugby

Coach of Monash Rugby Union Club's senior side, Arnold Wallis, revs up his team as it continues on its winning way to the grand final, to be played on 15 September. Arnold, a second-year arts/law student at Monash, took over as coach early this year. Since then, the team has won 13 games, lost three, and drawn two.
Pregnant women quit smoking in pilot study

A successful US self-help program shows promise in assisting Australian women to stop smoking during pregnancy, according to senior lecturer in the department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Dr Greg Rice.

A Pregnant Woman's Self-help Guide to Quit Smoking, designed by professor of Public Health at the University of Alabama, Dr Richard Rice, has the greatest success rate in the field in America. It has been modified for Australian women by the Queensland Cancer Foundation.

Dr Rice ran a pilot study on the guide with the aim of introducing a more effective management strategy into the pregnancy care clinics at the Monash Medical Centre. The program is being evaluated by Clinic staff members. Midwives are continuing to monitor the women.

The guide uses a self-directed seven-day quit plan to allow women to take control over their smoking behavior. It promotes a sense of achievement and satisfaction when they quit successfully.

About 40 per cent of the women at the Monash clinic smoke, seven per cent above the national average. Early results show half the women using the guide and one in five have quit.

Dr Rice has been awarded the Anthony Suda Prize for 1990 for the study as his thesis for Master of Business and Health Administration at RMIT. The prize is awarded to the best participant to complete a postgraduate course in health administration in Australia each year.

According to Dr Rice, the detrimental effects of smoking on the fetus, newborn child, and the future growth of the child have long been known. Smoking decreases birthweight, increases the possibility of spontaneous abortion and infant mortality. Despite this knowledge, some pregnant women are not motivated to give up smoking, he said.

"Dr Rice said: 'The most beneficial outcome so far are the comments made by the women throughout the study.' Unless self-motivated and encouraged by support of the clinic staff, they will not quit. If a woman is motivated to quit smoking, she will usually do so at about the same time as her pregnancy. The problem with a pilot study such as this, said Dr Rice, is that it deals only with a small number of women over a short time. Further comprehensive long-term studies on birthrate, perinatal effects and biochemical analysis of nicotine would be required to determine its true impact.

Dr Rice is also working as NHMRC Research Fellow in the department of Physiology on identifying women with a predisposition to preliminary labor.

Jane Grogan

Merger widens horizons for Chisholm alumni

In 1988 the Chisholm Institute Alumni Association. Membership is open to alumni of Caulfield and Frankston campuses, of Monash, and alumni of Chisholm and its antecedent institutions - Caulfield Technical College, Frankston Teachers College, Caulfield Institute of Technology and State College of Victoria at Frankston.

The association, with a membership of about 2,100, operates alongside a number of faculty-based chapters: it organises activities for members and friends in conjunction with graduate year groups, affiliated chapters, or departments, and publishes its own news sheet.

About 150 members pledged special support to the association in its early months by becoming Foundation Members. A plaque recording their generosity will be installed later this year. Corporate sponsorship has also been provided by State Bank Victoria.

Membership is available on payment of an annual donation (currently $25). Complimentary membership is extended to new graduates from Caulfield and Frankston campuses for the first 12 months after their graduation. They are then invited to become financial members. This ensures that graduates continue to receive news of special events - both social and professionally-based - as well as some university publications. Associate membership is open to staff and other interested people. A proportion of revenue from donations is directed towards teaching and research activities to help maintain high standards of academic excellence.

Many members take up library borrowing rights for an additional fee - a special support so far as their university's entrant in the 1990 world challenge race for solar-powered vehicles. And on 7 October, alumni will be playing the money market, using computerised simulation packages in the School of Banking and Finance.

The merger of Monash and Chisholm presents exciting possibilities for the Alumni Association to widen the range of activities in which its members can be involved, while still fostering the contacts and networks of those many people who are proud to be known as Chisholm alumni.

For further information contact the executive officer, Ms Bev Fryer, at PO Box 197, Caulfield East 3145. Telephone 573 2731.

Australian missing out on long-acting contraceptives

From page 5

Dr Sandra Hallam, assistant medical director, Family Planning Association of Victoria, said it was common sense to have available as many varied contraceptive methods as had been tested and tried.

She said of the three long-acting, non-oral contraceptives (contraceptives) marketed throughout the world, only one was available in Australia, but for considerably more money. "The most promising: the vaginal ring, used for a period of about three weeks' Worth of contraceptive protection in the treatment of hormonal conditions and malignancies."

The makers of this product, Depo-Provera, had not applied to license it here as a contraceptive because "it is relegated to the too hard and controversial basket."

Of the three preparations, two (including Depo-Provera) were administered by intramuscular injection, effective for two or three months, and one (Norplant) was implanted under the skin, effective for five years.

"At least six are others are in their final clinical trials. These include vaginal rings, biodegradable and non-biodegradable implants, micro capsules and pellets," Dr Hallam said.

She said the advantages of Norplant and vaginal rings were that women were in control of their own contraception because the implant or ring could be removed, and both used a less controversial progestogen than Depo-Provera.

Depo-Provera had been the subject of more than 1,000 studies in the 82 countries where it was registered for use. "On the basis of evidence from these studies, it looks to be a safer preparation than the pill," Dr Hallam added.

"It makes us wonder in despair why this now almost obsolete preparation has been victimised for so long. As we have had this impression with Depo-Provera, it looks to be one of the most well-conceived of all contraceptives."

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Arranging a musical match

"WANTED: A dynamic musical conductor capable of inspiring talented student musicians to perform at a high standard in a new orchestra.

Although that was not the description the head of the university's Music Department, Professor Margaret Kartumi used in a recent advertisement for a world-class musician, it's the kind of person she has in mind to lead the proposed new university orchestra.

"What we want to do is create a very high quality orchestra which will draw on the talent of our students in Melbourne and perhaps even other parts of the country," she said.

Professor Kartumi expects that the orchestra will be very successful. He is not interested in the best musicians under 29 years of age, and there will be no place for talented young musicians who are not Monash students.

"Although there is no remuneration for orchestra members, there is a special accreditation scheme which will help talented musicians get paid for their work," Professor Kartumi added.

University students have agreed to play for free and are especially interested in the opportunity to gain experience in music performance.

Participation will require three hours of practical rehearsal time a week, as well as a seminar on the history and theory of music.

"We want the students to be part of the administrative team so that we can all learn from each other," Professor Kartumi said.

"I believe this orchestra will be very successful and I encourage them to put a lot of effort into individual and group rehearsal and class time. At the end of the year we will have a really livewire concert, not just for Monash but for Melbourne," Professor Kartumi said.

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Frontline artists capture war

The emotional response to the overwhelming experience of war is captured in the latest exhibition at the Monash University Gallery. Titled "Send Me More Pain!", due to the chronic shortage of materials faced by frontline artists, the exhibition of Australian art from World War Two includes work by William Dreyer, William Dobell and Donald Friend.

"Send Me More Pain!", which is mounted by the Australian War-Memorial and will be touring throughout Australia, can be seen at the gallery until 29 September. The exhibition was opened by Sir Edward "Shiny" Dandy (who served in World War Two). He is pictured with the director of the Monash University Gallery, Ms Jennifer Duncan, and member of the Friends of the Gallery, Emeritus Professor Rod Andrew.

Bringing a sense of scale to Arthur Boyd's triptych is the director of Robert Blackwood Hall, Mr Harold Karpin. Picture: RICHARD CROMPTON.

Boyd's innocent victim

The large triptych by Arthur Boyd, Australian Scapegoat Triptych 1988, was recently offered on extended loan to Monash University by the Arthur Boyd Foundation. It was exhibited at the 1988 Venice Biennale, an exhibition that launched the new Australian Pavilion for this major international art festival.

Much of the history of Australian art has been concerned with the tradition of the landscape, beginning in the 1860s, when we inherited the romantic traditions of English and European landscape artists. A major reassessment and redefinition of this tradition was undertaken in the 1940s by the artists we now refer to as the Antipodes (including Fred Williams, who reduced the elements of the Australian bush to its bare essentials. Sidney Nolan who painted his harsh lands with legendary figures of horses such as Ned Kelly and the Gallipoli soldier Simpson; Russell Drysdale who replaced the lush, forest image of the continent with that of the arid, dry centre.

Arthur Boyd's landscapes refer back to a colonial vision of Australia as the lost Arcady. In a quest to infer a sense of history, Boyd transferred classical mythological characters into an Australian setting. In a series based on Leda and the Swan, Diana and Acteon and with figures of Venus, Mars and Vulcan he imbued the Australian landscape with a symbolic significance it had not previously had.

Boyd mixed freely references to classical mythology, Christian iconography and Australian history, merging the whole into a highly personal and visionary expression of his own experience of the world. Australian Scapegoat is one of the recent works called by the artist "pictures of pictures". In them Boyd makes reference to his own work from the past, reworking familiar figures and themes to make a new statement.

The Scapegoat of Christian parable is the innocent victim, and has appeared in various forms in Arthur Boyd's mythology - the criped dog, the artist himself, victim of greed, also the scapegoat soldier, victim of war. The animal is a composite of several recurring Boyd animals - goat, sheep, dog. In this work he also echoes a Narcissus figure as he leaps over the water, and is identified as the prototype digger branded on the forehead with the rising sun insignia.

As Graziya Guna, curator of the Venice Biennale exhibition, writes: The beast can...be seen as symbolic of both the heroism of the unknown soldier and the inevitable tragedy of war. Boyd sets his beast in a no-way-out scenario. The doomed scapegoat is centrally placed between Venus, the goddess of sensual pleasure and Mars, the evil god of war. The feeling of entrapment is heightened by being geographically trapped on a thin precipice.

The artist represents himself in the guise of both cripple and clown, and runs into the painting, perhaps too late, armed with his crutch and his paint brushes.

Merry Gates

Monash University Gallery

Scholars muster atoss Tasman

Noted historians from Australia and New Zealand have been called in for a conference on the Tasman Relationship, which was established in 1983. The New Zealand Government, the Department of Education, Monash University and the University of Melbourne are helping to organise the conference.

The conference, entitled "A Tasman Muster!", will be held at Monash and at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology on 20-23 September.

"Our aim is to bring Australian and New Zealand historians together. A lot of people are unaware of the excellent work being done in the other country," he said.

The New Zealand Government has contributed a grant to cover the air fares of the nine New Zealand historians participating in the conference. The conference also has been supported by the Arts Faculty at Monash and the Department of Communication Studies at RMIT.

"We have tried to get young scholars as well as more senior people. The conference is aimed at a wider audience because we hope to publish a selection of the papers presented," Mr Wood continued.

"We want to emphasise the home front, and women's and social history, as well as the battle front. He said Australians knew about our part in the world wars, but there was a lack of knowledge about New Zealand's involvement and its history generally.

"Since the Closer Economic Relationship was established in 1983 there's been a much better cooperation of New Zealand affairs in the Australian media. I think the conference will be a significant event in the Tasman Relationship," he said.

Keynote speakers will include leading New Zealand historian Sir Keith Sinclair, who will talk on "Tasman Relations in the Two World Wars," and Professor Erik Olsen, who will speak on "New Zealand and World War 2!.

Other topics will include gender history, government policy in World War Two, and war and the labour movement.

The conference venue will be Monash University Gallery Theatre and the Institute Function Room, RMIT Union.

For further information contact Mr Wood on ext 75 3727, or Mr Judith Smart, Department of Communication Studies, on 660 2900.
Admired actor checks in at the Alex

Playwright Hannie Rayson and Mr Peter Fitzpatrick, senior lecturer in the English Department.

Doctor Jazz swings music and medicine

"My heart is in music and I'd love to be able to do it full time, but it would have to be viable. There's so many musicians for whom it's not, despite their enormous talent and hard work," Dr Pilbrow said.

"It's difficult to make a living unless you teach or do a lot of session work. Even very solid players are on the fringe because you need commercial success to survive; it's not always a case of ability.

"But all through that time I was always writing poetry," he said. "From my point of view, I'm having a lot of time to do my work and have a good look around South Gippsland, which is the one area of the region I don't know much about. "So it seems to be working out fairly productively for both the college and for me," Mr Duggan said.

Mr Duggan describes his own career as an 'experiment'. "I've done all sorts of things, from lecturing to cleaning in a bookshop to being an art critic for the Times On Sunday during its dying days."

Gippsland poet ranges wide

A former Monash student from the radical '60s has returned to the fold as writer-in-residence at Monash University College Gippsland.

Laurie Duggan is the author of a documentary poem about Gippsland called The Ash Range.

He recalls his student days at the Clayton campus as exciting times. "It was good for writing, because there were people with me, such as Alan Wearn and John Scott, who are still going strong," Mr Duggan said.

Coming from a Gippsland family, he has written extensively about the area. This made him an ideal choice for a 10-week period as writer-in-residence.

His work at Gippsland has been interesting and varied, he said. "I've talked to education classes about teaching poetry, and I've read some of it to an English class."

"I've also spoken to a women's writing group about publication, and to another English group on satire, of which I've written a fair bit," Mr Duggan said.

"So I'll be speaking to a Gippsland history class about the 1939 Gippsland bushfires, and I'm addressing a visual arts forum in a couple of weeks."

Simon Pilbrow and bassist Geoff Klute at a lunchtime concert.

Huts sublime, lean with the wind; collapse,
the vertical and horizontal; grow obtuse and acute; board's grey, then rot;
thick iron lasts; a little longer
Fire and regrowth clear the remains.
So, Glen Wills:a sign in a clearing:
at Sunnyside there's nothing; Grant, a gravestay.
if you can find it.
And Stirling? The base of a chimney, overgrown,
in a small clearing:
dark water, a wild fruit tree.

(Monash Reporter, September 1990 - Page 15)
Chasing the outback sun

A solar-powered car, designed and built at Monash University's Caulfield campus by staff and students, has completed its outback road trials and is ready to race in the World Solar Challenge.

Forty-four solar-powered vehicles from around the world will compete in the 3200-kilometre race from Darwin to Adelaide in November. In the 1987 race, Caulfield's entry came sixth in a field of 23.

The new vehicle, named SOLution, was publicly unveiled last month at a launch at Olympic Park attended by the federal Minister for Science and Technology, Mr Crean, and sponsors of the project and university officials. The solar vehicle was shown in action and a video about its development over the past two years was screened.

Project leader, Mr Paul Wellington, a lecturer in the department of Mechanical Engineering, said the project was a good example of cooperation between industry and education.

"It has linked students from the varied disciplines of industrial design, applied psychology, and marketing," Mr Wellington said.

Specialist assistance has been provided by the Politics Skills Centre at Dandenong TAFE, the Materials Engineering Department at Clayton, and the Engineering School at Moorabbin TAFE.

Sponsors from industry have donated materials and services worth about $250,000. When student time is taken into account, the total cost of the vehicle is estimated at about $2 million.

Major sponsors are the Victorian Solar Energy Council, Ciba Design, Tektronics, ASTA, Autodesk, ON Technology, Comalco, the Army Engineering Development Establishment and the RACV.

Mr Wellington said the launch was the culmination of more than two years of research, planning and fine-tuning of a revolutionary, three-wheeled catamaran design. The driver sits at the front of the right-hand wheel, which contains the electric motor and battery pack.

The other project members will take part in the race as support crew under the supervision of technical manager, Mr Shane Richardson, a mechanical engineering graduate who worked on the vehicle's design, and team manager, Ms Penny Rosen, a final-year marketing student. Ms Rosen developed a promotional campaign for the project as part of her studies and was subsequently invited to be race team manager (see story below).

Minor improvements have been made to the car following the outback road test. The steering has been re-designed, a new disc wheel fitted in the front right-hand side to counter flexing in strong crosswinds, and modifications have been made to the chain drive and suspension. Some components also have been made lighter.

In 1987, the Caulfield vehicle was the only catamaran in the race. Mr Wellington said SOLution was a significant advance on that vehicle because of extensive testing and the use of a computer-aided drafting system.

He said the project gave students the opportunity to take part in real design and development work. In the classroom, teachers could give examples relating to real design problems.

"Also some of the materials we have used are very expensive, and because we have been given these materials to work on with the car, it gives students experience they might not otherwise have had," he added.

"One of the great things about this project is the way it generates enthusiasm and brings in people with different skills and interests."

For example, Ms Robyn Parker, a final-year nursing student at Frankston campus, is doing research on the way drivers in traffic experience stress. Ms Parker was subse- quently invited to be the opportunity to take part in a competitive race.

This year General Motors, which won the last race with its Susturay, has not entered its own vehicle. However, it is bringing out the three leading cars from a United States college competition, held in July from Florida to Detroit.

Other corporate entries include vehicles from Honda Research, Toyota and Hoxan, a Japanese solar cell manufacturer.

In October, SOLution will be exhibited at an international conference entitled "Transport and the Environment", organised by the Australian Academy of Technical Science and Engineering. It also will be shown at the Australian Electric Vehicle Association meeting at Sandown.

Behind the scenes, a part-time marketing student at Caulfield campus planned a publicity and promotions campaign to bring the project into the public eye.

The successful public launch of SOLution was particularly rewarding for Ms Penny Rosen, who designed the campaign as part of her studies.

The launch last month was the culmination of months of detailed planning and hard work. It received newspaper and radio coverage and environmental magazines have also expressed interest.

"The team recognised the need for some sort of marketing involvement, particularly from the sponsorship side. It was really left up to me to do what I wanted to do," said Ms Rosen, senior ac- count manager with the advertising agency Young and Rubicam.

"The major thing was the launch, which we've been working on since November last year. We also started a newsletter to establish dialogue with the media before the launch, prepared a press kit and set up various fundraising activities."

Ms Rosen so impressed the team with her organisational skills during the vehicle's outback trial that she has since been appointed team manager for the race. She will be responsible for organising the team's food and accommodation, as well as all communications.

"What everybody finds is that it's a very absorbing project, and it's very hard to get a little bit involved. My work on this has been far and away above any project I've ever done," she said.