They may look like university staff out on a leisurely jog, but these six men could be classified as super fit. Each runs about 100 kilometres every week in preparation for his next marathon.

The six—(from left) Mr Ian Dobson, Mr Clive Vernon, Dr Bob Birrell, Dr Mike Heffernan, Dr John Sheridan, and Professor Peter Dixon—competed recently in the 42 kilometre Melbourne Marathon.

Dr Birrell—last year’s winner in the 55 to 60-year-old category in a time of 2 hours 54 minutes—had to withdraw from this year’s race at the 17 kilometre mark.

Dr Sheridan completed the race—his first marathon—in 2:48. Mr Dobson completed in 3:24, Mr Vernon in 3:33, Professor Dixon in 3:34, and Dr Heffernan in 3:36. It was Mr Dobson’s 30th marathon.

About 3000 contestants, including Steven Moneghetti and many international runners, competed in the event. Jerry Modiga of South Africa won in a time of 2:15.

### The odds on envy are high

Most people would be overjoyed to win a national lottery just once in their lifetime, but imagine taking off the first division twice... in four months.

Mathematicians who claim this is not quite as freakish as it may seem point to Ms Evelyn Adams, who achieved the unlikely double in the US in 1999.

In fact, several Harvard University statisticians have calculated that the likelihood of one person somewhere in America winning the lottery twice in such a short period of time was close to one in 30.

Sparked by an article about Ms Adams in the New York Times, Dr Malcolm Clark of Monash’s Department of Mathematics decided to explore the probability of one person winning TattsLotto twice.

Ms Michaela Smale, an honours student under his supervision, took on the task last year and found that there is an 80 to 95 per cent chance that someone in Australia will win first division in TattsLotto twice in a five-year period.

“Michaela made the calculations based on figures supplied by TattsLotto,” Dr Clark said. “She had to make some assumptions about how people play the game—for example, what proportion of people have multiple entries as distinct from system entries.”

The probability of a single TattsLotto entry winning first division is one in 8,145,060, which is the number of ways six figures may be selected from 45. Most people believe that the chance of winning TattsLotto twice is this number squared—roughly one in 66 million million.

“But this calculation is fundamentally flawed on several counts,” Dr Clark explained.
The spike

• **15 YEARS AGO**

The scandal aroused by David Williamson’s new play, currently running at the Alexander Theatre, presents only a ripple, but could become a tidal wave...

Keen-eyed workers at the Diamond Creek Library, whose loan searches through David Williamson’s latest notices, have been able to identify the volumes they had out on loan during the composition of his best-known works.

It was quickly established that Don’s Party, his most famous play, and the basis of a successful Australian film, had been adapted almost word for word from an obscure Restoration comedy, The Wandering Wives.

This is a risible melange of drinking and wrenching set against the background of the election of 1678, the film, had been adapted almost word for word from an obscure Restoration comedy, the Tunbridge Election or The Jugglers Three, Williamson’s play about Vietnam veterans, is borrowed from a Goldoni comedy I tre Giocolieri about the personal relationship of soldiers returning from the war of the Spanish Succession.

• **20 YEARS AGO**

The Monash University Child-Minding Centre is now operating at 12 Bedloe Avenue, Clayton, from 9 to 5.30 pm daily... Fees: 30 cents per hour regular booking; 40 cents per hour casual booking.

Strong support for medical faculties

From previous page

"The faculty is strongly supported by its staff and students, the medical, nursing and administrative staff of hospitals involved in its teaching program, and the Department of Health of Victoria," the report said.

"It also enjoys strong support from general practitioners and others involved in the delivery of primary health care.

"With the active support which it receives from the university and teaching hospitals, the faculty has a highly effective organisational structure to continue to consolidate its many achievements."

The faculty was praised for successfully establishing a computer network, allowing the development of computer-assisted learning in the classroom.

Establishing the medical "informatics" unit was a valuable move for the faculty, not only providing an excellent database, but also making Monash a national leader.

The report also commented on the faculty’s teaching, describing it as well organised and integrated, delivered by committed teachers and valued by the students.

Academic staff were "very impressive" qualitative, evident through the ability of departments to attract high levels of research grant support and substantial numbers of postgraduate students.

The high quality of graduates was also discussed in the report. "The high quality of Monash Medical Graduates was the "best evidence" of success."

Annexed evidence collected by surveys of hospitals in preparation for the visit assessment visit and by members of the assessment team..."the faculty...is doing well in the field and I put my fingers on a blade of grass."

Fresh out of doors

Now we are convinced it must have been the first meeting in which no one had their back to the wall.

**Montage**

MONTAGE

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**Now & Then**

FIVE YEARS AGO

A retired Monash academic saw years of hard work and planning completed last week with the opening of the new Monash Clinical Centre of Victoria.

Vernon Placekahn, former associate professor in pathology and immunology, and now honorary professor in forensic pathology, was involved "from day one" in a joint Monash - State Government project to establish coronial services of world standard in Victoria.

**THIS MONTH LAST YEAR**

A blood test for the detection of cancer has been developed by researchers at the Centre for Molecular Biology and Medicine.

The new test can be used to detect cancers of the digestive tract, particularly stomach and large bowel cancer, and will significantly boost rates of detection.

Cancers of the digestive tract are the most common worldwide, with 7300 new cases detected in Australia annually, compared with 4900 new cases of lung and breast cancer.

Winning title is not so remarkable

From previous page

"It is not valid to multiply probabilities as when finding the likelihood of two or more independent events. Such multiplication would only be valid if you wanted to find the probability that a particular person, specified in advance, will win twice," he said.

"The true question is: What is the chance that somebody, out of about 2.5 million people who buy Tattslotto tickets each week, wins first division at least twice in a given period of time?"

In February 1990, the New York Times quoted Dr Peri Dianou of Harvard University: "Suppose I’m standing in a large field and I put my fingers on a blade of grass. The chance that I would choose that particular blade may be one in a million."

"But it is certain that I will choose a blade. So if something happens to only one in a million people per day and the population of the United States is 250 million, you expect 350 amazing coincidences every day."

Already one person in Australia has won Tattslotto twice.

"This is not at all remarkable," according to Dr Clark. "Rather, our calculation indicates that it would be unusual if no one had won Tattslotto twice."

Dr Clark says that although working out such probabilities involves only basic mathematical principles, Ms Smale spent about 400 hours on the thesis.

"There were 21 variables that Michaela needed to account for," he said.

Ms Smale’s honours thesis was even more remarkable given that she has a severe sight disability. Deciphering pages of figures using a magnifying lens was painstakingly slow.

For the mathematically minded, further details of the formulas and assumptions used by Ms Smale are given in the latest issue of the Mathematics of Victoria.
Monash makes Time

A Monash University research project has made the cover of Time Australia.

The recent cover story, "Through with Flat", highlighted the discovery by Monash scientists of a compound that may cure and prevent the influenza virus (see Research Monash, Issue 4, 1993).

The cover pictures Dr Mark von Ittitz of the Victorian College of Pharmacy, and Dr Peter Howser of the CSIRO.

Death in the back pocket

Death in the back pocket has nothing to do with recession-induced lifeless wallets.

Rather, it is a new book that has been billed as Australia's first football murder mystery.

Co-written by Monash English lecturer Dr Peter Fitzpatrick and his sister-in-law, psychologist Ms Barbara Wenzel, the paperback seems to have won the support of many football fans.

"Although it has only been out for a few weeks, I gather it is selling quite well," Dr Fitzpatrick said. "It is about a female detective who knows the politics of the game but has a sceptical view about football on the whole. The other main character is a male journalist who is a football fan."

When gun full-forward Rick Danvig, known to his fans as "The Donkey", is attacked to the ground during a match and is dead on arrival at the local hospital, the detective and journalist are called in to solve the mystery.

"They complement each other in their very different perspectives," says Dr Fitzpatrick.

Not only are the characters very different, so too was the book's look. Footballers - Paul Couch, Peter Dean, Doug Hawkins and Dean Rice - lugged a coffin with contents unknown to Princesses One Saturday afternoon before finally depositing it in a hearse.

A few worried fans were put at ease when the coffin's cargo, the book, was eventually revealed by Carlton footballer Bill Hanna.

The book, which costs $12.95, is available from the Monash Bookshop.

Universities set to share costs

Monash University's administrative and management records are about to be standardised under a radical national suite of integrated information systems.

The Core Australian Specification for Management and Administrative Computing (CASMAC), an initiative of the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee (AVCC), could replace all existing information systems within five years.

The university's deputy general manager, Mr John White, says the new system - to be introduced in 30 of Australia's 36 universities - will take "old, tired, and out-of-date information systems and raise them all to a standard platform".

At present, Monash uses seven systems: MARS (finance), ISIS (human resources), and ad hoc systems of varying sophistication and integration. Additional functions will be customised as required.

"Executive information is poorly serviced at Monash but is needed desperately," Mr White said. "Senior administration is not receiving extensive strategic information. In order to provide that advice at present, information is being aggregated and assimilated across a range of functional areas."

"With the developed structure at Monash, faculties are expected to plan ahead, so the vice-chancellor, senior staff and deans must have relevant material at their fingertips."

CASMAC software will be developed on two software platforms: the first using Powerhouse, and the second Oracle. The software will be tailored to fit university hardware.

Universities have divided into two families of groups: the UniPower group, using Powerhouse (developed by the suppliers CHA, developers of the MAC system), and the UniOn group, which uses Oracle.

Those universities that have declined to join the two collaborative groups are the University of Melbourne, the University of Western Australia, and the University of Newcastle.

"The system was developed in indecent haste and the ramifications are well understood," Mr White said.

Now that MUSIS is running more smoothly, the university's most pressing need is for a finance system to replace the old-style batch-processing systems. A working committee of administration and faculty staff set up to investigate alternatives has found that CASMAC suited the university's needs closely.

"Our express target was to replace the finance system," Mr White said. "But the significant advantages of other products in the CASMAC suite are too good to be ignored. Financially, we are light years ahead."

The six products from CASMAC are likely to cost Monash about $400,000, compared with off-the-shelf purchases or in-house development costs of more than $3 million.

"To get products so close to our requirements at such a hugely reduced cost certainly justifies the exercise," Mr White said.

Leading development

Subject to training and testing, Monash could begin to introduce the new finance systems from January 1995. The university also seems likely to cost the lead site for the development of the financial package.

"The human resources system could then be introduced at a strategic time, as will research and consultancy, physical resources and executive systems," he said.

Data conversion from existing systems would be a relatively minor task. CHA, the product supplier, would provide assistance with the interface. Monash's responsibilities lie in the areas of user-training - attitudinally as well as in skills development and customising of the products.

Such a large-scale project needs a focus, Mr White said. "To help coordinate the development and implementation of the information systems, a new Information Systems Centre has been established at Monash."

The Information Systems Centre consists of a small group of experts from within the university who will work closely with AMIS (Administration and Management Information Systems), the Computer Centre and administrative and faculty groups to bring CASMAC into operation. The centre's staff will also play major roles in the national development of the products.

Move over Doogie Howser

Victoria's would-be doctors tested their mettle among 50 of her boys and girls at Monash University's anatomy museum this month.

Nearly 300 year 11 students saw "the real thing in 3D", as part of the Monash Junior University Program (JUP).

The future medicos were split into four groups, coming to the anatomy museum on campus in the Halls of Residence.

JUP coordinator Ms Rosemary Martin said the Monash Course and Careers Centre organised the event to give secondary students a clearer picture of tertiary life. "The program gives students a feel for university and helps stimulate interest in studying at Monash," she said.

"It is important for those students who may not have considered tertiary education because of distance or circumstance."
Timing is more than academic

Beginning this year, students in the Faculty of Computing and Information Technology have been using TES for subjects offered by the Business School.

The program is accessible through the Telnet network, which means that business students on Frankston campus can also select subjects in this way.

According to Mr Ross, enrolling for a full range of tutorials and lectures should take no more than 10 minutes. But as the program works on a first-come-first-served basis, those students who are last to enrol may face greater difficulty putting together a timetable.

"We have tried to keep the system as fair as possible. Each semester we alter the alphabetical order so that one semester, students do not always get first choices," he said.

The number of available terminals to make subject selections will increase this year to about 100.

"Admittedly, there were a few glitches in the system to begin with," Mr Ross said. "But we have employed one of the students who designed the program, and he has ironed most of the problems out."

"When we did a data integrity check at the end of the first semester enrolment, we found a 100 per cent correct rate."

Mr Ross is so pleased with TES that another industrial experience group from the Faculty of Computing and Information Technology is working on a timetable development program to help him sort through the 180 to 200 subjects offered by the Business School each semester.

"Some of these classes have only 30 students enrolled, whereas others have up to 500," Mr Ross said.

Get the picture on Open Day

Open Day is a window on the world of university for secondary school students, an opportunity for prospective students to "get the picture", a theme highlighted by this year's Open Day.

A Hollywood-style poster and movie fragments are two of the novel approaches Monash is taking to promote its 1993 Open Day.

Monash launched the advertising and promotion campaign on radio 3RMR, one of the top-rating FM stations, early in July. The second advertisement invites teenagers to "get the picture" in two ways: by coming to the Monash Open Day on Sunday 1 August and by telephoning a competition line for complimentary tickets to the movie premiere of Sleepless in Seattle, a romantic comedy starring Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks.

The promo premiers will be held at Hoyts Chadstone, half way between the Clayton and Caulfield campuses.

Marketing manager Ms Susanne Hatherley says the promotion aims to generate interest in the Monash Open Day and to create the impression of a university that is in tune with its target market: secondary school students.

"Most universities hold their open days in the same six-week period. There is a clutter of open day advertisements. Our campaign is designed to distinguish Monash as the most interesting and innovative university. We also want to convey the message that Open Day can be fun," she said.

The radio campaign will be supported by press advertisements in The Sunday Age, The Sydney Sun and The Herald Sun. Last year, more than 35,000 people visited the four Monash campuses - a measure of the level of community interest in university life.

But as chairman of the Monash Open Day Committee, Professor John Bigelow points out that it is not enough for the university just to open its doors.

"For many of our visitors, Open Day is their first close encounter with a university and the experience can be overwhelming," he said.

"When you realise that a campus such as Clayton is set on 100 hectares and has more than 60 buildings, it is not surprising that first-time visitors can find the experience intimidating, particularly if they are secondary school students trying to make decisions."

"Open Day is particularly important for secondary school students considering higher education," Professor Bigelow added.

"It is a real opportunity to meet with academics, students and counsellors to talk about what the courses are and career options. We encourage students to attend as many open days as possible. This is one way for students to shop around for their future."

To help students make this important decision, Open Day will focus on providing a warm welcome. One hundred students guides in distinctive academic gowns will offer tours on three campuses - Caulfield, Clayton and Frankston.

There will be central counselling areas on the Clayton and Caulfield campuses, where visitors will be able to talk with careers counsellors and attend a series of special interest lectures on topics ranging from managing in the modern world to set at Monash.

Also, each faculty will showcase its research and teaching talents with a range of special activities.

Adding to the image

Monash University's advertising office Ms Adrienne Dooley.

Meeting strict time constraints amid buzzing telephones and fax machines is the challenge of the job, according to the energetic Ms Dooley.

"I really enjoy advertising because there's always something different going on," she says.

"Commercials and general advertising involves a lot of contact with the people, which I like."

Ms Dooley's introduction to advertising was at the former Caulfield Institute of Technology. She was working as a secretary in the information office when she was asked to take over advertising and administrative responsibilities, starting a new 14-year career.

Subsequently, Ms Dooley joined the faculty of Monash University's School of Computing and Information Technology and has moved into the Monash Marketing Unit with ease.

Known for her effervescent personality, Ms Dooley's work links her to three metropolitan campuses, the university departments and centres at the Alfred, Caulfield and Fairfield hospitals, and Monash Medical Centre.

In her Clayton office, the telephone rarely stops ringing.

A typical day in Ms Dooley's life involves meeting near-impossible deadlines, with tasks ranging from providing estimates to proofreading. Her work, she says, could be divided into two sections: processing advertisements and administration.

Processing revolves around adstock estimates, bookings, editing, proofreading and close liaison with the university's advertising agency, which places and produces the copy.

Administrative tasks include managing booking forms and purchase orders, along with closely checking invoices in conjunction with the Finance Branch.

While answering the constant inquiries, Ms Dooley also coordinatess the promotions of Monash University's high image to the general public.

She also liaises with departments and courses to boost awareness of advertising opportunities in publications outside the university.

Ms Dooley is available to answer any advertising inquiries on extn 75 2581.
With demand for university places at an all-time high, fierce debate has resulted from the apparent rapid increase in the number of student population increased by only 1.3 per cent between 1989 and 1992, according to a Monash University study. Between 1989 and 1992 the total number of overseas students in the total number of overseas students increased by 25.1 per cent.

The growth of overseas students has been most spectacular at the undergraduate level, increasing by more than 65 per cent over the period. But the actual increase in the proportion of overseas undergraduates to total undergraduate enrolments has been relatively modest, rising by only 1.5 per cent in the four-year period.

The results were published recently in Flagstaff Place, the quarterly journal produced by Monash's Centre for Population and Urban Research. The study also found there had been no change in the 'big five' source nations or in their order of ranking. Malaysia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Indonesia and China remain the main feeder countries to Australia's universities.

"What is notable is the rapid 182 per cent increase in the numbers of overseas students whose home is Hong Kong," Mr Dobson said. "Hong Kong's representation in higher education increased from 12 per cent of overseas numbers in 1989 to 21 per cent in 1992."

The study further states that overseas students are far more likely to be residence students, with 61.1 per cent of overseas undergraduates being residence students compared with 52.5 per cent of local students.

"Racism isn't visible on campus. I deal with full fee paying students all the time and there are very few reports of racism. At least one example of racism at Monash, however, has come from the war in Bosnia. One student felt that they were being treated differently because of their background.

"I think Monash is a microcosm within the broader community. There are other issues that should be highlighted more than racism. For example, sexual harassment seems to be a big problem."

New study surveys overseas enrolments

With demand for university places at an all-time high, fierce debate has resulted from the apparent rapid increase in the number of overseas students attending Australian universities.

But while numbers have risen, the representation of overseas students in the total student population increased by only 1.3 per cent between 1989 and 1992, according to a Monash University study.

The study, conducted by Mr Ian Dobson of the Budget and Statistical Services Branch, was drawn from data obtained from the Department of Employment, Education and Training (DEET).

The results were published recently in Flagstaff Place, the quarterly journal produced by Monash's Centre for Population and Urban Research.

The total number of overseas students increased by 61.1 per cent between 1989 and 1992. At the same time, local student numbers increased by 25.1 per cent.

"As large as the difference between these rates of growth appears, the representation of overseas students in the total number of students increased from 4.8 per cent in 1989 to 6.1 per cent in 1992," Mr Dobson said.

The study further states that overseas students are far more likely to be residence students, with 61.1 per cent of overseas undergraduates being residence students compared with 52.5 per cent of local students.

"Racism isn't visible on campus. I deal with full fee paying students all the time and there are very few reports of racism. At least one example of racism at Monash, however, has come from the war in Bosnia. One student felt that they were being treated differently because of their background.

"I think Monash is a microcosm within the broader community. There are other issues that should be highlighted more than racism. For example, sexual harassment seems to be a big problem."

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<th>1989</th>
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<td>Local students</td>
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<th>Home residence of overseas students</th>
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<td>Other</td>
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New era at the club
Aromatic smells, a slick new menu, and value-for-money meals signal a fundamental change at the University Club on Clayton campus. In what may be one of its best moves, the club took over its own catering in June this year under the direction of new manager Mr Joe Borg. Head chef Mr Marcus Groepel, one of the club's three new chefs, says his decision to come to Monash was influenced by Mr Borg's expertise.

"I knew that although things might not be that busy at Monash yet, Mr Borg would do his utmost to turn it into the best university club in Melbourne. So far, members seem to be enjoying the change."

The club's new coffee bar, which serves cakes, coffee, and home-made pastries, is open from 10:30 am to 3 pm. The food bar and a la carte lunch service runs from 12 pm to 2 pm, and the dinner service in the private dining room from 5:30 pm to 8 pm.

Cooking up a storm: the club's new head chef, Mr Marcus Groepel.

Insight program: an Australian first
An innovative workshop to help mature-age students foster greater understanding of local government was held this month.

Monash Insight, the first program of its kind in Australia, draws on the experience of similar programs in the UK and Hong Kong.

According to program coordinator Ms Jenny Green, the one-day workshop for 58 mature-age students, presented by Knox and Waverley city councils, was a great success.

"The program exposed students to a wide range of skills and gave them an opportunity to participate in case studies and panel discussions," Ms Green said.

MAPS will be looking to organise further insight programs focusing on other business sectors next year.

Ms Green, an administration officer with the Mature Age and Part-time Students Association (MAPS), adapted the insight program for Monash students as part of her graduate diploma studies in careers education.

"The overseas programs are geared to give an overview of managerial careers for all undergraduate students," Ms Green said.

"Monash Insight is slightly different because it is geared exclusively for mature-age students."

The program, launched by the vice-chancellor, Professor Mal Logan, included discussion on changing employment markets and the need to update professional skills.

Monash tenders to upgrade teachers
Primary school teachers in Hong Kong could soon be studying for a Monash masters degree following recent talks with the University of Hong Kong.

The head of the Monash Faculty of Education, Professor Ray Anderson, and Professor Ian Catterall of the Gippsland campus recently took part in a week-long series of meetings with Chinese education authorities with a view to developing courses for the Hong Kong market.

In particular, Monash tended to upgrade Hong Kong primary teacher qualifications.

Professor Anderson believes that the Faculty of Education is best able to provide further education in the form of a masters degree to upgrade the qualifications of teaching staff.

"Hong Kong is in desperate need to improve the qualifications of primary and kindergarten teachers," he said.

Music library at the touch of a button
A listing of the extensive 3MU music library is now available on the university's computer network.

The list, which holds more than 3000 albums, 1900 singles and more than 200 compact discs, is available to anyone with access to the university computer network (the listing is located on MFSO and MFSO in the 3MU directory of the "K" drive).

Station manager Mr Peter Freeland says the service will help with music requests.

The station, which broadcasts a daily service in the union building between 8 am and 6 pm, will run a series of weekly broadcasts on the FM-band this year.

"Last year we received about 800 calls for song requests, people making comments on the programs and offering positive feedback," Mr Freeland said.

Over the past year, the station has undergone an extensive revamp including the addition of the broadcast and production equipment, and the purchase of state-of-the-art audio equipment. A grant of $60,000 was provided by the Monash University Union Board for the work.

The station, which also has a recording studio available for hire, is staffed by students and plays a diverse mix of music.

Cultural centre
Building academic bridges between Australia and Europe is the task for London's Sir Robert Menzies Centre.

Monash vice-chancellor, Professor Mal Logan, recently attended a board meeting at the centre. His participation at the meeting reflects the key role Monash is playing in the push to promote Australia through British and European higher education institutions.

Professor Logan said the centre provides Britain and Europe with a deeper understanding of Australia's culture.

He said the faculty also highlights Australia's role in the world and encourages Australian studies in European higher education.

The centre is a base for visiting Australian scholars and facilitates access to all major libraries and institutions in the area.

Originally known as the Australian Studies Centre, the facility was established with Australian Government funding in 1982 within London University's Institute of Commonwealth Studies. The Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Foundation of Australia took over funding responsibility in 1988 and the centre was renamed in honour of the long-serving prime minister.

Teaching, postgraduate seminars, public lectures, research, conferences, scholarship and fellowship programs, and publications are the centre's core activities.

Uni punters get free rein
It was fun, frivolous and free. Students and staff were able to brush up on their punting skills at the Monash Race Day, held on Saturday 24 July.

All races had a university connection — the feature event being the Sir John Monash Stakes.

The annual Monash Race Day, which has been held for the past two years, is sponsored jointly by the university and the City of Caulfield.

Organiser Mr Peter Cunliffe said the annual race day has built up a strong following.

"It's a lot of fun and a great day in which everyone can get involved," Mr Cunliffe said.

"The day acknowledges our special relationship with the Victorian Amateur Turf Club and the use of their facilities to conduct university examinations."

Spreading the healthy word
Student nurses embarked on a health promotion campaign recently to spread their health and lifestyle message throughout the Frankston community.

The campaign, which aims to enhance public awareness of health and lifestyle issues, also provides clinical experience for students enrolled in the Bachelor of Applied Science (Nursing) degree.

The program was a joint activity between Monash and the Frankston Health Care Centre. According to Ms Joan Yalden, a lecturer in the Caroline Chisholm School of Nursing, it is a valuable learning experience for students.

"During the four-day activity, students practiced communicating and interviewing skills, and measured and recorded blood pressure, pulse rate, height and weight," Ms Yalden said.

"The students really enjoyed the experience and received a lot of positive feedback."

The program offered free health consultations and information, health screenings and referrals to local health care professionals.

Ms Yalden said the program shares resources with local agencies. It has become a popular event at the local shopping centre in the past five years.

A popular event at the local shopping centre: student nurses measure the blood pressure, pulse rate, height and weight of passers-by.

New era at the club
"I knew that although things might not be that busy at Monash yet, Mr Borg would do his utmost to turn it into the best university club in Melbourne. So far, members seem to be enjoying the change."

The club's new coffee bar, which serves cakes, coffee, and home-made pastries, is open from 10:30 am to 3 pm. The food bar and a la carte lunch service runs from 12 pm to 2 pm, and the dinner service in the private dining room from 5:30 pm to 8 pm.

Cooking up a storm: the club's new head chef, Mr Marcus Groepel.
Unravelling possum puzzles

Many thousands of years ago in Australia there lived a killer possum called Thylacoleo. This marsupial "lion" - a rather grandiose title for an animal that was little larger than a lynx - had the most extraordinary teeth of any carnivore in the world.

Thylacoleo has sometimes been described as a sabre-toothed possum, but in huge incisors projected almost horizontally rather than vertically from its jaws, especially those of the upper jaw. Their function remains unclear.

Behind them, the animal's dentition is dominated by a huge set of razor-sharp blades called carnassials that were clearly adapted for slicing easily through muscle, sinew and tendon - but not, it seems, bone.

An honours student in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Mr Kris Juzva, has made a simple but surprising discovery about the carnassials. Mr Juzva (pictured far right), whose work focuses on the relationship between an animal's teeth and its ecology.

Dr Sanson points out that the cutting edge of the carnassials in Thylacoleo is so finely honed that the focused pressure generated by biting into bone would have almost certainly caused it to chip.

Interestingly, the carnassials in fossiled Thylacoleo skulls found at sites around Australia are intact and not crushed, although some Carnivorous animals have sharp carnassials, but they are not the huge scratches seen on genuine Thylacoleo teeth. This confirmed that the killer possum was indeed a flesh-eater, and not an innocent herbivore convicted on circumstantial evidence. Even when the Thylacoleo incisive teeth were fed with hide and bone, the scratch widths were only in the normal range seen in other carnivores - and nowhere near the width seen in the fossil teeth.

Tooth enamel is one of the hardest substances in nature after diamond. So how does one explain large scratches on an extinct killer possum's teeth? A Monash honours student has yielded a simple discovery that requires palaeontologists to take a fresh look at the ecology of other extinct carnivores around the world.

Mr Juzva made a set of teeth out of mild steel, which is actually about 20 per cent softer than tooth enamel, the hardest substance in the body (the Tasmanian devil Sarcophilus has been known to chew through chicken wire). Mr Juzva fed the steel teeth to carnivores, phytoliths in plant leaves. Gum leaves, including the tough petioles or leaf stems, produced fine scratching, and nowhere near the width seen in genuine Thylacoleo teeth. This confirmed that the killer possum was indeed a flesh-eater, and not an innocent herbivore convicted on circumstantial evidence.

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The implication is that Thylacoleo may have lived in a dusty environment, perhaps poucing on its prey from overhead and rolling it on the ground, "a scavenge in the sense of being a scavenger, not the huge scratches seen in genuine Thylacoleo teeth. This confirmed that the killer possum was indeed a flesh-eater, and not an innocent herbivore convicted on circumstantial evidence.

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Defusing the population bomb

In this year's federal election campaign, the Prime Minister, Mr Paul Keating, said Australians should not be excited because South-East Asia is experiencing the world's most rapid economic growth. But he neglected to say that the region is also experiencing the world's fastest population growth, which could have dangerous economic and political ramifications in the next century.

Uncontrolled world population growth is a problem that politicians in developed nations don't want to think about.

However, Professor Roger Short of the Department of Physiology says the consequences of this growth will plague affluent nations next century. The trend, he says, could lead to dangerous economic and political instability.

Professor Short, who is also a director of Family Health International, a non-profit family planning organisation based in North Carolina, says: "You only need to look at the United Nations Population Fund projections for Indonesia. In 1988 Indonesia had nearly 175 million people; by the turn of this century the figure will be 208 million, and by 2025 Indonesia's population will be around 363 million."

"I fear that Australia could be finished as a nation if we don't help our South-East Asian neighbours control their population growth rates, because in 100 years time there will be enormous problems with food supply, human health and refugees."

Explosive population growth in South-East Asia is part of the global problem of uncontrolled human fertility, with its associated consequences, he says.

A recent United Nations report has projected that there would be between 10 billion and 12.5 billion humans on the planet by the middle of next century (see table).

The 'medium-low' scenario is unduly optimistic, Professor Short says. It would depend on effective birth control programs being in place throughout the world by next century. More than likely actual growth will fall somewhere within the range defined by the 'medium' and 'medium-high' projections.

This means that by the end of next century, the world's population could be between 11.2 and 17.6 billion -- the latter figure, reflecting the 'medium-high' growth scenario, would represent almost a tripling of today's global population.

"If we go up to 17 billion ... what a mess it would be," Professor Short said.

He believes that western governments have a duty to make modern contraceptive methods available to developing nations. Unfortunately, research into better methods of contraception and foreign aid programs focusing on population control are being hindered in the West by a small but vocal minority that asserts, on religious grounds, that contraception is immoral.

There is no doubt that the world's population is increasing at a totally unacceptable rate, and destroying the environment we live in.

Professor Short says some of these lobby groups mischievously misrepresent the nature of population control programs. Recently, the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (AID-AB) made a grant to the World Health Organisation's Human Reproduction Program. Well-known feminists and anticontraception campaigner Senator Brian Harradine claimed that the money would be spent on procuring abortions in developing nations.

"Every time Australia does something good, the way of putting more money into family planning in developing countries, Senator Harradine and his supporters jump up and down and try to get it blocked," Professor Short said.

Despite the influence of such groups, Professor Short discounts the public perception that religious sanctions against contraception and abortion are primarily responsible for uncontrolled population growth in third world nations, especially in South America.

"I don't think religious beliefs are a major factor in uncontrolled population growth. The problem arises when people with a misguided religious sense attempt to translate their beliefs into the political arena," he said.

"They try to deny other people access to modern forms of contraception and pregnancy termination in the mistaken belief that they are on a messianic crusade. "People are entitled to their own religious beliefs, and may believe that abortion and contraception are terrible. But they are not entitled to impose those beliefs on others living in less favourable circumstances in developing nations."

Like many other population experts, Professor Short believes that the rising economic and educational status of women in developing nations will do more to constrain population growth than contraception, sterilisation or abortion.

"Education is the best of all contraceptives, because it is an expensive item to provide to children. Once you can convert children into an economic drain on the family, where hitherto they have been an economic asset, people are strongly motivated to limit the size of their families," he said.

"In addition, educating women means that they become informed about the options for restricting their own fertility."

"We know that already in many developing countries the vast majority of women want no more than three children. The tragedy is that no contraception is available to prevent them from having more."

"So the problem is back squarely on our plate. The developed nations are the ones most responsible for polluting and plundering the world's resources, so we have to pay the price."

[Photo: Professor Roger Short: "I fear that Australia should be excited because South-East Asia is experiencing the world's most rapid economic growth."

Research Monash July-August 1993]
cost. The alternative is for us to spend billions of dollars on defence next century," Professor Short has been on the board of Family Health International for 10 years, but has been interested in population issues for much longer. He says he was influenced enormously by the controversial Club of Rome report 'The Limits to Growth', published in 1973.

The report pointed to the dire consequences of uncontrolled human population growth, but has subsequently been criticised for being unduly alarmist and pessimistic.

"Many of these species whose extinction we are bringing closer are insects, fish, amphibians, reptiles and plants - organisms that most people aren't aware of. But that doesn't mean they are not vital players in ecosystems. Even bacteria are essential for our survival, so we can't afford to wipe them out with impunity.

The Club of Rome warned about the impact of human population pressure on the global environment 20 years ago.

Professor Short says that despite the scepticism, many of the report's projections have come true. He says few people, politicians included, comprehend the nature of exponential growth - the rate at which the world's population is increasing each year is so large as to be almost meaningless to the average person.

"I tell my students to take the last two figures of the current year as a rough guide," he said. "So in 1992, about 92 million people were added to the world population. This year it will be roughly 93 million - 5.5 times Australia's total population."

Indonesia's population growth pales by comparison with that of India. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has projected that India will rival China as the world's most populous nation soon after the turn of the century. In 1988 there were nearly 810 million people in India. By the year 2000 there will be more than 1 billion, rising to nearly 1.6 billion by 2025.

But these projections do not take into account the potential impact of AIDS in developing nations, says Professor Short.

Although India has relatively few cases of AIDS, the long latency period between infection and the development of full-blown AIDS obscures an exponential rate of infection.

"It will take quite a time for AIDS to actually start killing as many people as are being added to the world," Professor Short said. "It won't start happening until well into the next century.

But if AIDS really does bring the world's population into check; it would be a horrendous scenario. With more than 100 million people dying each year, over and above the death rate from all other causes, the world would stink of putrefying flesh.

"It could happen - AIDS may be our Malthusian plague. We cannot be complacent because we are only in the very early stages of the global AIDS epidemic."

"Dr Jonathan Mann, the former head of the WHO Global Program on AIDS, was recently in Melbourne as part of a lecture tour. He asked people in his audience who believe we have AIDS under control to raise their hands.

"Nobody raised their hand, and Dr Mann says they are right. The fact is that AIDS is still completely out of control, and that its spread has not been successfully contained anywhere, although some developed nations have managed to dampen it.

"Australia is probably a good example. We have been reasonably successful in slowing the rate of spread, but we cannot claim to have AIDS under control."

Reproductive health in the world

"More than 100 million acts of sexual intercourse take place every day, resulting in 910,000 conceptions, of which 50 per cent are unplanned and 25 per cent definitely unwanted. This sexual activity also results in 356,000 sexually transmitted bacterial and viral infections.

"About 150,000 unwanted pregnancies are terminated each day by induced abortion. One third are performed under unsafe conditions and in an adverse social and legal climate, resulting in some 500 women dying every day.

"Every day about 1370 women die in the course of their physiological and social duty of pregnancy and childbirth; many more times this number have escaped death narrowly, but suffer significant physical and psychological injuries.

"Some 25,000 infants and another 1400 children aged between 1 and 4 die each day. One in 12 infants born this year will die within the first year, and one in eight will die before their fifth birthday.

"Family planning not only prevents births, it also saves the lives of women and children. Some 300 million couples do not have access to family planning services."

Moving to fight Parkinson's

Why are the movements of people with Parkinson's disease jerky and slow? Research by a Monash neurologist promises to provide new understanding of this and other brain disorders that affect movement.

Complex human movements may take weeks, months, or even years to learn. Yet once learned they become seemingly automatic, executed faultlessly with little conscious thought.

The head of the Neurology department at the Monash Medical Centre and senior lecturer in Monash University's Department of Anatomy, Dr Malcolm Horne, says: "When you play a trill on a clarinet it's a simple two-finger movement. But when you move to a more complex sequence, the order of the notes given contextual meaning. If you have to rely on auditory feedback to move between notes, your brain could never process the information fast enough for you to play readily.

"And if you make a mistake, your hand will follow the same path afterwards. It's as if some program is being executed automatically before you consciously realise the error," he says.

According to Dr Horne, the way the brain coordinates complex sequences of movement, without its owner being conscious of the detail of those movements, is poorly understood.

His own research, with colleague Dr Bob Iansek, has used laboratory animals to measure the neural mechanisms involved, and may help victims of brain disorders that affect movement, such as Parkinson's disease.

Monitoring nerve activity

Dr Horne and Dr Iansek have been monitoring an intriguing pattern of nerve activity in a region of the brain called the basal ganglia.

In the past decade, neurologists have noted that neurons begin firing in a region of the brain called the supplementary motor area some time before the movement actually begins - it seems to be associated with the intention to move.

Dr Horne says the neurons of the basal ganglia fire in a series of spikes that are also associated with physical movement. But, instead of preceding the movement, they fire after the movement has been initiated.

In 1983 Dr David Marsden, of the Queen Square Hospital for Nervous Diseases in London, theorised that this nerve activity in the basal ganglia might be serving as a signal for the brain to move from a state of rest to a state of movement - a movement 'program' to the area.

In experiments with laboratory animals, Dr Horne and Dr Iansek have obtained evidence that supports Dr Marsden's theory.

Marsden speculated that the basal ganglia might be providing internal cues to coordinate movements, instead of the usual external cues, such as auditory cues in the case of the clarinet player. Dr Horne says: "We refined this idea by suggesting that the basal ganglia might generate the bursts of activity in the basal ganglia - were indeed internally generated cues that indicate when a movement is about to begin. Dr Horne and Dr Iansek have termed this process 'programmed movement' in a series of spikes that creeps into well-drilled routines, says Dr Horne. These may be due to spontaneous bursts of basal ganglia activity, which may give false cues to the muscles. The best known medical condition involving false movements is Huntington's chorea, which originates in the basal ganglia.

At least part of the problem may stem from cues being sent to the wrong place. Dr Horne notes that a child learning the piano may initially make spasmodic movements, which with appropriate tuition can be progressively eliminated as the child acquires skill. He speculates that if these are not eliminated, they may result in further errors creeping in that impair overall efficiency.

Dr Horne theorises that some elite athletes under pressure may "program" for a temporary 'derailing' of the internal programs developed through practice. Many golfers, tennis players and other elite sports people have unusual rituals that they go through each time before they execute an otherwise smooth action. If the ritual is interrupted, they feel uncoordinated - Michael Lynch (Australasian Rugby Union champion) goes through this amazing ritual before he kicks for goal," Dr Horne says.

"When something goes wrong with the ritual - which may be programmed into the early part of the program - the entire action may be disrupted. One solution may be to eliminate the routine and try something completely new - for example, McEvoy's use of an underarm serve.

Pianists may also find their performance affected by random movements that creep into well-drilled routines, says Dr Horne. These may be due to spontaneous bursts of basal ganglia activity, which may give false cues to the muscles. The best known medical condition involving false movements is Huntington's chorea, which originates in the basal ganglia.

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Big toys out of the theatre

Sitting in the downstairs cafe of the Malthouse Theatre, surrounded by producers negotiating and actors rehearsing, what better way to wind up was inspired by his theatre workers, as countless workshops and readings of other new plays, organising forthcoming plays, a future trip to Japan, and a Big Toys Victorian tour.

"Stirring his cappuccino, he says: 'What keeps me going, is that my pleasures, passions and work are the same. Good coffee also helps.'

Mr Gantner was founded of the Playbox Theatre Company in 1976. In its first season, the company performed, works by Australian women playwrights. Since then it has produced 150 full productions of Australian works, as well as countless workshops and readings of other new plays.

When Playbox's theatre at 56 Exhibition Street was burnt out in 1984, Carlton United Breweries Ltd gave the company the 1892 Malthouse building, which, after four years of renovation, has become an important part of Melbourne's cultural world.

In addition to being Playbox's home, this centre for contemporary art aims to be the cultural voice of Australia through its two theatres, art exhibitions, acting classes, workshops, music, contemporary opera and dance.

With the support of the vice-chancellor, Professor Mel Loggan, Playbox affiliated with Monash in 1990. The association grew from the efforts of Dr Gantner and the management of the Alexander Theatre, Mr Phil A'Vard.

Mr Gantner says the idea to take theatre to the people in outer Melbourne was inspired by his theatre workshops as cultural councillor at the Australian embassy in Beijing.

"Companies did not have their own theatres but took book arts to the city to several venues. When I came back to Melbourne, I thought this might work in Australia and initiated tours to the Alexander Theatre,' he says.

"I was surprised at the wonderful reaction that we received in the first year. I thought it would take a few years to build up a following that exists there now."

But the Playbox-Monash connection has been beneficial for both sides, says Mr Gantner. 'For Playbox, we have built up a stable audience base, received administrative benefits, and the university found an educator to work with secondary and tertiary institutions.'

"Playbox has helped Monash serve not only staff and students but also the local community in the demographic heart of Melbourne. We have enhanced the university's cultural image, and helped to build local business and sponsorship support."

Mr Gantner will retire as artistic director of Playbox at the end of 1993. "I've been here for 15 years and it is time to go. 'Change is important in a theatre company. When it starts wearing the director's signature and personal taste, it is time for another set of tastes to get a run.'"

Mr Aubrey Meller, former director of the Royal Queensland Theatre Company, is the forthcoming MTC executive at Monash. Brilliant Lies, has been appointed to the position.

Mr Gantner will remain on the board of Playbox and invest more time in his own creative work -- acting, directing, and promoting artistic links with Asia. "It will be played for Melbourne audiences and then in China, Japan and Korea."

"I have a feeling that people might think that Lear represents the last word in English. But this is the case ... so be it," he says.

"I might be 69 today, but I will never be ready for golf. I am always interested in new things, not stuck in the past."

The exhibition surveys how the impact of the Cold War, national security policies, policies and developments in nuclear technology have been communicated through art, popular imagery and video. The exhibition will be held from 14 July to 28 August. For further details, contact ext 75 4277.

Monash University Art Gallery

The exhibition, curated by Rod Jones, examines the extent and diversity of the response by Australian artists to the nuclear issue. Works explore the themes arising from the threat of nuclear annihilation that were the outer of the atomic age to the present.

The exhibition survey works the impact of the Cold War, national security policies, policies and developments in nuclear technology have been communicated through art, popular imagery and video. The exhibition will be held from 14 July to 28 August. For further details, contact ext 75 4217.

But Mr Dr McFarlane is quick to play down his fascination with British film. 'I'm not obsessed with film,' he laughed. 'That's too strong a word. I'd say I've always been devoted to literature and film.'

"I'm not what people call a movie buff. That term connotes a willingness to sit down and watch movies all day."

Dr McFarlane admits, however, to being lured towards cinema since his childhood in the Wimmera. The twice-weekly screenings at the local cinema created a "lasting impression," with a particular fondness for British films.

At the age of 10, I was already interested in films," he said. "I had many battles with my father because he didn't think children should be going regularly to the movies."

Dr McFarlane was able to fully discover cinema after moving to Melbourne in the 1950s -- a time when cinema showed British films exclusively.

He started his academic career at the State College of Victoria at Frankston in 1976, which became the Frankston campus of Monash in 1990.

Writing several books about Australian and British film provided the impetus for Sixty Voices, and in particular for a book Dr McFarlane co-authored with Dr Geoff Mayer called Australian Cinema: Sources and parallels in American and British film.

The book comprised of Hollywood movie styles with British and new Australian film. Their research provided more thorough information on the subject.

Dr McFarlane's latest work steers away from academic critique, focusing more on the personalities behind British cinema in its heyday.

The book took three years to complete, with hours of watching films, researching and tracking down celebrities. His sources recorded in the book include such famous names as John Mills, Valerie Hobson, Ann Todd, Peter Ustinov, Stewart Granger, Woody Hill, Dirk Bogarde and Alec Guinness.

Sixty voices was released in England last year and launched in Australia in April. Published by the British Film Institute, London, with the assistance of Monash University, the book is distributed in Australia by Heinemann.

Great Expectations

Visiting Dickens exponent Mr George Curry will present readings of Great Expectations at the Alexander Theatre in August.

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In search of inspiring words

Monash University has launched an annual international search for two heroes in the tradition of its namesake, Sir John Monash.

The director of Alumni and Fundraising, Ms Jennifer Beck, is coordinating the Monash Distinguished Alumni Awards, which will be promoted to Monash graduates around the world. The awards, sponsored by the SEC, will honour high-profile Monash alumni.

A selection committee chaired by the chancellor, Mr Bill Rogers, will consider all nominations made by individuals, groups, corporate or public sector organisations.

"We are looking for people who, like Sir John Monash, are able to combine outstanding professional achievement with inspirational leadership and exceptional personal qualities," Ms Beck explained.

"We feel that this country - and possibly the world - lacks leaders, people who can set an example for future generations and inspire us all."

With more than 50,000 alumni around the world, Ms Beck is confident that suitable contenders for this prestigious award will be found. In the six years she has worked at the university, she has built up an extensive database that has enabled Monash to maintain contact with many of its graduates.

Some of the more well known among them include politician Simon Crean, state coroner Hal Hallenstein, sportsman John Bertrand, entrepreneur Campbell McCormick, playwright David Williamson, consumer advocate Helen Wedgills, leading business women Rhonda Galbally and BHP public affairs manager Carol Austin.

"One of the most pleasant aspects of my job is that I am constantly coming into contact with people who have an enthusiasm for Monash and genuinely wish to stay in touch with the university," Ms Beck said.

"When I joined the university at the end of 1987, we did not have an alumni membership, although individual faculties had established special interest groups, such as the Monash University Law Association and the Monash Medical Graduates Association.

"We have now established mechanisms for encouraging graduates to stay in touch wherever they live, whatever their disciplinary background."

"The awards will include a regular newsletter, reunion and mentorship program and opportunities to network with other graduates. Every student receives a letter of congratulations from the university and an invitation to join the alumni when they graduate."

"We also help faculties and departments develop relationships with their own graduates," Ms Beck explained.

"In addition, the university now has alumni links around the world - there are regional alumni groups in Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia, and Monash 'correspondents' in 40 cities worldwide and across Australia."

"In future, Ms Beck would like to encourage greater interaction between undergraduates and graduates by establishing mentoring, support and network groups. She is also working on a Monash directory of graduates.

"We have a very strong belief that first and foremost our alumni are people, not a database. By offering them our support and interest, we hope to encourage theirs," she said.

"Ms Beck previously worked for the International Development Organisation in Canberra, which was responsible for developing links between Australian higher education institutions and countries in South-East Asia and the Pacific rim."

Overseas graduations take centre stage

More than 410 international students from three countries graduated this month in Monash University's largest off-shore graduation ceremony.

"Students from all faculties graduated in ceremonies held in Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore, which were presented by the respective governments.

"The university's acting academic registrar, Mr Michael Watson, said the ceremonies were the culmination of months of preparation.

"This year is the third time we've held overseas graduations and a lot of work is necessary to ensure that everything goes smoothly," he said. The off-shore graduation ceremonies held a real sense of occasion for both students and their families.

More than 120 students took part in the Hong Kong graduation ceremony, where the vice-chancellor, Professor Dr John Edmiston, presented the occasion.

In Kuala Lumpur, the largest ever off-shore graduation ceremony held by Monash, nearly 200 students graduated. The vice-chancellor of Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, Profesor Datuk' Zawawi Ismail, delivered the occasional address.

Monash graduate and founder of the multimillion dollar international watch company, The Hour Glass, Ms Jasmine Tan delivered the occasional address in Singapore to more than 90 graduates.

Planning for overseas graduations is a long and detailed affair. Qualified students first have to notify the university administration of their wish to graduate at home.

"As with all graduations, occasional speakers are identified, programmes and textaum printed, academic dress and processional details finalised and music selected," said Mr Watson.

"Off-shore graduations differ only in the sense that most of the planning done at Monash is then removed and put into place in another country," he said.

Each graduation ceremony was followed by an informal function where graduates and their families mingled with the official Monash party and had photographs taken.

Exposing ozone depletion

A Monash meteorologist has been testing a computer model that can accurately predict changes in the size of the hole in the ozone layer.

The model, developed by the Bureau of Meteorology Research Centre, provides advanced warning of the extent of ozone depletion in the southern hemisphere.

"The director of the Centre for Dynamical Meteorology at Monash, Professor Andrew Rye, says that using the videos has been a success for both the students and staff."

"As a teacher, I need to see the progressive development of a student's work. I can then offer them advice on ideas, methods of production and techniques," he says.

"Constructive criticism involves looking at the shape, material and how the student got there and can offer this kind of advice with our initial slide-assessment procedure."

"The students are also confident now in using cameras and the effects they can get from them. The film-making is a fabulous tool in the classroom as it gives us the opportunity to show students their own work in comparison to the work of others."

"It is also culturally diverse, and the students have found it helpful. The students can then talk to us about what they have done."

"Some art schools have been critical of our methods, saying that ceramics cannot be taught this way," Professor Rye says.

"My response is that interested students would be excluded from postgraduate study if they lived in rural areas, or anywhere lacking a recognised ceramics course."

"There are always difficulties in making such a course. We never pretended it would be easy, but we have tried to make it appropriate and feasible."

"And plenty of people seem to want to do the course. Of more than 100 people who inquire about the course each year, 30 apply and six are accepted."

"As our customers are happy with the results achieved through the course, then we can conclude that distance education can provide a satisfactory education for many dedicated artistic people. In ceramics, using video facilities makes the process easier."

Ceramic works captured on video

The home video has taken on a new role for postgraduate students in the ceramics distance education course offered by Monash University's Crystal Palace School of Art.

"Instead of recording family events or holidays, video recorders are now capturing the development of ceramic artworks produced by the students."

A long-time devotee of collage, ceramics lecturer Professor Owen Hough recognised the possibilities of using videos for teaching and assessment.

"Research into the use of video as an educational tool has been government funded. Professor Hough says the use of the videos has been a success for both the students and staff."

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"Some art schools have been critical of our methods, saying that ceramics cannot be taught this way," Professor Rye says.

"My response is that interested students would be excluded from postgraduate study if they lived in rural areas, or anywhere lacking a recognised ceramics course."

"There are always difficulties in making such a course. We never pretended it would be easy, but we have tried to make it appropriate and feasible."

"And plenty of people seem to want to do the course. Of more than 100 people who inquire about the course each year, 30 apply and six are accepted."

"As our customers are happy with the results achieved through the course, then we can conclude that distance education can provide a satisfactory education for many dedicated artistic people. In ceramics, using video facilities makes the process easier."
Apres Monash: Where do graduates go?

As the saying goes: every cloud has a silver lining. A recent survey of almost 5000 Monash graduates suggests the recession's rays ultimately lead to a better educated workforce.

Further study is a less popular option for graduates majoring in medicine, music, human law, education, social work, business studies, accounting and engineering.

The disciplines that enjoyed the best employment rates in 1992 included medicine, with 86.7 per cent of 1992 Monash graduates finding full-time employment, law (74.8 per cent), and social work (56.6 per cent).

According to the Graduate Careers Council of Australia, medicine is also one of the top disciplines when it comes to starting salaries. Medicine graduates earn about $36,000 a year. However, anyone planning a career in medicine should bear in mind that graduates work an average 50 hours a week, which reduces the hourly rate of pay to just $13.80.

Social work provided the 10th-highest graduate salary at $26,000 and remained the highest ranked among the non-science disciplines.

According to Ms Gall, the good news for Monash graduates is that their average first-degree graduate salary at $26,000 and remained the highest ranked among the non-science disciplines.

“More women are still to be found in the lower paid professions, dominated by disciplines such as humanities, psychology, and social work,” she explained.

Top 10 starting salaries for new graduates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discipline</th>
<th>Starting salary</th>
<th>Growth since 1992 (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dentistry</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>261.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>36,000</td>
<td>270.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer science</td>
<td>32,000</td>
<td>291.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth sciences</td>
<td>27,000</td>
<td>274.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>27,100</td>
<td>280.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterinary sciences</td>
<td>27,000</td>
<td>285.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical science</td>
<td>26,800</td>
<td>291.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social work</td>
<td>26,800</td>
<td>356.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

According to the IBIS report, there is a raft of industries that will provide future employment opportunities, including intellectual property, education, financial services, tourism, health, communications, niche manufacturing, and tropical fruits and vegetables.

The report also points out that while some of these occupations may presently appear menial, society can—and does—value these jobs.

The development in the job market is being affected by other trends such as job sharing, immigration, fuller and faster deregulation of labour markets, curbs on unemployment benefits, and the removal of subsidies to sheltered industries and their application to sunrise industries.

Ms Gall points out that there are significant opportunities to be found in the service industries, many of which have been traditionally dominated by women.

According to Ms Gall, the good news for Monash graduates is that their average starting salary of just over $26,000 is above the national average of $25,700. But there are still disparities between salaries for males and females. Ms Gall says these gender differences relate to unequal employment opportunities not wages within a particular profession.

“More women are still to be found in the lower paid professions, dominated by disciplines such as humanities, psychology, and social work,” she explained.

The result is that the average male Monash graduate will start his career on a salary of $28,300, while female graduates startup at around $25,000.

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The Victorian Institute of Earth and Planetary Sciences

By enrolling in undergraduate programs in a member university, students are able to use any part of the VIEPS network for advanced undergraduate education. An active campaign is run each year to inform students, both here and overseas, of the diverse range of research and education programs offered at the institute.

Coordination of staff resources, Professor Gleadow said, was achieved by the development of collaborative teaching programs and high quality, broadly based undergraduate courses. "Access is offered to a wider range of expertise than previously possible. Seminars and conferences are held for a large number of students with similar interests."

"An informal approach to both symposia and conferences organised by VIEPS provides students with valuable interaction with industry members needed to understand the requirements of possible future employers, and provides those same employers with a first-hand look at possible new recruits. VIEPS, in collaboration with its industry partners, recognises that graduates today need more than just a grounding in the core earth science curriculum. Effective communication, both written and verbal, will be of increasing significance for earth science graduates in their later professional lives, and is obviously important to employers," Professor Gleadow said.

VIEPS has introduced a thesis writing course, a presentations skills course and a number of other courses which concentrate on improving computer literacy. Each year VIEPS runs a series of specialist short courses in advanced topics suitable for industry, technical and professional staff. The laboratory facilities within the VIEPS network are also available for access by external industry groups.

Coordination of equipment resources across VIEPS is achieved by sharing the cost of major new developments and optimising the use of existing facilities. "VIEPS also assists in coordination of access to such research institutions as CSIRO, Geological Survey of Victoria, Australian Geological Survey Organisation and Bureau of Meteorology. These programs benefit industry scientists and VIEPS researchers, and expose students to a blend of curriculum items important to both academics and industry."

VIEPS consists of the Department of Geology and the Theoretical Space Physics Group at LaTrobe University, the School of Earth Sciences at the University of Melbourne, and the departments of Geography and Environmental Science and Earth Sciences and the centres for Computational Mathematics and Dynamical Meteorology at Monash.

Support and financial backing was given by Victoria Education Foundation and the hydrocarbons and mineral industries.

Changing direction

The VIEPS foundation director, Professor Gordon Lister (pictured, right) of the Department of Earth Sciences at Monash, is about to take up a key role in the new Australian Geodynamics Cooperative Research Centre.

The institute's new director is Professor Andrew Gleadow (left), professor of geology and dean of physical sciences at LaTrobe University. Professor Gleadow graduated PhD in 1974 from the University of Melbourne and completed postdoctoral research at the University of London before returning to the University of Melbourne as a Queen Elizabeth II fellow, research fellow in Antarctica: geology and senior research fellow. In 1988 he took up the Chair of Geology at La Trobe. He has published extensively on all aspects of the development and application of fission track dating to geology, especially related to tectonics, sedimentary basin analysis and hydrocarbon exploration.

His current research interests include fission track analysis and thermochronology of extensional tectonic environments in the south-western United States, East Africa and south-eastern Australia, and the establishment of new facilities for fission track and Thermoluminescence dating.
Top marks to MUFY

International students who completed a one-year bridging course before enrolling at Monash are among the top performing students in their undergraduate course.

The Monash University Foundation Year (MUFY) is a joint venture between Monash and Taylor's Institute of Advanced Studies (TIAS), designed for international students and prepares them for university study in Australia.

The managing director of MUFY Limited, Mr Peter Cunliffe, says that qualified entrants are accepted as provisional students of Monash and undertake the one-year program to prepare them for their chosen degree course.

Mr Cunliffe said the results of MUFY students who took undergraduate studies at Monash last year indicated a high correlation between their foundation and undergraduate results.

"More than 70 per cent of students enrolled in the foundation year achieved a credit grade or higher, and just over 50 per cent of those same students in their first year at Monash achieved credit or above results," he said.

"The students were well prepared for university studies and adapted to the local environment and culture. MUFY students have proven to be among the top performing students in their course."

Changes provide a fresh look

New focus for Caulfield

An ambitious landscaping project will give Caulfield campus not only a new look but also more space.

The landscaping, designed by Chris Dance Land Design in conjunction with Monash, will feature extensive tree planting and a lawn area, which will become a campus focus.

Work has already begun on replacing existing small areas of lawn with garden beds and softening hard building surfaces with plants.

Caulfield Campus manager Mr Brian O'Kearney says the landscaping will be carried out in stages.

"The first stage of building a courtyard north of building A is complete, with the second stage involving tree planting around the campus about to begin," he said.

"The next stage includes the creation of a common, which we hope will begin in 1994."

Clayton graduate centre

The new centre will house the graduate student and research services offices and give postgraduate students a purpose-built study complex.

The three-level centre will be one of two study complexes on Clayton campus.

The new centre will house the graduate student and research services offices and give postgraduate students a purpose-built study complex.

Monash slips into sub-district cricket

Monash University's cricketers were bowled over recently with news that they have been accepted into a higher grade of amateur competition.

Monash University Men's Cricket Club was established about 30 years ago and operates under the auspices of the Sports and Recreation Association.

With about 100 members, the club fielded six teams in the eastern suburbs competition last season. The top two teams will join the sub-district league this year, and the remaining teams will continue in the local competition.

Teams also participate in turf competitions, intervarsity matches and several social fixtures. Club members have access to three turf pitches, plus ample indoor and outdoor practice facilities.

For more information, contact the Sports and Recreation Centre on ext 754102.
Harnessing the power of the press

by Mina Guli

The media is vital to portraying an alternative viewpoint to the rhetoric of the politicians and bureaucrats.

Any attempt to gain media coverage must therefore recognize that these principles exist and cater to them. From a student perspective, the representations of these on plans to lobby public, government, or university bodies are quite severe. In many respects, this is not on the basis of what the media determines will have the greatest public appeal. A quick scan of any daily newspaper, television and radio news, reveals that this primarily means human interest stories, and issues with a strong visual aspect or some type of violence.

The media is powerful, which empowers as well as educates. Through responsible reporting, images and stories should be portrayed from an unbiased and realistic perspective, allowing the public to draw their own conclusions.

From a student perspective, the media is vital to portraying an alternative viewpoint to the rhetoric of the politicians and bureaucrats. No one likes bad publicity, particularly in politics. By using the media effectively, this intense dislike by politicians can be exploited in the public's benefit. The public can find out the 'real story' behind government cover-ups and place pressure on the relevant decision-makers to create change.

If press coverage is so important to the success of campaigns and to the resolution of contentious issues, what do we have to do to get media coverage?

Working with the media can be an incredibly frustrating experience. The primary concern of most editors and reporters is to satisfy the client - the general public. Consequently, they're 'on' the basis of what the media determines will have the greatest public appeal. A quick scan of any daily newspaper, television and radio news, reveals that this primarily means human interest stories, and issues with a strong visual aspect or some type of violence.

By Fonda Williams

Australia's newest public holiday was not so much launched last week as set alight.

Two newsreaders lost their place on the autocue, two found it, and the third gave up.

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