Graduate lands on legal feet

Monash law graduate Ms Jenny Hardy is Australia's young lawyer of the year. The energetic advocate recently won two of the three Law Council of Australia prizes for outstanding legal and community service. But Ms Hardy faced a small problem while visiting Hobart to receive her prizes at the Tasmanian Legal Convention — she was footsore.

Squashing feet into shoes had become a painted task after three months of voluntary legal work on the tiny Pacific island of Kiribati (pronounced Kiribas).

But her feet were not bound for long. Ms Hardy returned to Kiribati to continue her Australian Volunteer Abroad program after a whirlwind trip to see family and friends in her hometown of Shepparton.

Ms Hardy works as a state advocate, advising Kiribati's Attorney General and other government departments in areas such as civilian rules, criminal advocacy, and legal training.

She has agreed to work for the local wage and live like an islander for another 20 months, providing valuable insight for the Attorney General's Office.

But it was Ms Hardy's inspirational work in the Northern Territory that won acclaim from Australia's legal leaders.

After moving to Darwin in late 1987, Ms Hardy played a leading role in establishing the city's first community legal service.

She also developed the Northern Territory's original Law handbook. Her jobs ranged from Crown Prosecutor to working for Aboriginal Legal Aid.

A simple seven-day treatment with yoghurt and common antibiotics may cure stomach ulcers for life.

The yoghurt, containing a cocktail of bacteria naturally found in the human gut, is the latest and most novel weapon developed by Monash researchers in the 10-year quest for an ulcer cure.

Led by Associate Professor John Lambert of the Faculty of Medicine, the Gastroenterology Research Group was the first in Australia to show that duodenal and gastric ulcers were associated with a bacterial infection.

"Back in the old days ulcers were thought to have been caused by excess gastric acid production. Patients were put on milk diets and ordered to give up alcohol and spicy foods," Dr Lambert said.

Even today, the most common treatment is acid-suppressing drugs. Although the ulcers may heal, they recur in more than 80 per cent of patients within a year.

An alternative and more effective therapy with fewer side-effects is available: one that kills a bacteria, known as Helicobacter pylori, thought to cause the ulcers.

But despite "very strong data" and the compelling statistic that 10 per cent of Australians will develop ulcers, the therapy has been slow to catch on.

"It's now well accepted that eradication of the bacteria will heal the ulcers for life," Dr Lambert said.

Unfortunately, the bacteria is not easy to kill. Most therapies are expensive and cause nausea and diarrhoea in 15 per cent of patients. By contrast, conventional acid-suppressing drugs are cheap and have minimal side-effects. They are still used in more than 70 per cent of patients.

The association of ulcers with the bacteria — incidentally discovered by a Perth researcher who left a culture too long — was first confirmed by Dr Lambert in 1984.

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Dr Lambert said the presence of Helicobacter pylori in the human gut was "the most common cause of bacterial disease in humans in the world. About 70 per cent of people in China are infected and the bacteria has recently been implicated in stomach cancer.

"The Monash group has undertaken 16 clinical studies of this organism in humans to determine how the bacteria spreads, its prevalence within the Australian community, why it causes disease, and how to best treat it.

Surveys here show that 20 per cent of the Australian-born population over 18 are infected with Helicobacter pylori, a prevalence that rises to 40 per cent over the age of 40. And the risk of getting an ulcer is increased 10-fold if the bacterial infection is present."

The bacteria is not spread by water or food but by close human contact. In Asian societies that have communal eating habits, the prevalence is greater.

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Crime victims teach police vital lessons

Monash University research on crime victims in Melbourne's bayside suburbs has sparked changes to police training.

Victoria Police leaders have already adopted most recommendations in the new study, released recently by the Monash Centre for Continuing Education.

Assistant Commissioner (Training), Mr Bill Robertson, praised the Frankston-Chelsea Crime Victims Support Project as a valuable guide about the effects of crime on its victims.

Mr Robertson told Montage that police recruit trainers were already putting findings from the research into action.

"A police officer’s responsiveness and sensitivity towards victims of crime is one of the most important issues in police work," he said. "We’re doing a good job at the moment, but that doesn’t mean we can’t do things even better.

"After all, every organisation tends to become insular to its environment, so there’s a constant need to remind us what we’re here for. Through this research, police are getting more practical knowledge on how to deal with a wide range of crime victims and related support services.

"It’s important for police to respond well to all victims of crime, from major assaults through to vandalising a garden hose. Police need to be able to respond to both ends of the spectrum and the Monash report will help us do this."

Project officer Ms Christine Vincent started the research in September last year with assistance from Frankston and Chelsea police and the respective citizens advice bureau (CABs). She worked from the Monash Peninsula campus with funding from the Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services Department of the Victorian Department of Justice under the Vicsafe programme.

Ms Vincent asked local officers to give crime victims a CAB and write a short paper on the project. During a six-month period, about 80 victims were assisted, most of them female, aged between 11 and 40 years.

According to Ms Vincent’s final report, most victims who sought CAB help suffered assaults, sexual assaults, domestic violence, armed robberies, aggravated burglary, aggravated assault, and thefts.

Although the sample of crime victims was relatively small, the level of violence or injury was described in the report as "substantial" and "prevalent".

"Theft of personal belongings, such as handbags, wallets or money, was the second most common type of crime suffered by the victims who sought CAB help.

About half of the victims attending the CABs were either on a low income or no income at all, contributing to the significant number of requests for material aid and emergency accommodation.

"The general findings of this project highlight the many challenges facing communities, including police, in coming to terms with the issue of support services for crime victims and their families," the report said.

Ms Christine Vincent recommends that Victoria Police conduct a similar project for non-English-speaking backgrounds.

"In general terms, the victims’ satisfaction with the police response was more likely to be favourable wherever police treated the victim in a sensitive manner and provided information on support services.

"Anecdotal evidence offered by victims to CAB staff reflected that victim sensitivity training given to CAB staff and Community Policing Squad members consistently resulted in positive or favourable comments about contact with police.

"However, not every victim reports their situation or crime to police, therefore access points need to be available in local communities where victims can approach and request assistance, in a non-threatening environment."

Ms Vincent’s report called for a more coordinated approach to dealing with crime victims, with increased training and development by the three key players: Victoria Police, Victoria Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, and the State Government’s Department of Justice.

Her recommendations also urge the Department of Justice to boost funding for information and support services, along with research into the need of crime victims from non-English speaking backgrounds and a small grants program for local community service groups.

Ms Vincent said current support services attracted a small portion of crime victims, but the trend was common throughout the world.

She said overseas research found a similarly low use of support services by victims, with many seeking self-reliance and non-acknowledgement. In Australia – and abroad – the low response by crime victims was due to many factors, such as a reluctance to ask for charity, mistrust of community organisations or the victim’s own perceptions of self-blame or fear.

But Ms Vincent said improved relations between police, CABs, and the community would encourage more victims of crime to seek support services.

— BY WENDY BUSFIELD

THE SPIKE

■ How do you take your copy?

In the interests of those out there who still think grammar is an elderly relation and not a sentence endorsed as a child, we present 1.2 handy rules for the preparation of written copy:

1. Don’t use no double negatives.

2. About them sentence fragments.

3. Your writing to see if you any words out.

4. Do not over split infinitives.

11. Its important to use your apostrophe’s correctly.

12. You read your writing to see if you any words out.

13. Correct spelling is essential.

■ Bureaucratic cold comfort

A Monash student recently rang the Australian Taxation Office to inquire about her HEC$ debt.

"A private education manufacturer at the end of the line, "It’s just an amount outstanding."

NOW & THEN

25 YEARS AGO

The new theatre manager is Mr Philip A’Vard, who has had considerable experience in the professional theatre in Melbourne. He has been stage director of the Monash Little Theatre (now St Mar­time), the Floorman/camera operator with Herald-Sun TV Pty Ltd, later promoted to floor manager and studio manager, and then with the Garnet Hill organisation as stage manager of the Princess Theatre. Since the closure of the Princess Theatre he has been teaching at Essendon Grammar School. Ms A’Vard is expected to take up his position as theatre manager in early January.

15 YEARS AGO

The social composition of Monash students – judged on sex, the type of secondary school attended, father’s occupation and parental education – has remained largely unchanged over the six or so years, the abolition of fees in 1974 notwithstanding.

This is apparent from figures quoted by Anderson, Bowen, Fensham and Powell in their report ‘Students in Australian higher education: A study of their social composition since the 1960s, but gathered independently of their own survey.

MONTAGE

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Monash harbours top-secret race bid

John Bertrand's 1995 America's Cup syndicate has thrown a tight security net over the Monash University wind tunnel being used in top-secret design tests.

The syndicate, regarded by some US sailing authorities as a major threat to the American challenge, selected the high-tech tunnel to carry out vital development work on a range of keels and rudders.

Mr Bertrand was the team of Australia in 1983 when he became the first challenger in the America's Cup to use a non-American syndicate's wind tunnel. He said the testing began at Monash in late October only six syndicate members and one key Monash academic have been permitted to enter the tunnel to witness and contribute to the experiments.

Fifteen America's Cup challengers have lodged their initial performance bond of $15.285 million. But Mr Bertrand will have clearer idea of the serious contenders in January, when teams are required to submit a $15.285 million entrance fee.

Mr Bertrand said preliminary feasibility tests were being carried out on sophisticated supercomputers and further testing would be performed using scale models.

He said tests using full-scale replicas normally take about six months, model testing takes six weeks, and special computer technology can cut the lead time to just six hours.

The main challenges at this stage, apart from America's Cup computer design, is to make sure he is the person holding the memory of the national pride when the starter's gun is fired.

Mr Bertrand said the security shield surrounding the Monash tests would be kept in place for the rest of the campaign. It would be even tighter than the security net thrown around Ben Lexcen's wizard keel, he said.

The Monash-led syndicate is also considering a plan to offer undergraduate courses to Asia in the near future. Fifteen Asia-Pacific countries now are receiving OLA undergraduate television programs as a test of the region's enrolment potential.

The programs are being broadcast through the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's international satellite following an agreement made in September with the ABC's overseas arm, Australia Television International (ATVI).

OLA is a joint venture that could lead to continuous benefits from the America's Cup series. Fluid Thinking hopes to tap into a market potentially worth $7 billion by applying its America's Cup design technology to a number of manufacturing industries.

With the memory of the national pride from Mr Bertrand's last America's Cup assault still fresh and the potential of using the new technology to boost export earnings, the syndicate has attracted the personal support of the Prime Minister, Mr Keating, and Opposition leader, Mr Hawke, who are co-commissioners of the bid.

-- BY PETER HENKENS

OLA offers graduate courses in 1994

Monash University is providing five of the 19 graduate courses on offer through Open Learning Australia (OLA) for the first time next year.

The executive director of OLA, Mr Tony Pritchard, says the 19 courses will cover education, health, environment and business studies.

"The new graduate courses, including masters degrees, are in response to the clearly expressed desire by many people to continue their education at the postgraduate level through Open Learning," Mr Pritchard said.

"With these new courses and the continued expansion of the undergraduate courses, Open Learning certainly has added another choice to the higher education menu for all Australians."

A Masters in Practising Accounting, a Masters in Applied Linguistics, and a Graduate Diploma in Marketing will be offered by Monash through OLA next year. A Master of Education Studies will be run by Monash in conjunction with the University of South Australia and Curtin University, and a Master of Letters in Philosophy will be offered with the University of New England.

Mr Pritchard said the Monash-led consortium is also considering a plan to offer undergraduate courses to Asia in the near future.
Dean engineers life of adventure

For millions of people, Steven Spielberg's movie character Indiana Jones is the cinematic representation of a lifestyle many only dream of. But for Monash's dean of engineering and acting deputy vice-chancellor, Professor Peter Darvall, life has been full of similar "adventures," as he calls them.

Falling down a frozen alpine crevasse at night, supervising a team of several hundred Egyptians digging for treasures from 5000 BC in the Nile delta, being stranded in a 30-metre hole in the Alaskan ice, and travelling across South America's Andes - all could easily form part of an Indiana Jones storyline.

After graduating from Melbourne University in 1963 with an honours degree in engineering and following a brief stint with engineering consultants Maximax and Partners in London, Professor Darvall suffered his first bout of "adventurism." He elected to complete his masters degree at Ohio State University in the US.

While at Ohio State, he had the chance to spend three months in Alaska as a site engineer on a road-building project near the US-Russia border. It was on this trip that the intrepid adventurer experienced his first true fear of separatedness, the Darvall says.

"The mood turned to one of drama when the motorbike engine decided to stop running, he camped in the neighbour's yard because he was too afraid to go home and face his dad, but he wanted to keep an eye on the house. The police were called at this stage and a missing persons report was filed. That's when we became involved." Mr Heyne said the boy was upset about his family issues next year, but the idea depends on funding.

"Most cases depend on the way parents respond to their children when they refuse to go to school."

Mr Heyne said children attending the clinic were referred by schools, private practitioners, and other agencies, with strong cooperation from parents. He said major issues tackled by the clinic included traumatic events, fear of separation, and fear of school. In some cases, fears were inadvertently taught by parents, such as the fear of separation stemming from being comforted and reassured following periods of separation.

Accordingly, parents are encouraged to become highly involved in the clinic's program, offering support for their child while reducing family stress levels and other personal problems such as marital conflict and uncertainty about the best way to deal with problems.

"Most cases depend on the way parents respond to their children when they refuse to go to school." Mr Heyne said children attending the clinic were referred by schools, private practitioners, and other agencies, with strong cooperation from parents. He said major issues tackled by the clinic included traumatic events, fear of separation, and fear of school. In some cases, fears were inadvertently taught by parents, such as the fear of separation stemming from being comforted and reassured following periods of separation.

Clinical assistant Miss Melinda Pitchard (left) and psychologist Mr David Heyne (right) with a client at the clinic.
South Africa takes Monash counsel

By WENDY BUSFIELD

Both academics returned to Melbourne enthused by the strength of commitment in South Africa to reforming the country's political and economic future.

"Most still have romantic notions, with the attitude that sex is okay as long as it is within a romantic context. "

"They are knowledgeable when it comes to what is safe and unsafe, but many of them have the attitude 'it won't happen to me'.

"AIDS is the only STD that most of them consider to be serious. Since it is virtually non-existent in their age group, they don't necessarily see the need to practise safe sex."

Dr Moore hoped the information gathered would be used to influence policy related to sex education, so that educators, parents, community workers and adolescents could benefit from it.

"Of the 153 adolescents interviewed, we found that at least 40 per cent of them had had unsafe sex or continue to have unsafe sex," Dr Moore said.

"There is a need to provide policy makers and educators with the information and data to implement sex education programs for the teenagers surveyed."

"We have found that the majority of the adolescents surveyed held traditionally romantic views about sexuality. "

"The survey also revealed that only 27 per cent of those interviewed felt comfortable with the idea of one-night stands and yet nearly all respondents approved of sex before marriage."

"As has been tradition, this was more relevant to the girls. The boys and girls interviewed were sex and gender role differentiated for boys to sleep around," she said.

"However, there was a general feeling that sex was not as important as it used to be. Most of them considered sex as a "great deal of fun" and "tame or not at all," she added.

"We found that the majority of the adolescents surveyed held tradition of romantic views about sexuality. "

"Traditional values are still very prevalent in the community and interestingly these values are even evident among young people who are having sex," she said.

South Africa takes Monash counsel

Dr Mark Horridge (left) and Professor Brian Parmenter have recently returned from South Africa where they met with the Industrial Development Corporation.
AIDS is the most common fear of Melbourne teenagers, according to research by two Monash University academics.

Dr Eleonora Gullone and Dr Neville King have found that the killer disease scares a majority of local 15 to 18-year-olds. But AIDS was not the biggest fear for younger age groups, who were more frightened by death, kidnapping and not being able to breathe.

Dr Gullone and Dr King recently drew widespread media attention when their first research was unveiled at the Australian Psychological Society conference.

The academics, who work with the Education faculty’s School of Graduate Studies, surveyed nearly 1,000 children from Melbourne’s inner and suburban schools. The children, aged from seven to 18, were studied over a three-year period.

The first part of the study was carried out in 1989, with follow-up studies of the same children in 1992 to determine the relationship between fear and naturalisation.

Dr Gullone told Montage that girls expressed more fears than their male peers. She said females reported fears that were more intense and different from those of male participants.

In particular, females were more likely than males to report being fearful of rats, fire, spiders, snakes, bush fires, creepy houses, bad dreams and being alone, she said.

"These findings support the most commonly proposed explanation for gender differences, which essentially argues that being fearful is consistent with the feminine gender stereotype, as it is being expressive about feelings and emotions. In contrast, the male stereotype promotes characteristics such as courage and control over emotions."

Mr Ian Newbold, building attendant, university administration, Clayton.

"My biggest fear is being unemployed and having to live on a pension, hanging around idle."

Miss Olivia Ye, administrative officer, student administration, Clayton.

"I hate lizards. I don't know why, but I just can't stand them. I can't recall any particular event which caused this, but I've always hated them."

The controversial study, commissioned by the Economic Planning Advisory Council (EPAC) and conducted by the Monash Centre of Economics of Education, studied the contribution of education to economic growth and development.

While conventional wisdom has it that any money spent on education is a good thing, study coordinator Dr Leo Maglen said: "The evidence suggests that improved quality of education and training may be the key."

"It is more important to improve education through primary and secondary schools. With a thorough grounding in general knowledge, literacy and numeracy skills, people are better prepared and equipped for their future careers in the workforce," he said.

"For greater attention should also be given to employment-based training schemes."

The centre is looking at a wide range of issues in economics and finance of education and training, including internal efficiency, links with the broader economy and international perspectives.

Ms Lyn Grady, executive assistant to the pro vice-chancellor (Gippsland).

"I would have to say that my biggest fear is that Monash University may amalgamate with the University of Melbourne."

Mr Paul Strickland, education research officer, student union, Gippsland.

"My biggest fear is that I might lose my job because of voluntary student unionism legislation."

Dr Gullone said the research also found that most childhood fears dwindled with age.

"The only fear which continued to show an increase over time beyond 15 years of age was the fear of spiders," she said.

"But when examining changes in fear over the three-year period, we found that the number and intensity of fears decreased over the three-year period."

"This was particularly the case between seven and 10 years of age, when the most marked decrease occurred. Beyond 10 years of age, approaching adolescence, a degree of stability in fearfulness became apparent."

Research also showed that younger participants had more fears of greater intensity than older children.

"The fears of younger students also differed from those of older students," Dr Gullone said. "Younger children were more likely to report fear of situations or stimuli, such as getting lost in a strange place or a crowd, dealing with strangers, drunk or strange-looking people, being sent to the principal and tigers."

"These fears represent situations which are more realistically threatening to the younger child. They also indicate that younger children evaluate the threat of stimuli and situations at a level which is consistent with their stage of cognitive development. As such, their evaluations of a threat are less reality-based than those of older children and adolescents."

Dr Gullone said males and females from all age groups expressed fears indicative of death and danger.

She said the most feared areas were dangerous drugs, being unable to breathe, sharks, being threatened with a gun, nuclear war, kidnapping and being hit by a car or truck.

The centre has sparked a lot of interest and generated considerable discussion.

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\*
The war is being waged between Paw and Claw, two illustrated characters that in inimitable cartoon fashion have been unsuccess fully trying to knock each other off.

"It all began five months ago," explains Claw's master, Mr. Phil Scamp. His inimitable voice and his signature hand, can be seen through out Monash publications. During business hours, he is a cartoonist in the Department of Geography and Environmental Sciences.

Mr. Scamp's freelance art- istry also included helping him if he was good at

Talking about crime New creative directions for student theatre

Police are turning to a Monash University forensic linguistics expert to help piece together criminal cases.

Dr. Storey's expertise in voice identification is drawing strong interest from law enforcement agencies in Australia and overseas.

The Ballarat-based research consultant is in constant demand, as one of only a handful of experts in forensic linguistics in the Southern Hemisphere.

Dr. Storey has helped law enforcement agencies prosecute more than 40 cases in the past four years with her thorough analysis of recorded voices presented in evidence.

She has appeared in more than a dozen courtrooms across Australia, performing the bulk of her work for the Department of Public Prosecutions and the Federal Police, along with defence work, legal aid and private cases.

"I've always liked doing puzzles, so I suppose that might explain why I like the job," Dr. Storey said.

Dr. Storey finished her masters and PhD studies at Monash in 1990. After graduating, she worked as a Monash linguistics researcher and started specialising in forensic work.

As her papers on the subject attracted so much interest, she started developing a consultancy for the Monash Linguistics department to handle the flood of inquiries.

To cope with the growing demands and to further her research, Dr. Storey recently applied for a grant to purchase a high-tech sound spectrograph.

"It was a bit like a jigsaw puzzle, sorting out who was who in the room," Dr. Storey said.

In another interesting case, several young men were accused of stealing a CB radio and tampering with the equipment to access the police D24 line.

Dr. Storey said a defendant used the stolen equipment to gain access to D24 headquarters and communicate with police operators. The defendant provided car registration numbers and asked for details of ownership and any criminal records.

She said the taped conversations included an Indian accent, similar to impersonations by actor Peter Sells.

"When the police arrested him, they asked him if he was good at imitations," she said. "He actually said yes, so they asked him to do an imitation of Mickey Mouse, which he did. They then asked him to read out some information in an Indian accent, which he also did. I had to decipher the tapes that the police recorded. He ended up in Melbourne Magistrates' Court getting a fine and a ban on firearms.

"Some of the tapes also included an Indian accent, similar to impersonations by Peter Sells." Dr. Storey said.

Forensic linguistics first became popular in US courthouses in the 1950s and 1960s and is now a regular feature of criminal cases.

Dr. Storey said her US predecessors "went a bit overboard" and treated evidence from the new equipment with the same legal weight as fingerprints.

"There were several miscarriages of justice in those days and the Americans backed off a bit," she said.

"But this sort of work is becoming more common today, even though there are still only 40 members in the International Association for Forensic Linguistics (IAFL)."

Dr. Storey, a member of the IAFL editorial board, maintains close contact with colleagues in Australia, the UK, Germany, Eastern Europe and other countries dealing into forensic linguistics research.

Her specialist papers have attracted international interest, the latest work being on voice identification in auditory and acoustic voice analysis.

Voice, which was presented in Germany, and Adelaide at the International Symposium on Forensic Linguistics in 1991.

The paper, which was presented in Canada and Adelaide at the 1991 International Symposium on Forensic Linguistics, has been the subject of much academic interest.

Dr. Storey will present her latest paper at 3.30 p.m. on 31 December at the conference in Sydney.

"By Wendy Rushfield"
"STEP INTO MY OFFICE..."

Vicky Anderson

The word "protocol" usually evokes images of famous people, cocktail party, and meeting the high powered.

But the actual work is far from glamorous, says the university's protocol manager Mrs. Vicky Anderson.

"Although I meet a lot of distinguished visitors to the university, I usually only spend a few minutes with them as they get out of a taxi or accompany them around campus," Mrs. Anderson said.

"My role is an organisational one where I do all the work prior to the visit, such as organising appointments with relevant Monash staff, setting up programs, organising catering, transport, and arranging suitable Monash gifts.

Mrs. Anderson has a background in public relations. She started at Monash in 1992 as a public affairs officer and was seconded to the protocol role early this year.

Since her appointment, she has revamped the university's protocol arrangements and streamlined operations.

Her work for the Public Affairs Office entails writing press releases and articles for Monash and organising special projects such as the Monash involvement in the World Trade Fair, to be held in Sydney next year.

The Protocol office is always busy. Her phone rings constantly and despite schedule alterations and an unending stream of visitors, little fazed the well-organised Mrs. Anderson.

She came originally from a sheep station in outback Western Australia. Mrs. Anderson later worked for the West Australian Section of the Royal Flying Doctor Service and Grenville Australia in Perth. She holds a BA in journalism from Curtin University of Technology, has travelled extensively, and once worked in a public relations consultancy in London.

Outside office hours, Mrs. Anderson is interested in diving, squash, reading—just about any outdoor activity—and can often be seen turning up the basketball court during a Monash co-rec game with colleagues.

One way to earn your daily bread

Telling a timely tale

Living by the clock is now a way of life.

But it has not always been so. Author of The unforgiving minute, Professor Graeme Davison, explains here how Australians learned to tell the time.

Ours is a clock-wise society. From the moment we wake up, the ticking of hundreds of clocks monitor our arrival on the job.

Time checks on the radio prompt us to shower for work. Punch clocks monitor our arrival on the job. Microwave cooks time our evening meal. Video games are punctually tape our progress.

Much of the time we do not notice them, but that is because we have become so accustomed to the rule of the clock that we obey it automatically.

Clocks are so essential to our way of life that it comes as a shock to discover that only a hundred years ago many Australians could literally not have given the time of day.

They were also important to a society in which most of the population was literally 'doing time'. Prison reformers hoped that clocks and timepieces would enable them to turn lazy and dissolute convicts into industrious and punctual citizens.

From the 1830's public clocks began to appear, like mechanical police, on church towers, in factories and in schools. Only at the close of the century, however, in 1895, did Australia adopt a system of standard time zones.

In the 20th century, more time-shatter ing changes were in store. Radios, aeroplanes, automobiles, wristwatches, and later, computers and automated time-control systems helped to create time regimes that were more flexible than the old ones.

Yet, in this supposedly more leisurely age, why do we seem to have less time than ever before?

No saying better captures the concept of Wholefoods than "earning your daily bread".

Students who volunteer to work at the Clayton campus vegetarian restaurant know exactly what the phrase means—an hour's work for a two-course meal, salad and a free drink.

This kind of restaurant could not survive outside a university environment.

At Wholefoods, success depends on a huge campus demand for healthy, nutritious, good-value food.

The restaurant also depends on its student volunteers, who wander in at an appropriate time, don an apron and, according to abilities, are signed up for work.

Wholefoods coordinator, Ms Kylie Weaver says the 15-year-old restaurant is an institution at Monash.

"We aim to offer a healthy nutritious alternative for students and staff," she said.

"For many students living out of home with little time to cook, Wholefoods is their main meal so we like to make sure that what we are offering is of substance."

Ms Weaver said Wholefoods had an unusual staffing structure, but like any other restaurant, had to comply with the health, hygiene, and cleanliness standards of the hospitality industry.

"We also need a certain level of staff to function effectively so we are always looking out for more volunteers," she said. "Team spirit is especially good for new and overseas students if they are feeling a bit lost and want to get into student life. Once you have worked at Wholefoods, you are never short of a friend."

Wholefoods, which has support from the University Union, broke even for the first time last year. Any excess profit goes back into the restaurant for items such as extra tables, chairs, crockery.

Ms Weaver, who enjoys cooking, was originally attracted to the restaurant's casual atmosphere.

As a full-time arts student in classical studies, she understands the pressures on volunteers who combine work and studies.

Wholefoods and the nearby coffee and cake counter will operate during the summer vacation. Volunteers are always needed.

For further information, contact Ms Weaver on ext 75 4156.
Monash University has established a new Rehabilitation Technology Research Unit to serve as a national centre for research into technologies to assist and rehabilitate disabled people.

The unit, part of the Department of Electrical and Computer Systems Engineering's Centre for Biomedical Engineering, is a joint venture between the university, the federal Department of Veterans' Affairs, and the Alfred Hospital Group.

The director of the Biomedical Engineering Centre, Associate Professor Ian Brown, said the research unit would replace the former Central Development Unit (CDU) of the Department of Veterans' Affairs, which has provided most of the funding for the project.

In an unusual administrative move, some of the CDU's former research staff were transferred from the Commonwealth Public Service to work in the unit. Mr Bill Contonoyannis is manager of the new unit and Dr Andrew Nunn, who is the head of the Caulfield General Medical Centre (CGMC) Amputee Unit, has recently been appointed as director.

Dr Brown said the unit was not only responsible for the rehabilitation of Australia's war veterans, its services were also available to disabled people, including road trauma and stroke victims and the congenitally disabled.

By drawing on a wide range of disciplines within the Faculty of Engineering, the unit's research will be expanded beyond orthotic and prosthetic devices into a broad range of technologies for the disabled.

"In addition to the staff transferring from Veterans' Affairs, we have a number of academics and research students who have expressed interest in developing technologies for the disabled," Dr Brown said.

"The faculty has academics interested in biomaterials, biomechanics, communications, robotics, and medical technology. The range of disciplines we can bring to bear on a particular problem makes us unique.

"It's important to try our ideas out in a clinical setting, which will be one of the main functions for the rehabilitation unit."

Early next year, a newly furnished building at the CGMC will become the unit's permanent home.

"The CGMC-based unit will occupy 1000 square metres and will provide a prosthetics workshop, biomechanics research laboratory, and training and education facilities," Dr Brown said. "Research students will be able to work on projects that relate to real clinical problems."

Dr Brown said that with the average age of Australians rising steadily, there would be increasing pressure on the health system from aging people needing rehabilitation. The unit provides for a range of disabilities caused by stroke, diabetes, and other age-related medical problems.

The unit is also expected to draw its clientele from a diverse group of disabled people whose problems cannot be solved by off-the-shelf devices.

From left: Dr Andrew Nunn, Mr Bill Contonoyannis and Dr Ian Brown. "We've got a number of potential projects that will involve engineers from several disciplines, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, podiatrists, and a range of medical specialists. They will work together to develop novel devices to assist these people," Dr Brown said.

As an example of its potential, the unit recently designed a carbon-fibre orthotic device for a Paralympic discus thrower, who had had his right leg amputated at the knee. The device allowed the athlete to pivot smoothly during his throw and it absorbed a great deal of recoverable energy during impact. Dr Brown said an ordinary orthotic leg would have been useless because its rigidity would not have permitted a smooth pivoting movement.

Another young Melbourne man who was a keen roller-blader before losing his leg in a motorcycle accident was fitted with a special orthotic device to which a roller blade could be attached. He has resumed his sport as a result of the device.

Dr Brown said that in both of these cases, independence and lifestyle were the emphasis.

"At Caulfield we are developing a substantial laboratory where we will be able to assess or measure a variety of biomechanical parameters in patients, such as locomotion actions, the size and range of movement of various parts of the body, underfoot pressures, and the loads being taken by people with artificial limbs," he said. "We also will have a teaching area and a training facility so that when we devise a novel prosthetic device, we will be able to teach others to use the technology."

Reactivating paralysed muscles

Dr Brown said the Biomedical Engineering Centre's research interests extended beyond rehabilitation technology to cover medical technology including diagnostic equipment, medical imaging and informatics, medical expert systems, and physiological control systems. The centre's work will involve liaison with two of Melbourne's major general hospitals, the Monash Medical Centre and the Alfred Hospital Group, which includes the CGMC.

"We are presently looking at the development of devices to help activate the muscles of paralysed patients," Dr Brown said. "Several academics in the department have a long-standing interest in muscle contraction. There are opportunities for restoring some activity to paralysed muscles by stimulating them electrically with devices implanted within the muscles."

While a primary role for the Biomedical Engineering Centre is to engage engineers in the development and application of a broad range of medical technology, Dr Brown emphasises that the research focus of the centre is in the area of rehabilitation technology. The size of the potential market for the centre's activities is very large and growing.

Dr Brown said the market could be further expanded if the centre was successful in extending its operations into the Asian and Pacific regions where there is a higher rate of disabling injury.

"We're not doctors, we're engineers," Dr Brown said. "If we can link up with doctors and disabled people in a clinical setting at Caulfield, we should be able to achieve commercial returns while providing practical outcomes for patients as well."
Wiring up for sound

The sensory systems that control vision and hearing have been considered less resilient to damage than those serving the sense of touch. But research by Monash neuroscientists has found that the regions in the cortex that control hearing are not as 'hardwired' as was previously believed - similar results have been found in the visual cortex.

In the 1940s, German-American neurologist Hans Lukas Teuber found that people who had had limbs amputated developed greater sensitivity in the skin around their stumps.

Changes were obviously occurring in the peripheral nerves on the damaged limb, but Teuber suspected that significant changes might also be occurring in the brain itself, in areas where signals from the amputated limb were formerly analysed.

Modern neuroscientists have confirmed Teuber's insight. The brain has some capacity to reorganise itself following damage to the nerves concerned with transmitting information from the senses. The region of the brain known as the somatosensory cortex, for example, can reorganise itself in response to changing inputs from nerves serving the sense of touch.

Dr Dexter Irvine, of the Department of Psychology, says the same seems to be true of the sense of hearing, in which such reorganisation has not been observed previously. But the nature of the changes, and where in the nervous system they originate, is still unclear. Such questions go to the core of how the brain is organised and works: how much of its neural architecture is 'hardwired' during development, and how much remains plastic and capable of reorganisation later in life?

Changing cortical 'maps'

Dr Irvine and his colleague, NHMRC research fellow Dr Ramesh Rajan, have been trying to find answers by studying the brains of laboratory animals whose sense of hearing has been selectively damaged. The damage causes the animals to become insensitive to a range of frequencies towards the low end of the normal spectrum of audible sounds.

"When neuroscientists speak of receptor surfaces being 'mapped' on the surface of the brain, they are referring to the way that adjacent points on the body's receptor surface are represented at adjacent points on the cortex," Dr Irvine said. "Most of us thought those maps, once established, were stable in adult nervous systems because they represent fixed neural connections."

"Some of the simplest experiments in laboratory animals have involved amputating a digit and then testing the part of the cortical 'map' representing that digit. Instead of becoming silent, that area becomes occupied by enlarged maps of the adjacent digits."

"Professor Mike Merzenich of the University of California has also shown that if you overstimulate a particular area of skin, you get an enlarged map of that skin area on the cortical surface. So it appears that even use or disuse of a sense can result in changes to the cortical map that serves it."

Studies of visual and auditory maps have been more problematic, because of the difficulties involved in making a specific lesion on the retina of the eye, or on the basilar membrane within the cochlea - the region of the inner ear where sound-pressure waves are converted into nerve impulses.

With the approval of their department's animal ethics committee, Dr Irvine, Dr Rajan, and a colleague from the University of Western Australia, Dr Don Robertson, used the guinea pig and the cat as experimental models.

"We selected the guinea pig for practical considerations," Dr Irvine said. "It has a cochlea that spires out into the middle ear and is protected only by a thin bony wall that makes access easy. In most other animals, the cochlea is buried in the temporal bone.

"We made the lesions mechanically, using a fine pipette to destroy the hair cells on just one part of the basilar membrane. This type of selective damage is similar to that seen in some people whose hearing has been damaged by exposure to loud noise, or by certain drugs that are toxic to hair cells."

Repairing hearing damage

"The basic technique involves making a restricted lesion and allowing the animal to recover for two to three months. Then we examine the representation of the cochlea in the cortex. We use fine probes to monitor the electrical activity of the nerve cells in the auditory area of the cortex while feeding sound of different frequencies into that ear."

"We can follow through the activity of the area over the next six months, and look for changes in the representation, which we monitor by the firing rate of nerve cells in the auditory area of the cortex while feeding sound of different frequencies into that ear."

"Dr Irvine says that at the input end, in the cochlea, the hair cells respond to increasingly lower sound frequencies further along the spiral of the cochlea. At the processing end - on the surface of the somatosensory cortex in the brain - the map of frequency is approximately linear. In the auditory regions of the guinea pig's cortex, nerve cells responding to increasingly higher frequencies are located towards the back of the brain."

Nerve cells along narrow strips of the cortex are most sensitive to pure tones of a particular frequency; the position of the cells responding best to a single frequency can be represented like contours on the map.
Investigating asthma

Until recently, little has been understood about what happens in the lungs of an asthmatic. Now, extensive studies being undertaken by a team from the Faculty of Medicine are providing unique insights into the condition.

Answers to asthma's many mysteries cannot come soon enough: the condition is becoming more prevalent in Australia, particularly among the young.

Professor Haydn Walters and Dr Michael Abramson of the Monash Faculty of Medicine lead an epidemiology group that aims to provide some of the answers.

The group, a satellite member of a major European Community project to study asthma prevalence, sent at random a questionnaire to 4500 living in Melbourne's inner eastern suburbs. Seven hundred and fifty were then selected to participate in a series of physiological tests to determine whether they had asthma.

"About 10 per cent of the group we surveyed had been diagnosed with asthma and were taking some form of treatment. Another 15 to 10 per cent seemed to have the symptoms, but had not been diagnosed," Professor Walters said.

"Our Victorian data, and other studies done in NSW and Western Australia, suggest that the prevalence of asthma is three to four times higher than in western Europe." The reason for the high prevalence in Australia is unknown, but results suggest city air pollution is not solely to blame.

Professor Walters said that because the methods being used in his study are the same as those used in the European Community study, good comparative data is becoming available. Instead of relying on anecdotal accounts, it should be possible to determine why Australian asthmatics seem to be more susceptible to asthma.

"Almost certainly it's a complex phenomenon," he said. "The Australian and European data will allow us to compare the relative contributions of things like environmental pollution, weather and climatic changes, and allergens loads.

We need more detailed information, and not just from outdoor studies. It's quite likely that indoors, house-dust mites and moulds are very important. It's probably partly a consequence of affluence. Our houses are well-sealed and humid, they're carpeted and well-furnished with sofas, couches and chairs -- they are tremendous breeding grounds for house dust mites, and, in some parts of Victoria, for moulds."

As recently as the year 2000, Melbourne at the moment, and have applied for grants to look into the situation in Moe, the Latrobe Valley, and the wheatbelt of north-western Victoria. From these different environments, we should be able to dissect the various factors that trigger asthma.

While the causes of asthma are unclear, some interaction between an individual's genetic make-up and environment are said to be responsible.

One of asthma's unexplained mysteries is that one in two asthmatics recover spontaneously during their teenage years, while the remainder will suffer attacks throughout their lives and may develop permanent lung damage.

Professor Walters says the problem with asthma is that until recently, very little has been understood about what goes on in the lungs.

"It has been a black-box diagnosis," he said. "You could measure the physiological changes of those people with asthma and were taking some form of treatment. Another 15 to 10 per cent seemed to have the symptoms, but had not been diagnosed," Professor Walters said.

"Our Victorian data, and other studies done in NSW and Western Australia, suggest that the prevalence of asthma is three to four times higher than in western Europe." The reason for the high prevalence in Australia is unknown, but results suggest city air pollution is not solely to blame.

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Toorak Road is a symbolic battlefield where the doomed middle classes are making a last stand in their four-wheel-drive tanks. Bum bags are just a modern-day version of the cod piece — the bigger and more ornate, the more important the personage.

Greeting cards and their pap messages are creating a mass-produced intimacy that is obsoleting our personal relationships.

These are just a few of the pithy observations in an irreverent but disturbing book on the cult of consumerism by Dr Joanne Finkelstein, a senior lecturer in the Monash Department of Anthropology and Sociology. The A-Z of consumer pleasures will be released by Heinemann next year. If it follows in the footsteps of the cultural analysis of relationships, "The pursuit of happiness," it is bound to provoke controversy.

Translated into Spanish and Italian, these books have pushed the outspoken sociologist into the limelight. She is regularly called upon to comment on popular culture, be it the rage for platform shoes or virtual reality.

"What interests me are individuals' relationships to their consumer opportunities," Dr Finkelstein said. "Who buys greeting cards, for example? What do they think they are buying?"

Worldwide, about 10 billion cards are exchanged annually. Manufacturers, such as Hallmark, employ industrial psychologists to design the most enticing point-of-sale material.

Anonymous authors write puerile messages like, 'I love you because you are the best granny in the world.'

"Someone buying that card is relieved of the difficulty of working out their personal relationships," she said. "It is a tool by which a technological advance such as mass media publishing has become a means of insinuating market-driven and trivialised messages into the fabric of everyday life."

Dr Finkelstein has similar biting conclusions about the fashion industry, which "exploits our naivety" and warns how our increasing collusion with machines is making us less adept at social interactions.

As well as observing modern manners, the dynamic research methodology might include searching for historical references, examining advertising statistical interviewing manufacturers.

"Take the necktie. It has a very long history but as an item it's utterly decorative. Its longevity intrigues me," Dr Finkelstein said.

An early reference was that of Beau Brummel in the late 18th century, who expounded on his preference for a country cravat because the water was cleaner and hence the material crisper after washing.

"I was living in New York where no one visits each other in their homes. They always meet in restaurants. There must be thousands to every square kilometre," she said.

"What kind of a society supports a dining out culture? What kind of a society have we got where romances, family gatherings, and business deals all take place in restaurants?"

"My conclusion is that it's a sign of our increasing instability. Individuals are subsumed under the rules and structure of a restaurant where there are no opportunities for idiosyncratic exchange."

"In this structured, almost totalitarian environment, we release ourselves of the difficulty of sorting out our own emotional and social ties."

Dr Finkelstein predicts that by the year 2000, one third of the meals consumed in Australia will be prepared outside our homes.

"They always meet in restaurants."

She says the largest growing sector is the chain and fast food restaurants — the McDonald's and the Kentucky Fried Chicken. These, she says, are the most rigid and standardised of them all.

Dr Joanne Finkelstein amidst the greeting cards that she says relieve consumers of the difficulty of working out their personal relationships.

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**Consuming pleasures**

Everything we wear, eat and buy has more significance than we realise. A Monash academic's cultural analysis of such things as greeting cards, modes of transport, and restaurants reveals the possibility that our society lacks spontaneity and emotion, preferring a shroud of rules and consumerism.

This is the evaluative and critical approach of cultural studies, a rapidly growing academic field that reads everyday life and examines the economic and political influences.

It brings a scholarly eye, a serendipitous look at the accumulation of knowledge, to bear on items as seemingly humble as the bum bag or necktie.

Dr Jonas said. "The study is the first of its kind in Australia and provides a detailed account of the impact of IVF and GIFT technology on the higher order multiple birth rates of a whole population over an extended period."

"The researchers not only wanted to document the rising birth rate with the study, but also wanted to look at the various difficulties associated with such births."

They always meet in restaurants.

"Rough calculations indicate that during the study period, a third of triplet and quad births occurred naturally, another third were due to non-IVF and non-GIFT procedures, such as ovulation induction, and the other third were due to the IVF and GIFT programs," Dr Jonas said.

"Triplet and quadruplet pregnancies impose health risks on the mothers and babies, not to mention considerable financial and emotional strains on the parents." In their paper, the researchers said the complications of higher order multiple births could be reduced considerably by careful monitoring of ovulation induction and by limiting the number of eggs or embryos transferred during IVF or GIFT.

The authors also discussed recommendations made by the Reproduction Technology Accreditation Committee of Australia in 1988. The committee proposed that no more than three embryos or eggs be replaced during IVF or GIFT procedures. In 1990, these recommendations had not made any significant impact on the proportion of triplets and quadruplets in Victoria. But by 1991, the proportion of triplets and quads conceived through IVF and GIFT had decreased to 14 per cent.

The study was compiled over a 12-month period with data provided by the Victorian Perinatal Data Collection Unit, Australian Bureau of Statistics, National Perinatal Statistics Unit, perinatal units from other states and the Victorian IVF and GIFT units.

The Centre for the Study of Mothers' and Children's Health, under the helm of Dr Judith Lumley, is part of the Faculty of Medicine, and is funded by the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation. It brings together a diverse team of researchers, with expertise in epidemiology, history, women's health, psychology, education, historical and social research, biomedical research, consumer advocacy, medicine, and nursing.

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**Multiple birthrates rise**

Victoria's birthrate of triplets and quadruplets has tripled in the past eight years mainly due to IVF and other similar techniques, a Monash study has found.

Between 1982 and 1990, 133 sets of triplets and six sets of quadruplets were born in Victoria, raising the yearly rate from 3.5 per 10,000 in 1982 to 10.9 per 10,000 in 1990.

According to the study, conducted by Dr Helen Jonas and Dr Judith Lumley, of the Monash Centre for the Study of Mothers' and Children's Health, the rise was partly due to increased use of in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) and gamete intrafallopian transfer (GIFT).

In 1990, 42 per cent of all triplet and quad pregnancies were due to IVF and GIFT. The research findings, which were published in the Medical Journal of Australia, showed that other states experienced an even greater increase in the incidence of quads and triplets than Victoria, due to the wider use of such techniques.

The study is the first of its kind in Australia and provides a detailed account of the impact of IVF and GIFT technology on the higher order multiple birth rates of a whole population over an extended period.

The researchers not only wanted to document the rising birth rate with the study, but also wanted to look at the various difficulties associated with such births.

According to Dr Jonas, the increase in higher order multiple birth rates was of concern because the death rate for triplets and quads was very high (10 per cent for triplets and 25 per cent for quads), mainly due to infection.

"Rough calculations indicate that during the study period, a third of triplet and quad births occurred naturally, another third were due to non-IVF and non-GIFT procedures, such as ovulation induction, and the other third were due to the IVF and GIFT programs," Dr Jonas said.

"Triplet and quadruplet pregnancies impose health risks on the mothers and babies, not to mention
Monash joins fight against AIDS

A Monash-designed computer-based teaching program was launched last month to help combat the HIV infection.

The Monash University HIV Hypermedia Medical Education Software, aimed at providing the latest information on the management of people with HIV

Project coordinator Dr Michael Kidd, of the Department of Community Medicine, believes the new software will improve awareness in a vital area of clinical medicine.

"The new program highlights different patient scenarios, and will help the user understand and manage difficult clinical and ethical issues affecting people with HIV," Dr Kidd said.

"A feature of the program is its extensive base of reference material on HIV, including a series of interactive patient management problems and tutorials on the prevention and management of infection."

New centre bridges the gap

The National Technology Demonstration Unit (NTDU), which opened officially last month, is helping to bridge the gap between Monash University's research efforts and Australian industry.

An extension of the already successful Centre for Advanced Materials Technology (CAMT), NTDU aims to demonstrate potential industrial applications of university research to relevant industries, particularly in material science and engineering.

CAMT director Professor Paul Rosenthal said NTDU would target adhesives and optical fibre sensors as its two main research interests in its first years.

Professor Rosenthal said the sensors used in optical fibres could detect such things as chemical species in solutions or gases, vibrations in mechanical devices, strains in structures, and could act as security devices or proximity sensors.

He said CAMT had generated much interest among local companies and had already embarked on joint programs with several of them.

"As we add to our existing client base and become more established, we will also be looking at developing active links with our Asian neighbours," Professor Rosenthal said.

CAMT recently established an alliance with Cambridge University's Centre of Adhesive Technology (CAT). It has since become its agent for the Asia-Pacific rim in the development, demonstration and distribution of CAT's adhesive technology expert system.

NTDU is a Department of Employment, Education and Training (DEET) priority unit.

Research opportunities rise with new purchase

The reference material includes sections on virology, immunology, epidemiology, clinical manifestations, diagnosis, management, prognosis and ethical issues. Multimedia elements include clinical photographs, x-rays, diagrams, charts and animation.

The computer program was created by the Monash University Unit of Medical Informatics and the Department of Community Medicine, with assistance from the Department of Microbiology at Monash Medical Centre, the General Practice HIV Education Unit, and the Medical Library at Fairfield Hospital.

Program software is available through the AIDS/Communicable Diseases Branch of the Department of Health, Housing, Local Government and Community Services. Information about the program may be obtained from Ms Robin Baker on (06) 289 8551.

Ms Margaret Bearman accesses the HIV Hypermedia medical education software, launched last month.

Monash University's Physics department has opened the doors to more sophisticated research following its purchase of the Bruker ESP 380 Pulsed EPR Spectrometer at a cost of $630,000.

The only one of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere, the spectrometer determines the properties of electrons in solids, chemical complexes, and biological molecules.

It has potential applications in the petroleum, chemical and food industries.

The spectrometer has been in use by Monash researchers since March this year and was officially launched by the vice-chancellor, Professor Mal Logan, in September.

Physics head Professor John Pilbrow said the department was delighted with the versatility of the new equipment, which allowed them to conduct sophisticated new experiments, as well as conventional ones.

"The exciting thing about the new equipment is that we have been able to extend the range of experimentation well beyond what we have ever achieved before," Professor Pilbrow said.

"We have been able to use the apparatus productively and creatively since day one, and the results have proven that it was a worthwhile investment for the Physics department."

Since its installation, Professor Pilbrow, postdoctoral fellow Dr Yong Zhong, and honours student Mr Chris Noble have successfully used the spectrometer to make new observations, with one paper already in publication and another accepted by the Journal for Magnetic Resonance. A third paper has also recently been submitted for publication.

The equipment is also to be used on a casual basis by researchers from Melbourne and La Trobe universities.

The equipment was purchased through a shared ARC Mechanism C grant of $700,000 to Monash, Melbourne and La Trobe universities. Funds were also donated by the Monash Development Fund and the Physics department.
From economics graduate to marketing hotspot

The marketing genius of one-time Monash student Mr Bob Miller has won him two of Australia's most prestigious marketing awards this year.

Mr Miller, the general manager of marketing for the Toyota Motor Corporation, has been given Business Review Weekly's award for best marketing director for 1993 and the Australian Marketing Institute's (AMI) Sir Charles McGrath Award.

Both awards recognise outstanding contributions by individuals and companies to the Australian marketing industry.

Mr Miller completed a BA in economics and Indonesian at Monash in 1967 and has been involved in marketing for most of his 25-year career.

His working life began at Ford Motor Company's Asian Pacific export office, where he spent eight years, before moving to the Melbourne-based advertising agency ISP Needham as an account executive.

Since 1982 he has been at Toyota, where one of his most outstanding marketing successes has been the 'Oh, what a feeling!' campaign.

Over the past 10 years the campaign's catchy jingle and fun visuals have been successful in luring 22 per cent of the Australian sales market, earning Toyota the title of Australia's number one sales distributor.

Mr Miller expects the campaign to continue into the year 2000.

"With Toyota enjoying success in the market place, my mind it is better to maintain momentum with something that is successful, rather than try to recreate something new and unknown," he said.

Reflecting on his education at Monash, Mr Miller says his grounding in economics has been useful in his marketing career: "My courses in economics have been very helpful to me over the years, especially in marketing statistical analysis."

"Toyo plays a very big part in the economy and being at a senior level in the company, I have found my economics background invaluable."

Top student takes quantum leap

A talented Monash student has won a scholarship to work with Europe's leading infomercial company in London.

Mr Grant Pill will join Quantum International's senior management team for up to five months next year.

The 23-year-old undergraduate has been hand-picked for the position as the most outstanding student in the university's Syne Marketing department.

Mr Pill, originally from Albury, will gain important work experience in one of the world's fastest growing industries when he joins Quantum International in the new year.

The company is internationally recognised as a leader in home shopping infomercials.

Winning the scholarship capped off an impressive academic performance by Mr Pill, particularly in psychology and statistics. His degree course combines a Bachelor of Business in marketing with a Bachelor of Arts in psychology.

Since joining Monash in 1991, Mr Pill has become well known on Caulfield campus. He is a former president of the Monash Marketing Society and a current board member of the Monash Student Union.

Deputy dean of the Business and Economics Faculty, Professor Peter Chandler, a leading marketing academic, said Mr Pill would gain work experience in an industry accounting for $1 billion in sales in the US alone.

He said the scholarship was 'crowned by Quantum's managing director, Mr David Carson, a former Syne Fellow in Retail Management.'

Japanese students flying high on success

Five return airfares to Japan have been awarded to honours students from the Department of Japanese Studies.

Donated by ITB Australia Zaidan, a non-profit education foundation established by the Japan Travel Bureau, the air tickets, worth $9000, were presented to students who won a speech contest held last month.

Mr Chub Chong Hee, Ms Nita Chow, Ms Katrina Walsh and Mr Rohan Bramley each won an airfare for speeches made on topics ranging from 'The overseas student's life at Monash' to 'A comparison of Japanese, Chinese and Australian weddings'.

The three-member judging panel could not decide between speeches presented by Ms Rosemary Chang and Ms Katrina Walsh, who won joint third place.

The general manager of ITB Melbourne, Mr Iwao Kohno, awarded the prizes to the students, who will travel to Japan next year.

New society links neighbours

Ties between Australia and Indonesia were strengthened last month when the vice-chancellor, Professor Mal Logan, launched the Monash Society in Indonesia in Jakarta.

The society consists of 10 selected Monash graduates who are senior academics, mainly social scientists, in Indonesia. Their task will be to increase Monash University's profile in the archipelago, advise the vice-chancellor on possible projects, and lobby authorities on collaborative projects. The society plans to meet every two months.

An important part of their brief will also be to establish an annual conference on Australian-Indonesian relations. It is expected the conference will alternate between the two countries.

Many members of the society, says chief organiser and lecturer in Asian languages and studies, Mr Bas Koersani, are also members of political organisations and advisors to government.

The society consists of the co-ordinator Professor E. Sarullah Wiridradijsa, deputy rector, Padjadjaran University; Dr Yins Lalamkent, deputy dean, Faculty of Letters, Universitas Sam Ratulangi; Professor L. Gede Widjaja, rector, STKIP; Dr. T. Ketut Nehen, head of International Cooperation, Universitas Udayana; Dr Superman Karid, deputy dean of education, IKIP Surabaya; Professor Dr Tengku Amin Ridwan, professor of linguistics, USU; Dr Djoko Suryo, dean of letters, Universitas Gadjah Mada; Dr Icblas Selul Arma, dean of political science and social science, Universitas Gadjah Mada; Professor Nazaruddin Sjamsoedin, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Universitas Indonesia; and Dr Dewi Fortuna Anwar, head, Regional and International Affairs Division, Centre for Political and Regional Studies, Indonesian Institute of Sciences.

Mr Koersani said the society was the first of several planned internationally.

New creche for Clayton

The Monash Student Creche Co-operative has a new purpose-built complex at 62 Beddoes Avenue, Clayton.

A building, which provides direct access to the campus for the first time in the creche's 25-year history, was opened officially by the vice-chancellor, Professor Mal Logan, on 12 October.

Professor Logan said it was on such facilities that the university should be focusing: "The university should be about service," he said. "We are trying to identify more services that we should provide for students so that we can get back in line with overseas universities, which have a better service record than Australia."

When it opened in 1968, four children were looked after by one carer. Today, about 100 children attend the creche, with 12 child care staff offering an education and care program.

Until now, the centre has been located at various converted university houses in Beddoes Avenue. The new premises includes three rooms for children under the age of three, two rooms for children over three, a sleep room for babies, three bathrooms, and three large outdoor play areas.

Grant Pill.

"Oh what is feeling!": Mr Bob Miller has taken out BRW's award for best marketing director for 1993 and the AMI's Sir Charles McGrath Award.

"In my mind it is better to maintain momentum with something that is successful, rather than try to recreate something new and unknown."

"My university should be about service," he said. "We are trying to identify more services that we should provide for students so that we can get back in line with overseas universities, which have a better service record than Australia."

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The vice-chancellor, Professor Mal Logan, with coordinator of the creche co-operative, Ms Elminor Campbell.
Awards flow from overseas

Monash ceramics lecturer Ms Andrea Hylands has basked in the international limelight this year.

Ms Hylands has shared the 1992 grand prize at the 13th Biennale Internationale de Ceramique D’Art at Vallauris, France, and received an honourable mention at the third International Ceramics Competition at Mino, Japan.

She recently exhibited at Distelfink Gallery in Hawthorn, and if that wasn’t enough, still manages to find time to teach full-time at Caulfield campus and practise her art at her heriditary studio near Castle­wood.

Ms Hylands, who has been at Monash since 1986, believes in the virtues of combining teaching with her own artistic development.

"I use distortion and deception in my abstract pots, which places them between the ordinary and the extraordinary," she said. "While there is no overt symbolism, the familiar is turned into surprise. I like exaggerating the surreal aspect of a pot as opposed to a commonplace object."

The absolute whiteness of the porcelain and bone china pots are an ideal empty canvas for an exploration of colour and decoration.

Ms Hylands is proud of her achievements overseas and says it reflects the high standard of ceramics and pottery in Australia.

"We have an active ceramics industry and practice in Australia," she said. "This is reflected by the abundance of ceramics and pottery magazines and also the number of artists exhibiting overseas."

"There is also a heightened awareness locally. People have become much more appreciative over the past few years through Australian ceramics, give occasional lectures, and create his own collection, to be displayed at the end of his term at the university.

When Montage met Professor Inoue, he was busy at work, not producing the ceramic works for which he is renowned, but turning rice bowls, plates and sake bottles to use in his new home.

His topic for research seems strange for a Japanese artist, but Professor Inoue has been working for 16 years on the subject of rice and our eating habits.

"I find Australian fascinating because of the evolving culture here," Professor Inoue said. "Despite Australia’s comparatively recent settlement, each migrant has brought something of their 1000-year-old culture and recreated it slightly differently. It is this adaptation of the cultures that is reflected in the works."

Professor Inoue’s own work reflect his interest in glass and music.

"If someone can hear the music in my works then I know that I have captured them and they understand my own inspiration," he said.

Professor Inoue believes that the potential for ceramics and pottery are unlimited. "As a potter, I create objects that make a contribution to daily human life."

Professor Inoue’s non-lecturing appointment with the Department of Ceramic Design means that he is free to assess the students’ works with an unbiased eye and can encourage them to experiment in ways previously unimagined.

Watching Professor Inoue at work, even if it is just turning rice pots, is seeing the timeless art of a master at work.

Japanese-style ceramics

The Department of Ceramic Design at Caulfield campus has become home to visiting lecturer, potter, and professor of Fukusoka University of Education, Shunshichi Inoue.

During his 10 months in Monash, Professor Inoue will undertake research into the unique characteristics of Japanese ceramics, give occasional lectures, and create his own collection, to be displayed at the end of his term at the university.

The exhibition is being held in the McClelland Gallery, Frankston, until 6 December.

"It is also important for staff, because not only do you have to be a professional teacher but also you have to be a practising artist. Winning awards recognises and helps reinforce the teaching program. It helps to give you credibility as an educator."

Ms Lambie said students are encouraged to develop their own style and technique as well as their own glaze blends.

He said the School of Art was unique in that it provided opportunities for students to study a combination of metal, glass and clay.

"Wherever possible, we encourage students to do cross-disciplines in their training," Mr Davis said. "Aspiring artists need to be seen as public artists rather than individual craftspersons working in their own cocoon."

Final-year students will show off their work in a two-week exhibition at the State Gallery, Meat Market Craft Centre, corner Courtney and Blackwood streets, North Melbourne, beginning 17 November.

Potters from the Peninsula School of Art scooped the pool at last month’s annual Victorian Ceramic Group awards.

Final-year student Ms Mary Lambie won the award for the best emerging potter, and the deputy head of the School of Early Childhood and Education, Professor Andrew Way, for making the best wall hangings.

"It was a perfect opportunity," Ms Lambie said. "I enrolled to do stained glass, but changed my major to ceramics because I enjoyed the work so much."

Ms Lambie, who has spent six years at Monash, began studying part-time for a BA major in English at Clayton campus.

"I applied to do stained glass and was accepted into the art and design course. It was a perfect opportunity."

"I am enrolled to do stained glass, but I decided to do ceramics because I enjoyed the work so much."

"I enjoyed studying ceramics and really enjoyed the work so much."

"I decided to do ceramics because I enjoyed the work so much."

The Alexander Theatre will once again host a season of some of the best shows in Melbourne next year.

The Monash season will start with the Sydney Theatre Company’s only Melbourne run of the Broadway musical and winner of many Tony awards, Falsettos.

In May, the Monash community will have a chance to see David Williamson’s latest play, Sanctuary, directed by the new Playbox Theatre director, Mr Aubrey Meller.

"Louis Nowra’s comedy Cosi will be performed by the Melbourne Theatre Company in June."

The director of University Theatres, Mr Phil A’Vard, is negotiating for a number of other top professional productions from around Australia, including the Sydney Theatre Company’s definitive production of The Crucible and the award winning Broadway hit, Seven Brides for Seven Brothers.

Other productions under consideration are Hanni Rayson’s Falling from Grace, presented by Monash University’s Playbox Theatre Centre, and David Mamet’s controversial gender play Oleanna.

The George Jenkins Theatre season at Peninsula campus will feature a selection of these Australian productions.

"It was very good to have a range of Australian productions in 1993 and look forward to a greater awareness next year with the shows offered," he said.

Potters in a spin

"It is a really important aspect of learning, particularly for final year students who need to put work into the market place and get a feel for how the public responds to their work," Mr Davis said.

Alex plans the 1994 season

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The new Monash phone system will have everyone talking

From 1 January 1994, Monash University will have a new phone system across all campuses which will affect all internal and external telephone and fax lines. The following examples illustrate how the internal system will operate in the new year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campus</th>
<th>Existing extensions</th>
<th>New extensions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clayton</td>
<td>(75) XXXX</td>
<td>5 XXXX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caulfield</td>
<td>(73) 20XX</td>
<td>32 XXX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peninsula</td>
<td>(74) 40XX</td>
<td>44 XXX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gippsland</td>
<td>(72) 60XX</td>
<td>26 XXX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parkville</td>
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<td>39 XXX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monash Central</td>
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<td>38 XXX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(30 Collins St)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The new external numbers will be (03) 90 and then followed by the five digit extension number.

Other features of the new system:
- Both the old and the new external numbers will be operational for an initial period of six months.
- Churchill campus will have a permanent system of two numbers:
  - Local callers: (03) 22 80XX
  - National callers: (03) 902 80XX
- All extension numbers become five digit numbers from 1/1/94. No numbers will be repeated across campuses.
- The current four digit form of extension numbers finishes on 31/12/93.

The new main numbers:
- Clayton (03) 905 4000 • Caulfield (03) 903 2000 • Peninsula (03) 904 4000
- Gippsland (051) 22 80XX (unchanged) • or (03) 902 80XX
- Parkville (03) 903 6000 • Monash Central (03) 903 6000
- All operator inquiries: dial 9

The man behind the bust

Professor Mollie Holman is one of the university's longest serving employees - this year she joins only a handful of people who have worked at Monash for 30 years.

Three decades after joining the Department of Physiology, Professor Holman has established a host of personal and professional milestones to mark her success. But still she remains modest.

"I have been very lucky," she said. "When I started my medical career, I was interested in a field that had not been investigated in any detail, so I had an opportunity to find a niche for myself."

Professor Holman's lifetime of work in medicine has been well recognized. In August this year, she delivered the inaugural Edith Bulb ring Memorial Lecture in Oxford. Last year, more than 100 colleagues and friends from as far afield as Japan, England and the US gathered in Queensland to hear a symposium in her honour.

When Professor Holman delivered the Edith Bulb ring Memorial Lecture, it brought her academic career full circle. As a scholar at the university in 1955, she studied for her PhD in Physiology. She followed this with a Masters in Philosophy and Pharmacology. She began work at Monash in 1963, and was awarded a personal Chair in the Department of Physiology in 1970.

Over the years, Professor Holman has held numerous appointments including: lecturer, dean (research), a member of the Committee of Associate Deans (Research), deputy chairperson of the university's PhD and Scholarships Committee, and chairperson of the Faculty of Medicine's Scholarships and Graduate Matters Committee.

Professor Holman is also a fellow of the Australian Academy of Science (vice-president in 1982), and a fellow of the Australian Institute of Physics. She is a long-standing member and supporter of ANZAAS and was awarded the association's medal in 1985.

She was a member of the Interim Council of Deakin University (1974-78), a part-time member of the executive of the CSIRO (1975-78), and has been a member of the Council of Gelong Grammar (1981-90).

Mr Montford, who came from England in the 1920s, was a prolific artist who made more than 70 sculptures while in Australia.

Among them are John Wesley outside Wesley church, the Adam Lindsay Gordon Monument in Spring Street, the Water Nymph in the Queen Victoria Gardens, and the Peter Pan from the Alexandra Gardens.

Professor Zimmer says the artist held humanitarian beliefs extending to women's rights, animal liberation, and the fostering of universal creativity. He was a tireless advocate of sculptors, and was concerned for the beauty of the city of Melbourne. He was president of the Victorian Artists' Society in the early 1930s.

Despite his standing and productivity, he struggled to find commissions and received meagre financial reward.

The Montford family returned to London when the sculptor died in 1938.

Despite guarded critical acclaim, Professor Zimmer says Mr Montford was an excellent portraitist and modeller in bronze. His considerable contribution to the development of sculpture is being reassessed in the light of recent research. He left Melbourne enriched and the university in possession of a memorable sculpture to honour its namesake.
Dealing with benzo junkies

By Dr Michael Kidd

Beatrice Faust is one of the most prominent and well-recognised members of the Monash community. Her books and magazine articles and her pioneering work in women's rights and civil liberties have made her a public figure and voice of influence in Victoria.

Her latest book, Benzo junkie (Viking), is remarkable for its candour and self-revelation. Ms Faust reveals the harrowing and very personal details of her dependence on the prescribed benzodiazepine Ativan and the difficulties of withdrawing from the drug.

Despite its emotive title and offensive by-line (How doctors and drug companies get us hooked), this book offers insight, support and encouragement to other people who have gone through similar difficulties with benzodiazepines. It should also cause those of us in the caring professions to reflect seriously on our own patterns of prescribing and the potentially damaging impact of this class of medication.

The book offers a well-researched and presented dissertation on the marketing practices of some elements of the pharmaceutical industry, and it brings the threat of those doctors to balance the 'continuing education' provided by drug companies with their own reading and analysis of the medical literature. This is particularly important when considering the prescription of new drugs.

Ms Faust describes feelings of euphoria and falling in love with her own reflection...

When the first benzodiazepine (Librium) was introduced in Australia in the 1960s, it seemed to offer a much-needed and keenly awaited panacea for many common problems. Benzodiazepines replaced barbiturates, bromides, and chloral hydrate as the drugs of choice for treating anxiety disorders and sleep disturbances. They transformed the lives of many individuals who had been crippled by these disorders, characterised by anxiety, tension and agitation, and in the management of sleep disorders. They are also used in the management of alcohol withdrawal, in severe epilepsy and in some operative procedures, such as endoscopy.

The medical profession in Australia has been well aware of the problem of dependence and withdrawal associated with benzodiazepine use since the mid-1980s. The psychoactive drug guidelines, published in 1989 by the Victorian Medical Postgraduate Foundation, recommended the following prescribing guidelines for doctors:

- dependence, tolerance and withdrawal symptoms can develop;
- they should only be used for anxiety symptoms that interfere with family relationships and work, or which are subjectively distressing;
- reduction in dosage must be gradual; and
- combinations of benzodiazepines are difficult to justify.

In 1991, the National Health and Medical Research Council produced a monograph entitled Guidelines for the prevention and management of benzodiazepine dependence. The publication, written by medical practitioners, detailed practical alternatives to benzodiazepine treatment including the importance of counselling and referral to self-help groups and organisations.

Earnest appraisal of a painter’s life

A Monash sociologist has temporarily swapped his scrutiny of prison life for the study of paintings - to be exact, a painter's life.

The result is that senior lecturer in anthropologist and sociologist Mr Barry Ellern has just witnessed the launch of a labour of love - a book he co-edited on the life of noted Australian painter and 1992 Archibald prize-winner Ernest Buckmaster.

Art by Ernest Buckmaster renders the artist's life in the artist's words. Buckmaster (1887–1968) left about 100,000 of them in various diaries and notebooks when he died.

Two weeks after declaring to Buckmaster's son (and the book's other editor) Norm that he saw publishing potential in the words, Mr Ellem was presented with a box containing the unfinished manuscript and the words. "You've got yourself a job."

That was six years ago. Succeeding Saturday afternoons over the following months were spent prising the sprawling manuscript down to 30,000 words.

"Our aim was to preserve Ernest Buckmaster's original words while at the same time removing the repetition. So what you read are not only Buckmaster's own words," Mr Ellern said.

The 150-page book contains 61 reproductions of Buckmaster's most noted paintings, many of which change hands today for more than $20,000.

"While we were working on the manuscript, the paintings for the book were selected by Norm and his mother as representative of the artist's best works," Mr Ellern said.

Backmaster was a traditionalist. Although too young for the Heidelberg School, he followed in Streeton's and Roberts' footsteps, lending his versatile brush to portraiture, still life, flower pieces, interiors, and landscapes.

Buckmaster's commitment to his art was such that he would often paint for days without a break. The same fastidiousness appears to have been inherited by his son, Mr Ellern said.

"Norm was concerned that the prints had to be reproduced so that they would appear as authentic as possible. He knew he would not have total control if they were printed off-shore, so a local printer was chosen," Mr Ellern said.

The time and patience expended seem to have paid off. More than 700 copies of a limited edition print run were sold within three weeks of publication.

Another traditionalist, Premier Jeff Kennett, launched the $95 book last month at a special reception in Queen's Hall, Parliament House.

Footnote Most Victorians would be familiar with Mr Kennett's agenda since he became Premier more than a year ago. But few would know that at 9 am on his first day in govern- ment he was scouting the National Gallery of Victoria for a painting to hang in his new office.

His choice? The Jolly Swagman by Ernest Buckmaster.

(Copies of Art by Ernest Buckmaster are available from Evelyn Fine Arts Pty Ltd, telephone 03 2212.)
Downturn leads to safer roads

Victoria's ailing economy has contributed to a dramatic decrease in road deaths over the past three years, according to a recent Monash study.

The fall has prompted the director of Monash University's Accident Research Centre to warn that as the state's economy improves, road fatalities and injuries could start to rise.

In his report — "The road toll in Victoria: An objective analysis" — Dr Peter Vulcan indicated that the recession, random breath testing, speed cameras, and intensive publicity were equally responsible for halving the road toll.

"Social driving, such as commuting to pubs and parties, is a significant contributor to road deaths, and the downturn in the economy has seen far less of this over the past three years," he said.

"Perhaps people are driving more carefully now because they do not have the money to pay for speeding fines, drink-driving charges, and repairs to vehicle," Dr Vulcan said that as the state's economy begins to pick up, road safety authorities to be aware of this, so they can implement such programs.

Dr Vulcan estimates that over the three-year period, the estimated savings are more than 10 times the estimated maximum costs of implementing such programs. He said.

"And most importantly they have been responsible for saving a large number of lives, which has been the primary objective of such extensive campaigning."

Return of the symphony

The Melbourne Symphony Orchestra will return to Monash for an exciting series of Friday night concerts next year.

Robert Blackwood Hall is noted for its acoustics and atmosphere, and the orchestra is looking forward to performing for the Monash and local communities.

A new bar and refreshments area at the hall will allow patrons to enjoy a customary glass of champagne before and after the show.

The first concert will be held on Friday 25 March, when the MSO will perform Saint Saens' Danse Macabre, Saint Saens' Cello Concerto No1, and Mahler's Symphony No1.

Concerts in May, September and November will feature internationally renowned conductors and soloists.

The Monash series subscription prices include $110 (A Res), $60 (B Res), pensioner/unemployed $90 (A Res), $60 (B Res), students/youth $58 (A Res), and $40 (B Res).

To book, contact the MSO booking office on 682 7471.

Monash universally

An array of publications promoting the university's events, facilities and research are produced by the Office of University Development.

The booklets, brochures, pamphlets and newspapers are available to anyone interested in Monash — particularly students and staff travelling overseas on university business.

For copies of the publications listed, fill in the return slip and send it to the Public Affairs Office, Administration Building, Clayton campus.

Monash International is a promotional booklet describing the university's international activities.

Monash University profiles the university's campuses, facilities and study areas (available as a booklet or pamphlet).

Courses at Monash details courses of study, including prerequisites and expected assessment loads.

Graduates at Monash outlines courses of study available to postgraduates.

Monash is a quarterly magazine for the university's graduates highlighting events and stories of interest.

Eureka profiles the year of research at Monash.

Business Victoria is a monthly newspaper serving the business community.

Taking centre stage at the World Trade Fair

Monash and Open Learning Australia have joined forces to take a prominent stand at the 1994 World Trade Fair in Sydney next year.

The five-day exhibition will promote Monash's research and international alliances and highlight opportunities to study through Open Learning.

Display coordinator Mrs Vicky Anderson believes the exhibition will showcase Monash as one of Australia's leading international universities.

"The exhibition is an ideal platform for Monash to enhance our reputation and market the university to a large national and international audience," she said.

The fair has already attracted national and international exhibitors, with thousands of people expected to visit the exhibition.

The World Trade Fair, which will be staged in the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre at Darling Harbour, takes place between 3 and 9 February.
A new mathematical technique designed by a Monash academic is helping to solve problems in astronomy and volcanology.

The director of the Centre for Computational Mathematics, Professor Joe Monaghan, has developed a technique called Smooth Particle Hydrodynamics (SPH), which solves complex three-dimensional problems in astrophysics and is now finding wider uses in studying waves, satellite breakup, galaxy formations and volcanoes.

Professor Monaghan, who is considered a leader in the field, was invited to present his work on SPH at several conferences this year, including two international symposia devoted to advances in SPH.

A workshop was held in the US in September to discuss advances in the SPH technique, based on concepts developed 16 years ago by Professor Monaghan and two colleagues.

"The first problems we studied were in astrophysics and concerned the formation of stars," he said. "We looked at how clouds of gas in the galaxy collapse under gravity, and break into small pieces, which we believe are the precursors to star formation," he said.

Professor Monaghan said no one had been able to analyse this phenomenon until now because there was no technique that could handle it.

"Now, fairly an edition of the main astrophysical journals goes past without mentioning an SPH technique," Professor Monaghan said.

Applying SPH

"It is almost like an observer having a new telescope - it is a technique that enables you to explore things on the computer in a way that has never been done before," he said.

An example of how the technique is being used to explore new territories is a project being conducted by Professor Monaghan with two colleagues from the Mathematics department, Dr Tony Lyn and Dr Leo Brewis.

"We will be exploring phenomena near black holes using SPH to simulate the relativistic fluid dynamics in curved spacetime," Professor Monaghan said.

The SPH technique is also assisting work on a US Government laboratory directed at impact problems, where experts are analysing what happens to the spectral satellites when they hit by large pieces of metal.

"They do this by computer simulation made possible by SPH, which can pinpoint where the satellite breaks up and the speed of the fragments," Professor Monaghan said.

In addition, a joint project between the Mathematics department and CSIRO is studying jets and splashing fluids using the SPH technique.

"So already we have gone from star formation and galaxy structure to industrial fluid dynamics," Professor Monaghan said.

"More and more uses are being found for SPH," he said.

Professor Monaghan said SPH is an equation that can describe simply the way particles move around and interact in fluid.

"The collective motion of these particles then simulates the motion of actual fluid," he said.

In a joint project with Dr Peter Rickwood of the Department of Greek, Roman and Egyptian Studies, Professor Monaghan is using SPH in an archaeological study of the decline of Minoan civilisation on the Greek island of Crete following a volcanic eruption.

"There is evidence that Minoan civilisation on Crete was disrupted by a volcanic eruption. One of the things an island volcano does, apart from putting up ash, is create waves. We have set about finding out how these waves propagated, with the aim of finding out what actually happened," Professor Monaghan said.

The understanding of volcanic eruption is also an important research area in earth sciences. Through their joint interest in volcanic eruptions, Professor Monaghan and Professor Ray Cas from the Department of Earth Sciences are collaborating on a study of volcanic outburst.

"The SPH technique is ideally suited to simulating dust-y gas erupting from a volcano at the speed of sound," Professor Monaghan said.

Cycling deaths tumble

Victoria's compulsory bicycle helmet law has resulted in a dramatic reduction in cycling injuries and head injuries, according to Monash University research.

Figures released this month by the Monash Accident Research Centre (ARC) show a 70 per cent drop in the number of Victoria's cyclists killed or hospitalised from head injuries since the helmet law was introduced on 1 July 1990.

After only a year of mandatory helmet regulations, the number of cyclists killed or hospitalised with head injuries was almost halved.

Recent statistics from the southern metropolitan areas showed a 66 per cent fall in the number of head-related deaths and severe injuries since legislation was introduced.

"We were all worried that people would not accept the changes, that it was going to be unenforceable and unpopular," Professor Monaghan said.

"But there could be other, far-reaching ramifications for them. Insurance companies may require the disclosure of even the receipt of photographic evidence of the injury, regardless of whether it has been requested or subsequently acted upon, just as sending a letter home to the parents of a child is enough to give a school permission to involve the parents in the child's treatment," he said.

The paediatrician in question (who was funded by the company) claimed: "The fear generated by genetic testing in general was really a fear of the unknown." This is a dangerously naive and short-sighted view.

Patient privacy and confidentiality are very important. Already there are 'genetic registers' operated by medical geneticists who store information about individual patients with genetic diseases, as well as information about relatives whose disease status is unknown.

Much of this information is recorded without the consent of those relatives. It is suggested, in the National Health and Medical Research Council's guidelines for use of such registers, that the individual affected should attempt to make contact with relatives who may also be affected, and if this is not possible, that such relatives be contacted through their medical practitioners.

There may be some medical benefit to such individuals if they are informed of their risk and are subsequently tested.

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Professor Monaghan said SPH is an equation that can describe simply the way

From page 16

Genetics and the fear of the unknown

If adequate regulation is not introduced, private biotechnology companies may offer genetic testing without adequate counselling. Their primary motive is not to treat the disease, but in profit and therefore the turnover of the number of people who take the test.

In the US, without the consent of parents, a paediatrician in Denver entered schools trying to select children she thought might have a condition known as fragile X (which results in a slightly odd appearance, and learning difficulties or mental retardation). She would then write a letter asking permission of the parents to genetically test the children for the condition.

The study was part of a private genetic testing company's pilot study to introduce the testing to the US, UK and Europe. One mother who had received one of the letters commented: "I really don't care whether she has fragile X syndrome. She's a very happy girl; she's very well. I wonder why she matters so much. I wonder why people can't be accepted for who they are."

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"But there could be other, far-reaching ramifications for them. Insurance companies may require the disclosure of even the receipt of photographic evidence of the injury, regardless of whether it has been requested or subsequently acted upon, just as sending a letter home to the parents of a child is enough to give a school permission to involve the parents in the child's treatment," he said.

Advances in the technology of genetic testing may prove to be beneficial in some aspects of health care. But there is the possibility that precisely because of the tests, some people will experience hardship due to their genes. It would be a tragedy if people were harmed by the injustices of discrimination, outrageous treatment, and loss of employment and insurance.

"If people's misfortune was compounded by the injustices of discrimination, outrageous treatment, and loss of employment and insurance, they would have the negative effect of reducing the opportunity for early intervention to minimise the impact of treatable diseases.

An alternative approach would be to educate people widely as to the existence of the register, cease to track people who are on it, but allow people to consult if it they so desire. Or those who undertake to operate such a register, for example the government, could also take upon themselves the burden of providing adequate insurance, employment and counselling for those who would be worse off as a result of the information.

"In this way the loss of distributive justice would be minimised. But it may make the operation of such a register unaffordable, and in any case could not hope to alleviate the psychological suffering of those who come to discover that they have a genetic predisposition to disease."

"We were all worried that people would not accept the changes, that it was going to be unenforceable and unpopular," Professor Monaghan said.

"But there could be other, far-reaching ramifications for them. Insurance companies may require the disclosure of even the receipt of photographic evidence of the injury, regardless of whether it has been requested or subsequently acted upon, just as sending a letter home to the parents of a child is enough to give a school permission to involve the parents in the child's treatment."

"The fear generated by genetic testing in general was really a fear of the unknown." This is a dangerously naive and short-sighted view.

Patient privacy and confidentiality are very important. Already there are 'genetic registers' operated by medical geneticists who store information about individual patients with genetic diseases, as well as information about relatives with the disease, and information about relatives whose disease status is unknown.

Much of this information is recorded without the consent of those relatives. It is suggested, in the National Health and Medical Research Council's guidelines for use of such registers, that the individual affected should attempt to make contact with relatives who may also be affected, and if this is not possible, that such relatives be contacted through their medical practitioners.

There may be some medical benefit to such individuals if they are informed of their risk and are subsequently tested.
Genetics and the fear of the unknown

by Brian Conway

There is a project going on around the world, mostly in France and the United States, called the 'Human Genome Project', in which scientists are trying to sequence and map the whole of the human genetic code. Scientists hope that the project will shed more light upon many diseases such as cystic fibrosis, haemophilia and Huntington's chorea, which are known to be solely genetic. Some scientists believe virtually all diseases will have some component of genetic predispositions. Scientists are also looking for genes which may make people susceptible to later development of common diseases such as high blood pressure, cancer of the bowel, and diabetes, as well as mental illnesses like schizophrenia and manic depressive illness. This opens up the prospect of testing people to see if they carry the genes.

Finding out that someone is at risk of developing a given disease may prove to be of great benefit, because there are sometimes ways of intervening early to prevent the disease or to detect it while it is still curable.

But there are many potential ethical problems in this. Genetic testing has wider implications, particularly in regard to employment, health and life insurance, justice, and privacy.

To what extent ought clients seeking insurance be directed to have tests for susceptibility to disease?

What employer, for example, would want to take an employee and invest in a lengthy training period if it was known that the person was at high risk of developing a disease that could cut short his or her working life?

Insurance companies would have an interest in knowing the genetic risk of people seeking coverage, as a client who is susceptible to a disease is more likely to want to take out insurance. If enough high-risk people did this, the price of premiums for everyone would rise. Conversely, those who had genetic tests and were proved to be at low risk might demand lower premiums.

For example, people who have a parent with Huntington's chorea (a late onset brain disease), have roughly a 50 per cent chance of contracting the disease themselves.

University tests, she explained slowly — knowing the juxtaposition of the two words usually provides us with the perfect excuse to slouch off and overhaul the lint filter on the washing machine — had shown that mild depression can be treated by jamming a pencil between your teeth.

"To cut a story even shorter (after all, it was a trialbird), it transpired the simple act was enough to lift you out of what seemed like something you had been shedding at the time.

"More than enough, she said, to make a pair of jeans out of your blues. Certainly enough to trick you into thinking that Bronwyn Bishop and the Sydney Olympics were not only viable but also probably good ideas.

"The sceptical soul we are, she said, was her undertaking; we would conduct our own trials.

"The next day we sat at our desks and thought of Her Majesty's State Government — just sufficient to bring on a low-grade depression — and selected a Copperplate 4B, one of our favourite writing tools.

We persisted for half an hour, with Australia's contribution to the pencil world dangling from our lip like a forgotten Gitanne.

"It didn't work. The blues were on the verge of singing.

Perhaps we were meant to light it? Knowing that many a mechanism of distributive justice, the financial burdens of the less healthy are spread over a large number of people. From an ethical viewpoint this is a desirable arrangement.

Despite scientific advances, some people would rather take their chances of having a child with a genetic disorder or dying prematurely than have information on risks pressed upon them. This is worth bearing in mind. For if we use genetic testing unwisely, we risk creating a sub-class of individuals who are unemployable, uninsurable, and who it seems are likely to later become unwell all through no fault of their own.

Will we battle racism, sexism, and even ageism, only to be saddled with a sinister 'geneism'?

In the United States, some people were denied insurance and employment after a screening program for carriers of sickle cell disease (a blood defect) among blacks. In a similar program in Greece, carriers were socially ostracised and seen as undesirable marriage partners. People, it seems, do discriminate genetically. Will we battle racism, sexism, and even ageism, only to be saddled with a sinister 'geneism'? It is difficult to come up with solutions. One possibility, aimed at protecting individuals, is to legislate against insurance companies and employers asking questions about genetic risk, and in this way maintain a system of distributive justice.

An alternative is to legislate for compulsory insurance, as people do already for third-party vehicle insurance, to distribute the burden. Another option is to factor into the cost of conducting the screening tests, the cost of insuring those who may otherwise be disadvantaged by the result. In this way, those who receive a bill of genetic good health are still contributing to the care of the weaker members of society. Much thought needs to be given to this field, but solutions may emerge if creative minds apply themselves to the task.

The ethical dimension of informed consent takes on a new twist in the field of genetic testing. In such testing to be regarded as a medical procedure we are inclined to think about the physical risks to our health and the associated side-effects and complications. But the risks with genetic testing are more likely to be psychological, social and financial.

If someone comes to psychological, social or financial harm as a result of having a genetic test, ought they have any redress for negligence on the part of the insurance companies and employers asking questions about genetic risk, and in this way maintain a system of distributive justice.

Questions arise. To what extent ought clients seeking insurance to have tests for susceptibility to disease? To what extent should individuals have to disclose genetic risk to insurance companies? At present, the insurance industry advocates a "level playing field" approach. If an individual has had a test, then the insurance company would want to know the result. But if the person doesn't know, the insurance company does not want to know either.

This is the traditional position on disclosure. But will insurance companies always take this position? Perhaps if the insurance companies and employers could begin to construct a genetic data bank of information through which they could weed out high-risk individuals.

Thankfully, we have not yet gone that far. Insurance has for some time been functioning as a mechanism of distributive justice. The financial burdens of the less healthy are spread over a large number of people. From an ethical viewpoint this is a desirable arrangement.

But with scientific advances, some people would rather take their chances of having a child with a genetic disorder or dying prematurely than have information on risks pressed upon them. This is worth bearing in mind. For if we use genetic testing unwisely, we risk creating a sub-class of individuals who are unemployable, uninsurable, and who it seems are likely to later become unwell all through no fault of their own.