

LA TROBE UNIVERSITY

Bulletin

JUNE 2002

**NEW WINDOW
on old Melbourne**

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Cover: An old soda flask unearthed at the Casselden Place archaeological dig in the heart of Melbourne, see story next page.

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President Stephanopoulos addresses members of La Trobe University and Melbourne's Greek community.

La Trobe honours President of Greece

The President of Greece, Mr Constantinos Stephanopoulos, has been honoured for his services to Hellenism and Hellenic studies in Australia by La Trobe University Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Michael Osborne.

The award was presented at a special ceremony in June. Held in Union Hall on the University's main Melbourne campus at Bundoora, it was attended by about 500 guests.

Professor Osborne said the award reflects the significance that La Trobe attaches to Hellenic Studies and recognises the generous support which the Greek Government has given to the University in this arena.

Accepting the award, Mr Stephanopoulos said Greece has strong traditions and a respect for knowledge and learning that has travelled alongside Greek people who have settled in all the continents of the world. He thanked Professor Osborne, who is also a classical scholar, for La Trobe's strong support of Hellenic studies in Australia.

'We do not always realise how much we owe to those people who work in literature and ancient studies, and who promote them,' Mr Stephanopoulos said.

Patron of La Trobe's National Centre for Hellenic Studies and Research (NCHSR), Mr Stephanopoulos inspected the Centre,

viewed its library and the 'Dardalis Archive of the Greek Community' and met members of staff.

Professor Osborne said Greece was fundamental to any understanding of western influences on civilisation and La Trobe has set itself a goal to become one of the most prestigious centres for the study and promotion of Hellenic Studies outside of Greece and Cyprus.

'La Trobe is the only University in Australia with two Professorial Chairs in Hellenic Studies, one in its National Centre for Hellenic Studies and Research, the other in its Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.'

The NCHSR houses some six million documents – letters, artefacts, photographs, films, books and newspapers – which constitute an integral part of Hellenic and Australian history. The Centre is supported by the Greek and Cypriot Governments, research centres and collaborating universities, members of Australia's Greek community and La Trobe University.

Funding for specific projects comes from donations – the most significant benefactor being Dr Zissis Dardalis, Managing Director of Marathon Food Industries – and from research and funding-raising activities. ■

Digging up a vanished Melbourne community

La Trobe University is a key partner and sponsor of one of the largest urban archaeological excavations ever undertaken in Australia.

The dig is taking place in central Melbourne, next to an intriguing archaeological site known as 'Little Lon'.

It comprises remains of stone and brick foundations, cobbled laneways, cess barrels and a host of artefacts buried until recently under car park behind the Casselden Place building in Spring St.

More than twenty La Trobe undergraduate students are working on the ten week dig as a part of their course.

Head of Archaeology at the University, Professor Tim Murray, has co-designed the research strategy for the project and is the senior academic consultant to the dig.

He says Casselden Place is one of the last opportunities in the Melbourne CBD to investigate an extensive and well preserved area of nineteenth century urban archaeological landscape.

Eight La Trobe archaeology graduates are also employed as site supervisors and artefact analysis staff for the dig by the two heritage and archaeological firms, Godden Mackay Logan and Austral Archaeology, who are carrying out the project in collaboration with Heritage Victoria.

Heritage Victoria says the project is taking Victorians on an extraordinary journey into their past – revealing glimpses of the life

and times of Melbourne in the 19th century.

Planning Minister, Mary Delahunty, launched the excavation. 'In my history books this was the red light district of old Melbourne,' she told Melbourne's media. 'Now it appears this may have been a far more diversified and lively area than we thought – giving us a new window into our history,' added the Minister, who is also a former La Trobe Arts graduate.

Initial work on the site has uncovered more than 10,000 artefacts and unearthed the remnants of a mid-nineteenth century workers cottage.

As well as La Trobe archaeology students, selected Victorian secondary school students and a small number of students from other universities are also taking part in the dig.

Community participation has attracted hundreds of other volunteer helpers. There are site tours, organised through Museum Melbourne and a public viewing platform on Lonsdale Street. Up-dated information on the dig is featured on the web site www.heritage.vic.gov.au.

Professor Murray, who also heads La Trobe's School of Historical and European Studies, explains 'Little Lon' was an area notorious for poverty, crime, pimps and prostitution, but it is now understood that the area has a far richer



Minister Delahunty with La Trobe archaeology student Stephen Pollock at Casselden Place.

history. For example, the dig is expected to shed new light on working class housing, family and community, and the development of early Melbourne.

'La Trobe University,' says Professor Murray, 'has the largest department of archaeology in Australia. We have a formal collaborative agreement with the heritage firm, Godden Mackay Logan, and this sort of excavation, as well as another in 2000 at Camp St in Ballarat, helps our students gain greatly in both academic and vocational experience.'

Professor Murray and Alan Mayne, an Associate Professor in History at the University of Melbourne, have a leading role in interpreting the results of the project. They are key figures in a new approach to researching the rise of modern cities, by merging historical and archaeological studies.

This approach has already been applied to a previous case study of 'Little Lon'. Their work has been supported by two Australian Research Council funded projects during the late 1990s and has resulted in a recently-published book in Cambridge University Press' *New Directions in Archaeology* series.

Continued page 4

Digging up a vanished Melbourne community – continued from page 3

Titled *The Archaeology of Urban Landscapes – explorations in Slumland*, Professors Murray and Mayne say material from such excavations – broken kitchen china, glass grog bottles, and tonnes of building debris, nails and plaster samples – will not quickly find its way into museum collections.

‘But, properly interpreted, it yields evidence of lives that have left little in the way of written records.’

The ‘Little Lon’ precinct, on the former Commonwealth Block, was the site of a number of archaeological excavations in 1988, followed by the Black Eagle and Oddfellows Hotel premises in 1990, and No17 Casselden Place in 1995.

Detailed re-analysis, says Professor Murray, has significantly refined and, in some instances, overturned earlier interpretations.

‘This has led to a more complex and complete picture of nineteenth and early twentieth century life in Melbourne.’

The area being excavated is scheduled to be redeveloped in 2003 as a \$300 million contemporary office precinct called the



Urban Workshop, recreating the original laneways. Industry Superannuation Property Trust, which owns the site, is funding the dig and associated historic investigation.■

Professor Murray, right, and La Trobe graduate Catherine Tucker sort through the rubbish of another era found in a pit behind one of the old houses on the site.

Identifying the most effective teachers



Professor Sullivan: marked differences in achievements that are largely attributable to teachers.

La Trobe University Professor of Education, Peter Sullivan, has triggered debate in Victoria’s education sector over research findings that reveal marked differences between the effectiveness of teachers.

He has called on schools to consider the criteria for teaching effectiveness and to find ways to support teachers who are less effective than they could be.

Professor Sullivan is Head of the La Trobe University Institute of Education in the University’s Faculty for Regional Development at Bendigo.

He was involved in the Department of Education and Training Early Numeracy Research Project that investigated mathematics teaching and learning in Prep to Year 2 in 70 Victorian schools.

He said the project found ‘marked differences in achievements between classes – differences that are largely attributable to the teachers.’

‘In other words, there are some highly effective teachers out there and some not so effective teachers and this is apparent across all geographic areas and without social or economic boundaries.’

Following that research, Professor Sullivan has released a discussion paper with Dr Andrea McDonough from the Australian Catholic University entitled, *Teachers Differ in their Effectiveness*.

‘Rather than using the research to point the finger at teachers who are not effective in their teaching, we hope to use it as a platform to promote discussion among teachers, schools and communities.’■

See ‘*Maths: a friendly conversation*’, page 8.

FIFTEEN YEARS AFTER THE GRIM REAPER

HIV/AIDS study finds discrimination and poverty is still a problem



The Grim Reaper from the television commercial, courtesy of Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing.

Many people living with HIV/AIDS face significant discrimination – and one in three live below the poverty line – despite the fact that mortality rates for HIV have declined dramatically in Australia over the last few years.

This finding is contained in the latest La Trobe University research report, *HIV Futures 3: Positive Australians on Services, Health and Well Being*, launched recently by the Minister for Health and Aged Care, Kay Patterson.

The report was prepared by the University's Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society (ARCSHS). Its findings cover important aspects of living with HIV such as health status, treatment use, access to services, finances and discrimination.

More than half the respondents reported that they were experiencing stigmatisation and discrimination as a result of their HIV infection.

'It is fifteen years since the Grim Reaper Campaign raised the spectre of HIV infection for the Australian public,' said La Trobe's Dr Jeffrey Grierson, chief investigator on the project. 'And we seem to be no closer to a sound public awareness of the nature of this disease so that we can deal fairly with those affected by it.'

Discrimination occurred in many areas. More than one in three people had experienced discrimination in relation to medical treatment, particularly breaches of confidentiality and refusal of treatment. Nearly one in five had faced harassment and lived with fear of violence or had experienced discrimination at work. More

than one in 10 had been discriminated against over accommodation.

Poverty levels among men and women living with HIV/AIDS is of great concern, the report said. Nearly one half have a government pension or benefit as their main source of income with almost a third of them living below the poverty line. More than half of this group had difficulties meeting costs of co-payments for HIV medication and other prescribed drugs, as well as food, clothing, transport and childcare.

While praising the efforts of welfare and support services, Dr Grierson said 'it remains a gross indictment of a wealthy society like Australia that people with HIV continue to suffer this level of privation'.

'The gap is widening between those for whom the new treatments have been of enormous benefit, and those for whom they have either not worked at all, or given only limited or short-term improvement,' he said.

Even those who are doing well on the new treatments were struggling with the highly regimented manner in which the drugs must be taken, and the debilitating side effects were experienced by almost half the sample taking the drugs.

'It is therefore not surprising that 41% of those using these drugs had taken breaks or "holidays" from the relentless daily drug regime regardless of the impact these breaks had on their health,' Dr Grierson said.

In Australia the reporting of AIDS diagnoses (the end stage of HIV infection) peaked in 1994 and has been declining ever since – a picture that has given those living with HIV a new optimism about the future.

'However, unless the social and economic circumstances of those who experience day to day difficulties with HIV infection can be improved, this optimism may well be short-lived.' ■

Japanese literature in English

CD-ROM FOR AUSTRALIAN VCE STUDENTS



Dr Pandey: atomic bomb attacks help explain apocalyptic themes.

What forms the Japanese outlook on life?

Why, for example, do modern creative Japanese animation films and 'manga'-style comics contain so much violence and have an underlying apocalyptic theme?

According to La Trobe University lecturer in Japanese, Dr Raj Pandey, Australian secondary students will never know the reasons unless they acquire knowledge of Japanese literature – and through that of Japanese history, culture and values.

Dr Pandey, from the University's Department of Asian Studies, has done something definite about it.

Through her initiative Australian teachers will have, for the first time, an opportunity to present their students with a cross section of Japanese writers as part of the VCE English curriculum.

In a program to be introduced in mid 2002, secondary teachers around Australia will have available a CD-ROM presenting authentic Asian source materials.

Among them will be a Japanese literature module containing English language translations of the prose and poetry of 10 famous Japanese writers. The module will contain texts, a brief analysis of the texts, information about the writers and their period of history – and lots of illustrations to provide life and interest.

Dr Pandey recently completed the mammoth task of selecting the Japanese writers and preparing the descriptions, historical and cultural backgrounds, and finding the illustrations. The result was a painstakingly researched module of 20,000 words.

She worked as a contractor to the Curriculum Corporation which prepared the CD-ROMs for the National Asian Languages and Studies in Australian Schools Taskforce.

The writers she selected range from the author of the first known novel ever written by a woman – *The Tale of Genji* by Murasaki Shikibu, a lady-in-waiting at the imperial court, published around the year

1000 – to the winner of the 1994 Nobel Prize for literature, Oe Kenzaburo, one of Japan's best-known modernwriters.

Other writers featured include Oda Katsuzo who witnessed the bombing of Hiroshima and has written in graphic detail about the short and long term effects of the horrific blast.

'Reading the works of these writers will give Australian students an insight into some of the enduring themes in Japanese history and culture and enable them to engage in a lively manner with "difference",' Dr Pandey says.

'Such understanding is essential if we are serious about introducing different facets of Asian culture into our schools.

'There is no compulsion for teachers to introduce the Japanese module into their English course, but they will help their students understand a lot more about Japan if they do.

'It will help them to understand how, for example, the dropping of the atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki continues to capture the imagination of the Japanese in creative terms, and why this often comes out in apocalyptic themes,' she said.

'Australian students have long been able to read translations of non-English European classics, from Macchiavelli through Chekov to Victor Hugo, and so have gleaned some notion of the history and culture of the Italians, Russians and French.

'But we have never used literature as a way of understanding Asian history and culture. We should be using literature as a means of understanding our most important trading partner.'

Originally from India, Dr Pandey did her PhD at the Australian National University on the writings of Kamo no Chomei, a major literary figure in medieval Japan.

She believes colonialism caused people in Asia to look to Europe rather than sideways to other Asian countries for cultural exchanges.

'We had more cultural exchange between India and Japan in the eighth century when Buddhist monks exchanged visits than we did when I was growing up. It is important for Australia to participate in this cultural exchange between Asian nations.' ■



PRICING PRECIOUS WATER

Wet and dry economic arguments

Water is an important input to the Australian economy but not a limiting factor for economic or population growth, says Dr Robert Dumsday.

A senior lecturer in La Trobe University's Department of Economics and Finance, Dr Dumsday argues Australia is well endowed with fresh water resources on a per capita basis.

In addition, Australia has become a world leader in water demand management and the development of water institutions.

Dr Dumsday assisted with the recent Inquiry into the Allocation of Water Resources, conducted by the Environment and Natural Resources Committee of the Parliament of Victoria, and spoke on the topic at a Melbourne Water seminar on 'Water Management and Conservation'.

'The gains of water-use reform are already becoming evident in the urban sector. It is time to face the more difficult challenges of consolidating reform in rural areas,' he says.

Because water is such an essential input for irrigation and many industrial and domestic uses, demand is often 'price inelastic' – taking quite an increase in price to achieve a given reduction in demand.

This is also why authorities have resorted to restrictions and encouraging a conservation ethic, rather than relying solely on price to achieve rationing.

In addition, infrequent restrictions avoid the excessive costs of building storages to withstand rare situations like a once in a 100-year drought.

Water use in Australia increased by about 25% from the mid-1980s to the mid-1990s but Melbourne's consumption remained static as more conservative use offset population growth.

In terms of average rainfall Australia is one of the world's driest countries, a simple measure used to justify building dams and irrigation systems.

But in terms of average available water per head of population Australia has more available water than most other countries, about double that of the US and five times that of the UK.

We use between 12% and 20% of available fresh water. This varies, with the Murray-Darling Basin being close to full commitment, but the resources most under-utilised are in northern Australia.

About 75 % of our water goes for agriculture and horticulture compared with about 42% in the US. It should not be too

difficult to divert water from some low-valued agricultural uses to more highly valued urban uses. While Australia is not dry in per capita terms, its rainfall is more variable than that of other countries. Hence it has the highest per capita storage in the world – equivalent to three Olympic swimming pools for every Australian.

Sydney stores roughly four to five times more drinking water per person than New York and London. So costs of storing water can be substantial, especially if we consider the environmental costs.

Many of our contemporary problems in water use and misuse go back to legal, constitutional and institutional constraints, says Dr Dumsday. 'States' rights' can be a serious impediment to efficient water markets. Australia's Murray-Darling Basin crosses four States and decisions on water use in one State affect the options and outcomes in other States.

Trading is essential for efficient water use. It exposes the value of water in its alternative uses, to all users, whether they trade or not. Water reform agenda create problems for rural Australia, he says.

Continued page 10



MATHS IN FOCU

A friendly conversation

Mathematics classes should constitute a friendly conversation between students and teacher rather than a monologue from the teacher.

Does this sound like a revolutionary new approach to teaching mathematics?

'Not so,' says the newly appointed Head of La Trobe University Institute for Education, Professor Peter Sullivan.

'It is merely applying the results of research which indicates that teachers must find out what each student already knows, and then build upon that knowledge.

'This does not come about by a teacher standing up front and imparting facts in a one-way direction. There has to be interaction in a friendly and trusting atmosphere in which students build on their knowledge. Students have their own ways of approaching mathematics and teachers must appreciate this.

'Such an approach to mathematics learning will go a long way to eliminating the fear

of mathematics that has been too common in the past.'

For three years Professor Sullivan has been involved in the Early Numeracy Research Project that investigated mathematics teaching in primary schools. One of the key findings of that project was that students who are in classes where teachers communicate in this way are more likely to learn mathematics well. (See also page 4.)

Well-known internationally for his research on education and in particular mathematics teaching, Professor Sullivan comes to La Trobe after 18 years at Australian Catholic University and its predecessor institutions where he was Head of the School of Education for nine years, and the University of Technology in Lae, Papua New Guinea.

He is at home in Bendigo, having taught at Eaglehawk High School from 1976 to 1980.

Professor Sullivan's international profile is reflected in his position as treasurer and a committee member of the International Group for the Psychology of Mathematics Education and as one of four editors of the *Journal of Mathematics Teacher Education*. A frequent speaker at national and international conferences on maths

teaching and learning, he has published a large number of papers.

He has long maintained an active interest in education in Papua New Guinea, having written maths textbooks from first grade to sixth grade for PNG primary schools.

Since his appointment at La Trobe he has begun a two-year research project with the Victorian Department of Education and Training seeking to improve education for Koori students.

Working with researchers from Deakin and Griffith universities, Professor Sullivan is examining appropriate teaching strategy for incorporating all students in the classroom community.

'We aim to ensure that the classroom strategies and teaching are so constituted that Koori students and others do not feel isolated,' Professor Sullivan said.

The research is under way in four schools, at Werribee, Bendigo and two from other rural areas.

'We are looking at ways teachers set the context for classroom activities that are appropriate, and these often come down to very basic things.

'For example, an enterprising teacher used a police identification parade during a

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mathematics lesson to illustrate differences in individual heights. The teacher did not realise that this may not be a reasonable context for a student who had been exposed to the custody system.

'In addition, a teacher's classroom demeanour – whether intended or not – can be threatening to some students. We came across a simple example of a teacher who appeared to be talking down to students because of her habit of holding her chin high.'

The first workshops for this new program were held in Bendigo in April.

In another early initiative, Professor Sullivan led a group of teachers from the Bendigo area in a series of six professional development television programs for the Department of Education and Training. This was part of a state-wide middle years Numeracy Research project.

Professor Sullivan said the Institute for Education also plans to run courses over five La Trobe campuses and to streamline the administrative processes.

The Institute for Education is in La Trobe's Faculty for Regional Development at Bendigo. ■

Quintessential mathematicians

*Swift to their several quarters haste then
The cumbrous elements, earth, flood, aire, fire;
And this ethereal quintessence of heaven
Flew upward...and turned to stars
Numberless as thou seest.*

- From Milton's *Paradise Lost*

Many members of La Trobe University's School of Mathematics and Statistical Sciences are quintessential mathematicians – and they can prove it!

They are members of a group run by the Department of Mathematics called the Quintessentialist Society.

Convened by Reader and Associate Professor, Dr Grant Cairns, the society meets fortnightly in a Collingwood café to discuss mathematics informally over dinner.

Usually about 25 lovers of mathematics, about half of them La Trobe staff and students, attend the functions.

For almost four years pure and applied mathematicians, statisticians, students and

others, have indulged their passion for seeking solutions to mathematical problems. Society members also come from other universities, Melbourne, Monash, RMIT as well as banks, and even the Boeing company.

Dr Cairns and two ex-students, Grant Armstrong and Con Lozanovski, launched the society in early 1998. Since then it has devoted each year to a special theme. In 1998 it was Galois Theory, in 1999 Probability and Measure Theory, in 2000 the Riemann Hypothesis and 2001, the Fundamental Theory of Algebra. The theme for 2002 is the Continuum Hypothesis.

Apart from a congenial setting in which people can share their ideas, and broaden their knowledge of mathematics and its history, the society gives students and younger members an opportunity to gain experience in presenting and discussing mathematics in a friendly environment.

At the functions, two or three people each give 20-minute presentations. Some use a small blackboard, but others are more imaginative.

One person summarised the history of mathematical concepts in the form of a short play and there have been readings of prose and poetry.

For example, author Tom Petsinis presented an extract from his fictional memoir *The French Mathematician*. And the society has its own resident artist, founding member Con Lozanovski, who donates a painting every year to the guest speaker at the annual Christmas meeting of the society, which is held on the Bundoora campus.

Why the name, the Quintessentialist Society? For the ancient Greeks, says Dr Cairns, there were four elements, or forms, in which matter could exist: fire, air, water and earth.

'Aristotle added a fifth essence: quintessence, ether – more subtle and pure than fire, and possessed of an orbicular motion, which flew upwards at creation and formed the basis of the stars.

'Hence the word stands for the essential principle or the most subtle extract of a body that can be produced. Horace speaks of "kisses that Venus has imbued with the quintessence of her own nectar",' says Dr Cairns. ■

PRICING PRECIOUS WATER – from page 7

‘Historically, irrigation water prices were based on the running costs of supply, with capital costs of infrastructure funded by governments.

‘This is commonly viewed today as being undesirable and there is emphasis on “full cost recovery”. This emphasis is misdirected. Prices should be based on the scarcity value of water, as determined by the market forces of supply and demand, not on a cost plus basis.

‘Many rural water users are in a weak position with respect to water rights. Governments seem reluctant to agree to these rights before embarking on new trading or transfer arrangements.

‘Environmental custodians should also participate in water markets because it is simplistic to argue that water prices should rise to meet environmental objectives.

‘Price increases may do nothing for the environment. It is preferable to use more direct interventions, such as charges on drainage water or water-borne pollutants to address environmental concerns.

‘Unless there is a mechanism for farmers to be compensated for transferring water to environmental purposes, savings in water use from improved efficiency will tend to be distributed to other farmers, rather than to the environment,’ Dr Dumsday says.

‘If governments simply transfer water savings from farmers to the environment without compensation, the incentive for irrigators to cooperate in further water saving is diminished.

‘Environmental agencies should be in there bidding for water, based on rational assessments of the value of the water to the environment.

‘Forces leading to lower ‘real’ (net of inflation) water prices include competition policy and the activities of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, improved water markets and opportunities for trade, productivity improvements and improved institutional arrangements.

‘Forces leading to higher real water prices include uncompetitive practices by water companies and government agencies to increase profits and revenues, removal of cross-subsidisation of water use and increased costs of meeting rising environmental standards.’

All things considered, Dr Dumsday concludes, we should not have any increases in real water prices in the future. In fact, if our performance is good enough, it may be possible to see falling real prices for water while at the same time improving our environment. ■

Standard names for better health care

The new ‘Standards Australia’ *Health Care Client Identification* standard for Australia and New Zealand, a total rewrite of the previous *Patient Identification* standard, is due for release in mid 2002.

La Trobe University health informatics expert and lecturer in the School of Public Health, Ms Heather Grain, was one of four major contributors to the final draft of the complex document that for the first time codifies the management and use of client names in Australia’s health system.

She represents both La Trobe and health consumers in general on the Health Informatics Committee of Standards Australia, and also on a sub committee known as the Working Party on Identification and Linkage that produced the final document from a draft prepared by the Victorian Health Department.

‘For the first time, the new standard allows for the identification of people the same way in all different software packages used by all organisations in health care in Australia,’ Ms Grain said.

‘It enables the development of software to identify readily anybody who presents for health care – irrespective of the

name that person wants to be known as. The new system is not there to check or to verify the identities of people who want to be known by a certain name. It is their right to be called the name they want to call themselves.

‘However it enables health care providers to put on record that person’s health history, even though that person has used a different name when treated previously,’ she said.

It allows medical staff to access the previous health records while preserving the person’s right to the name they are currently using provided the patient authorises such access.

The new standard also solves problems that arise in the accurate recording of many names, both European and non-European.

For example, one is the problem in Western countries of correctly identifying people of Chinese origin, some of who maintain the tradition of putting their family name first, and others who now put their given names first.

There has been additional confusion when such words as Tran and Sri come up on medical records. Often they are

registered as names rather than what they really are: titles. And it finally resolves the old problem of how to standardise the use of O’ in Irish names. ‘Our system finally eliminates confusion about the correct use of the apostrophe,’ Ms Grain says.

Another way it helps is in later identifying babies whose birth is registered in hospital before the baby is given a name. Such babies are still registered with their mother’s name with the prefix ‘baby of’ to allow the parents time to finalise naming of the baby

Perhaps the greatest benefit will be the compilation of accurate statistics for epidemiological purposes – recording the extent of diseases in the community.

Previously, somebody could be admitted to a hospital with diabetes, and later to another hospital with the same disease, but under another name. In the past, this has confused records of the number of cases of that disease.

‘We always knew the number of cases admitted to hospital, but we never knew how many of the cases were the same person. The new standard will eliminate this,’ she said. ■

SPORTS INJURY

in the body and the mind

What happens to an AFL footballer's mental state when he is injured?



Ms Ruddock talks with Western Bulldogs captain Chris Grant and player Matthew Robbins, right. At the rear are Western Bulldog Luke Penny with La Trobe's Mr O'Halloran, left, and Mr McGartland.

How serious can the psychological, emotional and behavioural effects be when injury adversely affects his form, or worse, forces him out of the team?

These days when AFL players are full-time professional sportsmen whose sporting and often private lives are under constant public scrutiny, the non-physical as well as

the physical affect of injury assume major proportions.

La Trobe University researchers are working with the Western Bulldogs in a major scientific investigation into how players cope psychologically with injuries.

They believe it is the first time in the long history of Australian football that a

research project has probed the relationship between physical injury and psychological wellbeing.

Supervised by Mr Paul O'Halloran and Mr Mike McGartland, both lecturers in La Trobe's School of Public Health, Ms Mandy Ruddock is conducting the research for a doctoral thesis.

The project monitors all 42 players on the Western Bulldogs senior list, and several other AFL clubs have expressed interest.

Ms Ruddock said the project was being carried out in two stages. The first, a retrospective study, was completed during the 2002 pre-season. Players completed detailed questionnaires that included questions about their expectations should they be injured.

'We questioned them about coping mechanisms and also about the roles they could expect to play in the club should injury keep them out of the side.

'Medical, training, coaching and management staff are also involved because their role and their attitudes are very important to players – as are the attitudes of the players' families and friends,' she said.

The second phase is a longitudinal study. It began at the start of the 2002 AFL season and Bulldog players will be closely monitored for the entire AFL season.

'If a player is injured, he fills out more detailed questionnaires as well as being personally interviewed at regular intervals during periods of injury.

'We anticipate that information from these studies will be of direct benefit to players when dealing with the stress associated with injury. Outcomes from this research will be useful to clubs when designing their injury rehabilitation program.'

Ms Ruddock expects to analyse the results and present a report to the Western Bulldogs Club before the start of the 2003 pre-season. ■

HEART ATTACK

Men and women do it differently

Research by La Trobe University, Bendigo PhD graduate, Helen Aikman, has revealed gender differences in the physical symptoms of heart attack, as well as differences in the way men and women respond to those symptoms, and seek treatment.

Dr Aikman, a lecturer in nursing in the La Trobe Faculty for Regional Development at Bendigo, conducted the research as part of her doctoral thesis. She received her doctorate during the recent graduation ceremonies.

She said her study involved analysing the experiences of a sample of regional men and women who had heart attacks and identifying the symptoms experienced, their responses and the influence of others in their seeking of treatment.

'Women were more likely to report arm pain,' Dr Aikman said, 'and most described the pain as tiring, exhausting and heavy,

while most men in the sample described the pain as "fearful".'

Women were also quicker to tell someone else of their symptoms, call an ambulance or seek other transport to get there.

'On average, women arrived at hospital almost twice as quickly as did the male sample, regardless of whether they thought they were having a heart attack or not. On average, only the men who thought they were having a heart attack got to hospital as quickly as the women.'

Dr Aikman said this was the opposite of all known overseas data on this topic, and the only other Australian study on delay in getting to hospital had found no difference between men and women.

The research may help health practitioners increase their understanding of cardiac illness and patient responses, as well as education programs. ■



Dr Aikman: differences in symptoms and responses.

Respecting difference in a 'globalised' world



Mr Castleman receives his degree at a recent graduation ceremony.

Graeme Castleman was recently awarded the prestigious DM Myers University Medal as most the outstanding undergraduate honours student at La Trobe University, Bendigo.

His research explores comparisons between Christian and Islamic theology. He is now studying for his PhD in this field while also tutoring in Greek mythology and Islam at the University.

Mr Castleman said there was renewed community interest in religious and philosophical studies as more people sought to question modern values.

'Research such as this aims to help people identify the harmonies in different world views while still respecting the differences between them – and this is becoming more important in an increasingly globalised world.'

For Mr Castleman the graduation ceremony was a double celebration because his wife, Kirsty-Skye, graduated

with a Bachelor of Arts degree, also in religious studies. The couple met and married during their studies. Mrs Castleman plans to study Christian theology and enter the Anglican priesthood.

The couple were among more than 900 people who graduated at La Trobe, Bendigo, recently.

Pro-Vice Chancellor and Dean at La Trobe, Bendigo, Professor Les Kilmartin, said eight graduates from Singapore attended the ceremonies after completing Bachelor of Business studies offshore.

'These students are examples of the success of the University's offshore programs. Through technology and innovative course programs more than 100 students have been able to complete degrees at La Trobe, Bendigo, this year while living in their own countries. ■

La Trobe teaches teachers from Alice Springs

A La Trobe University course run in Alice Springs has helped seven mature-age indigenous students gain their Bachelor of Teaching degrees.

The graduates – who already had considerable experience as teacher aides at the bilingual Yipirinya School for Aboriginal children in Alice Springs as well as in a variety of other employment and training roles – are shown here after their recent graduation on the University's Bendigo campus.

The course followed an association originally forged five years ago between La Trobe and the Institute for Aboriginal Development in Alice Springs.

Head of Arts and Education at the La Trobe Faculty for Regional Development at Bendigo, Dr Barry Brockley, said the program helped the group further their teaching knowledge and skills, and gain a university teaching qualification without having to travel long distances for study.

Co-ordinated from the Institute for Education at Bendigo, the course was taught by staff who spent periods of block teaching in Alice Springs. Dr Brockley said the seven graduates are strongly committed to the educational development of their people and communities.



The Alice Springs graduates, from left, Beverley Angeles, Jody Kopp, Cecily Palmer, Dean Briscoe, Carmel Ryan, Kym Thompson, and Tisha Carter.

Several have been employed as teachers at the Yipirinya School, Alice Springs, where they had previously been teacher aides, while others have found work as teachers in other Aboriginal community schools.

This is the second group of Central Australian Aboriginal people to receive La Trobe qualifications. The first completed a Graduate Certificate in Management.

The course was largely funded by a grant from the Structured Training and Employment Project (STEP) from the Commonwealth Department of Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business to Yipirinya School Council. Yipirinya is an independent, Aboriginal controlled bi-cultural school. La Trobe also contributed. ■

First Japanese graduates in aged care

Seventy year-old nun, Sister Shigeko Tomii, 70, from Tokyo, left, and Ms Masae Akiyama, from Hojo City in Ehime Prefecture, right, were among the first group of 22 Japanese aged care workers who graduated from La Trobe University recently.

Sister Tomii was awarded her Bachelor of Aged Care degree and Ms Akiyama was the top graduate of the group. The group received La Trobe degrees undertaken by distance education through the

University's School of Nursing and Midwifery's International Program.

They are shown here before the ceremony with Head of School, Ella Lowe. Program Director, Mr John Field, said La Trobe had designed the two courses to meet steadily increasing demand for aged care and advanced nursing in Japan.

The program is offered in collaboration with The Nissoken Group, which focuses on educational programs and publications for nurses in Japan. ■



LA TROBE STUDENTS REACH OUT to Cambodia's children



Above: children in the grounds of the orphanage. Right: Ms Cooke with four of the orphans.



their parents murdered, been physically and sexually abused, abandoned, and suffered malnutrition. The orphanage saves some of these children from being sold into prostitution or slave labour.'

The College's affiliation with the orphanage began early last year, following a visit to Cambodia by College Head, Dr Michael Shortland.

Menzies College is continuing to raise funds and more students plan to visit Cambodia in late November.

'The target this year is \$10,000 and we need all the help we can get,' says Ms Cook. ■

People wishing to donate to the appeal should contact: Narelle Cook or Michael Shortland on Tel: (03) 9479 1072.

Students at La Trobe University's Menzies College have adopted an orphanage in Phnom Penh. The orphanage cares for approximately 53 children ranging from 2 to 18 years of age.

Six students from the college – one of three residential colleges on La Trobe's main Melbourne campus at Bundoora – went to Cambodia earlier this year to work as volunteers at the Australia-Cambodia Foundation orphanage.

During their visit, at a ceremony hosted by the Australian Ambassador to Cambodia, they handed over \$5,000 raised by college students over the past 18 months. The

money will be used to build a new orphanage for 100 children.

The students who went to Cambodia are Aleisha Carroll, Ashley Morphet, Narelle Cook, Julie Hill, Lauren Secombe, and Alison Hocking.

Ms Cook, Community Programs Officer at Menzies College, said: 'During our stay we built up a special relationship with the children and had our lives touched and changed dramatically.

'Many were orphaned because their parents died of disease or were killed during the coup of 1997. Some have seen

OLA AWARD FOR 'MOST STIMULATING LECTURER'



Students of Open Learning Australia, OLA, have named La Trobe University's Dr Peter Friedlander, left, as their 'most stimulating lecturer'.

The OLA student publication, *Dialogue*, called on students to nominate 'inspirational' lecturers. Dr Friedlander, who teaches Hindi Language and Buddhist Studies, came out tops.

His OLA students come not only from all over Australia but also from France, Austria, Nepal, Singapore and the USA.

Dialogue said that Dr Friedlander was one of the few Hindi language specialists in Australian universities. An OLA lecturer since 1997, he has developed both the Hindi Language and Buddhist subject streams.

'His style of distance education teaching is highly personal,' the magazine said. 'Hindi students are offered weekly telephone tutorials and Buddhism students have the option of attending on-line tutorials.'

The magazine noted Dr Friedlander regarded the nature of studying religion as 'quite personal with students examining their own lives within the context of their studies'.

'If they have gone to that sort of trouble then I feel they deserve an appropriate response,' he says.

Dialogue quoted a student, Erina Booker: 'I was extremely inspired by Dr Peter Friedlander. I could not have had better communication with, and inspiration from, a lecturer.' ■

Gambling to goldfields, this model is on the move

La Trobe University's Centre for Sustainable Regional Communities has made available its Regional Economic Modelling and Planning System (REMPAN) to the Mildura Rural City Council. The model was developed by Principal Research Fellow of the Centre, Ian Pinge.

The Mildura project has been funded jointly by La Trobe and the Mildura Rural City Council under the University's Industry Collaborative Grant Scheme.

Director of La Trobe University's Mildura Campus, Ron Broadhead, said one of the major uses of the model is to enable local planners to estimate the economic impact of changes in industry sectors and the flow on effects to other sectors of the local economy. It will also provide local economic data not previously available.

The Mildura project is the latest in a long list of applications for the REMPLAN System since Mr Pinge first developed the model to examine the economic impact of gaming on the Bendigo region. It has been expanded to model the economic activity of many regional communities.

Local governments across Northern and Central Victoria have engaged the Centre to develop similar models for their regions – and the model has traveled as far as Western Australia where it is about to be used by the Goldfields Esperance Development Commission.

It has also been employed by the Department of Natural Resources and Environment for studies into Victoria's logging industry and by the Department of Infrastructure to investigate the expected impact of the mineral sands industry in western Victoria. ■

Mario Vargas Llosa to speak at La Trobe

Celebrated Peruvian writer, Mario Vargas Llosa, will visit La Trobe University in October. He will give public lectures at both the University's main Melbourne campus in Bundoora, and at the Mildura campus.

Author of 13 novels, as well as a journalist, literary critic and essayist, he has been dubbed the 'Peruvian Flaubert'. Unlike many of his fellow Latin American 'magical realist' writers, Vargas Llosa's fiction has been described as 'hyper realism.'

Most of his books – from *The Time of the Hero* (1963), the popular *Aunt Julia and the Script Writer* (1977) to his latest, *The Goats Feast* (2000) – are set in Peru and have been translated into many foreign languages.

Vargas Llosa is also well-known as a crusader for democratic freedom and civil liberties in Latin America. A former president of PEN International, for many years he lived in exile after his unsuccessful bid for the Peruvian presidency in 1990. He now lives in Madrid and London.

La Trobe Professor of Spanish, Roy Boland, says 'The recent restoration of democratic government in Peru is not only a vindication of Vargas Llosa's arduous campaign, but also a celebration of the roles intellectuals can play in the cause of freedom.'

Mario Vargas Llosa, below visited La Trobe in 1993 when he delivered a key University lecture titled *Fiction: The Power of Lies* and attend an international symposium on his work. ■

Details about the lectures from Tel: (03) 9479 2577 / 2428.



POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE

La Trobe historian strikes musical note on the Golden Jubilee



La Trobe University historian, Ms Yvonne Ward played a part in the recent Golden Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II by writing the leading paper in a special edition of *The Court Historian*, published to accompany The Society for Court Studies' Concert of Royal and Coronation Music. Performed in Westminster Abbey, the

concert was one of the major celebrations marking the Queen's 50 years on the throne.

Ms Ward, a La Trobe PhD student, wrote her paper on one of the most famous pieces of music written in Great Britain in the 20th century – Sir Edward Elgar's *Land of Hope and Glory*, recognised around the world as Britain's second national anthem.

The photo, right, shows Ms Ward after the jubilee concert with well-known royal historians Dr David Starkey, left and Robert Lacey. Dr Starkey is President of the Society for Court Studies and presenter of two recent TV series, *The Six Wives of Henry the Eighth* and *Elizabeth First*.

He has been invited by members of La Trobe's History Program to speak at the University later this year. Robert Lacey, guest editor of the special edition of *The Court Historian* in which Ms Ward's article appeared, is author of the world-wide best seller, *Majesty*, a biography of Queen Elizabeth II. ■



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Sundays in August 2002

Bendigo	4 August	10am – 4pm
Mildura	11 August	10am – 3pm
Shepparton	11 August	10am – 2pm
Albury-Wodonga	18 August	10am – 3pm
Mt Buller	18 August	11am – 3pm
Melbourne (Bundoora)	25 August	10am – 4pm

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