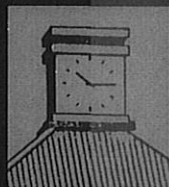
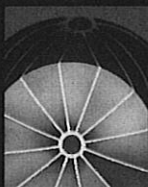


# ALUMNI 2002

YALLOURN TECHNICAL SCHOOL ► GIPPSLAND INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED EDUCATION ► MONASH UNIVERSITY





MESSAGE FROM THE  
PRO-VICE CHANCELLOR  
MONASH UNIVERSITY,  
GIPPSLAND CAMPUS

**Brian Mackenzie**

Located in a unique rural setting, Monash Gippsland leads the way in regionally and internationally focused teaching, learning and research. Home to over 2,000 on-campus students, Monash Gippsland also plays a fundamental role in the university's distance education and flexible learning activities with over 5,500 students enrolled in various off-campus courses. Monash Gippsland is a key ingredient in the make-up of a truly global university.

The story of the Gippsland campus of Monash University began in 1928 when a technical school was built to educate workers for the State Electricity Commission (SEC) coal mine in the town of Yallourn. Recognising the tertiary components of its teaching, the school's name was changed to the Yallourn Technical College in 1958. As part of the changes to tertiary education in Victoria, a new institution, the Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education (GIAE) was established later, incorporating parts of the YTC. In 1972, the GIAE moved into its new buildings at

Churchill. After an initial period as Monash University College Gippsland, the campus officially became part of the Monash University family in 1991. The Gippsland campus is committed to its local region through engagement with the economic, cultural and social life of Gippsland, through innovation in its distributed learning and other off-campus programs, and in its regionally focused research.

When you graduate from Monash you join an international network of achievers and professionals. With a presence in five countries, Monash offers its alumni exciting opportunities for further study, networking and new friendships.

We hope you will continue to maintain contact with your university and look forward to your involvement in future alumni activities.

*Brian Mackenzie*

## THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LATROBE VALLEY



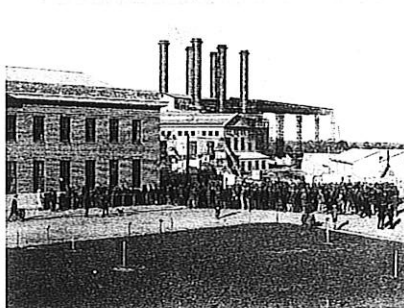
- The memorial built in the Yallourn town square for founding SEC chairman, Sir John Monash, who died in 1931.

The institution that grew from the Yallourn Technical College into the Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education and Monash University Gippsland Campus, had its origins in Yallourn, a model company town that has disappeared into the blackness of the Yallourn open cut.

Yallourn was no ordinary town. It had a planned life and a planned death. Owned by the State Electricity Commission of Victoria, Yallourn was designed as a model town in 1921 to house employees coming to the banks of the Latrobe River to mine brown coal and generate electricity for the state. The latest technology employed in this mammoth undertaking drew admiration and praise from visitors at home and abroad, and the town mirrored the meticulous planning of the industrial enterprise. 'Residence in Yallourn', explained the SEC's first chairman, Sir John Monash, in 1920, 'should be nearly as ideal as it is possible to make'.



- Workers streaming from the Yallourn power station after the end of shift, 1920s.



- Men lining up for their pay at the administration building during Yallourn's early days. The power station is in the background.

Until the 1950s, brown coal mining and electricity generation were concentrated at Yallourn, but with the sharp increase in demand for electricity in the postwar years, the SEC's operations spread throughout the Latrobe Valley. An industrial region emerged as a brown coal mine, briquette factory and power station were built at Morwell and plans were made for a gigantic power station and open cut near Traralgon. With employees living from Moe to Traralgon and beyond, the model town of Yallourn was no longer vital for the SEC's operations. In the 1960s, the SEC announced that it would demolish the town to mine the coal that lay underneath. By the mid 1980s, the town had disappeared.

The pioneering electricity generation at Yallourn and its expansion into the Latrobe Valley is the backdrop for understanding the history of this institution and of tertiary education in Gippsland.



• The Yallourn open cut in the 1920s.



• The gigantic Loy Yang power station, south of Traralgon, completed in the mid 1980s.



• After the Second World War, the SEC expanded its operations to develop the Morwell open cut and build the Hazelwood power station.

# YALLOURN TECHNICAL SCHOOL

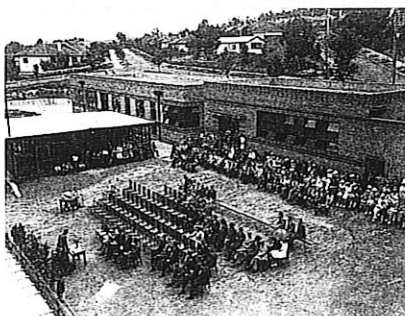


On a Tuesday night in May, 1928, the first students of the Yallourn Technical School disappeared through the door of St Andrew's Presbyterian church hall, ready for the school's inaugural class. At first the school had no permanent staff or equipment, and for the next eight years, the accommodation consisted of little more than three cottages, two of them fitted out as classrooms and one as a laboratory. But there was a strong commitment to technical education in a town surrounded by state-of-the-art technology that was modernising and electrifying Victoria.

Despite its cramped conditions, the school offered many things, ranging from junior secondary education to trade certificates and diploma level courses in electrical and mechanical engineering. As an early school prospectus claimed, the diploma was a 'special passport for a young engineer setting out on his voyage of life'. The courses offered at the school reflected the close connection between the new institution and the SEC.



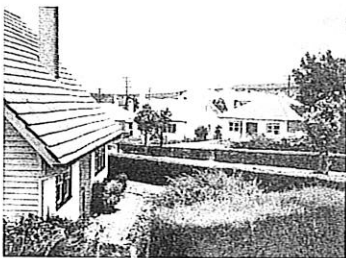
- Yallourn general superintendent, R.D. Dixon, who was also president of the school council, laying the foundation stone for the new school, December 1935. (photo courtesy of Colin Harvey)



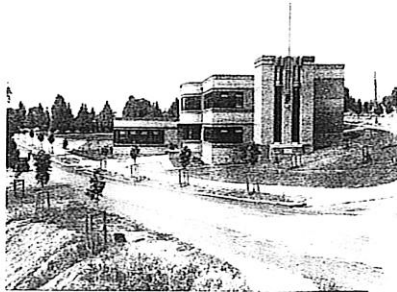
- At the official opening, May 1936. (photo courtesy Colin Harvey)

With the school bursting at the seams, principal Howard Beanland ingeniously shuffled his students between cottages, sheds and SEC facilities so that the school could expand its offerings. At the same time, the SEC strenuously lobbied the Education Department for a building. Eventually, with the promise of a generous subsidy by the SEC, chief architect of the Public Works Department, Percy Everitt, drew plans for an impressive technical school building that was completed in 1936.

‘Yallourn youth could not avoid being affected by the engineering microbe’, asserted SEC chairman, F.W. Clements, in his speech at the opening as he stressed the importance of technical education. The students soon settled into the science laboratory, machine shop, art rooms and workshops housed in the sleek, modernist building.



• As the school flourished, so did the SEC’s town of Yallourn. Neat gardens, orange tiled roofs and shady street trees were features of the town. (*Three Decades*, 1948)



• An early view of the handsome modernist building.  
(photo courtesy Colin Harvey)



• Students in the chemistry classroom.  
(photo courtesy Colin Harvey)

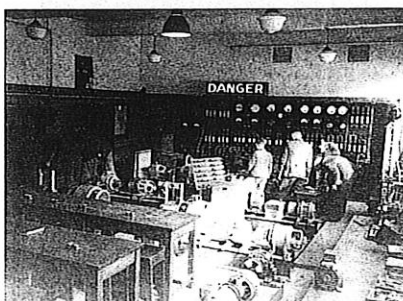
## YALLOURN TECHNICAL COLLEGE TO GIAE



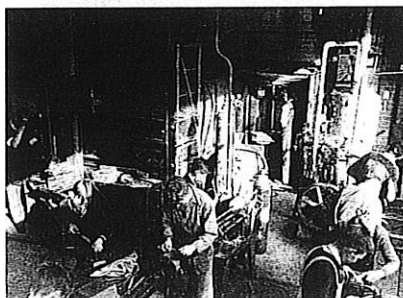
The sharp increase in population in postwar Victoria, with its escalating demands for power, housing and education, soon placed demands on the Yallourn Technical School. Despite its promise, the handsome new building proved inadequate for such a rapidly expanding industrial region that now stretched from Moe to Traralgon.

A new school was planned but there was no room for expansion within Yallourn. Instead, the SEC provided 35 acres along John Field Drive in Newborough. In 1957, long-serving principal, E. Scott, oversaw the move as the first batch of students moved into the new buildings. There was also a name change in 1958 to Yallourn Technical College, which reflected the expansion of courses that the school offered at diploma level. The diploma students remained in Yallourn, however, and did not transfer to Newborough until 1965 when a diploma block was built.

- Yallourn Technical School diploma students in 1955 - in the days when students wore collars and ties. (photo courtesy John Hutchinson)



- Students busy in the electrical classroom in the 1940s. (photo courtesy Colin Harvey)



- The welding classroom. Diploma students used the boiler for thermodynamic studies. (photo courtesy Colin Harvey)



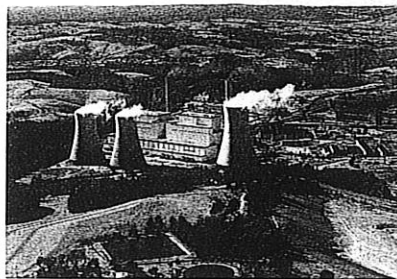
They had barely settled into their new buildings for long when plans for restructuring and expanding tertiary education in Australia were announced. New colleges of advanced education would be formed to introduce a greater range of tertiary courses than the technical colleges offered. A regional college of advanced education was planned for Gippsland, to be located in the Latrobe Valley where there was a concentration of population and industry.

Formed in 1968, the new Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education took over responsibility for the existing diploma courses at the Yallourn Technical College: civil, electrical and mechanical engineering, applied chemistry and business studies. GIAE opened in 1970, its 270 students temporarily accommodated at Newborough while buildings were constructed on the new site that had been acquired at Churchill, ringed by an amphitheatre of hills.

No longer dominated by engineering courses and the requirements of the SEC, and with a mandate to expand tertiary education in Gippsland, what would the new institution offer?



- Postwar Yallourn in its heyday. There was no room to build a large new technical school in the town so the SEC provided land in Newborough. (*Three Decades*, 1948)



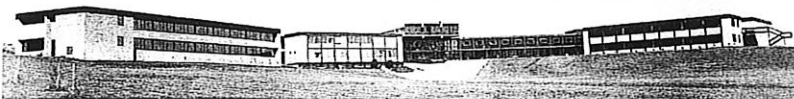
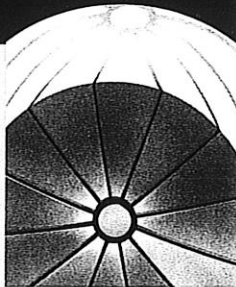
- The Yallourn W power station, built in the 1970s, hastened the demise of the company town. Its generating capacity was doubled and it needed the coal that lay under the town.



# GIPPSLAND INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED EDUCATION



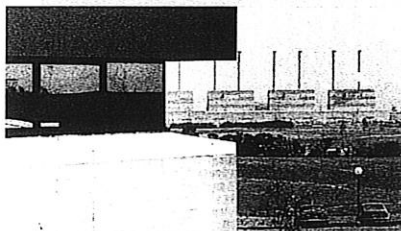
- Founding director, Max Hopper, speaking at the official opening of GIAE in 1976.



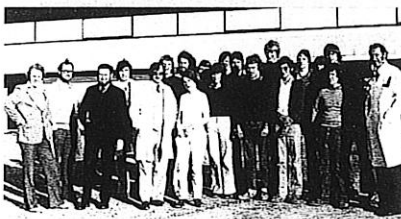
- Gippsland Institute after the Education building had been completed, 1976.

Peter Farago, GIAE's first politics lecturer who came to teach courses in Soviet, American and Australian politics, described the move from Newborough into the new buildings at Churchill in 1972 as 'a handful of people placed in the middle of a paddock'. The new site at Churchill encapsulated much of Gippsland's identity. The expansive views of hills and farms combined with industrial views of Hazelwood Power Station's elegant chimneys and the Yallourn W cooling towers.

Of those early days, Peter remembers the enthusiasm, commitment and high morale shared by the staff as they embarked on the enormous task of developing a new tertiary institution.



- GIAE linked with the Valley with views across to Hazelwood power station.



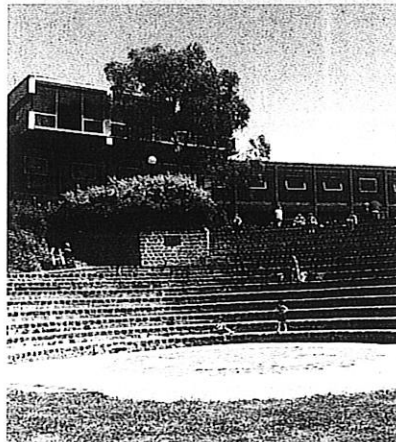
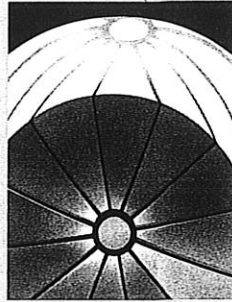
- The complete School of Applied Science, staff and students and their new building, 1976.

- Distance Education students came from throughout Gippsland to attend weekend schools.



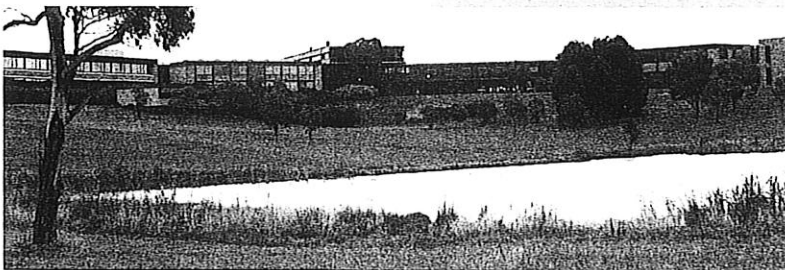
By the end of 1975 GIAE had schools of engineering, applied science, visual arts, education and business and social sciences. Under the founding director, Max Hopper, the institute also began introducing external studies to students living throughout the region. GIAE was able to develop a more comprehensive approach to tertiary study by distance education than had existed in Victoria. 'D.E.', as it was called, had modest beginnings with the newly appointed staff pioneering their versions of the 'study guide'. This soon evolved into an impressive, sophisticated operation that produced high quality study materials for students in a variety of locations.

The new campus began to take shape. A succession of architectural firms designed buildings to accommodate the many new programs and initiatives being developed at GIAE. Landscaping transformed the former paddocks. It was a memorable time when the lake, originally a swamp, filled with water. According to rumours, this was assisted by the Fire Brigade.



- As well as a performance space, the amphitheatre was a sunny lunch spot.

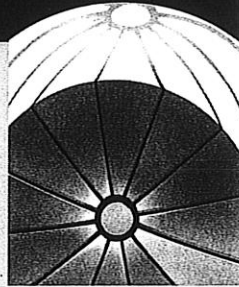
- A view of the campus including the new lake.



## AN ICONIC BUILDING TAKES SHAPE



• At the cement face, Dr Dante Bini oversees the inflating of the binishell.



On a hot day in December 1979, a ring of onlookers began gathering around a construction site on the institute's grounds. School children had been bused in for the occasion and GIAE staff and students joined the throng of spectators. They watched a procession of cement trucks arriving and saw gumbooted workers, shirts off in the sun, pour the cement between two large circular membranes. Directing operations and distinctive in his yellow gumboots was architect Dr Dante Bini, inventor of structures known as binishells - concrete domes that were inflated into place.

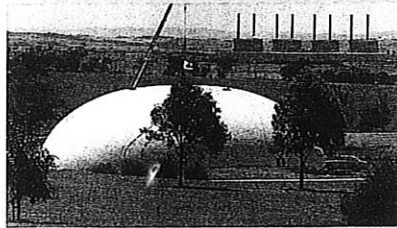
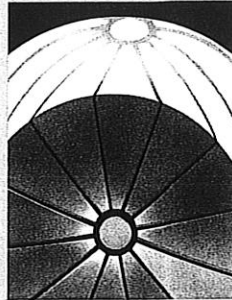


The moment arrived. With the concrete poured and the outer membrane carefully arranged, air pumps were started and valves turned on so that 300 tons of concrete, reinforcing steel and membrane could be inflated into a dome. In little more than an hour, the eleven metre high binishell mushroomed into shape. GIAE had its iconic building.



• GIAE, December 1979 : the binishell mushrooms into shape.

Now a distinctive landmark in Churchill, the binishell has special significance for alumni and forms a link between GIAE and Monash University Gippsland Campus. It is here that graduates of both institutions have gathered for their graduation ceremony. It is here, too, that staff see students they have taught or have corresponded with through distance education, receive their degrees and diplomas. There is always a frisson of anticipation as the opening bars of the ceremonial music sound and staff, dressed in academic regalia, process down the central aisle. Graduates share a feeling of excitement and achievement as they wait for their names to be announced. Wearing gowns and hoods that represent the colours of faculties and schools, they step onto the binishell stage to receive their new and hard won qualifications.



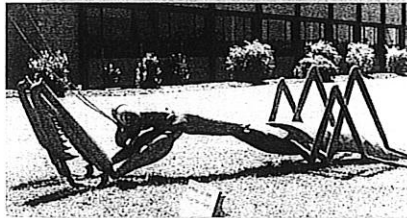
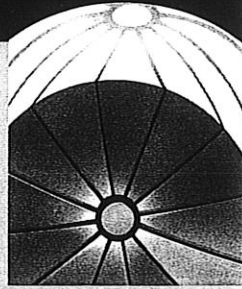
- Graduation ceremony inside the binishell, a special time for students, parents and staff.
- Early graduation ceremonies at GIAE.
- The binishell stood in splendid isolation and students processed across the grounds in their gowns and hoods.



## HIGH DAYS AT GIAE

By 1985, GIAE had weathered early funding crises and resolved conflicting views over its offerings to become an institution with strong regional links. Much of the scientific, technical, cultural and social research carried out at GIAE focused on Gippsland topics and issues, contributing to knowledge of the region, its people, industries and economy.

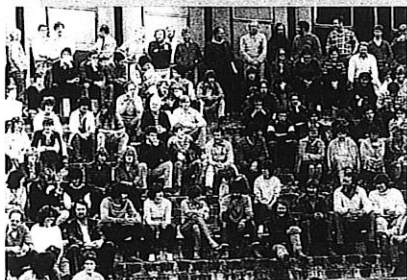
As the only provider of tertiary education east of Melbourne, students in Gippsland now had access to tertiary education closer to home. In 1985, 2900 students were enrolled in the 30 degree and diploma courses that the institute offered. As the student profile revealed, the majority were mature-aged students studying part-time through distance education and embracing tertiary education for the first time. For some, it was an opportunity to study for a new career, while others were able to increase their knowledge and expertise in subjects for which they had a passion. Mature-age students also welcomed the opportunity that GIAE provided through distance education to upgrade existing qualifications and enhance their employment prospects. The campus hummed at weekend schools that were held for distance education students at regular intervals throughout the academic year. New friendships were made and study groups and supportive networks formed.



• Artwork at the campus : a praying mantis sculptured by visual arts student, Lawrie Havrillay in 1980.

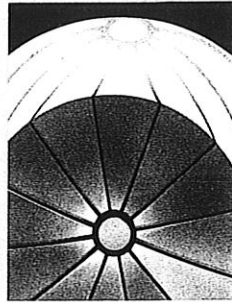


• Distance Education students in the 1970s.



• Staff and students, spectators at a fire fighting demonstration.

Also in 1985, GIAE director Dr Tom Kennedy announced an increase in funding for full time on-campus student places, predicted to double over the next five years. This would encourage students in Gippsland, a region with a low school retention rate, to stay on at school and qualify for tertiary entrance. New courses were announced, too, including Aboriginal studies. A major new initiative would be the introduction of nursing education to GIAE, as this was poised to transfer from hospitals to the tertiary sector.



- Corridor roofs were originally glassed over.



- An aerial view of GIAE showing the campus in the late 1980s.

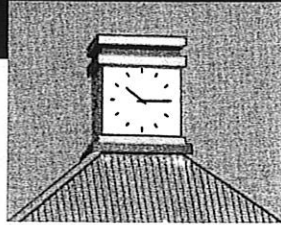


- A community day at GIAE organised by APEX.

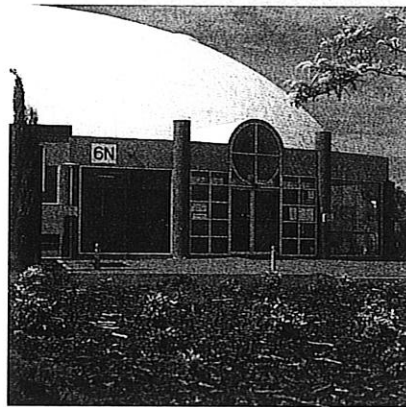
## MONASH UNIVERSITY COLLEGE GIPPSLAND



- A clocktower was built over reception in the early 1990s.



In the late 1980s, a rationalisation of tertiary education was planned by federal education minister, John Dawkins. To secure their funding and viability, the colleges of advanced education were instructed to form partnerships and amalgamate with larger universities. After much discussion and negotiation, GIAE amalgamated with Monash University, as did the Chisholm Institute of Technology and the Victorian Pharmacy College. Once affiliation discussions had developed between Gippsland Institute and Monash University, the new consortium was designated a national distance education provider. Monash University, which aimed to expand as an education provider into the Asia Pacific region, welcomed Gippsland's expertise in off-campus delivery of tertiary education.



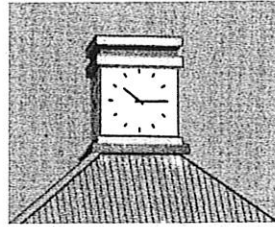
- The binishell's new entrance foyer was an important addition.



- The amphitheatre with the Baw Baws in the background.

Located in Melbourne's south-eastern suburbs, Monash University was founded in 1958. Similar to GIAE, it had been established to provide the state's expanding postwar population with access to tertiary education. The university's name commemorated Sir John Monash, engineer and inspiring World War I general, who had returned from the war to become the founding chairman of the State Electricity Commission of Victoria. It was Monash who had overseen the pioneering electricity industry at Yallourn and had nurtured the model town. It was Monash who had encouraged education and the founding of the Yallourn Technical School. The proposed merging of GIAE with Monash University strengthened links with GIAE's beginnings.

With amalgamation finalised in 1990, changes were afoot for the new university college. From being a self-governing regional institution, the new college would become part of a metropolitan-based university that played a leading role in education in Australia.



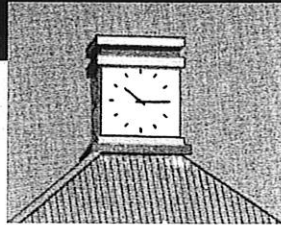
• Change and continuity : computer labs and classrooms.



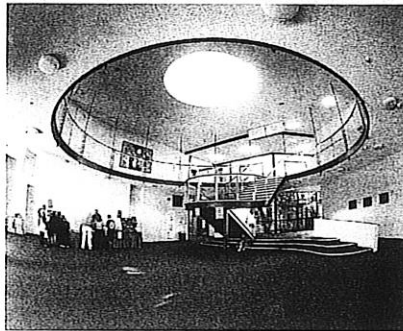
## MONASH UNIVERSITY GIPPSLAND CAMPUS



- An aerial view of the campus in 1993 documents its expansion.



Changes were immediate. The existing schools at the Gippsland campus were integrated into the existing faculty structure. With this came the name change in 1993 to Monash University Gippsland Campus - often abbreviated to Monash Gippsland. Reflecting the aims of Monash University and with the schools now part of the larger faculties, greater emphasis was placed on postgraduate teaching and staff research. Honours courses were developed and the Gippsland Campus offered PhD scholarships. Keen research students, often locally based, took advantage of these. Heyfield resident Kath Williams enrolled in a PhD in psychology in 1993. As a mother with two small boys, attending a Melbourne campus on an almost daily basis to complete her doctorate would have been an impossibility.



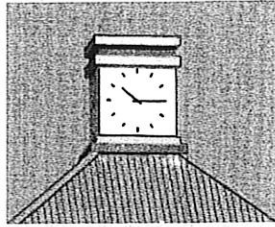
- A view of the knuckle.



- International students preparing to graduate.

Monash Gippsland also embraced 'internationalisation'. As part of Monash University's aim to be a global provider of education, the Gippsland campus now has international students studying at Churchill and provides courses for off-shore teaching. Distance education has been expanded to provide courses for internationally based off-campus students who now use a variety of modes from paper-based study guides to on-line teaching to study for Monash degrees.

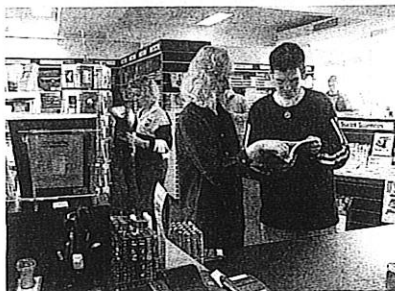
Despite the changes that come from amalgamating with Australia's largest university, Monash Gippsland is still committed to its regional identity and aims to be a university 'of and for Gippsland'. It continues to develop courses that have specific relevance for students and industries in the region, to focus much of its research on Gippsland issues and to be involved with the community at many levels. With the recent appointment of a Pro Vice-Chancellor to direct the campus, the Gippsland identity and interaction with the region are assured.



- The University has been granted Land for Wildlife status in recognition of its extensive tree planting program and revegetation.

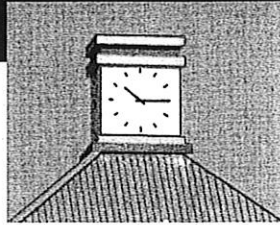


- On campus students meet to discuss their work.



- The bookshop.

## RETURNING TO THE CAMPUS IN 2002



For most alumni of the Yallourn Technical School/College, there is no familiar campus to revisit. The building and the town they knew were demolished to make way for the expanding open cut. But the heritage of their Yallourn institution lives on in the university campus today.

Happily, for those alumni of GIAE and Monash Gippsland, it is possible to return and experience both familiar sights and monitor changes, to remember student days and to see the progress of the university. Returning to the campus, alumni are now confronted by buildings with domes, hexagons, curves and pyramids snaking off in all directions. Housed in them are eight faculties: Art and Design, Arts, Business and Economics, Education, Engineering, Information Technology, Science and Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences. Alumni can find such resources as computer laboratories, a mechatronics laboratory, a clinical nursing laboratory, the Switchback Gallery and many research facilities.



• Coffee and discussion.

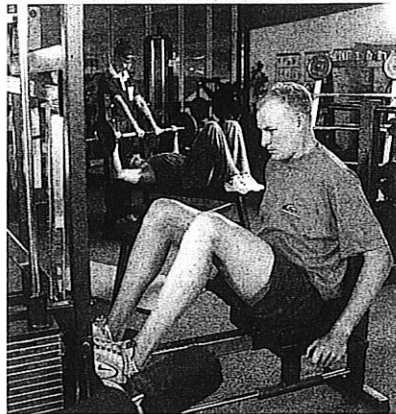
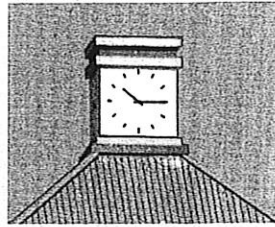


• The spacious library opened for business in 1998.

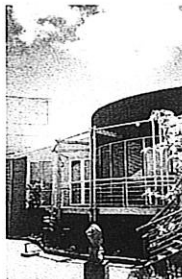
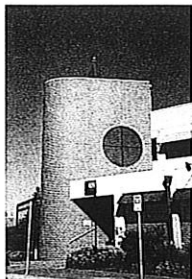
The binishell no longer stands in splendid isolation and there are new landmark buildings. A handsome library forms an important addition to the campus. Dignified and functional, it is inviting to the scholar.

Within the grounds, a golf course sweeps down to the road, views to the lake and beyond have been enhanced and courtyards provide sheltered places for coffee and meetings.

In 1934, the Yallourn Technical School awarded its first diploma in electrical engineering, pioneering tertiary education in the area. Nearly 70 years later in 2002, Monash University Gippsland has 7,500 students enrolled, studying through a variety of modes as on-campus and off-campus students. As part of Monash University, yet retaining its regional identity, the campus is constantly evolving to provide tertiary education to its region, Victoria, Australia and to many parts of the world.



• The Churchill and Monash Leisure Centre, a joint initiative of Monash University and the City of Latrobe.



BOOKLET & DISPLAY  
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Text : Dr Meredith Fletcher  
Centre for Gippsland Studies  
Monash University, Gippsland Campus

Design : Anne Lorraine & Greg Simmons  
Centre for Learning & Teaching Support  
Monash University, Gippsland Campus

The logo for Monash University, featuring the word "MONASH" in a large, bold, serif font above the word "UNIVERSITY" in a smaller, all-caps, sans-serif font. A thin horizontal line separates the two words. The text is white and centered within a black rectangular background.

**MONASH**  
UNIVERSITY