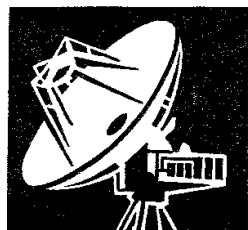


# RESEARCH LAB REPORTER



PRODUCED BY RESEARCH LABORATORIES, 59 LITTLE COLLINS STREET, MELBOURNE

"RESEARCH LAB REPORTER"

"To Honour Parkinson and Repeal His Law"

At first glance it would appear that you workers in Research could take heart at the propoundings of Parkinson. In a corollary to his first law (work expands so as to fill the time available for its completion) he states that it is most healthy to breed a Research Laboratories in a state of chaotic squalor. The best labs. he reckons are housed as a rule in abandoned buildings overrun with crazy corridors, numerous closets and miles of cable whose destination has been long since forgotten. Those institutions which are born with a full complement of directors and operatives all neatly catalogued into planned positions and accommodated in idyllic surroundings must certainly fail. Such bodies cannot grow naturally for they are already grown. There is nothing to be expected but the onset of decay.

No better example of this process can be cited than that of the rise and fall of the League of Nations. The Palace of Nations built to house this body was planned as the most brilliant compromise of convenience and dignity. Its completion in 1937 marked the end of the League.

It is only in humble surroundings that a great organization can evolve. Need and utility will be the mistresses of design. Groups will form naturally with labels that cry out their worth.

What I'm worried about is that how at Monash can we accommodate one derelict paint shop, two superannuated used car firms, one sweet smelling spice shop, two street markers and the whole of category A of the Melbourne Club.

John Hullett  
Pulse Techniques

NOTE:

A wise and successful man once said: "Why worry? If you can do something about it, do it and stop worrying; if you can't, stop worrying and get on with the job".

Results of Census on Accommodation  
and Facilities

A certain tea club close to the nub of things wishes to thank those who completed the census form in the last issue.

After lengthy chunnings of the A.D.P. machinery, the results of the census are now presented, to ensure that the principles of democratic management continue to be upheld. In all, 74 census returns were received and the preference votes for the various locations totalled :-

COFFS HARBOUR	20
ESSENDON AIRPORT	1
CANBERRA	1
MCNASH	39
MONT PARK	1
SOUTH MELBOURNE	1
HAYMAN ISLAND	1

INFORMAL:

No Map Reference	5
Dual Preferences	2

Votes for Essendon Airport obtained by co-ercion	3
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TOTAL REPLIES	<u>74</u>
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All results were tallied by a responsible person and Chas (One Eye) Eyre performed nobly as scrutineer, just prior to his departure to hospital to have his eyesight improved.

The aquanaut who voted for a cold (Non-meltin') location in the Challenger Deep - one of the deeper points (11,034 metres) of the Pacific Ocean-unfortunately blotted his copy book by listing a second preference for COFFS HARBOUR. In this matter second preferences were disallowed and the computer rejected his vote as informal. He might not also be aware that there is one deeper spot (Which he can determine if he follows the clue - "where the Willis, there's a way")!!

A further 5 votes for miscellaneous locations were declared informal since none gave the map references demanded.

Clearly, the result was a walkover for Monash, indicating that one of our leaders will soon merit a dual doctorate - in psychic phenomena this time!

Those wishing to establish a Sheridan Park-type research community at Coffs Harbour will no doubt be disappointed.

The origin of the few votes for Essendon Airport was also as clear as A.B.C. since no Xerox copies were used to produce the multiple vote.

#### ON A SERIOUS NOTE!

With the frivolity above concluded, the latest news on our rebuilding project is that a top-level discussion has now been made to locate all Research Laboratories activities at Monash. It is hoped that the moves to our new accommodation will start soon after 1976 and be completed in about four stages by 1980.

We would now like to estimate your reaction to this prospective change in location of your place of work. This will mainly concern the location of your home relative to Monash and your ability to travel between the two.

On present indications, Monash is most easily reached by motor car and a large proportion of staff are expected to overcome commuting problems by joining "car clubs". The site is also served by fairly extensive private bus lines operating to railway stations on lines east and south east of Melbourne.

If you have objections to the prospect of travelling to Monash about 1976 and thereafter, would you please detach the slip below and return it to FRANK ARTER (Block A) - A.S.A.P. Obviously, your vote will not put the Stoppers on the Monash project, but it will provide an indication of general staff reaction. A nil return will presume you have no objections.

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Sectional Engineer,  
Accommodation & Facilities.

I have \*strong/mild objections to the proposed location of the Laboratories at Monash about 1976.

Name:

Division:

Private Address:

\* Cross out whichever adjective is not applicable.

## Know Your Laboratories - Watkins The People

The A.P.O. Research Laboratories contains mainly overpaid Clerks and overpaid Engineers. Tucked away in a dark corner of Exhibition Street is a dark dingy building known to most of us as Watkins. Housed inside Watkins is a small band of the aforementioned clerical bods but suprisingly no Engineers. Just Scientists. Sprinkled over four floors of Watkins we find Chemists, Polymerists, Metallurgists and Physicists. These terms may be unfamiliar to you readers so to explain; Chemists deal with Chemistry (science of the elements), Polymerists deal with polymers (science of poppies) etc. etc.

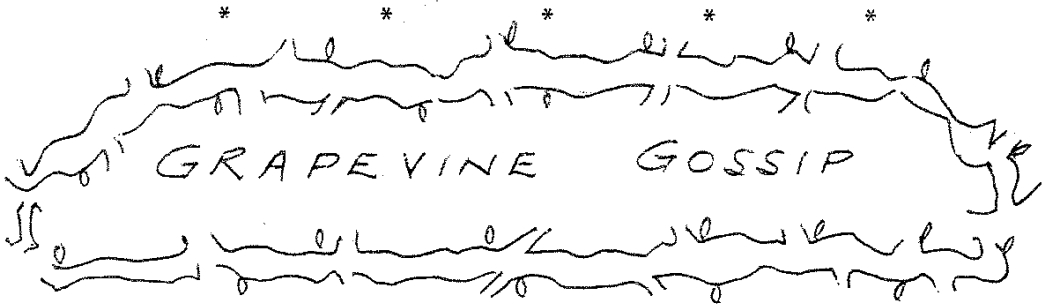
Possibly because he is fire officer for the building Nolan the Clerk has positioned himself and his band of helpers on the ground floor. These helpers are Tom Lindsay (a quiet, shy, young boy whom most of you would not know or have heard), Linda Napier who has just been appointed cheer leader of the Williamstown Warriors in the V.F.A. and a rather tempting typist named Teresa.

Don Waters and his group of merry Chemists are situated on the fourth floor. People who say that Don is too old should think again as two female trainee chemists have been appointed in the last few months. Very noisy people these Chemists. They run a daily competition to see who speaks the least. The usual winner is Cederholm, followed by "Rowdy" Gwynn with Kam, the Colombo Plan student, following closely. Also situated on this floor are the Polymerists, as fine and respectable a bunch of people as one would wish to meet. Seen more frequently at the International and Southern Cross than elsewhere these "gentlemen" are led by "Shorty" Ruddell and include Western, Elms and "Groucho Marx" Moloney.

Known as "Righteous Richard" in his youth Dick Slade controls the above mentioned Chemists and below mentioned Metallurgists. Mottram's Metallurgists. Experts in their own fields and not too bad at metallurgy. Keogh investigates fatigued aerial masts, usually in Queensland during winter, Keir studies corrosion on aerial masts, Godfrey analyses cracked aerial masts and May photographs these aerial masts. These boys are experts with regard to aerial masts.

The personnel on the second floor wearing German boots are Physicists. Whiplashed daily by Flatau and McKelvie these Physicists are the last of a dying race. On the surface they appear to be dull, uninteresting, sheepish and quiet. And they are rather dull, uninteresting, sheepish and quiet but Sadler, Bauer and McOrist do their best to keep stocks of beer low at the nearest hotel. Fitzpatrick abducted a girl away from her home on a recent car rally, Mrs Lynne wears those tremendous skirts with the slit past the waist and "Barney Dunlop" wears the latest in men's hot pants.

You now have a rough idea of the average Scientist, although there are some who do work and are reasonably respectable, we are unable to print their names for fear of libel action.



After 24 years in the Department, the last seven of which were spent in the Advanced Techniques Section, Alison Vyner, typist retired on 30 July. A surprise luncheon was arranged for her at the Sportsman Club where many of her friends had the opportunity to pass on their good wishes for a happy retirement.

Later in the day, the Main Library, Block A was packed to witness Albert Seyler present Alison with a suitcase and travelling bag. These will be most useful as she plans to travel to the U.S.A. where she will spend Christmas with her niece, then onto England. On her return to Australia, Alison will make her home in Sydney.

\* \* \* \* \*

Bill Matthews, Training Annexe, answered an advertisement in the "Trading Post" for the sale of 10 bags of cow manure. However, it was ascertained that the proposed vendor was the victim of a practical joker. Bill reckons that the cow manure was just a load of Bull.

\* \* \* \* \*

It was rather an expensive oil change and grease for Barbara Stone, Computing Section, Block F. Barbara drove down to Warragul for a service on her Toyota Corolla and made a snap decision to trade it in on a new Corona. Hope the new bus goes well on the trip to Surfer's next month, Barb!

\* \* \* \* \*

Talking of cars, a new car doesn't last long with Eric Dodge, Radio Propagation. Eric apparently does not believe in an Italian love affair as his Fiat 350 coupe has been sold after only two weeks.

\* \* \* \* \*

Someone has reported that Miss Australia interviews are being conducted each Thursday afternoon in the Research Conference Room. Unfortunately this is incorrect. Merl Cuzens is running a 13 weeks course (1/2 day per week) for training clerical assistants in library work. In addition to our Department there are participants from nine other Commonwealth Departments. Brother! the library talent keeps getting better and better!

\* \* \* \* \*

Norm Beechey's new proteges Robert "Big Bob" Page, Michael Durrant and Gary Hay took 18th, 12th and 6th places respectively in the tough gruelling Research Car Rally contested last month. Bob's driving ability is notoriously well known. Because of his will to win, he recently had radial tyres fitted to his Mini. Rumours that an 007 Browning machine gun, ejector seat and an oil slick machine being fitted in his car have been strongly denied.



However, prior to the rally, threatening letters were sent to many rally entrants. Although Bob has not received any of the letters, he has generously volunteered to trace the source and has requested rally organisers not to seek Police action.

All motor cranks are advised that the aforementioned officers are now in a position to supply assorted used car parts and suitably compressed scrap metal.

\* \* \* \*

Who is the member of the staff in Block C who eats bird seed for lunch?

\* \* \* \*

For certain one very tall engineer amongst our ranks must improve his golf handicap following our recent "Open Week" for Matriculants. Every now and then he would BOB up at the computer to KILL himself tackling a further 18 holes.

\* \* \* \*

From all accounts, Ray Jepson's "Museum" was, once again, one of the most popular exhibits. Speaking of museums and old things, a card was received from the Gold Coast this week from Dick FitzSimons who complains of an attack of sunburn. Serves him right, we're not complaining of our frostbite.

\* \* \* \*

Friday 13th was not a happy day for many of us who gathered in the Model Shop to reluctantly wish farewell to Steve Mihajlovic, Apprentice E.F. & M. who was leaving for greener pastures in the Ford Motor Co., Geelong. Steve was a very popular bloke in the Labs. as was borne out by the very well chosen words spoken by Frank Arter and Alva Allen at the presentation ceremony. Best of luck Steve!

\* \* \* \*

AUSTRALIAN LEADER HITS OUT AT SI  
SYSTEM BEFORE SHOCKED COMMONS

London : Monday

The leader of an Australian delegation that has travelled to London to oppose the introduction of SI Units, Mr. Melbourne Elbon, of the Australian Post Office Research Laboratories, was yesterday permitted to address the House of Commons. Mr. Elbon argued that the length of 'cello strings and hence their musical tone could be seriously altered by the changeover. He was strongly supported in this attack by his wife who also played the 'cello. To illustrate the point, his wife played "Land of Hope and Glory" on a 'cello with SI strings. Members admitted afterwards that it had sounded shocking but they felt that they should first hear her efforts on an Imperial 'cello before voting against SI units outright.

\* \* \* \* \*

Results of Research Car Trial, Sunday 1st August

Condition of Roads

It was rumoured before the trial that the roads were slightly slippery after four days of rain in the area, this was later confirmed by the amount of cars that couldn't stay on the roads.

Condition of Competitors

(At the Start) Eager, with already 30 cars definite winners!  
(After Control 3) Most cars eager to go home, and no definite winners.  
(At Finish) Most thought they had just competed in the London-Sydney Marathon.

Condition of Cars

(Before Trial) Good running condition.  
(After Trial) Some still running others in not too good condition.

Results

33 cars started, 26 arrived (eventually) at the finish.

1st John Liddell/Paul Isworth (Jill Liddell, Library) - Datsun trophy

2nd Mick Crarey/Doug Daws (Lab. Equipment) "Research Crown"

3rd Eric Gray/Ray Proudlock (Lab. Equipment)

1st Lady Navigator - Lois Blackwell (David Blackwell, Multichannel  
Systems)

2nd " " - Sue Thompson (Boyd Rayment, Microwave Techs.)

1st Lady Driver - Josephine Barnes (Eddie Loftus)

Officially last (most points lost) Ed Stanley/Alan Taylor, (Block S)

Notable Efforts

Boyd Rayment (Renault R.10) 7 mile loop to control 3 in  
8 minutes. (11 allowed)

Bill Kuys (Datsun) 13 minutes to do a tricky 8 miles to  
control 4. (12 allowed)

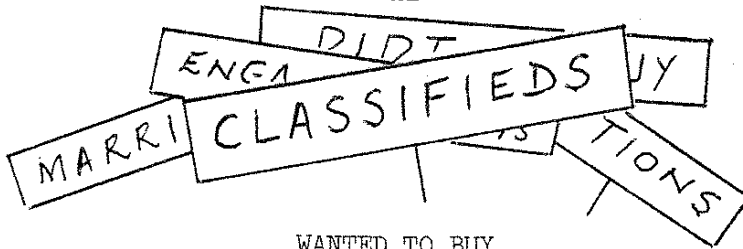
Bob Page (Mini) the same control 4 going via Woodend twice  
and then coming in from the wrong direction for  
a loss of 107 points.

M. Fiddian (Falcon) the only competitor to arrive at control 5  
on time.

Bill Waugh (R.E. Capella) 16 miles to control 2 in 14 minutes,  
(18 allowed) and 14 miles along tricky bush roads  
to control 6 in 21 minutes (22 allowed)

Heather Kidd and girls for at least making the effort to  
compete again.

It was generally felt that the trial was too difficult for the competitors and the roads were too rough. Well, the "Trial" as the name suggests, was meant as a reasonable test of navigational ability and common sense, and as for the roads, "There is no such thing as a rough road, only rough drivers".



WANTED TO BUY

Hiking Rucksack, preferably A-frame or H-frame.

David Mattiske 6343

\* \* \* \* \*

WANTED TO SELL

Any type of garment - a beautiful example of the crochet work of

Cheryl Morrison 7977

\* \* \* \* \*

ENGAGEMENTS

ex-Physical Sciences ..... Jenni Kett (now with  
Met. Bureau) to Adrian Evans

\* \* \* \* \*

Radio Propagation ..... Denis Gordon to Sue Howard

\* \* \* \* \*

Microwave Techniques ..... Boyd Rayment to Sue Thompson

\* \* \* \* \*

Information Section ..... Anne Hicks to Peter Gason

\* \* \* \* \*

BIRTHS

Admin. Services ..... to Brian and Sue Lafferty  
a daughter, Janine Helen

\* \* \* \* \*

Laboratory Equipment ..... to Peter and Robyn Dalliston  
a daughter, Leanne

\* \* \* \* \*

Material Physics ..... to Axel and Carol Bauer  
a daughter, Kerryn, Narelle

\* \* \* \* \*

Solid State Switching ..... to Tony and Angela Romagnano  
a son, Jamie

\* \* \* \* \*

Switching Processor ..... to Geoff and Jill Champion  
a son, Thomas Geoffrey

\* \* \* \* \*

Admin. Services ..... to Charles and Margaret Bates  
a daughter, Susan Mary (7lbs)

\* \* \* \* \*

WELCOME TO :-

Doug Kelso	Engineer Class 1
David Eagles	C.A. 1
Colin Chippindall	Clerk Class 4
Ann Hawkins	C.A. 1
Vincent Mercuri	T.A. 1
Irene Vigh	Stenographer
Bill Day	Engineer Class 2

Tima Dabrowski	C.A. 2
Peter Meggs	Engineer Class 1
Ari Ponni	Junior Assistant
Peter Hill	A/g. Clerk Class 4
Robert Anderson	T.A. 2
Terry Pappin	C.A. 1
Colin Pittard	T.A. 1

## FAREWELL TO :-

Le Anh Vu	Engineer Class 2, to Telephone Exchange Equipment Section
Lew Green	Clerk Class 4, to Forms Officer 199 William Street
Alison Vyner	Typist, Block F - Retired
Joe Walsh	Drafting Officer, Superannuated
Patricia Fields	Clerk, to Postal Services
Len Schmidt	T.O. 1, Qld. as Engineer Cl. 1
Gary Hay	T.A. 2 to Subs. Equipment
Cheryl Paterson	Junior Assistant - Resigned

\* \* \* \* \*

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to the following whose promotions have been confirmed since the last issue :-

Brian Perkins	Advanced Techniques
Bob Wylie	Laboratory Equipment
Murray McGaffin	General Services
Gary Hay	Subs. Equipment

\* \* \* \* \*

4. 872

$x+6 = ?$

?

$2x^2 + xy = 9$

? POSTWORK POSERS ?  
 $x^2$  ? log. 939

Question 1

A right hand glove is turned inside out and then put on the left hand. Where will the fabric of the glove which normally touches the palm of the right hand be found?

Will it be touching the palm, touching the back of the hand, on the palm side facing out, or on the back of the hand side facing out?

(NATURALLY, YOU ARE NOT PERMITTED TO USE AN ACTUAL GLOVE)

\*

\*

\*

\*

\*

Question 2

This question is included especially for a particular "wizard" who was instrumental in acquiring the poser for our last issue. We would be pleased to personally receive his answer to the following:-

King Solomon is reputed to have solved a poser involving the equitable division of a piece of land having one man divide it into two halves and the other select the half he wanted.

If a piece of land is to be divided equitably among three men, how can this division be made so that each man will be satisfied that he has at least  $1/3$  of the total

(There is more than one solution to this poser but the one desired is that which is applicable to a division among any number of men).

\*

\*

\*

\*

\*

Question 3 (per favour of Harry Wragge)

Assume that a clock is started with its hour, minute and second hands lined up precisely on 12.

Will the hands ever be at exactly  $120^\circ$  with regard to one another, and, if so, at what time?

\*                      \*                      \*                      \*                      \*

Question 4

There are 3 piles of markers, one containing 5, the second containing 4, and the third 2 markers. A game is played in which each of two players removes, in turn, as many markers from any one pile as he wishes including the elimination of a whole pile. The object of the game is to remove the last marker.

What is the only correct move for the player who is about to move to assure that he will win, no matter what the other player does?

\*                      \*                      \*                      \*                      \*

Question 5

A man wished to divide \$1500 among his grandchildren. Instead of dividing the money equally, he was obliged, because of a long standing superstition about the number 3, to make a most peculiar distribution among the children.

He would only divide the money if each child could get an amount made up by multiplying 3's. A child could get \$3,  $3 \times 3 = \$9$ ,  $3 \times 3 \times 3 = \$27$ , etc., but no other amounts. And even among the allowable amounts, each could be given to no more than two children.

How much money did each of the children receive?

\*                      \*                      \*                      \*                      \*



## R U B B I S H

Put the rubbish in the bins,  
Cardboard boxes, empty tins,  
Tidy up the streets and lanes,  
Clean up after playing games,  
Stuff that docket in your pocket,  
Don't throw away that empty packet,  
Or that useless travelling ticket,  
Or the scraps when watching cricket.  
Put the rubbish in the bins,  
Put the litter in the tins.  
It's really easy once you learn,  
To be a "TIDY PACHYDERM".