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**TEACHING, RESEARCH AND INDUSTRIAL LIAISON IN PRODUCTION SCIENCE AT
MONASH UNIVERSITY**

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This paper describes the past, present and future trends in production science activities appertaining to teaching, research and industry-cooperation of the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Monash University. Details on the departmental and course structures, staffing, student numbers, subjects and teaching methods are given; in particular the compulsory, "Workshop practice", "vacation employment", "students seminars", "projects" and "authentic involvements" are highlighted.

The department has had an excellent record of research activities in some ten specific areas of mechanical engineering, with around 30-40 Master's students and 10-15 Ph.D. students in the department at any given time. The research activities in Production Science include studies of the following; Mechanics of metal cutting, Machinability testing, Blanking and forming of sheet metal, Extrusion, High strain rate properties of metals, Computer-aided design and manufacture, Industrial robots and Materials handling.

The department has established close contacts with Australian Industry in some areas of research and development. Industrial liaison is important for any branch of Engineering and this is particularly so for Production, Manufacturing or Industrial Engineering related disciplines. This is achieved through industry-based projects, consulting visiting lecturers, work visits, workshops and seminars, professional institution activities and conferences and travel.

It is concluded that a correct blend of the three factors, mentioned above; i.e. teaching, research and industrial liaison is important for a successful Production-related division or department within a University.