Destination Australia: how did we end up here?

Although boats carrying asylum seekers to Australia may have stopped, over 50 million refugees remain scattered around the world. University of Melbourne researchers believe it’s time to change the face of the debate.

Controlling how cells reproduce
Graeme Clark Oration 2015 (Free event)

Presented by Sir Paul Nurse, Nobel Laureate,
President of the Royal Society,
Director of the Francis Crick Institute in London
10 March, Melbourne Convention Centre
Tickets: www.graemeclarkoration.org.au
Acclaimed Indigenous artist joins the VCA & MCM

Richard Frankland has recently been appointed Director of the Wilin Centre at the VCA, to lead the development of Indigenous arts and artists. By Louise Bennett.

MUP Publications

This month’s featured MUP publication is Style is Eternal by Nicole Jenkins

About Style is Eternal

“How can I have so many clothes, yet still have nothing to wear?” asks writer and fashion commentator Nicole Jenkins. Style is Eternal offers readers with the tools to transform their wardrobe from faddish to stylish. Nicole Jenkins shares her experience as a fashion buyer and stylist to navigate essential wardrobe additions that won’t break the bank, use of accessories to create new outfits, ways to convert fashion faux pas into chic statements, and how to travel with only hand luggage and still look classy.

Style is Eternal gives a beautiful step-by-step guide to understand and integrate fashion basics, classics and trends into a personalised signature look. It will encourage dressing with confidence and creativity.

About the author

Nicole Jenkins is passionate about fashion and has been collecting and restoring clothes since she was a child. Her knowledge has been furthered through studies in costume design at Perth Technical College and the VCA Academy of Performing Arts and roles in film, theatre and fashion. Her Melbourne boutique Circa Vintage, showcasing the best of 200 years of Australian fashion, opened in 2004. Her first book Love Vintage won an international independent Publishers Book Award in 2010.

To win a copy of Style is Eternal email your answer to the following question by Monday 16 March for:

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Enshrining the fair go

Juggling competing demands of study and paid work is stressful enough. But for students burdened by distance, disability, disadvantage or distress, the mountain could prove too high to climb. Gabrielle Murphy reports.

J oobin Hooshmand’s chances of realising his dream of becoming a doctor were threatened by multiple factors.

Firstly, he is of the Bahá’í faith which in Iran, his country of birth, prevented him from continuing his studies beyond high school.

Next, his family arrived in Australia from Turkey as refugees and he attended Northern Beaches Secondary College in New South Wales for his final two years of high school, despite speaking little English.

Then, later, throughout his years as a university undergraduate and trainee doctor, he shared the financial and emotional pressures commonly faced by students living and learning away from home.

“it’s no secret that cost-of-living pressures make it difficult for our students to make ends meet while undertaking their studies,” says Luke Chandler, currently working as the University Services Executive Officer at the University of Melbourne.

“The University’s focus is on ensuring we do everything possible to make sure our most vulnerable students have the best opportunity to participate and achieve given the high standards we ask of them during their studies.”

In his previous role as Business Improvement Co-ordinator leading a small team within Student Services, Mr Chandler reviewed the University of Melbourne’s system for assessing student applications for financial aid, to discover ways of streamlining the process and developing objective ways of determining and evaluating need.

“With demand for assistance growing year by year,” says Mr Chandler, “the University decided to completely rethink how we went about assessing students in financial need.”

“Our aim was to strike a balance between identifying barriers to equity and then applying these on a measurable scale in order to determine which students were in the most financial need.”

Using a combination of mathematical and information technology datasets and capabilities, the Student Services’ team was able to build what software developers refer to as a ‘smart form’. This new online application form is now able to automatically retrieve the information the University already knows about each student from its student database, and apply tailored business logic based on this information.

“For example, if a student is under 21, it’s likely their parents’ income would be a factor in the student’s financial wellbeing.” Mr Chandler says. “So, working from date of birth, we tailored questions specifically to the unique circumstances of the student.”

The new system also analyses addresses against Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) to enable scoring and assessing applications against an authoritative and objective means for identifying the most financially disadvantaged students.

“Thereafter, working with staff from Financial Aid, we were able to carefully craft a set of 13 specific scoring categories against which we could assess student need,” Mr Chandler says. “Student Services is now able to effectively target the University’s Financial Aid schemes, such as Student Grants and Loans, and is capable of assessing thousands of applications very quickly, efficiently and fairly.”

“Importantly, by developing an intelligent, targeted and objective process that truly delivers equity to our student community, we can provide assistance without undue delay…to those who need it most, when it matters most.”

“So students like Joobin can be quickly identified, and supported.”

Support helps refugee student achieve career goals

I was born in 1984 into a Bahá’í family. The Bahá’í Faith is an independent world religion that was founded in 1844. The faith’s central theme is that humanity is one family and the time has come for its unification into a peaceful global society.

The Bahá’í faith is not recognised by the Iranian government and its 380,000 members are under constant persecution. Despite Iran being a signatory to the declaration of the human rights since the Islamic revolution, the highest level of education accessible to members of Bahá’í faith in Iran is high school.

I chose to become a Bahá’í when I was 15 years old. By 16, my parents had recognised my academic tendencies I had started speaking about leaving Iran so that I, along with my two younger siblings, could access higher education.

So in August 2000 I became refugees in Turkey and applied for a humanitarian visa to Australia where my aunt had migrated some 20 years before. While in Turkey and awaiting a visa I became fluent in Turkish and started interpreting for the refugee community at the doctors’ and hospital visits. It was then that I decided I wanted to study medicine.

When we arrived in Australia, after a short transition course I started years 11 and 12 at a high school in Sydney. Fortunately I did well and I was offered a place in the Melbourne Medical School which incidentally came a day before other university offers. The next day I received a letter of scholarship from the University covering the cost of the course and a small allowance for the first four years.

I received four scholarships during my time as a medical student. The University’s Access scholarship, as well as a Commonwealth Education Scholarship, the Cybec Newcomers Scholarship, the Lin Martin Global Scholarship which I received from Medley Hall which were later granted through Trinity College when Medley closed for renovations, enabled me to move to Melbourne and study something I am passionate about through one of the finest medical schools in the world.

I was also awarded the Lin Martin Global Scholarship which enabled me to travel and work in Samoa for a month giving me exposure to medicine as practised in a resource-limited setting. This, along with other experiences working on cradles of humanity – a binding of children from indigenous communities, has inspired me to dedicate a portion of my working life serving disadvantaged communities within Australia and the Pacific.

— Joobin Hooshmand

Be inspired to achieve VCE excellence

The Faculty of Arts is repeating last year’s highly successful Winter School for VCE students. This year we will be offering a series of inspiring lectures and tutorials in three VCE subjects: Literature, Australian History and History: Revolutions.

The program, which will be developed in consultation with VCE experts and taught by internationally acclaimed scholars, will give you the head start you need to excel in your VCE exams.

Full program and registration at arts.unimelb.edu.au/vce

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Early palliative support critical for end-of-life care outcomes

Research shows palliative care earlier rather than later in a severe illness is beneficial to all involved. By Catriona May.

Palliative care is, often, a taboo topic. With its connotations of death and dying, it is a subject many people shy away from. But research shows palliative care is also about life — for both patients and their carers.

There’s a lot of public misunderstanding about what palliative care is,” says Anna Collins, research fellow at the Centre for Palliative Care. “Most people immediately think it’s care of the dying or of the terminally ill. And while palliative care is certainly for people with advanced incurable diseases in most instances — that’s not to say it happens only in the last weeks or months of life,” she explains.

The Centre is a collaboration between the University of Melbourne and St Vincent’s Hospital. Its focus is on improving methods of service delivery, improving support for family caregivers and helping patients and families manage their common symptoms associated with advanced disease.

Despite being a relatively new field in medicine, the evidence of palliative care’s importance is mounting.

“The key to success, Ms Collins says, is introducing the patient to palliative care early, to establish sufficient supports and reduce the chances of crisis events later on.

“But the reality is people often don’t ask about palliative care or it’s not offered because of the common fears of talking about it,” she says.

When palliative care was first suggested to Maureen and Jim Gorman to help manage Maureen’s pancreatic cancer symptoms, they were reluctant to get involved.

“I thought palliative care meant doom and gloom,” says the 70-year-old mother of three and grandmother of six. “But for me, palliative care has been the most wonderful part of the medical system. The total focus is on you, as if you are the only person the staff are thinking of. They have been such a wonderful support to Jim and me.”

Mr and Mrs Gorman were initially introduced to palliative care through one of the clinical studies being undertaken at the Centre, which was investigating optimal management for treating the symptoms of severe weight loss. She responded well to the trial and has since moved into the care of a community palliative care service, Melbourne City Mission.

“I know in my heart that if it wasn’t for Jim and the palliative care girls, I would not still be here,” Mrs Gorman says. “They are just beautiful people.”

The Centre’s own research, conducted with high-grade brain tumour patients at St Vincent’s Hospital, found palliative care was routinely engaged at a very late stage of illness.

“This was interesting, given the type of brain tumour these patients had is incurable, with a known poor rate of survival,” Ms Collins says. “When interviewed, bereaved carers almost universally said they would have preferred their relatives to receive palliative care earlier.”

While the current norm is for people to be referred to palliative care either by request from the family, which happens infrequently, or by other medical teams late in illness, patients experience significant benefits when palliative care is received earlier.

“When you randomise people to receive usual care versus a proactive early palliative care intervention, the evidence is now showing those who receive palliative care earlier do better,” Ms Collins explains. “Patients experience improved quality of life, reduced symptoms, lower distress and importantly, they are more likely to be supported to die at home if that’s their choice.”

The Centre’s research shows that, across the state of Victoria, if a person had been engaged with palliative care at least three months prior to dying, they were more likely to die at home — the preferred outcome for most.

As part of its mission to improve methods of service delivery, the Centre is in its second year of piloting a new model of care for all patients who present to the St Vincent’s Hospital with a new diagnosis of glioma, a form of brain tumour. So far, the program has had a 95 per cent take-up.

“Anecdotally we know there are many more mothers who don’t accept help for a range of reasons such as stigma, shame or feeling they will snap out of it,” Professor Milgrom says.

The PIRI program called PRIMER helps nurses prepare prenatally postnatal women to take action for their emotional and health needs.

Professor Milgrom’s research team has also shown that antenatal depression is a powerful indicator of postnatal depression.

“Our antenatal program, Preventing the Blues Before Birth is a method we’ve developed to effectively treat mother and protect the infant into the birth period.”

In a recent Lancet article which Professor Milgrom co-authored, a summary of the evidence for risk factors were outlined. Expecting parents face a series of new challenges and stresses: physical, emotional, social, and time constraints. Women are more susceptible to depression and anxiety due to family history, the lack of partner support or simply too many demands.

So treating mental health can essentially start in the womb and continue after childbirth.

This is a topic that needs far more research into what positive actions we can support pregnant women to take to reduce depression and anxiety in pregnancy.
In recent years, events at sea, on Nauru and Manus Island have seen Australian asylum-seeker policy come under sharp public scrutiny. And although the boats may have stopped, over 50 million refugees remain scattered around the world. University of Melbourne researchers believe it’s time to change the face of the debate. By Elizabeth Brumby.

FEATURE

I

In June 2014, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that the number of displaced people, refugees and asylum seekers around the world had exceeded 50 million for the first time since World War II. Just as astounding is the fact that it is estimated of these 50 million, over half are children.

Asylum-seeker and refugee policy has been one of the most contentious issues of our time, dividing both the Australian public and political parties alike. Much of the political discussion in recent years has focused on those who have made their way to Australia by smuggler boat. Consequently, the dominant policy imperatives have been one focused on deterrence and ‘turning back the boats’. In response lawyers and human rights advocates continue to voice serious concerns about the legality and morality of offshore processing, mandatory detention and the holding of children in detention facilities. What many agree upon, however, is the need to move the debate beyond its current politicised boundaries. Perhaps Dr Arnold Zable, writer, human rights advocate and Professorial Fellow at the University of Melbourne, captured it best when he noted: “No matter what one thinks, no matter what one’s view is, the fact that asylum-seekers have become a political football is extraordinary in every way.”

Against this backdrop, the University of Melbourne has established the Melbourne Refugee Studies Program (MRSP), a scheme that emerged as a result of a roundtable discussion which involved representatives from across the University, who were keen to contribute to fostering a constructive public debate on asylum seeker and refugee policy and programs.

According to the Director of the Program Professor Harry Minas, a former member of the Commonwealth’s Government Ministerial Advisory Council on Asylum Seekers and Detention, “the core aim of the MRSP is to integrate the body of research and advocacy activities carried out across the University in asylum-seeker and refugee policy.”

“Researchers at Melbourne have been long engaged in a wide range of initiatives to improve our understanding and response to asylum seeker and refugee issues both in Australia and internationally,” Professor Minas says.

“Projects are being implemented across disciplines including a range of highly focused policy and community-oriented ventures in law, health, international studies, politics and education, just to name a few.”

Dr Les Terry, appointed late last year as Research Fellow and Co-ordinator for the MRSP, regards the program’s key task as “bringing it all together”. In moving across the University he has been impressed by the high level of staff and student commitment to a diversity of innovative projects in the asylum-seeker and refugee fields. In his view, the achievements of groups such as Researchers for Asylum Seekers (RAS), which has been actively engaging with the issues for over a decade, are a testimony to the commitment of researchers at Melbourne to building better policy and programs for some of the most vulnerable communities in the world.

It’s an important and challenging role for Dr Terry, but one that several decades of work around the issues of cultural identity, multiculturalism and social equity including a successful year as Chair of Australian Studies at the University of Tokyo have more than prepared him for.

“The view across the University is that more can be done in forging a set of policies and programs consistent with Australia’s lauded past participation in higher education, as well as the better use of skills and experience that many highly qualified people in these communities bring with them.”

In April, the MRSP will host Professor Gillian Triggs, President of the Australian Human Rights Commission, for a round-table discussion and lecture with researchers from across the University. The discussion will explore the far-reaching policy implications of the Commission’s report on children held in detention. The report, tabled in February, details high rates of self-harm, child abuse and a number of cases of sexual assault of children in Australian-run detention facilities during a period spanning both the former Labor and current Coalition governments.

Les Terry says it is the MRSP’s hope that the event will be another key step in building a collective sense of purpose across the whole University on an issue that will define the nation for many years to come.

“The Program offers an opportunity for us to make an important and well founded contribution to the continuing debates around asylum-seeker and refugees issues,” he says. “It gives us a real chance to help shape a positive and widely supported agenda for asylum-seeker and refugee policies in these tumultuous times.”

www.mrsp.unimelb.edu.au

Destination Australia: how did we end up here?
Software student’s Crossy Road app takes the mobile gaming world by storm

A gift to the University of Melbourne from Leigh and Sue Clifford will drive innovation in the field of Neural Engineering. By Chris Weaver.

C

A mobile game that has topped app charts around the world and earned its developers a seven figure salary has been co-created by University of Melbourne Master of Engineering (Software) student Andy Sum.

Crossy Road is an addictive retro-arcade-styled game for iOS and Android phones in which the player controls a chicken and a seemingly endless range of animals, in order to get them across a busy road. The colourful 8-bit creatures must dodge cars, trucks, and leap across treacherous rivers, all while avoiding the nasty hawk that swoops when you hesitate for too long.

The game is now a phenomenal worldwide success and has been downloaded over 40 million times. At the time of writing it is still ranked #13 on the US App Store's free games chart, ahead of established gaming brands such as Candy Crush.

The game was a finalist for Game of the Year at the 2014 Australian Game Developer Awards. Time Magazine called it a “game that you just won’t want to put down.”

And yet Crossy Road took Mr Sum, his business partner Matt Hall and artist Ben Weatherall a grand total of only 12 weeks to make.

“Matt had been heavily inspired by Flappy Bird and last year when it was a big phenomenon. He had that arcade feel, it was simple, and so many people were playing it,” Mr Sum says.

Weatherall, who has been with the company name Hipster Whale, were also inspired by classic 80s arcade games.

“We aimed for the game to be as easy and as accessible as possible. The game had to be free for that to happen.”

And yet even a free game needed to offer them some financial return.

Mr Sum says the monetisation of Crossy Road was quite experimental in its use of in-game purchases and optional advertising, with the team initially unsure it would actually make money.

“We had this idea that if we were transparent with our in-app purchases then people would appreciate that. You can’t buy virtual currency,” he says.

“We have over 60 different characters, and you can buy any of them for a dollar. Many of the characters also change the look of the game. For instance, if you get the penguin it changes the landscape into an icy world.”

Crossy Road has clearly resonated with gamers. While he wouldn’t go into detail, Mr Sum confirms the team’s income has been in the millions, and it has also been featured on Apple’s App Store.

“Once we were featured, we started getting hundreds of thousands of downloads each day. We realised it was big, but we were thinking ‘When is it going to drop?’ However our downloads have just been going up.”

“It took us about a month before we realised how big the game actually was.”

Yet Mr Sum also attributes much of the success to positive feedback from gamers sharing it with their friends.

The game spread really well on its own through word of mouth. We tried to design a game that would be funny and interesting enough that people would want to share it with their friends.

“We’re doing really well, especially compared with many free-to-play titles that spend a lot of money on advertising. We haven’t spent anything.”

Mr Sum says he has been playing games his whole life, but first started creating them when he was around 10 years old.

“I kept teaching myself through high school, and learnt at uni at Melbourne. It was a new concept which improved my programming,” he says.

He turned his hobby into a commercial venture, but two years ago, creating games for PC before trying mobile.

The Hipster Whale team is now in high demand in the tech world, with numerous exciting opportunities arising in recent months, such as invitations to speak at conferences in Amsterdam and San Francisco.

To find out more about Crossy Road and to download the game:

http://www.crossyroad.com/
Proteins that pack a punch

Andi Horvath speaks with medical researcher Michael Parker about new understandings of how protein toxins interact with bacteria.

**PROFILE**

Bacteria that cause illnesses like pneumonia, sore throats and gastro release protein toxins that attack us by punching holes in our cells. Bacteria do this to feed and get nutrients from our cells.

Michael Parker is an honorary Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of Melbourne’s Bio 21 Institute, and Deputy Director of St Vincent’s Institute of Medical Research. He is a world leader in the field of protein-cell membrane interactions.

The protein molecules we eat are broken down and then reformed into a diverse array of shapes and sizes to become the essential building blocks and molecular machines of our body. They can be found both inside and outside cells as well as within the membrane that encapsulates all cells.

When the body’s normal proteins interact with molecules on cell membranes they activate the body’s normal functions. But some foreign proteins can disrupt normal function.

Professor Parker explains that the proteins which interest him in his research are the hole-punching toxins released from bacteria, which recognise cholesterol found in cell membranes, and assemble there in donut shape.

“These ‘donuts of death’ change shape, unfurling a physical punch to blast a hole across the cell membrane. This cell punching can often increase the severity of a bacterial infection. “The action of proteins is dictated by their precise three-dimensional molecular structures,” he says.

“So if we can determine the protein structure, we can identify which parts of the protein interact with the cell, and how they do so. We can work out how diseases proceed at the atomic level. But more importantly it also provides the basis for the design of drugs that could thwart the punching of cells.”

Professor Parker says that understanding 3D protein structures has enabled researchers to design ‘smart drugs’, where chemists can custom-design drugs to interact with proteins that cause disease.

“This has the potential to shave years and millions of dollars off traditional drug-design approaches,” Professor Parker says.

A key example of this work was a project in the late 1990s in which Professor Parker, with colleague Professor Colin Masters from the University of Melbourne, sought to determine the complete structure of amyloid precursor protein, a cell membrane-bound receptor that plays a central role in Alzheimer’s disease.

This work has led to an understanding of some of the normal roles of the protein. Most excitingly, using the Australian Synchrotron the team has obtained a detailed picture of how current Alzheimer’s drugs in clinical trials interact with proteins.

One of Dr Parker’s current projects is looking at a particular gangrene-causing bacterium. With his colleague Dr Mike Kuper from the Victorian Life Sciences Computation Initiative the researchers have constructed colourful computer simulations of the 3D ‘donut of death’ protein clumping on cell surfaces and packing a punch.

“These computer simulations are really useful as they can show you surprising new perspectives that inspire experiments both on computer and in the laboratory. Not only could we design drugs to stop the donuts of death forming but we could also make protein donuts to use as bioensors that could measure the flow of chemicals inside and outside cells.

“Bacterial toxins are exciting work. A hole-punching toxin called lactonyn from a bacterium found in the mouth and throat recognises sugars on the surface of cancer cells.

“Imagine if we could engineer this protein toxin to punch a hole in these cancer cells but leave normal cells alone – a so-called ‘magic bullet’. Protein structures not only allow us to see biological processes but also imagine new useful ones,” Professor Parker says.

www.bio21.unimelb.edu.au

**LEARNING AND TEACHING**

A nyone who has ever sat with a therapist will be familiar with the rather clichéd question ‘Tell me about your childhood’. But recounting seminal moments in the story of a person’s life has a critical role to play, by revealing to the therapist the dominant themes and crucial relationships that exist and often persist for the therapy-seeker.

A relatively new form of therapy known as Narrative Therapy, pioneered in Australia by Adelaide psychotherapist Michael White, seeks to help people re-author personal stories that may not be helpful in an individual’s life.

At the University of Melbourne a new Masters of Narrative Therapy and Community Work has proved enormously popular since it was introduced in 2014.

Social Work’s Professor Louise Harms says 51 students enrolled in the program last year.

“Narrative Therapy is proving very popular among people from areas where people are struggling to recover from the trauma of war and conflict,” Professor Harms says, citing Narrative Therapy’s use to support children in a Palestinian trauma centre.

“Where community recovery from trauma is needed, or where intervention, recovery and resistance are required, Narrative Therapy can play a powerful role. It’s also often used to work with people who’ve experienced sexual assault, trauma or loss, torture and who have a range of conditions and illnesses. Some significant success has been had in working with people with anorexia.

“Students taking our course report feeling empowered by their learning, and able to return to their communities as practitioners trained to help liberate people from stories of oppression and to reconnect with moments of strength. “In that way it’s quite a political therapeutic act, which challenges broader cultural stories,” she says.

As a ‘post-modern’ approach to therapy Professor Harms says a key feature of Narrative Therapy is its validation of human rights and social justice.

“Narrative Therapy challenges dominant forces and norms that may be oppressive and so far for instance has been useful in dealing with transgender and gay rights issues. It allows the therapy seeker to work with the therapist to change the discourse around problems an individual may be experiencing. “The mantra of Narrative Therapy is ‘The person isn’t the problem, the problem is the problem’, and it acknowledges that people are the experts in their own lives and have the ability to change their relationship with problems,” Professor Harms says.

“By externalising problems rather than seeing them as a part of a person’s nature, for instance talking about depression troubling a person rather than a person being depressed, therapist and client can come to an inherent belief in optimism, confident that a problem can be addressed, and that life can be different.”

The Master of Narrative Therapy and Community Work is offered in partnership with the Dulwich Centre in Adelaide, and open to students with qualifications in a cognate discipline (including but not restricted to nursing, psychology, social work, teaching, and medicine) and some relevant work experience.

www.commercial.unimelb.edu.au/narrativetherapy

Katherine Smith speaks with Social Work’s Professor Louise Harms about the rise in interest in narrative therapy from training as well as therapeutic perspectives.

Re-authoring stories of self: how narrative therapy works

**LEARNING AND TEACHING**

A nyone who has ever sat with a therapist will be familiar with the rather clichéd question ‘Tell me about your childhood’. But recounting seminal moments in the story of a person’s life has a critical role to play, by revealing to the therapist the dominant themes and crucial relationships that exist and often persist for the therapy-seeker.

A relatively new form of therapy known as Narrative Therapy, pioneered in Australia by Adelaide psychotherapist Michael White, seeks to help people re-author personal stories that may not be helpful in an individual’s life.

At the University of Melbourne a new Masters of Narrative Therapy and Community Work has proved enormously popular since it was introduced in 2014.

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www.commercial.unimelb.edu.au/narrativetherapy
A new exhibition to open at the Potter Museum late in March will feature works from the Wesfarmers Collection, acquired by the company over three decades.

Luminous World brings together a selection of contemporary paintings, objects and photographs from the Collection in a conversation about light.

Wesfarmers is one of Australia’s largest listed companies, the parent company of several of Australia’s leading retail brands, including Coles, Bunnings, Target and Kmart among many others. The company has collected Australian art for over three decades.

From then General Manager John Bennison’s first acquisition in 1977 of a pastoral scene by the Australian impressionist Elioth Gruner, the purpose of Wesfarmers Arts has been to accentuate the value of art in the workplace and encourage an understanding of the importance to society of supporting creative thinking and artistic vision.

The Wesfarmers Collection comprises paintings, photographs, works on paper and sculpture by leading Australian artists from the colonial period through to contemporary times. In recent years, the scope of the collection has expanded to include work by leading New Zealand artists and a greater emphasis placed on representing the rich diversity of contemporary Australian Indigenous art.

The collection is shared with the community through an active loan and exhibition program. Director of the Ian Potter Museum at the University of Melbourne Kelly Gellatly says through works of scale and conceptual invention that chart the range and depth of the Wesfarmers Collection, Luminous World presents 60 significant contemporary paintings, photographs and objects by some 50 leading Australian and New Zealand artists.

“In its symbolic resonance and physical manifestations, the subject of light offers an ever-expanding array of possibilities for art today, embracing exploration of the properties of light from the perspective of the optical experience, the connection between the movements of the stars and the cycles of life on earth; and the diversity of cultural, mythic and spiritual ideas with which light has come to be associated.”

Artists represented in the exhibition include Susan Norrie, Rosemary Laing, Howard Taylor, Dale Frank, Paddy Bedford, Bill Henson, Fiona Pardington (NZ), Brian Blanchflower, Brook Andrew, Timothy Cook and Nyapanyapa Yunupingu.

“These artists traverse a diversity of cultural, aesthetic and philosophical perspectives in works that reveal the role light plays in both creating and revealing our world,” Ms Gellatly says, “from an enduring fascination with the way in which life on earth is bound to events playing out in the celestial realm, to the influence on the contemporary imagination of the universe of artificial light in which we live today.”

— Katherine Smith

The exhibition is on at the Ian Potter Museum of Art, the University of Melbourne from Tuesday 31 March.
Synthi100 comes out of retirement

Kieran O'Shea learns about an expert's career fascination with one of the world's few operational Synthi 100 electronic modular synthesisers.

One of a few original Synthi 100s in the world has been restored to its original condition at the University of Melbourne, with the aid of a grant from the Guiberson Foundation. It became the centrepiece of the Conservatorium’s Electronic Music Studio, allowing for forays into the electronic avant-garde music of the 1970s, “a time when electronic treatments of pitched and non-pitched music was developing, along with Musique Concrète techniques,” said the assemblage of various natural sounds to produce an aural montage,” Mr Craythorn explains.

Mr Craythorn spent 12 years working closely with students and composers to create experimental electronic music.

“I was experimenting with the machine’s extensive sonic capabilities, microtonal tuning and seamless glissandos that you hear demonstrated in Perry Grainger’s Free Music,” Mr Craythorn says. Late in the 1980s the instrument went into storage as people were drawn away from the warmth and texture of analogue, to the convenience of digital machines.

After a condition report in 2013, the Synthi was found covered in dust with parts missing, circuit cars discoloured with oxide and widespread component failures. In July 2014 it was decided that Mr Craythorn would focus on a project to repair the Synthi 100.

“I had to remove all electronics down to the wiring loom and individually remove each of the Synthi’s 94 circuit cards and 185 diats, cleaning them using specialty lubricants and an ultrasonic bath,” he explains.

“Important items such as the manuals, patch pins and power leads were missing. The sequencer power supply was also misplaced during the move to VCA in Southbank.”

Mr Craythorn spent around 120 hours working on the restoration and the cost of spare parts was about $1500. This year he put in a further 80 hourly refurbishing the 185 potentiometers.

It has been only during the last year as he transitions into retirement that Mr Craythorn has had a chance to reflect on his career and the composers and their works that were produced on the Synthi 100.

“My first day on the job working in the Electronic Music Studio was the start of an exciting journey, a mission that would demand focus and determination to last the distance and to be resilient to the many changes. Four decades on and facing retirement from the nine transitions into retirement that Mr Craythorn learns about an expert’s mark an experience, but is not exempt from degradation or environmental change. Encountering this lexicon eye-to-eye, we cannot escape the poignancy of the moment. Gabriel Orozco’s descriptively simple video sits in contrast to the majestic panoramas of Adams and Delfield Cook, and introduces the intimacy of sensation. The artist turns a river pebble over in his hand, again and again, smoothing and polishing its surface. With this simple gesture, his hand takes the place of the rushing water that has eroded the sharp edges of the fragment for centuries. Susan Jacobs and Andrew Hazewinkel’s collaborative project is an abstracted depiction of sunlight passing through a lens made of ice, and suggestive of a pure world of light and beauty prior to human evolution. Seemingly like relics, each of Jamie North’s sculptures is a living microcosm. Their apocalyptic ambience is undermined by the life system each structure supports, and North reminds us that even in the most inhospitable places life, growth and evolution prevail.

As does beauty – the three Moons photographs by Mel O’Callahan glow with the shimmering insignence of the moon’s lunar surface. But what is this natural phenomenon? O’Callahan’s work tends toward a revised conception of the so-called natural by investigating constructed form with a pure and magical quality.

David Haines’s two-screen video projection and Bremdaus Simīla’s photographs feature the elemental as protagonists. For Haines, two contrasting environments threaten to consume the individual without a trace in Day & Night (2005), whereas it is the cloud itself that is captured and controlled by Simīla in his striking Nimbus series.

Nature/Revelation will be on display 31 March to 5 July. The exhibition forms a key component of the ‘Art/Climate-change’ festival presented by Climarte: arts for a safer climate. This festival of climate change-related arts and ideas includes curated exhibitions at a number of museums and galleries alongside a series of keynote lectures and forums featuring local and international speakers.

The University of Melbourne, with the Potter as project leader, is the Principal Knowledge Partner of the Climarte program. Other divisions of the University contributing to the Festival include: the ARC Centre of Excellence for Climate System Science, the Australian-German College of Climate & Energy Transitions, the Carlton Connect Initiative, the Centre for Advanced Studies at Trinity College, the EU Centre on Shared Complex Challenges, Melbourne School of Design, the Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute, and the Victorian Eco Innovation Lab.

Climarte: addressing climate change through art
Sheldrake scholarships to support students pursue nursing and teaching dreams

An awareness of how easily educational opportunities can be closed down by circumstances has led nurse Julie Sheldrake to establish education and nursing scholarships at the University of Melbourne. By Chris Weaver.

Sheldrake wants to make life easier for students, and to that end, she has established the Dorothy Jean Ineke Scholarships in Education and Nursing. The Dorothy Jean Ineke Scholarships in Education and Nursing are the result of Ms Sheldrake's long-standing devotion to her mother, who died in 2011.

"Mum always wanted me to make my own career, and provided general encouragement," she says. "She didn't have many possibilities herself, because of the Great Depression and didn't have a wealthy family, meaning she was expected to go out and earn a living at the end of high school."

Dorothy Sheldrake (nee Ineke) faced hardships. Her husband died young, forcing Dorothy to run his chain of butchers and abattoirs, while also raising two young children. Her financial situation improved only after she remained. Ms Sheldrake benefited from these later advantages and credits her mother and stepfather for their support. She believes now is the time to give back and has honoured her mother accordingly through a scholarship program in both nursing and education. Her interest in nursing reflects her professional experiences.

"I enjoyed nursing, but it was very hard work," she says. "I worked at the Alfred Hospital, which was such a big and busy hospital that it entailed a lot of responsibility for a young person." Ms Sheldrake's nursing career took her to Townsville, where she began to specialise her professional knowledge and expanded her general knowledge – part of a lifelong fascination with education.

"I believe scholarships help people continue their education when financially they might not have been able to do so," she says. "I think generally it’s much, much more difficult now for people to afford these degrees." Julie's decision to give to Melbourne derived from both a pre-existing connection and an awareness of the work of Believe – the Campaign for the University of Melbourne.

"It certainly didn't cost me anything like as much as it does now to complete my postgraduate certificate," she says. "Melbourne has a good reputation and some prestige throughout Australia. I believe scholarships help people continue their education when financially they might not have been able to do so," she says.

"Hopefully giving scholarships makes people's lives a bit easier while they are studying," Ms Sheldrake said.

"Melbourne has a good reputation and some prestige throughout Australia. I believe scholarships help people continue their education when financially they might not have been able to do so," she says.

Ms Sheldrake's knowledge became more specialised upon returning to Melbourne, where she became a renal nurse at Royal Melbourne Hospital. She remained in this specific field for the rest of her career, becoming the Hospital’s dialysis centre manager and dialysis co-ordinator for Victoria's regional hospitals.

The Royal Melbourne Hospital also led her to an association with the University of Melbourne, where she completed a postgraduate certificate in renal nursing. There were times in her career when study and work coincided.

"I always had to work alongside my postgraduate nursing studies, as there were no scholarships," she says. "Working while studying was just part of life." While nursing was a natural focus for support, Julie also established scholarships for teaching students at the Melbourne Graduate School of Education.

"Getting your Monet's worth: how the international art market is changing

Art. It’s prestige, it’s investment, it’s a globally traded commodity and some of it is inspirational, provocative and beautiful. But it’s also a useful indicator of where money is. In a recent episode of the University of Melbourne’s research talk show "Up Close", host Lynne Haultain spoke with Dr Meaghan Wilson-Anastasios about the changing landscape of the international art trade.

"Up Close:" We’ve seen the rise of some very serious new entrants into the international art market of late: who would they be?

MEAGHAN WILSON-ANASTASIOS: Art is a commodity and the people we’re talking about are treating it that way. In that sense, it’s just like a Ferrari: it’s a luxury good. Buyers are people with a heap of money, and they’re buying art as a luxury good but also as another form of asset.

People rarely buy art beyond a certain price. If you go to Ikea and buy a $200 painting to hang above your TV, you don’t at any point think you’re going to get money back from that. You’re buying something as a decorative piece of wall art.

But people who spend millions on works of art obviously expect they are going to be able to recoup some, if not all, of their investment at some point in the future.

"Up Close:" Is it true the emphasis on traditional markets in Europe and the US has weakened, and there are new buyers from the Middle East, Eastern Europe and Asia?

MWA: Most certainly and it’s probably what has allowed the art market to survive in recent years, post the Global Financial Crisis. Recent figures show most art is still being sold in America, but not necessarily to American collectors. A lot of international buyers acquire their art in New York. But the second highest percentage revenue generated was in China.

Christie’s recently estimated 16 per cent of their contemporary art sales went to buyers from the Middle East, which is enormous. These are people who have entered the market only in the past 10 years.

"Up Close:" There’s some great characters in this ‘story’ and one I’ve read about is Sheikha Moazya bint Saleh Al Thani from Qatar, known as the Queen of the art world because she has spent billions over the last few years, amassing a huge collection for a planned major complex of galleries in Doha. Has that had a disturbing effect on the market?

MWA: It’s certainly had an effect in terms of the art that is being sought out, because there’s a strong taste for contemporary British, American and European art from Middle Eastern collectors. She’s a very interesting character. She’s a member of the Qatari royal family, but was educated at Duke University (in the USA). She’s been the driving force in the establishment of the Museum for Islamic Arts in Doha, which is considered one of the top 10 museums in the world. She’s also a very serious collector of traditional Islamic works of art but she’s now buying Damien Hirst, Murakami, Jeff Koons.

"Up Close:" So is art a good investment? How risky is it?

MWA: On the one hand it’s making money now, yes it is. It’s the old global village/social media/internet revolution that’s creating a market place where people can negotiate, buy and sell minute by minute around the world, which is something that didn’t exist 10 or 15 years ago. But there have been spikes. In the late 1980s there were Japanese collectors who concentrated on Impressionism and Post-Impressionism. In the late ‘80s into the ‘90s Russian oligarchs emerged who started buying 20th century artistic work. So it’s happened before, just not on this scale. The art market really has globalised. It wouldn’t have entered Christies and Sotheby’s minds to have an office in Shanghai 20 years ago.

"Up Close:" How risky is it? MWA: At the very top of the market, art is a good investment. If you invest $100 million in a painting, there’s a good chance you’ll get that and more back in the future. The unfortunate fact is the vast majority of work is bought and sold in commercial galleries rather than in big auction houses, and is worth only a fraction of the purchase price once out the door.

"Up Close:" What sort of margin are Christie's and Sotheby's making?

MWA: Their turnover is in the billions: Sotheby's was around $5 billion last year and Christie's was $3.5 billion. They’re running very expensive businesses. The amount of money they have to invest to actually stage these auctions is significant. They get what is called a buyer’s premium, which can be between 15 and 25 per cent of the hammer price and sellers would usually give the auction house around 15 to 20 per cent commission, so auction houses are generally getting between 30 and 40 per cent of the selling price.

"Up Close:" How well regulated is this market?

MWA: It’s predominately unregulated. There are things you can’t do, but there’s no peak body moderating behaviour. As is the case in the real estate industry, auctioneers can’t use phony bidding to artificially inflate prices. But the way the auctioneers operate, you can’t tell whether they’re calling for a bid or they have a bid. Good auctioneers are masterful and it’s a dangerous world. A prominent auctioneer once described it to me as the Wild West: it’s certainly a fraught environment for people to be buying and selling art.

Listen to the full episode of UpClose at:


http://culture-communication.unimelb.edu.au/
What’s at the edge of the universe and how far can we see?

Andi Horvath learns about the interactions of time with space when we attempt to see into the distant universe.

**H ave you ever wondered?**

Dr Katie Mack is a theoretical astrophysicist at the University of Melbourne. Her research explores new ways to learn about the early universe and fundamental physics using astronomical observations. She helps us understand the edges of the universe, which means getting our heads around not just vast space but deep time. Hold onto your helmet, it’s going to be a wild ride.

It takes eight minutes for sunlight from the sun to reach the earth, and when we look at the stars at night, which are in fact other far away suns, it takes a lot longer for that light to reach the earth. In some cases, we are looking at the stars in their positions and seeing them as they were thousands of years ago. Even though the light from these stars has travelled at the speed of light, the distances are so vast it takes thousands of years for that light to get here. So the photographs through telescopes we take today show how the cosmos was positioned long ago. Some of these stars may have already burnt out thousands of years before the light is apparent to us.

Cosmologists use light waves, radio waves, radiation and microwaves to see our universe. But how far or long ago can we ‘see’?

“The farther away objects are from us, the farther into the past we can see,” Dr Mack explains. “If we look far enough away, we see things as they were in the very distant past, even as far back as the beginning of the universe. That defines what we call the observable universe – we can’t see anything beyond that part of the universe because light would have taken longer than the age of the universe to get here. We can’t ‘see’ the edges of the observable universe as they are ‘now’ because distances are so vast that any light produced today will take billions of years to get to us. On top of this, the universe is expanding, and some parts of the universe are moving away from us faster than light can travel, so their light can never catch up with the expansion to reach us.

“Even though we have no way of seeing the edges as they are today, we can see signatures of the edges as they were in the past, a very long time ago. The European Space Agency’s Planck satellite orbits our sun and ‘sees’ differences in the intensity of microwave light. This telescope captures the oldest light of the universe, when it was just 380,000 years old (compared with its current age of 13.8 billion years).”

“Even though our universe was very young it was dense and glowing with heat. As it expanded and cooled, the leftover light from the ‘primordial fireball’ began travelling freely through space, being stretched out by the expansion. This light is known as the cosmic microwave background.”

This begs the question: if we paused the expansion of the universe, could we calculate its distances?

“Think eat talk grow at the University of Melbourne,” the University of Melbourne and Carlton Connect Initiative continue to support the Farmers Market at the University of Melbourne.

Every Wednesday
11am–3pm, Union Lawn
Until 27 May

Cosmic microwave background (CMB) as observed by Planck. The CMB is a snapshot of the oldest light in our Universe, imprinted on the sky when the Universe was just 380,000 years old. It shows tiny temperature fluctuations that correspond to regions of slightly different densities, representing the seeds of all future structure: the observable stars and galaxies of today. Image: European Space Agency.
Number of people released from prison unknown: new research finds

Despite an annual public investment of more than $3 billion, nobody knows how many people cycle through Australia’s prisons each year. Anne Rahilly reports.

In a paper released in late February in the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health, Associate Professor Stuart Kinner and Mr Alex Avery from the School of Population and Global Health have outlined how a lack of basic statistical reporting makes service planning for people being released from prison difficult.

There is mounting evidence that release from prison is a critical time associated with relapse to drug use, deteriorating health and an increased risk of preventable death. Almost two in five people released from prison return within two years.

According to Associate Professor Kinner, effective transitional support is pivotal to improving such outcomes.

“In other large, state-based systems such as public hospitals and schools, accurate, transparent and readily available to the general public,” Associate Professor Kinner said.

Yet, despite a recurring public investment of more than $3 billion a year, equivalent data are not available to Australia’s correctional systems. This has to change.

The number of people in prison on 30 June of each year is reported annually by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. However, the researchers showed that the number of people released from prison each year is about 25 per cent greater.

On 30 June 2013, 30,775 people were recorded as being in Australian prisons but an additional 38,576 were released from prison that year.

The researchers also found that young people, Indigenous people and women were over-represented among those released, such that current statistics dramatically under-estimate the number of people with these characteristics flowing through the prison system.

“For example, we estimate that there are 3.7 young, Indigenous women released from prison each year in Australia, for every young, Indigenous woman in prison on 30 June,” Associate Professor Kinner said.

Professor Shaun Ewen, Foundation Director of the Melbourne Roche Centre for Indigenous Health in the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences said the research showed that government and community leaders don’t have the capacity to count how many Indigenous people cycle through Australian correctional centres and that the existing measures systematically under-estimate the numbers of Indigenous Australians in prison.

“The most recent Closing the Gap progress report recommended developing a target for reducing imprisonment of Indigenous Australians. Indigenous Australians are 15 times more likely than non-Indigenous Australians to be incarcerated, and we know that every time someone is released from prison, their risk of preventable death increases,” Professor Ewen said.

“If we’re going to get serious about closing the gap and setting a target for reducing Indigenous Australians in prison, we need to get the basics right first. And that includes routine, accurate and public reporting of the number of Indigenous people who cycle through Australian prisons each year,” he said.

2015 Fulbright Scholarships

The University of Melbourne is celebrating the recent announcement of three new Fulbright Scholars. They are Rachel Heenan (an expert in Global Paediatric Health), Mark Putland (an Emergency Medicine specialist) and a world leader in Tim McCormack (an International Humanitarian and Criminal Law).

The scholarships support recipients for professional development in the United States, promoting cultural and educational exchange between nations.

Vice-Principal (Engagement) at the University of Melbourne, Adrian Collette, says the scholarships highlight the University of Melbourne’s world-class reputation for teaching and learning.

“The University of Melbourne produces outstanding graduates and the Fulbright program enables talent to be further developed and shared globally,” Mr Collette says. Associate Rachel Heenan, who is pursuing a career in paediatric infectious diseases, will be using her 2015 Fulbright Postgraduate Scholarship to undertake a Master of Public Health in the US. Dr Heenan hopes to build on the existing research collaboration between the University of Melbourne and the Harvard School of Public Health with an aim to improve the health of children in marginalised and disadvantaged communities, particularly Indigenous Australians.

Melbourne Medical School Graduate Mark Putland will be researching hospital trauma systems when he takes up his Fulbright Professional Scholarship at the Hospital of Pennsylvania Trauma Centre. Having worked in Emergency Medicine for the past 17 years, Dr Putland will travel to several US states examining the different trauma units are modelos and implemented to suit local needs.

International law expert Tim McCormack, from the Melbourne Law School, will take up the position of Charles H Stockton Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence in the Stockton Center for the Study of International Law at the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island.

As a Fulbright Senior Scholar, he will continue his ARC-funded project on the regulation of emerging weapons technologies and will focus on issues of responsibility for violations of the law. Professor McCormack is the Special Adviser on International Humanitarian Law to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court in The Hague and has also been appointed Visiting Professor at Harvard Law School to teach International Criminal Law in their Winter Term (January 2016).

University welcomes Parkville station commitment

The University has warmly welcomed the City of Melbourne’s announcement of its commitment to commence work on a new multi-billion dollar underground rail line in Parkville.

Premier Daniel Andrews announced the establishment of the Melbourne Metro Rail Authority, paving the way for construction of the Melbourne Metro rail tunnel. The largest rail project in the state since the City Loop, the line will have five stations in total and run underneath Swanston Street. Parkville will be joined on the line by new underground stations at Arden, CBD North, CBD South and Domain.

Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Margaret Sheil congratulated the government on the project, which will provide a huge boost to the University and its partners.

“The University is at the heart of the largest biomedical precinct in the Southern Hemisphere that includes 10,000 staff in major teaching hospitals, medical research institutes and biotechnology companies. And with last year’s official opening of the Peter Doherty Institute, and the forthcoming completion of the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre, the area is only growing in importance.

“We are looking forward to working with the State government to enhance access for students and the Victorian community to this growing precinct which is important to Melbourne’s future,” Professor Sheil says.

Anne Kelso to lead NHMRC

Prominent microbiologist, University of Melbourne alumni and Honorary Professor Anne Kelso has been named as the new NHMRC CEO of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). The appointment recognises Professor Kelso’s work in global health solutions and her emergence as a leading figure in medical research and governance.

Professor Kelso was pivotal in engaging with the international scientific community on influenza strains and immunology during the 2009 flu pandemic which saw the global spread of the deadly new strain H1N1 (swine flu). University of Melbourne Vice-Chancellor Professor Glyn Davis welcomed the appointment.

“Professor Kelso has been an outstanding leader of medical research and its translation to clinical and public outcomes. I join the sector in congratulating her on this important appointment,” Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, Professor Stephen Smith said.

Professor Kelso was a hardworking and dedicated scientist who would continue to be a leader in global health issues and reform.

Revolutionary new stroke treatment

In collaboration with researchers at the Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health, University of Melbourne and Royal Melbourne Hospital neurologist Dr Bruce Campbell has developed a revolutionary new technique to prevent unnecessary disabilities in stroke victims.

Dr Campbell says advanced brain imaging is one of the key features of the study and treatment would help the worst affected patients.

“To actually look into a patient’s brain and see which parts were already irreversibly damaged, and which we couldn’t save, versus how much was actually salvageable if we could get the artery open quickly, is a major difference between our trial and many other trials,” Dr Campbell says.

Dr Campbell developed criteria to identify potentially salvageable brain tissue in stroke patients using CAT scans.
Efficient osteopath regulation = improved care

Tessa Shaw reports on collaborative research with Oxford University into the regulation of the practice of osteopathy in Australia and the UK.

How effective is current regulation of healthcare practitioners, and can it be used to improve the quality of care?

A new study exploring regulation and its unintended consequences on healthcare practitioners has sounded the alarm bells for Dr Michael Fischer, Senior Research Fellow in Organisational Behaviour and Leadership at the University of Melbourne’s Centre for Workplace Leadership.

Dr Fischer was one of six academics who led the research project, “Exploring and explaining the dynamics of osteopathic regulation, professionalism and compliance with standards in practice”, and sees a direct link between the studies conducted in the United Kingdom, and how the results can be applied in Australia, particularly in the wake of four sudden deaths in January this year of three young trainee psychiatrists and a medical intern in Victoria.

The aim of the research into osteopathy regulation was to explore ways to develop regulation that was not only more effective in implementation, but would also positively influence how osteopaths actually practice.

Being sole practitioners not managed by health organisations, osteopaths made convincing test subjects, representative of the wider healthcare sector.

Dr Fischer and his team found that although most osteopaths had confidence in the regulation (most felt the regulator was doing a good job, 82 per cent said they would always report concerns of serious misconduct), 59 per cent actually having previously considered reporting another osteopath, very few osteopaths (only 10 per cent) had actually made a formal complaint to the regulator even when they had serious concerns about a colleague.

The reasons for these seemingly poor lines of reporting are representative of the fear of the effects of damaging reputations and professional careers should a practitioner be investigated.

Widespread perception is that once regulators decide to investigate, every aspect of the practice will be placed under scrutiny (not just the specific complaint), and the risk of bringing additional issues before a tribunal, such as the quality of note-keeping, will be significantly increased.

Osteopaths who had been through a ‘fitness to practice’ tribunal and who had been interviewed by Dr Fischer and his team felt the investigations were not about malpractice, while the experience had led them to practise more defensively. Stories emerged of numerous practitioners who had lost their careers, and others who had been left feeling isolated, devastated and ruined that some had even committed suicide.

In a separate research paper with Dr Gerry McGivern, Dr Fischer discovered that many of the doctors they had interviewed spoke about their own, or close colleagues’, personal experiences of being put through distressing investigations.

Complaints to regulators were particularly threatening to a doctor because, to quote one GP they spoke to: “A doctor’s sense of self is wrapped up in their career; to have that challenged by a serious medical complaint, you have real doubts about yourself. It’s a real affront to your whole identity, your being, yourself, the way your colleagues see you. You find yourself with absolutely no support.”

High expectations, external scrutiny and poor peer support are all factors that were cited as leading to poor reporting and less effective regulation.

“These are the unintended effects of regulation,” says Dr Fischer.

“Doctors and osteopaths have voiced concern about the way that complaints are investigated and the lack of support they receive during the process. They described how anxiety about complaints distracted them, potentially causing them to make further mistakes.”

Dr Fischer and his colleagues hope that further research will lead to regulatory reform that will enable the healthcare sector to practise with more confidence in regulators.

www.workplaceleadership.com.au

Dog and human parasite gene-mapped

Scientists have mapped the genome of a disease-causing canine parasite, leading to hopes for development of targeted treatments. By Louise Bennet.

For the first time, scientists have sequenced the genetic code of Toxocara canis, a roundworm that causes disease in humans and animals. The achievement paves the way for new drugs, vaccines and diagnostic tests.

Toxocara canis parasite causes toxocariasis, a disease that mainly affects young children and is of worldwide socioeconomic importance as hundreds of millions of humans across the world are potentially exposed to the roundworm T. canis. It can also be fatal to young puppies, especially if untreated, when hundreds of worms up to 15 centimeters in length can pack out the entire small intestine.

The international study, published online in the journal Nature Communications, was led by the University of Melbourne and included the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), BGI-Shenzhen, California Institute of Technology and Monash University.

Senior author, Professor Robin Gasser, from the Faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Melbourne, says the parasite causes the condition toxocariasis when passed from infected dogs to humans through contact with faecal material.

“When an animal excretes the worms’ eggs in faeces, the eggs can spread,” Professor Gasser says. “This pathogen causes widespread outbreaks, predominantly in underprivileged communities and developing countries, so the more we know about these parasites the better equipped we are to combat their deadly effects.”

The parasite is relatively well studied from a clinical perspective, but this is the first in-depth investigation of its molecular biology and will provide a useful resource for future molecular studies for this and other related parasites.

“Although this study focused on T. canis, the findings and the technological approaches used should be readily applicable to a wide range of other ascaridoid nematodes (roundworms) of major animal and human health importance,” Professor Gasser says.

www.fvas.unimelb.edu.au

Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences Course Information Day

Saturday 21 March 2015
250 Princes Hwy, Werribee, 10am – 3pm

• Explore our popular Bachelor of Agriculture and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine programs
• Discover masters and higher research programs in veterinary, agricultural and food science
• Attend course information lectures
• Explore a range of other careers in science, veterinary nursing and equine studies
• Tour our world-class Veterinary Teaching Hospital*
• Feast at food stalls to support our students

For more information visit: www.fvas.unimelb.edu.au

* Registrations essential as places are limited
March Timetable

NEW TREATMENTS
WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH 6PM
Coeliac disease, lupus and immune deficiencies - new research, future treatments by Dr Jason Tye-Din, Professor Ian Wicks, Dr Vanessa Bryant, Dr Charlotte Stade, Sir Gustav Nossal ( Walter and Eliza Hall Institute). Walter and Eliza Hall Institute lecture Bookings and enquiries: events@wehi.edu.au, 9344 2555

DAVIS AUDITORIUM, WALTER AND ELIZA HALL INSTITUTE, 1G ROYAL PARADE, PARKVILLE

NURSING EVOLUTION
THURSDAY 12 MARCH 6PM
Moving beyond improving experience: An evolution in cancer nursing research by Professor Mei Krishnasamy (Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre). Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, Marian Barrett Lecture Bookings: http://alumni.unimelb.edu.au/krishnasamy Enquiries: http://moths.unimelb.edu.au/events.moths-rcsp@unimelb.edu.au, 8344 9060
IAN POTTER AUDITORIUM, MELBOURNE SWIM CENTRE, KENNETH MYER BUILDING, ROYAL PARADE, PARKVILLE

RACEHORSE INJURIES
THURSDAY 12 MARCH 6PM
The Science of Horsemanship: Working with bone to prevent injury in racehorses by Dr Chris Whitton (University of Melbourne). Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences Dean’s lecture Bookings and enquiries: http://cdl.ly/N25KMW, haas.unimelb@gmail.com, 9355 4103
TURREN THEATRE, BIOSCIENCES BUILDING (FORMERLY BOTANY), ROYAL PARADE, PARKVILLE

GREAT IRISH FAMINE
WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH 6:30PM
The Long Shadow of the Great Famine on Irish people’s health at home and abroad by Professor Cecily Kelleher (University College Dublin). Population and Global Health, Miegunyah Lecture Enquiries: ruth.hentschel@unimelb.edu.au, 8344 2555

COPLAND THEATRE (FORMERLY BASEMENT THEATRE), THE SPOT, BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS BUILDING, 198 BERKELEY ST CARLTON

MONDAY 9 MARCH 6PM
AUDITORIUM, DOHERTY INSTITUTE, 792 ELIZABETH STREET, PARKVILLE

THURSDAY 12 MARCH 5PM
Perceptions of Mary in Christianity, Judaism and Islam by Judith Dupin (art historian, writer and art curator), Newman College lecture Enquiries: outreach@newm.unimelb.edu.au, 9342 1674
THE GRATORY, NEWMAN COLLEGE, 857 JAVANSTON STREET, PARKVILLE

THURSDAY 12 MARCH 6:30PM
Mexico’s New Transnational Auteurs: Local/Global Cultural Dynamics by Professor Marvin D’Lugo (Clark University). Arts lecture http://alumni.unimelb.edu.au/marinodlugo, jplancy@lyons.unimelb.edu.au, 8344 4700
MAGNAMON BALL THEATRE, GROUND FLOOR, OLD ARTS BUILDING, PARKVILLE

TUESDAY 17 MARCH 7PM
The urban age in question: towards a new epistemology of the urban by Professor Neil Brenner (Harvard University). Design lecture Bookings and enquiries: http://med.unimelb.edu.au/events#010, mhd.eventss@unimelb.edu.au, 9035 4594
LECTURE THEATRE 1 (B117), MELBOURNE SCHOOL OF DESIGN, PARKVILLE

WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH 6PM
Internet Voting and Cybersecurity: What Could Go Wrong? by Alex Haldeman (University of Michigan). Engineering lecture Enquiries: udegs@eng.unimelb.edu.au, 8344 7274
HERBERT WILSON THEATRE, DOUG MCDONELL BUILDING, PARKVILLE

MONDAY 23 MARCH 12NOON
Overview of cancer research with historical and future perspectives by Professor Andreas Strasser (Water and Eliza Hall Institute). Walter and Eliza Hall Institute lecture Enquiries: www.wehi.edu.au, falcone@wehi.edu.au, 9345 2555

DAVIS AUDITORIUM, WALTER AND ELIZA HALL INSTITUTE, 1G ROYAL PARADE, PARKVILLE

THURSDAY 2 APRIL 1PM
The Modi Government: An Early Assessment of its Policies and Impact by Professor Anirnath Madho (University of Melbourne). Australia India Institute Tiffin Talk Bookings and enquiries: http://aii.unimelb.edu.au/events, aii-rsvp@unimelb.edu.au, 9035 7538
SEMINAR ROOM, AUSTRALIA INDIA INSTITUTE, 147-149 BARRY STREET, CARLTON

Antenatal and other mental health issues during pregnancy
Psychologist Jeanette Milgrom discusses mental health issues that can arise in women during pregnancy, and their effect on the developing foetus. Despite considerable research and media attention on postnatal depression (PND), we learn that antenatal and perinatal periods, too, have their associated risks, and that treatment and intervention programs can have a positive impact. Presented by Dr Andi Horvath.

Ivan Oransky, MD teaches medical reporting at New York University. He is vice-president and editor-in-chief of the journal Retraction Watch, founder of MedPage Today, co-founder of Retraction Watch, and founder of Embargo Watch.

The University has used its best endeavours to ensure that material contained in this listing was correct at the time of release. We recommend users of this listing check the information provided with the relevant faculty or department.

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Up Close Podcast
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Let's preview the collegial rivalry that characterises the Melbourne-Monash Varsity Challenge.

It's fair to say that the University of Melbourne and cross-town Monash University are competing for many of Victoria's brightest young minds. And with many celebrated sporting alumni having graduated from both universities over the years (more than 150 years in Melbourne's case) it's not surprising that this rivalry has found its way to the sporting field.

Building on this on-field rivalry (Melbourne and Monash have been Victoria’s best placed universities at the Australian University Games since their inception in 1993 and have won six out of the past 10 Games between them), both universities committed to showcasing their student-athletes in a series of sporting competitions in home-and-away format last year. And with this commitment, the Varsity Challenge was born.

Melbourne University Sport’s Director Tim Lee explains that the success of the Australian Boat Race between Melbourne and Sydney university’s men’s and women’s rowing eights over the past six years has shown that the wider university community has an appetite for marquee sporting events with a focus on collegiate rivalry.

“The Boat Race has steadily built a spectator audience of not only rowing enthusiasts, but of alumni who are looking for an opportunity to reconnect with their former class-mates or club mates, and at the same time, cheer on the current crop of student athletes as they go into battle with one of our traditional university rivals,” Mr Lee says.

“The Varsity Challenge provides this opportunity by maintaining the momentum of Orientation and the start of the university year. The sporting events are on campus, or very close by, and the event almost has a ‘homecoming’ feel about it for the alumni who attend.”

From a student perspective, the University’s student-athletes get very excited about playing in front of a home campus crowd of family, friends and alumni. Student basketballer Tim Clark says it’s a great feeling to be out on court and hear the crowd in the stands cheer on the team’s performance.

“The basketball court on campus can get pretty noisy when it fills up, and it can give you a bit of a lift when the crowd goes a little crazy when someone hits a three-pointer or makes a dunk,” Mr Clark says.

Family, friends and alumni have the opportunity to cheer on their University at this year’s challenge with the Monash leg taking place on Wednesday 11 March where basketball, football and touch football teams will be in action at the Clayton campus.

Melbourne's home leg takes place the following week on Wednesday 18 March with hockey and volleyball on campus, and a marquee Australian Rules football game at Ikon Park (formerly Visy Park) rounding out the challenge for 2015.

Melbourne’s home leg is set to be big, colourful and noisy. The event is set to have something for everyone, with a marching band winding through the campus to lead spectators into the Sports Precinct and then through Princess Park to Ikon Park, face-painting in University black and blue, a free barbecue, Red Bull DJ and a College mascot race. Spectators will also have the chance for a kick-to-kick before and after the footy on the hallowed turf of Carlton Football Club’s home ground.


Celebrate the rivalry that keeps getting bigger

O what a week!
For four days in late February new and returning students celebrated all that the University of Melbourne has to offer as part of Orientation Week.
CONCERTS
Steinway Piano Launch
Friday 13 March, 7pm
Ian Holtham piano, Curt Thompson violin, Alvin Wang cello
Robert SCHUMANN Fantasy in C Major for Piano Op.17
Ludwig van BEETHOVEN Piano Trio in B-flat major, Op. 97 ‘Archduke’
The Vice-Chancellor, professor Glyn Davis AC, will launch the new concert Steinway.
Where: Melba Hall, Royal Pde, Parkville
Admission: Free, bookings essential alumni.online.unimelb.edu.au/steinwaylaunch

The University of Melbourne Orchestra
Sunday 12 April, 5pm
Conductor: Fabian Russell
Solos: Justin Kenealy, saxophone
Program:
Claude DEBUSSY - Prélude à l’apres-midi d’un faune
Henri TOMASI - faune
Claude DEBUSSY - Prélude à l’apres-midi d’un faune

Hourly Lunchtime Concert Series
Derek Jones flute, Kristian Chong piano
Monday 9 March
Monday of semester from 1.10pm – 2pm.
the newly refurbished Melba Hall, held each Monday
A series of lunch hour concerts hosted in
melbournerecital.com.au
Admission: Free, bookings essential
• vca-mcm.unimelb.edu.au/events

• Steinway Piano Launch
• The University of Melbourne Orchestra

SHORT COURSES
ACTING, ART, FILM AND TV, MUSIC AND MUSIC THEATRE
There are a wide range of upcoming short courses at the Victorian College of the Arts and Melbourne Conservatorium of Music. With programs for teens and adults, from novice to experienced, you can fuel the creative fire in your belly. Upcoming short courses include Theatre audition workshops and Summer Schools in Art, Film & TV and Theatre. More information: vca-mcm.unimelb.edu.au/events/shortcourses or 03 9810 3276

EXHIBITIONS
Ian Potter Museum of Art
Swanston Street, Parkville
Gallery hours: Tuesday to Friday 10am–5pm; Saturday and Sunday 12–5pm
Closed Monday
Free admission
Enquiries: 03 8344 0327
W: art-museum.unimelb.edu.au

Object as Score
6 March — 4 April
Sean Baxter, Nathan Gray, Helen Grogan, Larena Kosloff, Igor krenz, Dylan Martorell, Stuart Sherman, Torben Tilly, Danae Valenzia.
Curated by Nathan Gray

' _____ '
10 Apr – 9 May

Halfway There
4 – 28 April
Opening: 9 April, 6 – 8pm with musical performance by LAM
Artist forum: 16 April
Halfway There exhibits works by undergraduate students from the VCA’s Drawing and Printmedia department. The works look critically at visual hierarchies and ask the question, what does drawing mean in a contemporary world?
This exhibition is proudly supported by the City of Melbourne
Where: City of Melbourne Library, 253 Flinders Ln, Melbourne
Admission: Free

SPECIAL EVENTS
Melbourne International Trumpet Festival
Friday 17 – Sunday 19 April
The Melbourne Conservatorium of Music and Australian Trumpet Guild proudly present the Melbourne International Trumpet Festival. Over three days the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music will play host to performances and masterclasses featuring international and Australian guest artists, MCM staff and students.

Meet Melbourne
Did you know that if you live in regional Victoria, you could be eligible for a guaranteed place at the University of Melbourne through Access Melbourne? Our friendly staff will soon be visiting a town near you, so come along and get answers to all your questions about courses and career outcomes, housing options, entry pathways and scholarships.

Bendigo
Tuesday 17 March
Geelong
Wednesday 25 March
Ballarat
Wednesday 22 April
Shepparton
Tuesday 28 April

Albury
Wednesday 29 April
Warrnambool
Wednesday 27 May
Hamilton
Thursday 28 May

Register online
futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/meetmelbourne

Modernist
to Sunday 8 Mar 2015
Margaret Lawrence Gallery
40 Dodds Street, Southbank
Gallery hours: Thursday–Saturday, 12pm–5pm
Admission: Free
Enquiries: 03 9035 9400 or mlgallery@unimelb.edu.au

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