The crumbling state of democracy
Melbourne goes from strength to strength with Times Higher Education ranking

The University has also been named the host of the THE World Academic Summit (WAS) in October 2015. The conference will bring senior university, government and industry leaders from around the world to Melbourne.

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Times Higher Education Editor-at-large Phil Baty says he was delighted to be bringing the Summit to Melbourne. "Not only is Melbourne one of the greatest cities in the world, it is also home to one of the greatest universities in the world.

"So we have the perfect setting, and the perfect host, to build on the success of our 2013 World Academic Summit in Singapore."

"The summit brings together outstanding global thought leaders from industry, government, higher education and research to explore the fundamental role that world-class universities play in pushing the boundaries of our collective understanding and fuelling the future knowledge economy."

“The University has been ranked number one in Australia for the fifth year in a row in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings. Vice-Chancellor Professor Glyn Davis welcomed the announcement and said it reflected the international esteem in which Melbourne’s research and teaching and learning were held.

"It is pleasing to note that generally speaking Melbourne continues to trend upwards in international league tables and is consistently ranked number one in Australia," he said. "While rankings are not the only indicator of the success of an institution, they do provide a benchmark to gauge how we are viewed against our international peers and ideally the things that help you rise in rankings are the things that should be worth doing in themselves to provide students with the best education possible and the community with research outcomes that have a real impact on society.

"Melbourne's position in this and other rankings is the result of a sustained effort from staff across the University to continually deliver outstanding research and curriculum."

Professor Davis said it was pleasing to see Australia's universities had performed strongly overall.

"Australia’s reputation is high in the higher education sector internationally and this appears to be well reflected in the latest league table,“ he says.

The University of Melbourne voice is published by the University of Melbourne through its University Communications Office. Level 1 187 Grattan Street The University of Melbourne Australia 3010

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The University of Melbourne Voice is distributed on the second Monday of each month, as well as to University of Melbourne staff and students, selected public interest near the University, and to the media.

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Q: What is the name and location of Australia’s first legal casino??

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MUP Publications

This month’s featured book is Last Bets by Michaela McGuire

About Last Bets

Last Bets is a true story, a book about how and why in gambling, morals and the law are irrevocably entwined.

On a Sunday evening in July 2011, 40-year-old Anthony Dunning was pinned to the floor of Melbourne's Crown Casino by security staff. Four days later, he died in intensive care at the Alfred Hospital. The incident was reported to the police by two friends who were with Dunning on the night – not by Crown Casino.

Later that week, a spokesperson for the police said that even though Crown had no legal requirement to report such incidents, ‘they probably had a moral obligation’ to do so. Crown Casino said that its employees were 'just doing their job'. Three months later, a young security guard was charged with manslaughter.

Michaela McGuire follows the trial, trying to make sense of the gap between ethics and the law. She speaks to problem gamblers and psychologists, a casino priest and David Walsh, Australia’s most notorious gambler. Last Bets is true crime writing at its best – disturbing, gripping, and unnerving. A must-read for gamblers, the gambling industry, law makers and everyone who cares.

About the author


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Puppy carers in short supply

General Practice vet Dr Leonie Richards from Melbourne University’s Wurribee Animal Hospital explains the benefits to all involved of fostering a Seeing Eye Dog puppy. By Katherine Smith.

Every year in Australia around 40 guide dogs trained by Seeing Eye Dogs Australia (SEDA) are matched with people who are blind or have low vision, and lasting, mutually rewarding relationships get under way.

It takes around $35,000 to train a Seeing eye dog, and they are provided free of charge to users, who form a strong working relationship with the dogs, which guide their owners through the daily routines of home, work or school, public transport, shopping and services.

The dogs are also important as full-time companions, combating the isolation and loneliness that sometimes accompanies low vision.

There is a year-long wait list for people who require a Seeing Eye Dog, but a current shortage of puppy carers has resulted in a reduced number of trained puppies and wait times that are further lengthened.

"SEDA is the only national provider of Seeing Eye Dogs and with current Government funding, we rely on assistance from the community, as well as the love and time of puppy carers," says SEDA General Manager Leigh Garwood.

"With our new, expanded facilities we have the capacity to grow the number of dogs matched to those who need them from 40 to over 100 over the next few years, but due to a lack of carers, we’re currently not able to increase capacity."

To combat the shortage, SEDA has recently embarked on a campaign to recruit new carers for their specially bred dogs.

"Carers take a pup from the age of eight weeks for around 12 months, and are responsible for providing it with love, socialisation and training," Mr Garwood says.

"SEDA’s puppy caring program is a great way for people to give back to the community. Becoming a puppy carer is also ideal for people who are considering adding a dog to their family because it is a great way to ‘test the waters’ before committing to a lifetime pet and, as we have often found, they fall in love with our SEDA pups and continue to participate in our puppy caring program."

The University of Melbourne’s Wurribee Animal Hospital has a variety of connections with SEDA, and Head of General Practice Dr Leonie Richards says correct early socialisation is important for all puppies, but crucial to potential Seeing Eye Dogs.

"Puppies are adorable, fun, inquisitive and playful but they’re also a lot of work. "All puppies need plenty of attention when they’re small, and Seeing Eye Dog puppies will obviously be just like a regular pup. They’ll be full of beans and very cute, but also probably not properly toilet-trained. They’ll chew things and be destructive, and they may try a bit at night to start."

"We often recommend a radio on low in the night so they don’t feel lonely, and they need to be kept warm and cosy. When people bring a puppy home they often underestimate just how warm he or she would have been, curled up with mum and siblings, so a bed in a draught-free room with a soft toy to snuggle with is important for a good night’s rest for everyone."

Dr Richards also says that consistency of training is necessary.

"In terms of rewards and training it’s important that everyone is working from the same ‘rulebook’ so the puppy can learn what is expected of it – and Seeing Eye Dog carers will benefit from quite a lot of support from the organisation regarding training and behaviour."

"Although the training may be a bit more intense, when you put a lot of time into it, you’ll get a lot of reward back."

And Dr Richards says that because puppies are such people magnets, one of the extra benefits of raising a Seeing Eye Dog puppy is the opportunity for the PNG timber industry to focus on promoting products made from PNG secondary and plantation forests as eco-friendly,” she says.

Making Papua New Guinea’s community-managed free plantations sustainable

Research from Melbourne’s Department of Forest and Ecosystems Science aims to improve wood processing in Papua New Guinea and increase profitability to local communities. By Stuart Winthrop.

A new research project led by the University of Melbourne aims to make Papua New Guinea’s (PNG) forestry industry financially sustainable and bring social and environmental benefits to the developing nation.

The project – Enhancing value added wood processing in Papua New Guinea – will investigate how improvements to the local wood processing industry, technical ability and knowledge can help PNG increase employment and income for local communities and create flow-on improvements in infrastructure, social services, education and environmental sustainability.

The densely forested nation has made inroads against illegal logging in recent years and limited legal logging to plantation and secondary forests (those that have regrown in previously deforested areas).

However, project leader Associate Professor Barbara Ozarska from the Department of Forest and Ecosystems Science says most PNG forestry industry is limited to the sale of unprocessed logs.

"These unprocessed logs sell for a low price, with only 20 per cent of processing occurring onshore, which limits the financial benefit to the local communities that own these forests," Associate Professor Ozarska says.

The project, funded by a $1.1 million Australian Competitive Grant from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, will help the PNG government meet its goal to increase the proportion of onshore processing to 80 per cent by 2030.

"This policy initiative creates great opportunity for the PNG timber industry to focus on promoting products made from PNG secondary and plantation forests as eco-friendly," she says.

By creating higher-value timber products, PNG’s forestry industry will reduce its dependency on log exports.

The project will also investigate the viability of carvers and craftsmen in village communities to make wooden carvings and handicraft components from low quality timber and off-cuts.

While PNG’s forestry sector has been criticised in the past for illegal and environmentally unsustainable logging practices, in recent years, the PNG government has made commitments with development partners to improve the standards of its forestry operations.

Recent initiatives include a revision of the PNG Logging Code of Practice and collaboration with various international donors, including Australia and the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) to develop appropriate systems to demonstrate that exported forest products have been produced legally.

In 2009, PNG and Australia signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to work towards sustainable forest management and the certification of forest and forestry activities to tackle illegal logging. The MOU was recently reviewed and will continue until 2019.

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Currently PNG is finalising country-specific guidelines to help its timber industries to meet the Australian Illegal Logging (Prohibition) Act.

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Study finds a lack of knowledge and interest in superannuation among young

A new study has found young Australians are generally uninterested and sceptical about superannuation. By Heather Gasgoine.

The factors preventing the greater participation of Asian-Australians in public life, according to figures from the 2011 census, represent 11 per cent of the population.

Despite academic and social success, Asian-Australians remain under-represented in our nation’s public life. Pamie Fung explores the reasons why.

Where are Asian-Australians in public life?

Despite the rapid growth and diversification of Asian communities in our nation, Asian-Australians who are active in public life,” said an expert from the Asia Institute.

The census figures illustrate a well-educated and retireebound segment of the Australian population, representing 11 per cent of the population, and a growing number of permanent and temporary residents (including students) are from the top two Asian immigrant source countries, China and India.

The study also found that respondents did not check their accounts regularly or change investment options, and only one third read their periodic statements. A very small number planned for retirement.

At the same time, their attitudes towards superannuation and retirement planning could best be described as worried and sceptical.

One only third consider themselves well informed about superannuation and most are not confident about retirement planning or prospects for retirement itself. These results indicate the need for more education and information about the benefits of superannuation specifically tailored to this age group.

Information could also be targeted at those groups the study identified as having lesser knowledge about superannuation, including those in regional areas.

Government policy is that we should be providing for our retirement rather than relying on the pension. To achieve this objective, superannuation has been made compulsory. Yet our finding of a lack of basic knowledge about superannuation means that at a time when respondents need to make important decisions such as which fund to join and within a fund, what investment option to choose, many are not equipped to make effective decisions. Yet these decisions will have significant consequences for the adequacy of retirement.

A lack of engagement with superannuation means that it is less likely for respondents to monitor their superannuation and make changes when this is needed.

Professor Ramsay says added to these concerns was the fact most respondents overestimated their actual knowledge of superannuation and that only one in five of the respondents said they trusted the superannuation industry.

This last finding tells us that the industry itself needs to work harder with this demographic to show how it adds value and to build trust,” he says.

Where are Asian-Australians in public life?

As an expert from the Asia Institute suggests, the results of the study show that Asian-Australians are so successful academically. Yet when they reach their 40s and 50s, they seem to disappear from public life, presumably stuck in middle management.”

According to figures from the 2011 census, 2.4 million people self-identify as having Asian ancestry in Australia, representing 11 per cent of the population, and a growing number of permanent and temporary residents (including students) are from the top two Asian immigrant source countries, China and India.

The census figures illustrate a well-educated Asian community, with high numbers holding tertiary qualifications and a concentration of second-generation Asian-Australians in professional occupations.

Mr Yeap is funding a new research project at the University of Melbourne on ‘Asian-Australians and Public Policy’, led by Asia Institute Director Pookong Kee.

The project aims to document Asian-Australian experiences in public life and examine the factors preventing the greater participation of Asian-Australians in electoral politics, as well as in leadership positions in the professions and in academia.

In the United States over the past ten years, there have been a dramatic increase in elected or appointed Asian-American officials, largely due to the growth of middle-class subunits with a substantial Asian population,” Professor Kee says.

However, at a recent roundtable event here in Australia where leading scholars of Asian immigrant communities gathered, a picture emerged of the under-representation of Asian in politics in two of the four immigrant-receiving, Pacific-rim countries, Australia and New Zealand.

Professor Kee says the next step in the project is a forum scheduled to coincide with the Victorian state election in November to explore the specifics of the lack of presence of Asian leaders in public life in the Australian context.

The forum is an exciting opportunity to gather established and emerging Asian-Australian leaders to flesh out their shared experiences, and to hear from those few Asian-Australians who are active in public life,” he says.
Can democracy be salvaged for the 21st century?

Public Policy’s Mark Triffitt explores the woes, challenges and opportunities of democracy in the 21st century.

For democracy, it is the best of times and the worst of times. On one level, things have rarely looked brighter. National elections in 2014 in two of the world’s most populous countries – India and Indonesia – meant that more people participated in elections than ever before.

Around one billion voters filled out ballots and placed their political faith and aspirations in the liberal democratic system.

Beneath the surface, however, there are critical signs all is far from well.

Democracy’s woes

Across the West, trust in political leaders and democratic institutions has fallen to new lows. Membership of political parties has dropped below 5 per cent in most Western democracies, while in Australia the most optimistic numbers suggest it is now barely 2 per cent.

Parliaments and politicians seem increasingly incapable of resolving the big challenges of our time as sound, future-focused policy is constructed by piecemeal, short-term, short-sighted spin and headline making.

Such is the malaise that a recent survey by the Australian National University found only 43 per cent of all Australians believe it makes a difference which party is in power – a 25 per cent decrease in just seven years.

More worrying, young people – the future of democracy – seem increasingly disconnected from the political system.

Many of them are questioning whether democracy has anything special to recommend itself, compared with non-democratic systems. This is a far cry from when Westminster-style liberal democracy emerged ‘unchallengeable’ following the collapse of communism 20 years ago as the ‘best’ system to manage the 21st century.

Why is democracy failing?

Why does Western democracy now seem to be eating itself from within?

Conventional narratives blame poor political leadership. Our political parties and parties have become so obsessed with spin and short-term political gain, it is argued, they no longer care about long-term policy.

This lends itself to a belief that democracy’s problems, while serious, are relatively easy to fix. All we need is better, more strategic leadership and all will be well again.

But what if the problems cannot be fixed by better leaders? What if the trends highlighted above are the result of deep problems with the system itself?

If we look objectively at liberal democracy – the predominant ‘delivery mechanism’ of democracy around the world – we start to realise it cannot function in the 21st century without major renewal.

Liberal democracy emerged from a specific historical environment and conditions. It is a 19th century political system built around 19th century assumptions and organising principles about how the political and policy world should work.

My contention is that a combination of globalisation and the rapid development of internet-based communications technologies and from the 1990s onwards have effectively blown these 19th century assumptions and principles out of the water. These two mega-trends have effectively super-speed, super-scaled and made super-complex the dynamics of political, social and economic activity.

These new ‘super-fied’ dynamics are fundamentally different from those which liberal democracy – with its parliaments, political party system and mass elections every three or four years – is geared to manage.

For example, liberal democracy assumes the world around it will move in a comparatively slow way.

This gives elected representatives and parliamentarians sufficient time and scope to decide on policy and turn them into laws in a deliberate, proactive way.

It also assumes elected representatives are the prime decision-makers on policy-making. This is because they are at the top of policy and political hierarchy so they can ‘see’ further into the future to create future-focused policy.

It also assumes that national governments will always be the most important realm which will decide what, in terms of policy, will have a major and ongoing impact on the citizens they represent.

Lastly, it assumes that the political party system is the best way to represent and organise our collective political voices and identities.

A disconnected system

In the context of globalisation and ICT, not one of these assumptions or organising principles applies with any consistency or coherency.

Rather than a comparatively static world where information and authority flows top down, we now live in a highly fluid, rapid-fire world. This is a world that is increasingly networked horizontally, breaking down traditional structures of hierarchy and power. This a world where political identity and the voice of citizens are endlessly morphing as issues and constituencies come and go with increasing rapidity.

This is particularly the case as globalisation takes many of the issues that impact on people out of the reach and control of national parliaments.

Quite simply, it is becoming impossible for politicians to know or anticipate what is going on in the super-fast, super-complex, scaled-up world that now surrounds them. Nor can they create timely or coherent public policy frameworks to manage it.

Moreover, it has become increasingly difficult for political parties, organised as they are around 19th century social and economic cleavages of class, geography and ideology, to represent the rapidly changing, fragmenting political voices of a social media-driven, globalised citizenry.

This means the political party system is in crisis of its own making, as the voices of organised broad support – otherwise known as a mandate – for major policy change.

No wonder our political leaders and parties, increasingly shorn of their ability to command authority or shape policy, retreat more and more into the short-term and trivial.

What are the solutions?

While all this paints a bleak picture, it is important to recognise the problem is not with democracy per se.

To reiterate, it is the current delivery mechanism of democracy – liberal democracy – that has become fundamentally stranded from the world around it.

So what might be the solutions?

To begin we need to recognise the current system requires transformation, not tinkering.

We need to consider new institutions and mechanisms that deliver democracy in a way that aligns with the radically changed dynamics of our 21st century world.

The sort of big questions we need to ask ourselves to find real solutions are:

- What is the role of parliaments in a re-designed system and should they retain a prime place in law-making?

- Should mass elections be supplemented, or even replaced by other forums of citizen input?

- What is the role of social media in public consultation? Should it (or even can it?) be formalised into decision and policy-making?

- Is there scope for expert panels – insulated from short-term political and media pressures – to steer and decide on important policy issues?

- What role should political parties have in this new system?

Coming up with a new, fit-for-purpose democratic system may well be both the biggest challenge and the biggest opportunity facing us all in the 21st century.

Dr Mark Triffitt is a former political adviser. He lectures in public policy at the Melbourne School of Government.

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Successful applicants will be required to commence their candidature in 2014.

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Applications close 24 October 2014
Can your eye colour change?

Andi Horvath explores the reality about its colour, and why it sometimes changes.

Curiously held belief among Europeans is that all babies are born with blue eyes, which can then change to another colour. However if one spends some time in a maternity ward meeting babies from other cultures it becomes evident that not all eyes start off blue. So what is the biology behind eye colour? For the past 15 years Professor David Mackey, an Associate Professor with the Centre for Eye Research Australia at the University of Melbourne, has been interested in the genetics of eye colour as a model for researching the genetics of eye disease.

“The iris is the aperture that controls the level of light entering the eye,” Professor Mackey explains. “Interestingly eye colour correlates with the geographic latitude of where one’s ancestors lived. One theory suggests that eye colour in humans evolved in a similar way to skin and hair colour and is related to ultra violet (UV) radiation absorption and vitamin D production.

“The lower level of UV light in Northern Europe meant individuals with less melanin production in their hair, skin, and eyes had better absorption of vitamin D, which provided a survival advantage.”

Early humans living in lower latitudes where UV light intensity is high benefited from the protective barrier darker hair, skin and eyes provided.

So can eye colour change without the use of spooky cosmetic contact lenses?

“People with European ancestry will tell you some of their children’s eye colour changed during their first year of life. The reason for this is that eye colour changes in these babies as melanin deposited in the iris is incomplete at birth and develops as they grow. However there are some disease states and conditions – such as infections and trauma – that can cause eye colour to change. Homer’s Syndrome is a condition in which the nervous system to the eye is disrupted. If this occurs at the time the affected eye stays blue while the other eye (if genetically destined to be brown, hazel or green) becomes pigmented. Colours can appear different depending upon surrounding colours and light quality.”

So is there an official colour chart to classify iris eye colour?

“Several have been proposed. One the first people to try to classify eye colour was Oscar Wild’s father, who was a noted eye and ear surgeon who had many illegitimate children. Perhaps he was looking for evidence of paternity in their eyes.”

“Our Australian research group contributed to the world classification schema we use today,” Professor Mackey says. “Colour, scientifically, is a combination of hue, saturation and brightness. We presented a nine-category grading system, which is a refined blue-green-brown spectrum. The amount of melanin, its positioning within the iris, and the structure of the iris can influence a wide range of colours.

“There are many genes that influence eye colour but the main ones can also cause albinism, in which a person makes no pigment if the gene function is completely missing at one step in the pathway. In albinism a person (or animal like a rabbit or mouse) has pink eyes.

“A system of classifying eye colour has been provided.”

Prof Dr Sutherland says. “It collates a broad range of info about suicides in Victoria from the Coroner’s Prevention Unit to explore the Victorian Suicide Register (VSR).”

“Efforts to prevent suicide have been stymied by inadequate data sources, so we aim to use preliminary data from our analyses to highlight the way comprehensive information on all suicides occurring in Victoria provides the best possible evidence base for suicide prevention.”

“It makes big headlines when news breaks that a celebrity has taken their own life, and most people at least know someone who knows someone whose life has been touched by suicide: but as a society it’s something we know little about, and talk about even less.”

“Conservatively, there are over 2000 suicides in Australia annually, over a quarter of which occur in Victoria,” says Dr Georgina Sutherland, who is Senior Research Fellow in the Centre for Mental Health (CMH) at the University of Melbourne. “Statistics show that suicide is – probably surprisingly to many – the leading cause of death for males under the age of 45 years, of females aged less than 35 years, and the fifteenth leading cause of death overall.”

To try to understand more deeply the factors involved in a person’s decision to take their own life, Dr Sutherland and colleagues from the CMH are working on a collaborative project with the Coroner’s Prevention Unit to explore the Victorian Suicide Register (VSR).”

“The register is a database managed by the Court and is integrated with its processes for reporting on reviewable and reportable deaths. Efforts to prevent suicide have been stymied by inadequate data sources, so we aim to use preliminary data from our analyses to highlight the way comprehensive information on all suicides occurring in Victoria provides the best possible evidence base for suicide prevention.”

“The Register can be described as either a mortality database or suicide surveillance system,” Dr Sutherland says. “It collates a broad range of info about suicides in Victoria from records of deaths investigated by the Coroner.”

Dr Sutherland says a challenge for researchers and those tailoring prevention programs is that the Coroner is often legally unable to find suicide as the cause of death, because there is a high burden of proof requirement for such a finding.

“So the people at the Coroner’s Prevention Unit are able to investigate findings, and add to the register all the case files they think might have been suicide, thus providing a more accurate record.”

Information collected by the VSR includes contextual information, such as evidence of an individual’s contact with health or welfare services, police, and drug or alcohol services.

Witness statements and statements from family on potential stresses such as relationship breakdown are documented at two points, to find out what was going on for them in the six weeks immediately prior to death, and over the course of the previous 12 months.

“This information on tipping points and patterns of care is really valuable, and helps all involved tailor specific prevention efforts,” Dr Sutherland says.

“One of the partners on one of our grants for the project, for instance, is the Lifeline Foundation. They’re interested in the study from the perspective of their service provision. One of things we can help them do is map data from the register with particular regions, so they can understand who is most at risk, and where, given there are clear trends in age and geographical demographics.”

Anyone with mental health concerns can contact Lifeline on 13 11 14 or BeyondBlue on 1300 22 4636

Evidence-based suicide prevention begins with deeper analysis

Researchers in mental health are working with colleagues at the Victorian Coroners Court to refine and evaluate a register of deaths by suicide in the state. By Katherine Smith.

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Australia’s most impressive schools direct resources toward extending the skills and knowledge of teachers so they can challenge students beyond what is intellectually rigorous content, writes Vice-Chancellor’s Fellow Maxine McKew in her new book, *Class Act.* By Daryl Holland.

**VOICE:** What is a ‘Class Act’?
**MAXINE MCKEW:** Young people are far more than a test score. They write, they get two things right – they provide pastoral care for the whole child and create a high performance culture. Importantly resourcing in the classroom is directed towards extending the skills and knowledge of teachers so they can know how to challenge young people with rich, intellectually rigorous content.

**VOICE:** What aspects of the highly effective education systems in places like Finland and Singapore do you think we should emulate, and are there any aspects you think we think we can do better?
**MM:** The most important message to come out of high-performing countries such as Finland and Singapore is around consistency in public policy and practice. In the opposite way, for a decade or more, we have had a lot of curricular change, particularly at the Commonwealth level, and too many balloons floated. We would benefit from an approach based on proven practice and the available research. We know a great deal about what works in the classroom, and about the necessary ingredients for whole school improvement. The challenge is to develop a consensus around the correct settings and then work hard on the implementation. We either do it right or we do it wrong, or in the continuum, we do neither. As Bestow’s Chief Executive Officer, Mr Bestow says in my book: “We can’t just wait for a mix of experience and serendipity to produce leaders.” Leadership is integral to improving schools and if so, how do we get the right people into the schools that need them?

**MM:** I say, with some caution, that we are getting better at this. But the Castor Institute of Educational Leadership is showing the way through principal and emerging leaders. As Bestow’s Chief Executive Officer, Mr Bestow says in my book: “We can’t just wait for a mix of experience and serendipity to produce leaders.” Leadership is integral to improving schools and if so, how do we get the right people into the schools that need them?

**VOICES:** What is a ‘Class Act’?
**MAXINE MCKEW:** Young people are far more than a test score. They write, they get two things right – they provide pastoral care for the whole child and create a high performance culture. Importantly resourcing in the classroom is directed towards extending the skills and knowledge of teachers so they can know how to challenge young people with rich, intellectually rigorous content.

**VOICE:** Schools in Australia and education systems worldwide are often compared with standardised tests such as NAPLAN (National Assessment Programme for Literacy and Numeracy) and PIRLS (Progress in Reading Literacy Study). Are these tests the best way to gauge success?
**MM:** Evaluation is important, and particularly the kind that can measure student growth. But the jury is out on NAPLAN. In my book I quote Stanford University Professor Bruce Armstrong who says NAPLAN is not telling us very much. By contrast the international PIRLS reading tests, which demand much more of the student, are sounding alarm bells when it comes to the competence of primary school age children. Too few of our students are capable to adequately comprehend what they are reading and therefore struggle to make sense of longer texts. Again, it is best practice that we need to emulate. Garran Primary in the ACT teaches English by using the best and most engaging literature. As a result more of their students achieve in the top performance bands, and what is currently seen as an ‘average’ student, Garran students say they read “for the love of it.”

**VOICE:** In your book you document a number of very high-performing schools that have showed remarkable turnaround. These stories all have one thing in common – a strong leader (what we sometimes call a principal) who comes in and refuses to accept the quo. Are these leaders essential to improving struggling schools and if so, how do we get the right people into the schools that need them?

**MM:** I say, with some caution, that we are getting better at this. But the Castor Institute of Educational Leadership is showing the way through principal and emerging leaders. As Bestow’s Chief Executive Officer, Mr Bestow says in my book: “We can’t just wait for a mix of experience and serendipity to produce leaders.” Leadership is integral to improving schools and if so, how do we get the right people into the schools that need them?

**VOICE:** My view is that the Gonski Review of School Funding represents one of the most important public policy documents produced in Australia in recent times. As I have said in *Class Act,* it will be an act of monumental stupidity if we ignore it. Importantly David Gonski’s report recognises that it costs a good deal more to educate a child who is struggling and a child who arrives at school from a home where there are no books, little conversation and no social capital. That child will need more of everything at school. I describe a school in inner Sydney, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, that caters for pre-schoolers with educationally limited vocabularies – in some cases their facial muscles are so under-developed they have trouble making the sounds that form speech. Gonski-style resourcing is critical in a school such as this to pay for speech therapists and other professionals to help children to get to base. NSW is currently applying the Gonski needs-based formula as a guide to how they distribute education funds. Other states should do the same, and needless to say, the Commonwealth needs to remain an active player. Again, I remain cautiously optimistic on this point.

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A step toward unraveling the mystery of Indus Valley script, and printing

Andi Horvath reports on a discovery in the Indus Valley of ancient copper plates which could potentially date the advent of printing to more than 1500 years, before what is commonly believed to be the first known printing, in China around 700 BCE.

Today’s researchers are often organized into centres of excellence, virtual institutes or faculty-preferred disciplines harnessing the value of related expertise. But what if a significant research problem emerged that involved a single department, and spanned multiple disciplines of the arts and sciences, yet has the potential to rewrite textbooks?

This is the extraordinary position in which academic Dr Rick Willis, a former senior lecturer in Botany and later in Zoology at the University of Melbourne, found himself, as he unearthed the facts behind some curious copper printing plates that suggest they are the oldest known plates for true printing.

Dr Rick Willis acquired and studied a set of small copper printing plates from the Indus valley, in modern day Pakistan. Using his scientific research capabilities he studied these plates and investigated archaeological evidence related to this region and era.

His conclusion is that these Indus valley copper printing plates could be from 2300 BCE which means they predate what is commonly thought of as the advent of printing using Chinese woodblocks developed around 600 to 700 BCE.

Dr Willis and his co-author Professor Vasant Shinde, a well-known archaeologist from Deccan College, in Pune India, have written an extensive online publication in the e-journal Ancient Asia College, in Pune India, have written an extensive account of the discovery of these ancient copper plates.

Willis purchased a set of nine unusual copper plates from a valued private source that was keen for these artifacts to be studied.

The history of official psychiatry is not long. Sigmund Freud is most often credited as being the ‘father’ of the discipline, but for millennia human beings have been attempting to understand the workings of the mind, the basis of behaviour and its aberrations, and the vagaries of personality.

For Shakespeare, the puzzle of ‘madness’ was a recurring theme, from the psychosis of Ophelia and Lady Macbeth’s delusion, to Lear’s behaviour and its aberrations, and the vagaries of personality.

The study of molecular biology was in its infancy when we (the contributing authors) started out,” he writes in his preface. “The future of our profession is uncertain. If a comparable text were to be compiled in the middle of the 21st century, how would it look? Will psychiatry even exist as a medical specialty? Will it have merged with neurology? Will it confine itself to the minutiae of brain function, leaving the world of emotions and relationships to psychology, nursing and social work? Or will we psychiatrists, hopefully, but perhaps vainly, merge the biological, psychological, social and cultural, and to connect with the lived existence and meanings of symptoms.

Psychiatry: Past, Present and Prospect by Oxford University Press is not a populist publication, but not strictly for the initiated. A reader with a developed interest in psychiatry will find the essays stimulating and stretching, appropriate for a field that deals, as exasperated Stewen E Hyman writes, with the brain: “arguably the most complex object of scientific enquiry.”

www.psychiatry.unimelb.edu.au

Exploring the mind: a memoir of psychiatry

Katherine Smith reviews a new publication of essays by eminent psychiatrists approaching the ends of their careers which reflects on the past, present and future of their discipline.

Despite the fact that one in five Australians is likely to experience some form of mental illness over a year, in something that is still feared, misunderstood and misrepresented, although, in part thanks to efforts of advocacy groups such as Beyond Blue, less taboos into which have been destroyed by the acid.

They reacted to soil and water over 4000 years, but what if a significant research problem emerged that involved a single department, and spanned multiple disciplines of the arts and sciences, yet has the potential to rewrite textbooks?

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For Shakespeare, the puzzle of ‘madness’ was a recurring theme, from the psychosis of Ophelia and Lady Macbeth’s delusion, to Lear’s dementia. David the Psalmist swings wildly from the exorcising of demons or analysis of the humours having given way to brain imaging and drug therapies.

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This has been years of work and academic diligence, and I hope this fascinating Indus Valley story will take its rightful place in our knowledge of the history of printing, and help unravel the mystery of Indus Valley civilisation was not really discovered until to date the copper plates to pre-2000 BCE to this region and era.

Dr Willis has agreed to attempt to carbon date any of the copper plates that had become fused together as they reacted to soil and water over 4000 years in the ground. We found that all the carbonates had been destroyed by the acid.

So with the help of the CSIRO Environmental Sciences Institute we used a scanning electron microscope with a microprobe to look at the ‘micro’ features like pits and scratches on the copper plates. They were consistent with existing metallurgical items of that era. We also investigated the metal composition, and I believe that if the plates are not related, but I believe the copper plates are quite different, and were possibly meant to produce instructive images. One of the copper plates has the longest known inscription in Indus script, twice as long as any other known.

The plates have all the attributes of printing plates: fine engraving and reversed writing. It became clear to me that copper plates are the earliest printed form of art, possible printed on silk, leather or bark at the time, as paper did not exist then. They produced quite acceptable images onto native silk cloth.

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75 years of fuzzy accounting

Accounting’s Geoff Burrows reflects on a forthcoming event which is the world’s oldest continuing accounting research lecture series.

When the head of the University’s accounting discipline, A. A. (later Sir Alec) Fitzgerald inaugurated the Commonwealth Institute of Accountants (now CPA Australia) – University of Melbourne Annual Research Lecture on 10 October 1940, he probably did not anticipate that the series would evolve into what is now the University’s longest running continuous annual research lecture. It is also believed to be the world’s oldest continuing accounting research lecture series.

Such a future would have been considered unlikely when Fitzgerald delivered his lecture on ‘the field for research in accountancy’. World War 2 was already disrupting many of the University’s public programs.

Accounting was then a ‘fringe’ discipline within the University. Most accounting education was via evening classes at private coaching colleges and the examinations of professional accounting bodies. Australia-wide, all university accounting academics, including Fitzgerald, principal of a major public-accounting firm, were part-time, with the University of Melbourne pioneering the full-time track in 1946 with the appointments of Louis Goldberg and Jean Kerr to lectureships, both of whom later would give lectures in the series.

The lack of any subsequent wartime gaps in the Accounting Research Lectures did not reflect any neglect of the accounting profession’s national obligations. The first four lectures – Fitzgerald, Allan Clunies Ross, John Gunn and Leslie Schumer – all rendered important wartime service to the Commonwealth gratis while holding demanding professional and business positions: Fitzgerald as a member of Capital Issues Committee which controlled all private-sector capital raisings; Ross as Director of Scientific Manpower; Gunn (who had served in the AIF in World War 1) on the Taxation Advisory Committee; and Schumer, then General Manager of transport concern Yellow Express Ltd, on the War Transport Committee.

The war impacted on two subsequent lectures in different ways. The 1951 lecturer, Russell Mathews, one of the first students to complete the first full-time degree in Commerce and recipient of a scholarship, had been drafted required a walking stick to reach the podium due to a shattered knee sustained in action in Bougainville in 1945. His 1960 counterpart, Trevor Johnston, had completed University of Auckland degree subjects under the auspices of the International Relations Program. Johnston was ill with influenza the day of his lecture, so a second speaker was brought in to read his paper.

By the early 1970s, financial reporting evolved as a field for research in accountancy. World Accounting was launched in 1971, with the inaugural editorial board comprising several of these field’s luminaries. Undoubtedly, one area not included in Fitzgerald’s survey was information systems (IS); despite many innovations like electronic data processing (EDP), the idea that information systems (IS) was an important field for research in accounting was yet to be recognized.

In their research published in the Accounting Research Lecture did not reflect any neglect of the accounting profession’s national obligations. The first four lectures – Fitzgerald, Allan Clunies Ross, John Gunn and Leslie Schumer – all rendered important wartime service to the Commonwealth gratis while holding demanding professional and business positions: Fitzgerald as a member of Capital Issues Committee which controlled all private-sector capital raisings; Ross as Director of Scientific Manpower; Gunn (who had served in the AIF in World War 1) on the Taxation Advisory Committee; and Schumer, then General Manager of transport concern Yellow Express Ltd, on the War Transport Committee.

When they gave their lectures, both Mathews and Johnston were full-time academics, illustrating the gradual broadening of lecturers’ occupations. The first eight speakers in the series were all in the ‘intellectual practitioner’ mould of Fitzgerald – full-time practitioners and managers who were also leaders of the accounting profession. The expansion of university studies in accounting meant that the pool of potential lecturers was augmented by an increasing number of scholars able to provide fresh research-based insights.

Until the early 1970s, financial reporting was the world’s oldest continuing accounting research lecture series. The forthcoming 75th anniversary lecturer, Sir David Tweedie, demonstrates many of these facets of the lectures and a lecturer, University of Edinburgh Commerce and PhD graduate, he has been variously an academic, technical director of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland, national (UK) technical partner of accounting firm KPMG, chair of the Accounting Standards Board (1990–2000) and chair of the International Accounting Standards Board (2001–2011). His topic, ‘Changing the image of the profession: the fight for economic reality in accounting and the increasing value of the audit’ will continue the series’ tradition of eminent figures in accounting and cognate disciplines examining important challenges of the day to practitioners, regulators and educators.

Sir David Tweedie’s lecture is today, Monday 13 October at 6pm, in the Spot – Copland Theatre Faculty of Business & Economics, 198 Berkeley Street, the University of Melbourne.

www.fbe.unimelb.edu.au
www.events.unimelb.edu.au/all/free-public-lecture

Scientists unearth Australia’s early historical records of droughts and flooding rains

Stav Psonis reports on new research that has added 70 extra years of data to the record of Australia’s weather patterns.

The first snowfall recorded in Sydney since European settlement was recorded in the Sydney Herald on 30 June 1836, and a previously undescribed severe drought gripped southeastern Australia from 1837-1842. These are two of the fascinating findings in a world-first study by University climate researchers of Australia’s early settlement climate history. In the study, researchers from the School of Earth Sciences have uncovered historical weather records as far back as 1788 in south-eastern Australia, completing our understanding of Australia’s natural climate variability before the beginning of official records in 1910.

The records rescued by the research team paint a picture of the natural weather occurrences such as warm, cool, dry and wet conditions in this early settlement period. Before now, this information has been missing from our climate records and our national history.

Dr Linden Ashcroft from the School of Earth Sciences explains the study is the first consolidated instrumental climate record of Australia’s most populated region and closes an important gap in our meteorological past.

“This study adds an extra 70 years to help us understand our weather patterns. The research team set out to examine year to year fluctuations in temperature, pressure and rainfall to understand how factors like El Nino events have affected Australia’s climate in the past.”

“Learning more about how these features behaved in the 1800s helps us understand how they may behave in the future, which is crucial for water security,” she says.

In their research published in the Geoscience Data Journal, Dr Ashcroft, Dr Joelle Greggs and Professor David Kardy have analysed instrumental weather observations rescued from 3400 pages from 39 historical sources, to reconstruct the climate experienced in the first 72 years of European settlement in Australia.

The new research by the team has drawn on the earliest instrumental observational records of historical daily and monthly temperature, atmospheric pressure and rainfall observations included in thousands of pages of government gazettes, newspapers, farm records, and even first Fleet log books.

Dr Ashcroft describes how the records were analysed by the team.

“The weather observations were not taken using modern methods so we are unable to determine the exact temperature or pressure value for a certain day or year. However, our detailed data control and homogenisation shows the records are of surprisingly good quality for their age and can provide useful information on relative climate variability in Australia’s past.”

The records have revealed Australia’s early settlers experienced patterns of dry, wet and cold conditions. A prolonged drought period was identified in New South Wales from 1837 to 1843, yet wet conditions dominated Tasmania in the same period from 1836 to 1838. The first snowfalls in Sydney and Melbourne since early settlement were recorded during two severe cold weather periods.

Dr Ashcroft’s study complements previous work done by the University of Melbourne research team led by Dr Greggs, which last year used documented records to identify 24 new drought years and 19 new wet periods in south-eastern Australia from 1788-1860.

This study was conducted as part of Dr Greggs’ SEARCH (South-Eastern Australia Recent Climate History) project, which won the 2014 University of New South Wales Eureka Prize for Excellence in Interdisciplinary Scientific Research for their success in mapping a thousand years of Australia’s climate history.

“Long-term weather records give water managers a complete data set to understand natural climate variability, and this data could help to inform climate modelling studies looking at the future,” Dr Ashcroft says.
Attitudes on violence against women show little improvement in 2014

Research has shown persistent and disturbing attitudes toward violence against women. By Liz Banks-Anderson

New survey findings have shown Australia has a long way to go to improve community attitudes toward violence against women.

Undertaken by VicHealth in collaboration with the University of Melbourne Senior Research Fellow Dr Kristin Diemer and the Social Research Centre, the survey revealed the need for rapid change in community attitudes toward violence and gender stereotypes.

The National Community Attitudes Survey towards Violence against Women (NCAS), commissioned by the Department of Social Services, was released in September. It found the majority of measures of community understanding and attitudes on violence against women had not improved in Australia in almost 20 years.

The survey has been undertaken periodically since 1995 to track whether views on violence and gender roles are shifting, with more than 17,500 Australians questioned about their views on violence against women and gender equality.

One in five Australians agree that a woman is partly responsible for rape if she is intoxicated. An alarming number of Australians are ready to accept rape as a consequence of women’s clothing, actions or behavior.

A high number of Australians still believe violence and rape can be excused. A proportion of Australians hold conservative views on gender roles, and one in four believe Social Security is partly responsible for rape if she is intoxicated.

There is a lot of mixed messages in the community: on the one hand we want to believe gender equality is strong in Australia, but on the other we minimise and excuse violence against women in a way we would not if it occurred to men,” she says.

It’s not a good move though. The survey also revealed positive results that the majority of people understood that domestic violence was a crime and women were far more likely to be a victim. Of people surveyed, 98 per cent said they would intervene if a woman they knew was the target of violence.

“When the survey finds negative change in some areas, clear misconceptions around the facts of violence, and only modest progress in others, it shows it’s important to monitor our efforts to prevent and reduce men’s violence against women, including strengthening community attitudes,” Dr Diemer says.

“One in five Australians agree that a woman is partly responsible for rape if she is intoxicated. And one in six support the notion that women ‘say yes’ when they mean ‘no.’

An alarming number of Australians are ready to accept rape as a consequence of women’s clothing, actions or behavior. Australians also tend to blame women for their own violent experiences.

“The main challenges to overcome to improve attitudes towards violence are firstly, to raise awareness of forms of minimising and excusing violence so that they’re not the norm,” she says.

Secondly, Dr Diemer says this needs to be done by employing greater representation of women in all segments of society, including high profile positions and setting some guidelines about public engagement and comment.

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The survey responses show that as a community we don’t have a clear understanding of the more subtle forms of violence and where the line is drawn in terms of what is appropriate and what is not appropriate,” Dr Diemer says.

Many of these students did not take the traditional academic pathway and may not have studied qualifications and introduced into the academy and the methodology of health service delivery more generally,” Dr Ferguson says.

“The course requires a lot of work and during times of stress I have found the support to be invaluable. I have always wanted to help others overcome challenges they were facing, and work with others, and decided to pursue clinical psychology as I’m passionate about helping individuals experiencing mental illness,” Ms McBean explains.

“I am passionate about Aboriginal mental health and Indigenous people’s experiences with mental health and mental health services. Eventually I would like to deliver culturally appropriate clinical services to Aboriginal people, and learn how to deliver culturally sensitive psychological services to people from other cultures.

Cultural sensitivity and recognising relevant work experience as a pathway to formal study is fundamental to helping Indigenous people into health research positions.

“As a result, you then have Aboriginal people writing about Aboriginal health issues. Rather than just being key informants we’re now active participants vertically integrated throughout an entire research process and actively involved at all levels – leading, designing and developing research that is of importance and use to their communities,” Mr Ferguson explains.
Major gift for Hugh Ramsay Chair in Australian art history

Chris Weaver reports on a major gift to support the discipline of art history at the University of Melbourne, and which honours one of Australia's greatest artists, Hugh Ramsay.

Patricia Fullerton, the great-niece of Patrol Hugh Ramsay, grew up with his paintings, and from an early age she learned the tragic story of his life.

Aged six, she inherited his watercolour paint box and soon after made her first rescue of one of his major works. “Walking the family dog in the hills of Upper Beaconsfield, I found it playing with what I thought was a rag,” she recalls. “When I presented it to the breakfast table, my mother exclaimed, ‘Oh that’s a portrait of Dame Nellie Melba by Hugh Ramsay!’ Today the portrait hangs in the National Portrait Gallery.

Serendipity seems to have played a large part in Patricia’s early involvement with art. There are other stories about her rescuing pictures from broom cupboards and bushes.

Hugh Ramsay (1877-1906) achieved much in his short life. In the 1890s he was acclaimed as the most brilliant student at the Melbourne Art School. Later, in Paris, he had four works accepted for the New Salon – an exceptional honour for a 24-year-old Australian. Salon success led to commissions, including the portrait of Nellie Melba in London. Tragically, as he was starting her portrait, he was diagnosed with tuberculosis. He left her portrait unfinished and returned to Melbourne.

Melba continued to champion Ramsay and commissioned him to paint portraits of her father and niece. She also staged the only retrospective exhibition of his works in his lifetime, at her Toorak house, Myorea, in 1962.

Hugh Ramsay is now being commemorated by the creation of the Hugh Ramsay Chair in Australian Art History in the University of Melbourne’s Faculty of Arts. Patricia Fullerton and other members of the Ramsay family have already done much to preserve Hugh Ramsay’s legacy, notably in giving his works to institutions around Australia. In 1988, Fullerton published the biography Hugh Ramsay: His Life and Work. Four years later, she curated the first retrospective exhibition of his works at the National Gallery of Victoria (the only exhibition of Ramsay’s works since 1943), which catapulted Hugh Ramsay back into the public consciousness.

“Hugh is the tragic hero of the family – we’ve always tried to honour him and ensure his talent and accomplishments are fully recognised,” she says.

On a personal note, you could say I’ve dedicated much of my life to reclaiming his reputation.”

“Through Daryl Lindsay, Joe met up with Patricia Gourlay’s thesis on the artist in 1966. ‘I was indebted to this early research when writing my book on Ramsay,’ says Fullerton.

Her studies in Fine Arts and French at the University of Melbourne in the 1960s led to a fascination for travel and further studies abroad, including at the Sorbonne, and a spell working at the Uffizi Gallery in Florence. Returning to Australia, she established close ties with the Director of the National Gallery of Victoria, Sir Peter Bell, which catapulted Hugh Ramsay back into the public consciousness.

“This project will provide an opportunity to share my passion for optometry and to inspire the next generation of researchers,” he says.

“Being a research mentor has given me the chance to inspire people to think about optometry and how this pathway can be combined with other disciplines,” he says.

“Being able to help Kathy pursue her research interests is something that I have found to be really valuable.”

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Mentoring the next generation of scientific researchers

An advanced program is giving high school students the opportunity to work with University of Melbourne mentors to find answers to scientific research questions of their own devising. By Stuart Winthrope.

Most science students do not conduct self-designed, original research until the later stages of an undergraduate degree or an honours year.

However, student Kathy Chang (right) at the Elizabeth Blackburn School of Biomedicine (EBSS) is an exception. Kathy is working on an original research project right from the start of her Year 11 programme at Bio21 Institute director Professor Tony Bacic emphasised EBSS role in developing the learning and teaching of the broader sciences.

“Students and teachers are exposed to the career options available in science and gain insight into the latest scientific research and cutting-edge technologies,” he says.

“It is an investment in the future growth and sustainability of Australia’s scientific research and innovation sector and together we are working towards increasing the number and level of performance of school and university science, maths and engineering graduates and teachers.”

“Four years later, she curated the first retrospective exhibition of his works at the National Gallery of Victoria (the only exhibition of Ramsay’s works since 1943), which catapulted Hugh Ramsay back into the public consciousness.

“The students must also explain the investigation and support their research findings in an oral presentation to a non-specialist panel.

Ms Chang says working with Dr Downie opened her eyes to new research methods.

“One of the methods Dr Downie suggested was a localised survey, which they conducted to ensure his name was fully recognised.

“I would talk to my friends about our projects and we agreed that even after this program we’d still want to continue researching some of our topics, instead of just ending with our oral report,” she says.

“The Chair will provide opportunities for research into Australian art, an area sadly in decline in some university programs. Indigenous art history in particular will be high on the list of the Chair’s priorities.”

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Medical students roll up their sleeves in the Vampire Cup

This year, many Melbourne medical students rolled up their sleeves to donate blood as part of the Vampire Cup: a nationwide student blood drive that raises awareness about blood donation among future healthcare professionals. By Elizabeth Brumby.

Regular blood donor and Melbourne medical student Benjamin Sutu.

No, it’s not a Twilight reference. Held by the Australian Medical Students’ Association (AMSA) in conjunction with the Australian Red Cross, the Vampire Cup is an annual nationwide blood drive, where medical students across Australia compete to make the most blood donations over a two-month period. The university with the most donations per capita is awarded the Cup.

Melbourne medical student Benjamin Sutu, a regular blood donor, says that the donation of blood is critical for modern medicine.

Blood transfusions are used to save the lives of cancer patients, unborn babies, mothers giving birth, road trauma victims, burn victims, people undergoing surgery and people needing kidney dialysis.

The statistics are astounding. Australians require 27,000 blood donations every week. One blood donation can save three lives. And what’s really important to note is that one in three of us will need a blood transfusion at some point in our lives, so this is an issue that is everyone’s responsibility,” says Mr Sutu.

“What we’re seeing at the moment in the community is that fewer and fewer people are donating blood, and the demand for blood is increasing.”

This year, Australia’s medical students have donated in record levels. This is due in part to AMSA extending the competition deadline after the Australian Red Cross activated its Blood Signal – a digital ‘bat signal’ appealing to donors – in late August, for the first time in two years. This followed a sudden spike in demand for blood as the Blood Service battled a debilitating winter flu season.

“Nationally, the Blood Service was running low across all major blood groups, but had less than three days’ supply of O Negative blood types. O Positive is the most common blood type in the country, and O Negative can be given to anyone in an emergency,” explains Mr Sutu. “With many people cancelling their appointments due to cold and flu symptoms, blood stores were very low. “This gave us all the final push we needed to make that big collective effort at the end. To get the word out, we utilised the channels of communication that our generation likes to use, like social media and online video.”

While Deakin University won this year’s competition, Mr Sutu says that the University of Melbourne Medical Students’ Society (UMMSS) recorded an all-time high in donations this year, coming in at third place with 16.5% of the cohort donating.

“We’ve had a record number of students donate and we’ve had really positive conversations about it, so I hope that now it’s something that is at the forefront of people’s minds. Mr Sutu says as well as being regular donors themselves, medical professionals have a big responsibility to act as champions for blood donation in the community.

“What we want to do is ensure that future healthcare professionals understand the need to donate and also recognise that they have a role to play to advocate for blood donation and encourage those in the community to take part.

“Even though the competition has finished, the message we’re trying to send is that blood donation shouldn’t be something you participate in just because there’s a competition happening: for people who are able to donate, it should be a regular habit,” says Mr Sutu.

“It should be something that’s at the forefront of our minds. Especially for us as medical students and future doctors – we need to be proactive about promoting activities that are good for the health and wellbeing of society.”

www.mds.unimelb.edu.au

In Brief

Forum to tackle solutions to world sustainability challenges

Designing zero-carbon cities, providing energy and food for a growing population, and preparing for natural and man-made disasters were topics all closely examined at a University of Melbourne conference recently.

Days after 30,000 protesters converged on Treasury Gardens in Melbourne’s CBD to rally for greater action on climate change, the University hosted Carlton Connect Conference 2014: Challenges, Partnerships, Solutions. The conference brought together local and international experts from industry, government and academia to showcase and discuss innovative approaches to social and environmental sustainability worldwide.

Carlton Connect Initiative project director Dr Charlie Day said needing to make our societies more sustainable and resilient presents both opportunities and challenges.

“Resilient societies are able to evolve and adapt in response to long-term changes, as well as short-term shocks,” he says. “Making our societies more resilient will require us to use the very latest technologies and ideas in innovative ways, and the conference is a great opportunity to stimultate that process.”

The Carlton Connect Initiative aims to bring together talented people who share a desire to tackle sustainability and social resilience challenges, providing a hub for the world-class research and development occurring across the South Carlton Precinct.

The world’s population is expected to reach eight billion in 2024, increasing the strain on global food supply. Meanwhile the increased pace of socioeconomic development, particularly in Asia, is driving greater energy needs.

Meeting these challenges while limiting harm to the environment will require smarter solutions. Dr Day says these would require cross-disciplinary collaboration, as well as stronger linkages between universities, industry and government.

“It is well known that these challenges don’t respect traditional boundaries, and the conference is explicitly designed to break down those boundaries and help create the kinds of partnerships that can have real impact.”

Other topics explored at the conference included: how to manage the competing interests of the environment, food producers and hydraulic fraying, how emerging technologies such as unmanned drones, high-end computing and advanced networks are being taken to market by government and industry, and the opportunities and ethical difficulties presented by the increased availability of information, or ‘big data’.

Talking medicine to the other side of the world

TEDMED, the health and medicine edition of the world-famous TED conference was streamed live at the University of Melbourne to connect medical students to help solve the problems of the future recently.

TEDMED was live in the USA and a licence was granted to stream at the University of Melbourne as a TEDMED affiliate.

TEDMED is a global community dedicated to unlocking imagination in the service of health and medicine. Their goal is to seed the innovations of today, making possible the breakthroughs of tomorrow for a healthier, more vibrant humanity.

The 2014 theme is “Unlocking imagination in Service of Health and Medicine”, and was dedicated to “Ideas worth spreading.”

Third year medical student Laura Beaton said TEDMED was a great opportunity to exchange ideas with students in other countries.

“It is great to establish collaborations in this way and foster connectedness around the University of all those disciplines that influence medicine,” she says. “Partners in modern medicine include experts in informatics, engineering and smart people who are developing new tools and devices.”

Partners involved were the Melbourne Medical School and the Melbourne Medical Student Association program, the Health and Biomedical Informatics Centre and the start-up Health Tech, a diverse group of health innovators.

Health practitioners in the spotlight

Mandatory reporting, which requires health practitioners to report poor conduct, has revealed over 800 incidents of unprofessional care and behaviour.

Dr Marie Bismark from the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health at the University of Melbourne has undertaken the first ever research into Australia’s mandatory reporting of health practitioners.

Since 2010, laws in all Australian states and territories require health practitioners to report all “notifiable conduct” that comes to their attention to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPPA).

Australia has some of the strictest reporting laws in the world that apply to 14 health professions. Dr Bismark says there is debate within the medical community about the issue of mandatory reporting.

“Supporters of the legislation believe the laws help identify dangerous practitioners and communicate a clear message that patient safety comes first,” Dr Bismark says.

“However, critics of the legislation believe mandatory reporting fosters a culture of fear, stops people from seeking help and creates professional rivalries.”

Of the 819 notifications made during the study period, more than 60 per cent related to poor professional standards relating to incidents that placed patients at risk. Nurses and doctors were prominent in notifying AHPPA.

The states with the most complaints were Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania and psychologists had the highest rate of notifications, followed by medical practitioners, nurses and midwives.
Dungala Kaiela Oration delivered on country

The Dungala Kaiela Oration has brought big business and fine minds to the Goulburn Valley for the past five years. For the 2014 oration, Noel Pearson was invited onto Yorta Yorta land, using the occasion to show how conservative political minds to the Goulburn Valley as a talented and central Victorian as a talented and influential families.

In late August, Noel Pearson, renowned lawyer, academic, land rights activist and founder of the Cape York Institute for Policy and Leadership, stepped onto the stage of the Rumbalara Football and Netball Club to deliver the sixth annual Dungala Kaiela Oration. As he explained to the packed audience, he was dressed in a suit given to him by his late friend, Lew Griffiths, who filmed the entire proceedings of the orations, he was dressed in a suit given to him by his late friend, Lew Griffiths, who filmed the entire proceedings of the orations.

The Dungala Kaiela Oration, the brainchild of Yorta Yorta Elder Paul Briggs, was taken up as an early initiative of Yorta Yorta Elder Paul Briggs, who has achieved its stated aim of building indigenous knowledge within the greater Goulburn Valley and has been overwhelmingly successful in promoting both cultural and economic development in the region.

“Told as far as to say that through the agency of these orations, the financial health of the Goulburn Valley and the region’s capacity and potential for future economic prosperity has been enhanced and strengthened,” Professor Anderson says.

Each of the Dungala Kaiela orators has posed profoundly important arguments and perspectives,” says Professor Marcia Langton, the University of Melbourne’s Chair of Australian Indigenous Studies.

“The thesis Noel Pearson has developed this year, in drawing on the historical tradition of constitutional recognition of Indigenous Australians is characteristically clever, irresistibly seductive.”

On another level, Noel Pearson’s presentation drew its inspiration from the Yorta Yorta people and their strength and determination over time. “There is no other tribe in Aboriginal Australia who has produced more important leaders than the Yorta Yorta.”

There have been many things that might be a show, but historically, and truly, this particular tribe has contributed more important leaders in the history of the Aboriginal struggle in Australia than any other in the country.”

Expressing his concern of reawakening the pain inflicted by the failure of the Yorta Yorta native title land claim in the Federal and High Courts, Mr Pearson used this year’s Dungala Kaiela Oration to express his belief that the failure of the claim represents a failure at law. “I can’t stand here and ignore that injustice to the nation,” he said.

For Paul Briggs, hosting the event at the Rumbalara Football and Netball Club endowed the 2014 Oration with special significance. “Here we are in our sacred room, in our place, on our country, talking about issues of vital importance. “The partnership between the University of Melbourne and the Indigenous community in the Goulburn Valley is now more than 10 years old, dating back to 2003 when we worked together on a campaign to close the gap in Indigenous health.

“Now here we are in 2014, still working in partnership, but the partnership has broadened and grown stronger with the passage of time.”

A recording of Noel Pearson’s 2014 Dungala Kaiela Oration can be viewed at

http://youtu.be/29a7dVbrlRc

www.e.murunabar.unimelb.edu.au

www.kaielainstitute.org.au

-changing the face of education in
saudi arabia

Skills gained studying postgraduate education at Melbourne are building educational capacity in Saudi Arabia. By Lisa Zilberpriver.

Master of Teaching alumni is using the clinical skills he learned at the Melbourne Graduate School of Education to boost the status of teachers and raise academic standards in Saudi Arabia as part of an eight-year program in the capital, Riyadh.

Peter Robert has been teaching primary school science in the desert kingdom for one year, and says he is beginning to aclimatise to both the weather and the culture.

“It’s character-building,” Mr Robert laughs.

There is a lot of school systems. You’ve got between 45 and 50 degrees every day for eight months of the year, and there’s no greenery around.

There is not a very restricted – even men can’t wear shorts outside in the heat. You can’t show any skin, it’s just not polite. Restaurants are segregated between family and non-family.

Mr Robert enrolled in the Master of Teaching at the MGSE in 2011 after a career in biotechnology and medical research that spanned decades.

“I was semi-retired and my wife suggested that I needed to do something,” he says.

She researched for me, and said ‘Well why don’t you go to Melbourne Uni and do a Master of Teaching degree?’”

After graduation Mr Robert accepted a position at Riyadh Schools in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Riyadh Schools comprises 11 separate schools with over 3400 students and 780 staff in the Saudi capital. The Board of Directors is chaired by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, and many of the schools’ pupils hail from royal or influential families.

In 2012, the schools’ leaders employed the Boston Consulting Group to devise a plan to raise academic standards and transform the schools into the highest performing in the Middle East. International appointments were made, including Ian Lake – a fellow Australian and former executive in Victoria’s education department, who is currently Director General of the schools.

“This project is on the one hand exciting and on the other very challenging as we attempt to engage all members of the school community in this very important work,” Mr Lake says.

“The focus will be on providing all students with access to a high quality educational experience working with expert teachers and engaging with an intellectually rigorous curriculum.”

Now, two years into the plan, Mr Robert describes the part people like him play in the program.

“There are almost no Saudi teachers,” he says. “The vast majority of teachers in Saudi Arabia are not Western expats like me, they’re Egyptians or Jordanians or Syrians or from Yemen.

“A lot of them are great teachers, but they haven’t had the sort of grounding that we would have for example in a Master of Teaching program. They need a lot of professional development.

“The biggest difference that I can make is to helping Arabic teachers recognise that teaching in a professional and consistent way is actually helping the kids more than just giving them As or Bs simply because they’re princes or they’re privileged,” he explains.

At the MGSE I got both the pedagogical and educational background but also the practical skills that I needed. I spent a lot of time on placement in pretty tough schools,” he says.

“When you’ve got people like Professor Patrick Griffin and Professor John Hattie, it rubs off on the people who participate in those lectures and in those programs because we are really being taught by the best.”

He also encourages MGSE alumni who are interested working at Riyadh Schools to look into opportunities there.

“Teachers who want to be involved in both teaching and making a difference and lifting the whole educational profile of a country, Saudi Arabia’s a great place to go,” he says.

www.education.unimelb.edu.au

www.mgse.unimelb.edu.au
Visions mini documentaries
After numerous years of planning, renovation and development, the University’s new sports pavilion on the main oval was officially opened on the eve of the VFL football finals by the Hon. Alex Chernov AO, Governor of Victoria. Visions was there to take in proceedings and discover some of the history behind the building affectionately known as ‘The Pavvy’, which will be known as ‘The Ernie Cuppley Pavilion’, after the former groundskeeper.
Available on iTunes, YouTube or via http://visions.unimelb.edu.au

Up Close Podcast
- http://upclose.unimelb.edu.au
- @upclosepodcast

Stethoscopes and spreadsheets:
Public governance and health care reform researcher Associate Professor Helen Dickinson describes the benefits of getting doctors into positions of leadership in medical organisations and national health care systems. Challenges include luring candidates from the clinic to the executive suite, and providing training to doctors in managerial methods. Presented by Eric van Bemmelen.
Helen Dickinson is Associate Professor of Governance at the Melbourne School of Government, University of Melbourne.

Online now

October Timetable

ALL TANGLED UP
WEDNESDAY 15 OCTOBER 5.30PM
Tangled Up in Black by Dr Gary Foley (activist, author, commentator). Arts lecture
Bookings: http://alumni.unimelb.edu.au/garyfoley
Enquiries: chamaine.montoro@unimelb.edu.au, 8344 5378
PUBLIC LECTURE THEATRE, OLD ARTS BUILDING

FIVE BIG IDEAS
THURSDAY 16 OCTOBER 6PM
Kids First: Five Big Ideas for Transforming Children’s Lives by Professor David Kip (University of California, Berkeley). Education lecture
Bookings: http://alumni.unimelb.edu.au/david.kip
Enquiries: education-events@unimelb.edu.au, 8344 8337
THEATRE 1, 207 BOUVIER STREET, CARLTON

TWEETS FROM THE PAST
WEDNESDAY 22 OCTOBER 5.30PM
War Record and the records of war – tweeting from the front amidst the noise of gunfire – a century of conflict by Professor Michael Moss (Northumbria University, Newcastle). University Library Megaphone lecture
Enquiries: tsimanek@unimelb.edu.au, 8344 2670
BALDWIN SPENCER THEATRE, BALDWIN SPENCER BUILDING

ALL TANGLED UP
WEDNESDAY 13 OCTOBER 6PM
Putting the Audience First by Mark Scott (Australian Broadcasting Corporation). Institute for a Broadband-Enabled Society lecture
Enquiries: markscott@unimelb.edu.au, 8344 6713
AUDITORIUM, MELBOURNE BRAIN CENTRE, KENNETH MYER BUILDING, 30 ROYAL PARADE, PARKVILLE

MONDAY 13 OCTOBER 6PM
Climate Change: Are we up for the challenge? by Sir Brian Hoskins CBE, FRS (Imperial College, London). Science Miegunyah lecture
Enquiries: drsharmane.montoro@unimelb.edu.au, 8344 5378
PUBLIC LECTURE THEATRE, OLD ARTS BUILDING

TUESDAY 14 OCTOBER 5.30PM
Robert Gordon Menzies: A man and his books by Dr Catlin Stone & Dr Jim Beliman (University of Melbourne). University Library lecture
Bookings and enquiries: learnmel@unimelb.edu.au, 8344 5567
LEIGH SCOTT ROOM, BAILIELU LIBRARY

WEDNESDAY 15 OCTOBER 5.30PM
Protecting Australia’s Threatened Species and the Environment: Policy, Reform and Action by the Honourable Greg Hunt MP, LNP (Nambour, Queensland). Environment lecture
Bookings: law.unimelb.edu.au/lecture

CARRILLO GANTNER THEATRE, SIDNEY MYER ASIA CENTRE

TUESDAY 14 OCTOBER 5.30PM
Prospects for a weapons of mass destruction-free zone in the Middle East by Professor Michael Harbel Green (Victoria University). Nossal Institute for Global Health lecture
Enquiries: tarj@unimelb.edu.au, 8344 0372 or 0438 059 271
LECTURE THEATRE 3, ALAN GILBERT BUILDING, 161 BARRY ST, CARLTON

TUESDAY 14 OCTOBER 6PM
Creating Parity: Mr Andrew Forrest in conversation with Associate Professor Rufus Black by Mr Andrew Forrest (Fortescue Metals Group and Minderoo Foundation) and Associate Professor Rufus Black (Ormond College). School of Government lecture
Bookings: http://alumni.unimelb.edu.au/bn
Enquiries: phil@unimelb.edu.au, 8344 2670
THE WOODWARD CENTRE, MELBOURNE LAW SCHOOL, LEVEL 10, 185 PELHAM STREET, CARLTON

THURSDAY 15 OCTOBER 6PM
Handloomed Cloth Threading Through Indian History by Liz Oley (Monash University). Asia India Institute lecture
Bookings and enquiries: http://www.aii.unimelb.edu.au/events, info@workplaceleadership.com.au. 9035 7538
SEMINAR ROOM, AUSTRALIA INDIA INSTITUTE, 147-149 BARRY STREET, CARLTON

WEDNESDAY 22 OCTOBER 6.30PM
Taking a lesson from the French: Can Randomised Experiments of Labour Market Programs Inform Policy? by Professor Bruno Crépon (Ecole Nationale de la Statistique et de l’Administration Economique). Business and Economics Downing lecture
Bookings and enquiries: http://ibe.unimelb.edu.au/alumni/events/public/2014/twist pretend 2014, dionisjpg@unimelb.edu.au, 9035 4457
COOLANGATI THEATRE, THE SPOT BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS BUILDING, 138 BERKELEY ST, CARLTON

THURSDAY 14 OCTOBER 5.30PM
Shared values: Toward common accounting standards across international borders
Accounting reformer Sir David Tweedie discusses the importance to national economies of global standards of corporate reporting and valuation. He also explains the challenges to having such common standards adopted by individual nation states. Presented by Elisabeth Lopez.
Sir David Tweedie is Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the International Valuation Standards Council. He is also a Fellow of the Judge Business School at Cambridge University and a visiting Professor of Accounting in the Management School at Edinburgh University.

Online 17 October

Space between neurons: Can the genetics of the human brain explain mental illness?
Neuroscientist Professor Seth Grant explains how genetics gave rise to the modern human brain, and how the study of neurological diseases shed light on the phenomenon of cognition. Presented by Dr Shane Huntington.
Professor Seth Grant leads the Centre for Neuroregeneration at the University of Edinburgh.

Online 24 October

Disarming guile: How viruses overcome our immune system
Immunologist Professor Sharon Lewin explains how the HIV and Hepatitis B viruses disarm our immune system and multiply. She also discusses what these discoveries mean for treatment.
Presented by Dr Shane Huntington.
Professor Sharon Lewin is the inaugural Director of the Doherty Institute.

Online 31 October

Feed your intellect with a University of Melbourne Free Public Lecture.
For latest listings visit: www.events.unimelb.edu.au

Follow @uomfreelectures on twitter

MONDAY 20 OCTOBER 1PM
Enquiries: info@workplaceleadership.com.au, 9035 4457
CARRILLO GANTNER THEATRE, SIDNEY MYER ASIA CENTRE

THURSDAY 23 OCTOBER 5.45PM
Federalism and the Politics of Territorial Redistribution by Professor Daniel Béland (University of Saskatchewan, Canada). Arts lecture
Bookings: http://alumni.unimelb.edu.au/danbeland
Enquiries: dbetson@unimelb.edu.au, 9035 8001
THEATRE B, OLD ARTS BUILDING

MONDAY 27 OCTOBER 8.30AM
Visions for the future by Dr Helen Dickinson (Associate Professor of Governance at the Melbourne School of Government, University of Melbourne). Public Lecture, Miegunyah
Enquiries: Chamaine Montoro, chamaine.montoro@unimelb.edu.au, 8344 5378
PUBLIC LECTURE THEATRE, OLD ARTS BUILDING
Victory for football

The Melbourne University Football Club had an historic year in 2014, claiming Premierships in both the VAFA Premier A and Premier B sections. In the top league, the University Blacks easily accounted for Collegians with a 13.12.90 to 7.4.46 victory on September 20, making it the final NFL flag for the club in 40 years. Captain Bode Mahon received the John Nielson Medal for Best on Ground in the final. The Blues Reserves and Under 19 teams also claimed premierships, with the Reserves battling to a ten point win after extra time. The University Blues were crowned Premier B champions with a 20.22.142 to 10.7.67 victory over Old Carey, with forward Tom McKenzie leading the way with six goals. The Reserves squad also won their grand final, accounting for St Kevin’s by 35 points.


New era for ‘The Pavvy’ – Melbourne University’s heritage sports pavilion

Katherine Smith and Chris Weaver report on the opening of the University’s new sports pavilion.

A new era in University sport began on Monday 15 September, when Victorian Governor Alex Chernov opened the new Sports Pavilion at the Melbourne University Oval. The Ernest Cropley Pavilion – which this year won the Master Builders of Australia Association Commercial Building ($5-$10m) Award for the quality of its construction – is a state-of-the-art facility.

The revamped Pavilion provides enhanced spectator areas, a bar and kiosk, social spaces for events and a newly installed treatment suite and changing rooms for players.

To date, $1.3 million of philanthropic support has made up the $6.7 million project. This includes two significant bequests, and individual support, such as one donor who has been matching gifts on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

Known affectionately as ‘The Pavvy’, the iconic building was last upgraded more than 50 years ago, following a fire when all but the remaining turret was burnt down. The turret has been restored and included in the new building’s design, which also incorporates other elements of the original 1906 structure.

The pavilion has been named in honour of former head curator Ernest ‘Ernie’ Cropley, who started work at the University of Melbourne in 1934 and retired in 1993 after 59 years (with six years spent on war service from 1939-45).

Mr Lee paid homage to Mr Cropley, a stalwart servant of the University, who had formed many tight bonds with people from all major Universities and sport at the University. The refurbishment was well overdue but it is now a magnificent facility providing first class amenities for our football and cricket teams, which I am sure will ensure their future success.

“Many of our teams and clubs are made of athletes who compete at very senior levels, just below national and state leagues. We’re extremely pleased the new facilities now meet the high expectations of our own and visiting elite athletes, tenant clubs and casual users.”

The pavilion has now been opened to the public and is expected to be fully occupied by the upcoming University football and cricket seasons.

Placing the tertiary seed to grow career opportunities in agriculture

Christina Tait reports on a new program to introduce tertiary education to secondary students from the under-represented Hume region of Victoria.

Learning and Teaching

Fifty Year 9 to Year 12 students from 10 secondary schools across the Hume region participated in a three-day scholarship camp at the Dookie Campus in September.

The ‘Dookie experience’ enabled students to broaden their perspective and gain insights into careers for degree-qualified graduates in agriculture, and to break the myth that a career in agriculture means working on a farm.

“Agribusiness is becoming a high-tech industry these days and we are trying to inspire and educate students who are going to improve that technology so we can feed a growing population in a changing climate,” Head of Dookie Campus Ros Gall says.

“There’s no doubt that feeding a population of a predicted nine billion by 2050 is going to be something that Australia will be very much engaged in. We need to continue to feed our own population, plus contribute to feeding the growing world population as well.”

Students had the opportunity to speak with lecturers, current student mentors, and representatives from industry discussing careers in agriculture.

Workshop activities were held ‘in the field’ as well as ‘in the lab’ and included crop and soil sciences, environmental studies in the Bushland Reserve, cow-milking robotics in the new Robotic Dairy, and milk chemistry.

This initiative, funded by the Department of Education, is to encourage tertiary participation of local students in the Hume region.

“The Hume region has one of the lowest tertiary participation rates in Victoria, and the Dookie Campus in the region is well placed to work with these students.

“We have found that we need to engage students in their secondary school years to get them to begin thinking about their study and career alternatives, and to consider tertiary education as an option, which they may not have considered before,” Ms Gall says.

The new one-year Diploma in General Studies course, based at the Dookie Campus, provides students in the Hume region with a local pathway into a University of Melbourne degree, enabling them to live locally while they adjust to university in a supported environment.

The Diploma in General Studies articulates into other University of Melbourne Degrees for ACCESS Melbourne students based on their academic average scores.

Beginning their University of Melbourne study at the Dookie Campus will provide students in the Hume region with a locally supported stepping stone into the University of Melbourne, and give them the opportunity to strengthen their study skills and sample subjects from four different Faculties before committing to a degree course.

This camp will have sown many seeds, and hopefully inspired many local secondary school students to pursue tertiary studies, and to consider the broad range of careers in agriculture that will help to create solutions for agricultural and environmental issues facing future generations.
Events and Courses
at the University of Melbourne

CONCERTS
- Melba Hall Lunch Hour Concerts
  A series of lunch hour concerts hosted in the newly refurbished Melba Hall, held each Monday of semester from 1.10pm – 2pm.
- Composition Concerts
  Tuesday 14 October, 7.30pm – Honours and Graduate Diploma of Music (Composition) Concert #1
  Monday 20 October, 7.30pm – Honours and Graduate Diploma of Music (Composition) Concert #2
  Venue: Melba Hall, Royal Parade, Parkville
  Admission: Free
- World Music Concert
  Friday 24 October, 5pm
  A concert showcasing the variety of world music ensembles on offer at the MCM including performances by the African Drum and Dance and Shakuhachi ensembles and the World Music Choir.
  Venue: Melba Hall, Royal Parade, Parkville
  Admission: Free
- The Gathering
  Tuesday 21 October, 7.30pm
  The annual musical celebration featuring collaborations between students and staff of the School of Contemporary Music and guest artists including drummer David Jones and Miroslav Bukovsky.
  Venue: Federation Hall, Grant Street, Southbank
  Admission: Free
- Percussion Ensembles Concert
  Friday 31 October, 1pm
  The MCM Percussion Ensemble presents a program of major recent international works.
  Venue: Music Building, 234 St Kilda Road, Southbank
  Admission: Free
- New Contemporary Dance Works
  29 October – 1 November, 8pm
  Presented by first and second year dance and undergraduate production students.
  Venue: Space 28, Performing Arts Building, 28 Dodds Street, Southbank
  Admission: $22 Full / $16 Concession
- New Short Works 2
  29 – 31 October, 7pm
  Presented by Postgraduate Diploma in Performance Creation (Choreography) students.
  Venue: Studio 221, Dance Building, 234 St Kilda Road, Southbank
  Admission: Free, bookings essential

DANCE PERFORMANCES
- New Contemporary Dance Works
  29 October – 1 November, 8pm
  Presented by first and second year dance and undergraduate production students.
  Venue: Space 28, Performing Arts Building, 28 Dodds Street, Southbank
  Admission: $22 Full / $16 Concession
- New Short Works 2
  29 – 31 October, 7pm
  Presented by Postgraduate Diploma in Performance Creation (Choreography) students.
  Venue: Studio 221, Dance Building, 234 St Kilda Road, Southbank
  Admission: Free, bookings essential

THEATRE PERFORMANCES
- Independent Works Season 2014
  15 – 17 October, 7pm
  A season of new independent works created and presented by Postgraduate Diploma in Performance Creation (Animateuring) students.
  Venue: Studio 876, Performing Arts Building, 28 Dodds Street, Southbank
  Admission: Free
- One Act Plays Season 2014
  24 – 29 October, 7pm
  25, 27 & 28 October, 2pm
  Performed by Company 2015 and including works by Patricia Cornelius, Sarah Kane, Jack Hibberd and Martin Crimp. The season is directed by postgraduate directing students and designed by undergraduate and postgraduate production students.
  Venue: Performance Spaces, Performing Arts Building, 28 Dodds Street, Southbank
  Admission: $22 Full / $16 Concession
- Public Reading Program: Master of Writing for Performance
  3 – 6 November, All day & evening
  Written by Master of Writing for Performance students. Performed by Company 2014. Directed by Postgraduate Diploma in Performance Creation (Directing and Animating) students.
  Venue: Performance Spaces, Performing Arts Building, 28 Dodds Street, Southbank
  Admission: Free

EXHIBITIONS
- Basil Sellers Art Prize 4
  To 16 November
  16 artist tackle sport! The Basil Sellers Art Prize encourages artists to take on the theme of sport in any artistic medium and supports artists whose work explores Australia’s obsession with sport. Sixteen finalists have been selected for the fourth Basil Sellers Art Prize.
  Floor talks: Saturday 18 October 1–1.30pm Artist Ivan Durrant

BELIEVE
Music can be used to rehabilitate body and mind.

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