A positive response to trauma
Discovering personal growth after bushfire

Veterinary Science & Hospital Open Day
Sunday 16 March 2014, 10am – 3pm
250 Princes Hwy, Werribee
For more information visit vet.unimelb.edu.au/openday
An equitable future

In February, we welcome back staff and students for the beginning of the academic year, and with it, a new group of undergraduate students beginning the next phase of their education. Joining the University community will be the first of many new experiences for these students, educational and otherwise. The University works to instil in these students a social mindset throughout their time at Melbourne, challenging them to become active global citizens.

While ‘social equity’ sounds like an important concept, it can mean different things to different people. ‘Equity’ and ‘equality’ are often used interchangeably, and to a large extent, they have similar meanings, but treating people exactly the same - equally - can lead to unequal results. Treating people in an equitable way requires taking into account their individual needs and circumstances.

Melbourne encourages social equity and the development of a social mindset in a number of different ways, and this commitment to equity extends to all aspects of the curriculum and through our research priorities.

Undergraduates complete wide-ranging degree programs to give them the time to explore their options and interests, and to learn from their peers before having to decide which career to pursue. This course structure also means they meet and work with an incredibly diverse range of researchers and students, across faculties, rather than only in one field.

Students are also encouraged to undertake activities that add depth to their university experience, such as designing and implementing projects through the Dream large Student Engagement Grants, which connect student groups with community or industry partners to work together to improve the economic, social, environmental or cultural life of our region locally, nationally or internationally.

And as a research-intensive institution, the emphasis on and importance of social equity extends to the research agenda and program, namely through the Melbourne Social Equity Institute (MSEI).

Social equity is the starting point for researchers from different disciplines to examine what they perceive as unjust or unfair social practices and to devise options to redress them.

The Institute supports interdisciplinary research on social equity issues including health, law, education, housing, work and transport. It brings together researchers from across the University to identify unjust or unfair practices that lead to social inequity and work towards finding ways to ameliorate disadvantage.

The University doesn’t only support and highlight equity concerns through its research and teaching agenda – it also actively promotes equity by ensuring specific criteria for those from disadvantaged financial or rural and isolated backgrounds.

This year, applications through the Access Melbourne program comprised about one-third of all offers made, up eight per cent from 2012.

It’s through this mix of teaching and learning, research and corporate action that the University of Melbourne is helping to create an equitable future for people here in Australia and around the world.

Scholarship in memory of Alexander and Bridget Jones established

The University of Melbourne has established a memorial scholarship named for two of its young students, also siblings, who died last year.

By Liz Banks-Anderson

The University of Melbourne and the Bendigo and Adelaide Bank have established a new scholarship in memory of Alexander and Bridget Jones, who tragically lost their lives after a wall collapse on Swanston Street last year.

The Alexander and Bridget Jones Memorial Scholarship will help students from rural and regional areas study at the University of Melbourne. The scholarships form part of the University’s commitment to improving the participation of students and staff from educationally, financially or socially disadvantaged backgrounds.

Mr and Ms Jones’ parents Ian and Sue wished the legacy continued.

Chairman Robert Johanson says.

“These scholarships can give students the financial help they need to take the first step on their pathways to higher learning, and maybe one day they will be able to bring these skills back to their local community.”

Alexander and Bridget loved their time at the University of Melbourne and we are proud that the University and the Bendigo and Adelaide Bank have established these scholarships in their honour.”

University of Melbourne Vice-Chancellor Professor Glyn Davis said the scholarship honoured the contribution the two students made to the University and ensured their legacy continued.

“Bridget and Alexander embodied the joy for learning and education that forms the pillar of this institution.

“While this was a very distressing and tragic event, these scholarships provide some way toward providing a positive outcome and help ensure that learning is accessible to all, regardless of background.”

The scholarship will provide $13,500 overall to each recipient for the duration of their undergraduate program. They will also receive up to $2,500 for an exchange or study abroad program via a Melbourne Global Scholars Award or Grant.

“We believe in strengthening communities and there’s no better way than supporting young people to pursue their dreams,” Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Chairman Robert Johnson says.

“These scholarships can give students the financial help they need to take the first step on their pathways to higher learning, and maybe one day they will be able to bring these skills back to their local community.”

Early childhood education under qualifications threat

Early Childhood Education Associate Professor Kay Margiott writes that the quality of education for children in care and pre-school is under threat by changes to the qualification requirements of staff.

In December last year there was considerable media attention around the Federal Government’s redirection of Early Childhood Quality Fund allocations for pay increases for child care workers to professional development. This is really only the tip of the iceberg and there are more insidious changes brought about by the previous and current federal governments that threaten the quality of early childhood/childcare delivery, and have the potential to undermine the 2009 reforms to early childhood. In December 2007, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed to a partnership to pursue substantial reform in the areas of early childhood development. This led to the development and announcement in July 2009 of a National Early Childhood Development Strategy with an emphasis on reforming and building an effective early childhood development system in Australia that will contribute to the nation’s human capital and productivity through the provision of high quality early childhood care and education.

As well as aiming at universal access for all children in the year before school to 15 hours of preschool per week with an early childhood teacher, the key reforms recognise that quality of care and outcomes for children is associated with higher staff qualifications and lower staff to child ratios. Thus the reforms include:

- That all staff are qualified and all preschool programs are taught by a qualified Early Childhood teacher. Fifty per cent of educators in a service must be actively working towards, at least an approved diploma level education and care qualification, and the other 50 per cent must have, or be actively working towards at least an approved Certificate III level education and care qualification. (Previously not all educators working with children were required to have qualifications.)
- Reduced staff to child ratios for infants of 1:4; for children between 24 and 36 months of age of 1:5; for children over 36 months 1:11, or 1:12 if they are in preschool.

While these are laudable aspirations, the lack of people wanting to work in early childhood and particularly the lack of qualified early childhood teachers makes achieving these goals within the allocated time frames almost impossible – particularly as the new ratios and 15 hours preschool per week mean that more educators are now required to work with children over the age of three.

Interestingly there is no research that supports 15 hours of preschool education per week as the ‘magic figure’ and it is unclear how or why the government selected this figure rather than any other. It is also unclear which would make the reforms more achievable and better fit with current industrial workplace agreements around hours of contact with children.

Of serious concern is the recent transi
tional changes to the minimum qualifications for early childhood educators announced by the Australian Children’s Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) – the national body ensuring high quality early childhood education and care across Australia.

In a parliamentary announcement on 3 December last year the government seems to be doing a ‘sell’ on these changes to ‘save face’.

Viewpoint

Of grave concern in this announcement is the naming of the changes to qualifications as ‘improved recognition for staff studying a relevant early childhood degree’.

These changes are insidious and compromise the Government’s commitment to and recognition of the importance of staff qualifications for high quality early childhood care and education and improved outcomes for children particularly at the preschool level and in our traditional community based non-long-day preschools.

We now have staff who are only enrolled in and have commenced a Certificate III or a Diploma being counted as qualified. Furthermore, once staff have completed 50 per cent of an early childhood teacher degree qualification, or if they already hold an approved diploma-level qualification, they can be counted as an early childhood teacher. Similarly, a person who holds a primary teaching qualification that includes at least a focus on children aged 5 to 8 years old will be recognised as equivalent to an early childhood teacher.

There is considerable angst in the profession about these changes, and particularly the recognition of primary teaching degrees and TAFE/ VET diplomas as equivalent to a university early childhood teaching degree. While the changes have been noted as temporary and to be reviewed in 2016 there is extreme concern that they will become permanent.

We now have reports from the early childhood field of students who are enrolled in teaching degrees taking leave from their courses because they are being employed as teachers or degree qualified educators. Reports from the TAFE sector indicate similar actions by students part-way through their diplomas and certificate studies. This is another example of the implications of the actions of the government in undermining early childhood education and particularly the place of degree-qualified teachers.

Will early childhood teaching degrees become obsolete as potential students select a Diploma course to enable them to be counted as teachers under these recent changes?

Watch an episode of Visions about working with gifted children in early childhood:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4NC2tsfFM98

www.education.unimelb.edu.au

SIDNEY MYER FREE CONCERTS.

15, 18 & 22 February, 2014

Summer in the city means outdoor musical bliss, with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra’s Sidney Myer Free Concerts, presented in association with the University of Melbourne. Sidney Myer was not only one of Australia’s most visionary business figures and entrepreneurs, but also one of the most philanthropic individuals of his time. In 1932 he generously established a trust fund at the University of Melbourne to provide a permanent series of free open-air concerts of orchestral music for the public of Melbourne. Originally given under the direction of the University of Melbourne Ormond Professor of Music, today the concerts are given by the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra.
Mentally healthy communities, on and offline

From video games to cybersafety

iPhone apps, the development of tools for increasing access to health and well-being.

Professor Luckhurst brings a great qualification to provide transformative leadership and mentoring for the national research collaborations.

Beginning in March 2014, Professor Luckhurst will take up a position as Professor of Creative Practice and Artistic Research at the Faculty of the Victorian College of the Arts and Melbourne Conservatorium of Music (VCA & MCM), in a major research appointment at the University of Melbourne. Professor Luckhurst is the UK’s highest profile practitioner scholar, and a pioneer in applied research and the PhD in Creative and Professional Practice. She is a theatre writer and director well known for championing creative writing within higher education, and the author of ten academic books on theatre.

Robert Champion de Crespigny, a leading scholar on mental health and youth health, has joined the University of Melbourne in a number of pioneering online mental health interventions, resources and treatment strategies with young people at the centre.

The Young and Well CRC is leading a number of innovative research initiatives – including a game design research group exploring the impact of commercial video games on mental health and a new iPhone app aimed at tackling cyberbullying by spreading positivity online among teenagers. Appreciate A Mate is a newly launched app that generates messages of appreciation, providing young people with a digital tool to share compliments and positive communication.

This campaign takes a new approach to tackling cyberbullying and the issue of poor self-esteem in young Australians. The campaign was launched in July 2013, with hundreds of positive compliments spreading their way across social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Tumblr. The compliments were in the form of illustrated images with positive sentiments, phrases such as: ‘Don’t ever change,’ ‘Your smile makes me smile’ and even ‘Your face makes Facebook better.’

Young people told us the building blocks of self-esteem are acceptance and feeling valued by the people closest to them – their friends and family. They gave us feedback on the campaign idea and even wrote the messages that you see in the app,” Associate Professor Burns says.

In Brief

To learn, work and play. Recent data suggests that over 95% of young people in Australia use the internet on a daily basis to build their social networks, seek advice, contact relevant health organisations and reach out to others in need.

Yet the potential of online technologies as tools for increasing access to health and wellbeing programs is yet to be fully realised – particularly in the area of mental health, where young people today face their biggest challenges.

Enter the Young and Well Co-operative Research Centre (CRC). It’s an Australia-based international research centre, uniting young people with researchers, practitioners, innovators and partners from over 70 partner organisations across the government, academic, corporate and not-for-profit sectors. The Centre explores the role of technology in young people’s lives, focusing on how it can be used to improve the mental health and wellbeing of young people aged 12 to 25.

Associate Professor Jane Burns, CEO of the Young and Well CRC and Principal Research Fellow at the University of Melbourne’s Centre for Youth Mental Health at Orygen Youth Health, founded the organisation in 2011 under the Australian Government’s Co-operative Research Centres Program.

Establishing the Young and Well CRC is a culmination of my work in suicide and depression prevention over the past two decades,” Associate Professor Burns says.

Youth is a critical period for social and emotional development, and a time when people face serious challenges like cyberbullying and discrimination. One in four young people experience mental health difficulties, disrupting their relationships, education and work. Poor mental health relates directly to suicide, which has been shown to cost the Australian economy $17.5 billion annually.

“In mental health and youth health, there is an urgent need to capitalise on new technologies to enhance engagement, support treatment and develop new online service models,” Associate Professor Burns says.

“Australia is a world-leader in this field, and a pioneering number of online mental health resource and service providers have been born here, such as Headspace. It is with this spirit of innovation and enthusiasm that the sector must continue to develop original and evidence-based interventions, resources and treatment strategies with young people at the centre.

The Young and Well CRC is leading a number of innovative research initiatives – including a gaming research group exploring the impact of commercial video games on mental health and a new iPhone app aimed at tackling cyberbullying by spreading positivity online among teenagers. Appreciate A Mate is a newly launched app that generates messages of appreciation, providing young people with a digital tool to share compliments and positive communication.

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Young people told us the building blocks of self-esteem are acceptance and feeling valued by the people closest to them – their friends and family. They gave us feedback on the campaign idea and even wrote the messages that you see in the app,” Associate Professor Burns says.

He has joined the University of Melbourne as a patron of its largest-ever fundraising campaign.

Robert Champion de Crespigny, a leading scholar on mental health and youth health, has joined the University of Melbourne in a number of pioneering online mental health interventions, resources and treatment strategies with young people at the centre.

“Robert Champion de Crespigny is driven by a desire to make the world a better place, both for her own children and young people around the world. She hopes that the technological revolution will provide an opportunity to eliminate the traditional roadblocks to a healthy mental health – such as verbal, social and geographical barriers to inclusion and wellness.

“As a mum to three children, including a little boy who lives with autism and Down syndrome, I am particularly interested in how technologies can be used to enhance social connection and how the internet can facilitate empowerment for those who are marginalised or geographically isolated,” she explains.

“In my day-to-day work I have an opportunity to work with some of the most inspiring young people from all walks of life,” Associate Professor Burns says.

“With these people this with some of Australia’s most innovative, creative and clever scientists, thought leaders and mental health reformers, you end up with a pretty amazing and eclectic mix of research projects.?” Associate Professor Burns is driven by a desire to make the world a better place, both for her own children and young people around the world. She hopes that the technological revolution will provide an opportunity to eliminate the traditional roadblocks to a healthy mental health – such as verbal, social and geographical barriers to inclusion and wellness.

Participants at the third Carlton Community Sports Carnival, hosted at the University of Melbourne’s Parkville campus, were determined to prove that you can indeed hold a crepe in one hand and play sport with the other. By Kate O’Hara.

FEBRUARY 5

It was a day of fierce (but friendly) competition, plenty of goals, treats from Parkville campus favourite Carte Crepes and at least one parent-versus-child competition in the jump and long-jump pit at the third staging of the Carlton Community Sports Carnival.

With more than 200 participants and representation from a growing number of sports clubs and associations across Melbourne, the carnival, held in November 2013, was a collaborative effort led by Sports Without Borders in partnership with Melbourne University Sport. And it’s an event which gets bigger and better each year.

Supported by a dedicated army of volunteers and organisations, General Manager of Sports Without Borders Tarik Bayrakli says it was an all-in effort.

“We know that sport has a vital role in multicultural Australia, empowering many newly arrived Australians to develop an identity and sense of active belonging,” Mr Bayrakli says.

“But it’s also about bringing the whole community together to share the day, get involved and partake in some healthy competition. We were particularly keen to increase participation by female teams at the most recent carnival and were really pleased with the number of registrations in the girls’ competition. We are also very grateful for the sponsorship support of the University of Melbourne and the City of Melbourne.”

The all-age event is aimed at uniting communities from Carlton and surrounding areas and building ties between representative organisations – including Tennis Victoria, Netball Victoria, Melbourne Heart, Drummond St Services, Carlton Football Club, Football Federation Victoria and Athletics Victoria – and participants.

“This year we were also able to partner with the FC11 Sports Academy and a team of young soccer enthusiasts, who we’ve nicknamed the ‘Itolangi Crew,’ ” Mr Bayrakli says.

“As part of their training program they had to help organise a sporting event, and the sports carnival was ideal. The Itolangi Crew reported to tournament co-ordinator and volunteer Adila Yazar, and were fantastic on the day, running between the five pitches, liaising with the 20 registered teams and making sure everything ran smoothly.”

Along with providing volunteer opportunities for students the carnival links into the University’s broader partnership with the Carlton community, which has a particular focus on opening up campus facilities to the neighbourhood and building stronger connections with communities from surrounding areas.

Professor Phil Batterham, Provost’s Fellow for Student Experience, hailed the November event a success.

“They University was really pleased to work with a number of wonderful partners in producing this event,” he says.

“It was wonderful to see so many families from our local community enjoying the experience of being on our campus for the carnival.”

Plans are already under way for the fourth Carlton Community Sports Carnival later in the year.

What makes a good workplace?

People management deficiencies are the major challenges to quality workplaces.

Susannah Woodward explains the role of the new Centre for Workplace Leadership in addressing these challenges.

What will workplaces of the future look like? What are the qualities of a good manager? How can you inspire and lead a workforce to achieve its potential? These are just some of the questions the newly established Centre for Workplace Leadership at the University of Melbourne will explore.

Led by Professor Peter Gahan, with funding by the Federal Government, the Centre is seeking to drive the debate on what leadership in Australian workplaces should look like, by providing practical help to small and large businesses.

“If you had the chance to go back and walk into the typical workplace 25 years ago, you would probably be astounded to see just how much modern workplaces have evolved. It would not matter if it were manufacturing or a business office. The layout, the technology and the way people related to each other, and the way people were managed was very different. Twenty-five years ago, for example, the now widely accepted idea of teamwork was still relatively new; jobs were much more compartmentalised, and management operated in a much more top-down manner,” Professor Gahan says.

“Today, we are seeing a range of new trends, such as activity-based work, telework, flexible work – ideas that just a decade ago seemed the exception, now are on the cusp of becoming very much the mainstream, and even commonplace. The array of new technologies is beginning to reshape work in new and exciting ways that will make today’s workplace appear antiquated – and the rate at which all this is happening has accelerated and will continue to do so. All of this has profound consequences for how managers motivate their employees and how we think about leadership in the workplace,” he says.

In its 2013 National Workforce Development Strategy, the Australian Workforce Productivity Agency demonstrated that workplaces with effective leaders and managers are more productive and innovative, and have better financial returns.

“Modelling shows increasing demand for managers across all scenarios. It is important to ensure they have the skills to foster higher-performing workplaces and better use of skills. It is time for a new comprehensive review of leadership and management to ensure that Australia has the management capability to meet our potential.”

“Frontline managers, who often face the brunt of disruptive change and adaptation, do not necessarily have the skills and capabilities to lead this change,” Professor Gahan says.

“Consequently, investing in more capable management – at the top of organisations, as well as on the frontline – will be critical to meeting this new set of productivity challenges.”

Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) make up 63 per cent of Australia’s economy and will be a keen focus for the services that the Centre for Workplace Leadership will provide.

“For the man or woman running a freight company in Alice Springs to the six person operation in Thomastown we can advise how leadership deficiencies vary, but we do have some evidence that the greatest gaps appear around people management skills,” Professor Gahan says.

“We also know that there are models for management to follow that lead to higher productivity and better workplace performance.”

Located in the University’s Faculty of Business and Economics, in a ‘workplace of the future’ designed by Melbourne’s METIER3, the Centre will collaborate on initial foundation projects with the Bendigo and Adelaide Bank, Cisco Systems and GST Australia.

These foundation projects will cover four priority themes of frontline leadership, high performance workplaces, leading through technology and innovation, and future workplace leaders. The Centre’s inaugural ‘Future of Work’ conference will be held on 9 and 10 April 2014.

Among its first priorities, the Centre for Workplace Leadership will undertake a systematic stocktake of Australian management skills and capabilities to establish the gaps that exist and identify areas for immediate attention.

One of the Centre’s first projects will be to create tools and resources to help workplaces and managers measure and benchmark their performance.

“We’re creating the toolkit to access and harness the potential of leaders in Australia’s workplaces and encourage business of all types and sizes to get in touch with us to see how we can help drive innovation and foster efficiency in their workplaces,” Professor Gahan says.

www.workplaceleadership.com.au
Landing a dream job in your home city

The second White Night Melbourne takes place on 22 February. Christopher Strong asked WNM Productions General Manager and production management graduate Adi Diner about how he came to be managing Melbourne’s largest arts event.

Adi Diner

Melbourne International Jazz Festival, General Manager of Polyglot Theatre in South Yarra and managing his own arts management consultancy known simply as The Arts Man.

Like most people in leadership positions, he had to start small, working as a stage manager in the Melbourne theatre scene after completing a Bachelor degree at Monash University and a Graduate Diploma in Dramatic Arts (Production and Events Management) at the Victorian College of the Arts.

“After a few years of freelance stage management I stumbled upon events management. It had all the elements of everything I loved and I was hooked. I had to work really hard and it was really challenging. Because most events are over in a day, I could run on adrenaline and I wouldn’t have to stay in the theatre afterwards. I’d just work ridiculously hard to get everything together, do the gig and then bump out and move on to something different.

“But I feel my experience in the theatre is still relevant today as it helps me better understand an artist’s approach to a performance, and the mentality of the crew on the ground.”

In 2007 he enrolled in a Master of Arts Management at the University of Melbourne to help consolidate his position as a leader and fill gaps in his knowledge and skills.

“Part of my reason for enrolling in this program was to find a network of people passionate about arts and culture who would be my peers over the coming decades, and so far this has been the case. Since graduation we’ve been meeting every six months or so to catch up and discuss what we’ve been doing,” Mr Diner says.

“I was fortunate to be working at the Jazz Festival while I was studying because I got more out of the program and made it more practical – I was immediately applying what I was learning to my role.”

Now as the General Manager of one of Australia’s largest arts events, he feels very lucky to have found a dream job in his home city when most people in leadership positions think about the major state cultural institutions and it’s part of a larger network of international events. It’s very Melbourne and a convergence of its passions and values. I get to work with phenomenal people, both artists and administrators.”

His primary goal is to deliver the creative vision of Artistic Director Andrew Walsh by bringing everything and everybody together so the event can be promoted, the budget managed, the logistics organised and, perhaps most importantly, all the displays up and running for the crowd of possibly half a million people who are expected to enjoy the night.

“One of the biggest challenges was getting my head around the size of the event. There are just so many stakeholders to manage, both internal and external. There’s not really any way to prepare yourself for that, except to dive in head first and just get it done,” he says.

Attendance numbers won’t be the only way he measures the success of the event.

“It is about engagement. We want people to engage with the creative offerings. With music, art, food, theatre, sport, fashion, film, design and performance. There really is something at White Night for everybody – from the aficionados to the neophytes. We’ll measure success by the way people engage with the work,” he says.

When the event begins at 7pm on 22 February he can step back and let the artists take over. So what will he do on the night?

“I honestly don’t know yet. There is a function early in the night for sponsors and other important stakeholders but after that I don’t know. If there’s water to be distributed to staff, I guess I’ll do that because I think that’s part of good leadership, to show you’re not above that sort of thing. But I don’t know. I only hope to find a moment to soak up the event,” he says.

White Night Melbourne runs for 12 hours 7pm-7am on 22 and 23 February 2014.

www.whitenightmelbourne.com.au
www.arts.unimelb.edu.au
Operation eradicate hawkweed

Its flower is an unremarkable 15 millimetres from side to side, but don’t be fooled – the Orange Hawkweed packs a punch far above its weight class. Kate O’Hara looks at a long-term partnership project to preserve and protect Victoria’s unique alpine environment.

Paul Kelly’s song line ‘From little things, big things grow’ is most often used to reference positive development, but it’s also an apt description for the threat posed by hawkweeds (Hieracium species), and not in a good way.

The hawkweed plant is a highly-invasive species and is on the National Environmental Alert List, with the potential to become a significant threat if not managed. It out-competes native plant growth and is a major threat to biodiversity, particularly in Victoria’s alpine region.

Economic modelling figures are certainly enough to cause concern (potential production losses in grazing areas are conservatively estimated at $74 million), and you only have to look at the New Zealand experience for proof that if left unchecked, the growth of hawkweed across south-eastern Australia could have disastrous economic and ecological ramifications which would be impossible to reverse.

But we’re a way off that tipping point, says Dr Nicholas Williams of the University of Melbourne’s Resource Management and Geography Department, and it’s thanks to the efforts of a partnership project between Parks Victoria, the Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) and the University.

For nearly a decade now, the partners have been working together to analyse, map and develop weed eradication approaches, work that was recognised late last year when the project received a Vice-Chancellor’s Engagement Excellence Award.

It all started in 1999, when the University’s field botany class first discovered hawkweeds in the Victorian Alps.

“Each summer we teach a class up at Falls Creek and that year we saw something strange, we knew it wasn’t native,” Dr Williams says.

“The weed was spreading up and down the ski slopes and was later on positively identified as a new weed species for Victoria. Up until then Orange Hawkweed had been found only in Tasmania and given what’s happened in New Zealand and overseas, we knew it was invasive and quite a big threat to agriculture.”

That discovery really prompted the first efforts to start work on developing a dispersal model and to look at ways we could prevent the weed’s spread.”

With its first research grant in 2005 through the Parks Victoria Research Partners Program, the project steadily gathered momentum and received an ARC Linkage grant in 2009 to better understand the ecology of hawkweed species, predict its distribution and eradicate infestations.

This year, all that knowledge is again being applied to identification efforts as volunteers, land managers and staff at Parks Victoria and DEPI roll out their summer eradication program in the Victorian Alps.

From the beginning there has been a commitment from all the partners to address the problem using the best available science,” Dr Williams says.

“Collecting data is expensive, and takes a lot of field work. If researchers can use high-quality data collected by other agencies, it means we can get to the problem-solving part first and try to answer the research questions rather than having to spend two or three years or even just a field season going out to collect the data.

“And that’s exactly what happened in this project. Based on the quality of data collected by Parks Victoria and DEPI, we were able to develop a model that provides information about likely weed infestation locations. This saves a considerable amount of money in management methods – rather than looking all over the high-plains we are able to look in specific areas where we predicted there was a high probability of the plant being there.”

Since that first discovery of the Orange variety others have also been identified, including the King Devil Hawkweed and the Mouse Ear’s Hawkweed. NSW Parks and Wildlife are also contributing to broader research efforts, with the discovery of Orange Hawkweed infestations in Kosciuszko National Park.

It’s in the detection of new infestations where precious time and resources need to be spent, so in 2012 the project partners set up a novel experiment with volunteers and land managers.

Dr Cindy Hauser from the University’s School of Botany worked with the project during this phase and says the ‘hide and seek’ experiment netted significant data.

“The key issue to arise from our research is that when ecologists and environmental managers go out and do observational studies, they often don’t know what they’re missing,” she says.

“Through the experiment where we timed and tested the hawkweed search skills of agency staff and weed-spotter volunteers, we were able to see what people find quickly and what requires intensive effort. For example, nothing else in that region has an orange flower quite like the Orange Hawkweed and so searchers could spot them within minutes. But flat green hawkweed rosettes without flowers look superficially similar to a number of other alpine plants and can be concealed by grasses or heath, so much slower, more intensive searching is required. DEPI and Parks Victoria are now in a better position to plan surveys and search intensity for Orange Hawkweed.”

Work continues on the project through a number of teaching and learning approaches, including rostering optimisations developed by a visiting computer scientist, Dr Mathieu Bonneau, and the Honours work of Keith Primrose, project manager with Parks Victoria.

With the disastrous New Zealand experience hoving at the fringes, where thousands of hectares of sub-alpine pasture have been lost to the weed, the project team is committed to working towards eradication of hawkweeds in Victoria. It’s an ambitious goal and if it’s achieved, would be a world first for this particular species.

“Beyond that goal of eradicating the species, the project is developing techniques which will enable other weed eradication programs to apply the methods we’ve developed”, Dr Williams says.

“It will help us answer those all-important questions, like how much money do you spend trying to find the weeds versus how much money you spend trying to control it. It’s about the optimal allocation of scarce resources.”

“This project is a fantastic example of how science and management can come together collaboratively and to end up with much better outcomes than otherwise would be possible. We’re making decisions based on the evidence and that means we’re spending scarce conservation dollars more effectively.”

If you suspect you have seen hawkweed, please contact DEPI immediately on 13 6186.

www.land-environment.unimelb.edu.au
www.depi.vic.gov.au
www.parksweb.vic.gov.au

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City of Melbourne

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE VOICE 7
Medical student Skye Kinder has been named the City of Greater Bendigo’s Young Citizen of the Year for her dedication to rural health promotion. At just 22, Ms Kinder has worked with leading researchers and represented Australia in conferences abroad. In 2014, she is continuing to apply her skills to be a powerful advocate for rural health and medicine through her work in student rural health associations.

“Global experience shaping rural health advocacy

Sometimes you have to adopt a global outlook to address local challenges. Medical student Skye Kinder is doing just that – and doing great things for rural health in Australia. By Kate Dukes.

Understanding learning key to achievement for all

School's work with the new Science of Learning Research Centre about strategies to discover what barriers prevent some students from achieving their potential.

Melbourne Conversation

Professor John Hattie is leading the Graduate School's work with the new Science of Learning Research Centre, an exciting large-scale, four-year study investigating how we learn.

Why does this area warrant further research?

JH: That is absolutely what we have been funded to do. We are very focused on coming up with better resources, better understandings for teachers to truly make a difference in the classroom. A major aim is to create a better narrative about learning and the brain.

JH: Absolutely! You have to think: what do we know about learning, and where are the gaps?

What do we already know about learning, and where are the gaps?

JH: One of the things we certainly know is that you do not think with your big toe! There is something going on in the brain. While we know little about the brain and learning right now, the excitement is that breakthroughs are imminent and being part of this discovery is exciting. This project is trying to bridge the gap across neuroscience and education to learn more about the production, measurement and enhancement of learning.

So do you plan to produce some findings that can be used practically by teachers?

JH: Yes, we have two simulated classrooms. One will be very much related to the brain science side of the research (based at the University of Queensland) and the one here in Melbourne will be used to develop a much better understanding of the learning processes, particularly in the social context that so typifies classrooms.

These classrooms will be set up in a kind of laboratory notion, because firstly we want to understand under certain control conditions what is happening before we then go out, as we intend to, into regular classrooms.

Why does this area warrant further research?

Professor John Hattie from the Science of Learning Research Centre about strategies to discover what barriers prevent some students from achieving their potential.

Melbourne Conversation

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These classrooms will be set up in a kind of laboratory notion, because firstly we want to understand under certain control conditions what is happening before we then go out, as we intend to, into regular classrooms.

You mentioned that we're very good at measuring the outcomes of learning but not necessarily measuring the processes of learning. How will this research influence how we measure learning?

JH: We need to think about how we get to the desirable student outcomes. You do not get there necessarily with just asking students to do more reading, writing and maths. It is about how they go about processing, relating and extending various ideas—how they move from surface knowledge to deep knowledge.

Learning involves knowing how to concentrate, when to concentrate, how to engage in deliberate practice, how to listen and receive feedback, knowing what to do when you do not know what to do, and knowing where to go next in the learning process. All these skills are teachable! We will be working on how we teach learning skills; concentration, perseverance, persistence etc. – that's an aim of the centre.

The Melbourne Graduate School of Education is partnering with the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) and the Queensland Brain Institute at the University of Queensland on this study, which is financed by Commonwealth funding of $16 million, as well as Victorian Government funding and in-kind support.

www.education.unimelb.edu.au/
Learning from the night sky

Andi Horvath checks in with the second year of the Telescopes in Schools program, to find it is sowing the seeds of curiosity about astrophysics among young observers of the night sky, their parents and teachers.

“Taking telescopes into schools was the vision of a gracious benefactor who had a love of astronomy, and who wanted secondary school students to experience science outside the classroom – especially those who might never get the opportunity to see through a telescope but had a sense of curiosity about the world,” says physicist, educator, and co-ordinator of the program Jacinta den Besten.

The generous bequest to the University of Melbourne enabled the purchase of 10 powerful research-grade telescopes with cameras to take images.

“These telescopes are capable of providing views of the universe that you can’t see with the naked eye,” she says. “They are powerful enough to home in on craters of the Moon or view deep sky objects like nebulae and faraway galaxies without the inner city light pollution being an issue.”

Ms den Besten says the students are often shy at the start of the program, but once into it can be heard to say ‘I’ve always been interested but didn’t know there was anyone like me’. It’s not too hard to take photos, once you know how. One way is to attach a camera and take short exposure pictures and then stack them on top of each other for a better image,” Ms den Besten says.

“Some schoolteachers became very enthusiastic photographers. The overall winner of the competition is an image of the Sculptor Galaxy taken by a teacher, and is entitled ‘Mum there’s a galaxy’, because the keen teacher had hauled her mother out of bed to see what she could see. You can imagine how her enthusiasm for the universe has also infected some of her students.”

“When the Telescopes in Schools Program started it was around the time of the Transit of Venus, when Venus passes in front of the Sun. It’s a rare event that will not occur again until 2117. We were working with Pascoe Vale Girls College and the whole school was involved in some capacity during the event, and it was also reported on the national news. It was really memorable with lots of discussion about planets, and the Sun. These students will never forget the Transit of Venus.”

Watch an episode of Visions about the Telescopes in Schools Program:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ed6fn7Ac
www.physics.unimelb.edu.au
www.unimelb.edu.au/advancement
The naming of elite footballer Adam Goodes as the 2014 Australian of the Year exemplifies the commitment of modern Australia to eradicating racism and to closing the gap. Young Indigenous cadet Minnie Atkinson is one of the faces representing the University of Melbourne’s corresponding commitment. Gabrielle Murphy reports.

I
n his apology to Indigenous Australians on 12 February 2008 Vice-Chancellor Professor Glyn Davis committed the University of Melbourne to using its expertise and resources to make a sustained contribution to lifting the health, education and living standards of Indigenous Australians.

The apology was followed by the roll out of a raft of initiatives, including the University’s first Reconciliation Action Plan which in 2010 ratified six areas for action, one of which committed the University to achieving population parity of Indigenous staff by 2020.

An Indigenous cadetship – the Indigenous Australian Equity Level Development Employment Program – was one such initiative developed to realise this ambitious target, and ran for the first year early last year after a lengthy Australia-wide recruitment process in Indigenous and mainstream channels such as The Lime Network, Seek, and government agency websites.

“The cadetship has been a great experience,” says Minjaara Atkinson. “It’s led to gaining experience and independence.”

Ms Atkinson, known as Minnie is a Yorta Yorta woman who grew up in Mooroopna near Shepparton, and one of nine Indigenous candidates selected for the first intake of the cadetship. The two-year program allows the cadets to perform a variety of professional staff roles across the University, while studying for a Certificate IV in Administration Business Support.

“Coming from a country town, I was a bit overwhelmed at first about moving to the city, but I had support from all the offices I have had a chance to work in, which was great,” says Ms Atkinson.

According to Charles O’Leary, a Kamilaroi man from north-west New South Wales, and Senior Manager of Indigenous Student and Staff Programs at the University’s Murrup Barak Melbourne Institute for Indigenous Development, the program meets the business needs of the University and at the same time responds to community needs by providing employment to Indigenous Australians with a low-unemployed status.

“This is a largely untapped labour supply,” says Mr. O’Leary, “which we can draw on to everyone’s satisfaction – the University’s and the job-seeker’s.

“We’ve been in the exciting and fortunate position of contributing to the success of the University by recruiting Indigenous Australians with great interpersonal skills and the capacity to rapidly acquire technical expertise in a range of professional and administrative areas.”

Under the guidance of Mr. O’Leary, whose outstanding contribution was recognised with a University of Melbourne Diversity and Inclusion Award in the 2013 round, the University has experienced an almost three-fold increase in Indigenous staff numbers between 2010 and 2013. It now employs 44 Indigenous professional staff and 16 Indigenous academic staff.

The cadets, who have now completed one full year of their on-the-job traineeships, were placed in different faculties and departments across the University, including the Library and Legal Services, the Faculty of Architecture Building and Planning, Property and Campus Services, Research Ethics and Integrity, Student Services, the Victorian College of the Arts, and the Engagement Division of the University.

“The cadets have worked in parts of the University where for the most part there are or have been no other Indigenous Australians,” says Mr O’Leary. “So they’ve been instrumental in changing perceptions in their workplaces.

Conversely, through their experience in entry-level roles, the cadets have become familiar with the University environment and, further, have become a virtual recruitment pool in their own right.

“The experience they gain here will support them through their careers even should they move on to work elsewhere.”

For Minnie Atkinson, the cadetship has broadened her horizons and her aspirations.

“I’m hoping to continue working at the University this year,” she says, “and am seriously considering applying for the Bachelor of Arts Extended for the next intake of students in 2015.

“And if I’m lucky, continue to work here at the Uni until I can use my professional and academic qualifications to further my career.”

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And even deeper threads

Linked by deep common threads of suffering

By Rhonda Abotomey, edited by Laura Brierley

Gift of Hope

might expect, the lived reality of complex disaster trauma and multiple traumatic bereavements. But there is something else, something that took her by surprise. “As part of my response to this trauma, I started writing. Words, phrases, feelings, just for myself.” Monash University professor Laura Brierley, shaped some of them into poetry – an act which opened up a new and satisfying creative outlet for Ms Abotomey. Her writings, poetry and her bushfire recovery initiative, Seeds of Compassion (SOC) Day, were subsequently invited into the Melbourne Museum Black Saturday Bushfire collection.

An accountant during her professional career, and a stay-at-home mother for many intervening years, she says she knew nothing about writing poetry before Black Saturday. “All of a sudden at my kitchen table the words just started flowing, and I have been writing poetry ever since.” She also surprised herself by her desire to advocate for improvement to systems and services, which led to her engagement with the Bushfire Royal Commission as a witness, her role as a Bushfire Bereaved Advisory Group and other activities to advocate for deeper understanding and consideration of the needs of people affected by Black Saturday. Ms Abotomey is now engaged as a research assistant in the Department of Social Work at the University of Melbourne, providing input to a Melbourne Social Equity Institute-funded project seeking to re-theorise and expand understandings of post-disaster response experiences.

The project Reconceptualising and supporting disaster recovery services, which led to her engagement with the Bushfire Royal Commission as a witness, her role as a Bushfire Bereaved Advisory Group and other activities to advocate for deeper understanding and consideration of the needs of people affected by Black Saturday. Ms Abotomey is now engaged as a research assistant in the Department of Social Work at the University of Melbourne, providing input to a Melbourne Social Equity Institute-funded project seeking to re-theorise and expand understandings of post-disaster response experiences.

The Melbourne Social Equity Institute supports interdisciplinary research across the full spectrum of life including health, law, education, housing, work and transport, and their intersections with gender, disability, mental health and more. The Institute brings together researchers from across the University of Melbourne, government and the community to identify the unjust practices that arise at these intersections and work towards finding ways to ameliorate disadvantage.


Comedian Corinne Grant will launch the Conference with a free public event on 27 February with a debate titled: Is it fair?

More: http://events.unimelb.edu.au/events/2713-equality-is-it-fair

For more information about the project, please email blacksaturday-ptg@unimelb.edu.au www.socialwork.unimelb.edu.au/
Controlling infection in Zambian prisons

Stuart Winthrop speaks with a researcher helping to provide access to health care and prevention in Zambia’s prisons.

Developing countries face numerous challenges, with health care and services key among them, and it is often the most vulnerable – such as prison inmates – among an already disadvantaged population who suffer most and have the least access to preventive and curative care.

As evidence of this, the landlocked southern-central African nation of Zambia, which has the sixth-highest HIV prevalence in the world at 14.3 per cent, has rates of HIV in prisons as high as 33 per cent.

Tuberculosis is also endemic, with Luaca Central Prison having a rate of tuberculosis infection four-and-a-half times that of the surrounding district.

University of Melbourne PhD candidate Stephanie Topp has been working in Luaca with the Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia (CIDRZ) as a technical adviser and research associate, and has on the ground experience of supporting the Zambian Prison Service to deliver services to this complex population.

“Contrary to popular perception, prison populations are not isolated from the general community, but are in fact highly mobile,” she says, “with people entering, transferring within, and exiting facilities constantly.”

Ms Topp says that when prisoners – who have potentially contracted diseases during their incarceration – are released after serving their sentence, this risk of disease spread is transferred from the inmate population the public at large.

“Addressing health and health systems in the prison ‘prêt-à-dish’ is thus critical to any broader attempt to address population health, in Zambia as in any other country,” she says.

Ms Topp has worked to improve health systems in Zambia since 2007 after researching the influences shaping HIV policy in Papua New Guinea as a Rhodes Scholar at the University of Oxford.

She is completing her PhD at the University of Melbourne’s Nossal Institute for Global Health, and her thesis is a health systems analysis of primary care centres in Zambia. Her current work is as part of a CIDRZ team that is looking to strengthen the underlying health system in Zambian prisons.

“Currently, the Zambian Prisons Health Directorate lacks a dedicated budget and relies mostly on funds donated for HIV and AIDS interventions, which don’t have a strong focus on health planning and co-ordination.

“Dependence on these types of funding makes it almost impossible to improve preventative or curative care in the long term. We needed to address root causes of weak health services in the prisons,” she says.

At the same time, funding for disease-specific activities like tuberculosis screening or safe sex campaigns are more likely to gain the attention of donors and media. Yet, with the extreme political sensitivities, for instance men having sex with men, which remains illegal in Zambia, such activities may be difficult, if not impossible, to carry out.

“In Zambia there are still many groups – both within government and non-government – unwilling to endorse simple interventions like condom distribution in prisons. Although there are also many progressive individuals who continue to push the envelope.

“Ultimately, our choice to focus our work on basic health infrastructure was driven by our recognition that in order to deliver disease-specific interventions routinely – not as a one-off campaign – it was absolutely essential to have a functioning, evidence-based system in place. We recognised that without a strong health system in place, improved service delivery and health outcomes in any area would be difficult to sustain.

Through its Zambia Prison Health Systems Strengthening Project (ZaPHSS), CIDRZ has been working to engage government ministries and develop systems for co-ordinated planning and decision making.

“Because the health systems in place to deliver prison inmates are so weak – we had to start from the top,” she says. “So far, the project has helped the ZPS and health ministries to publish a joint prison health framework, to address the fact that Zambia’s prison health system has historically worked in isolation from the wider health service and struggled to meet the needs of inmates.”

In the prisons themselves, she says CIDRZ has introduced tuberculosis screening and trained inmates as peer educators who assisted with HIV and tuberculosis screening of 6,436 inmates in 2014.

In January 2014, the ZPS agreed to the formation of facility-level health committees formed from prison officers and health professionals to address the prison health needs.

Prisons Deputy Commissioner Lwem Chilunika has described ZaPHSS as helping the prisons service jump start long-needed improvements in prisons health, saying the health directorate had, up to now, been present but not highly functional due to structural and operational challenges.

And in an encouraging development the ministries of Home Affairs, Health and Community Development will this year commit to collaboration on improved inmate health services.

While such achievements may not have the glamour of traditional health campaigns, Ms Topp says that in-prison approaches to health are essential for making health campaigns sustainable.

“In the end, the success of vaccine campaigns and treatments activities are rarely sustainable and only partially successful without strong health systems, and our driving rationale is to have a term-impact on the health services available to this incredibly vulnerable population.”

Debunking the sixth sense

Liz Banks-Anderson reports on new research that posts a more rational explanation for ESP than the notion of a sixth sense.

“IT IS entirely natural to be interested in an ability that you think you have, if it seems to defy scientific explanation.”

So says cognitive scientist Dr Piers Howe, from the Melbourne School of Psychological Sciences, discussing the fascination that surrounds the phenomenon of the sixth sense.

Dr Howe led a study that helped debunk the common belief that a sixth sense exists.

The study found that people can reliably sense a change when a change had occurred, even when they could not see exactly what had changed.

For example, a person might notice a general change in someone’s appearance but not be able to identify that the person had had a haircut.

Dr Howe says the research is the first to show in a scientific study that people can reliably sense changes that they cannot visually identify.

“There is a common belief that observers can experience changes directly with their mind, without needing to rely on the traditional physical senses such as vision, hearing, taste, smell and touch to identify it. This alleged ability is sometimes referred to as a sixth sense.

“We were able to show that while observers could reliably sense changes that they could not visually identify, this ability was not due to a sixth sense,” he says.

In the study, observers were presented with pairs of colour photographs, both of the same person. In some cases, her appearance would be different in the two photographs. For example, the individual might have a different hairstyle.

Each photograph was presented for 1.5 seconds with a one second break between them. After the last photograph, the observer was asked to indicate whether a change had occurred and, if so, identify the change from a list of nine possible changes.

Results showed study participants could generally not detect when a change had occurred, even when they could not identify exactly what had changed. For example, they might notice that the two photographs were different but not be able to determine that the person had changed the colour of their hair.

This resulted in the observer “feeling” or “sensing” that a change had occurred without being able to visually identify the change.

Crucially, this occurred only when the change altered the visual statistics of the image, for example if it altered the total amount of red or green.

Thus, the result that observers can reliably feel or sense when a change has occurred without being able to visually identify the change is due to their noticing changes to the visual statistics of the image and can be explained without invoking the possibility of an extraordinary mechanism.

The research was led by Senior Lecturer Dr Piers Howe in collaboration with researcher Margaret Webb.

www.psych.unimelb.edu.au
In May 2013, the University of Melbourne launched the largest philanthropic initiative in its history, Believe – The Campaign for the University of Melbourne. The Campaign, which aims to raise $500 million by the end of 2017, will enable the University to continue educating tomorrow’s leaders, break new ground in solving the world’s grand challenges through research, and strengthen communities near and far. To date, the Campaign has raised over $285 million.

In just eight months since its public launch, nearly $40 million has been gifted with strong support coming from alumni, staff, students and friends worldwide. Over 15,000 donors have contributed to support Campaign goals, more than 800 of whom reside outside Australia. Already the Campaign’s impact has been profound. More than 35 scholarships and award programs and 12 academic Chairs have been created as a direct result of this philanthropy, impacting upon the Faculties, Colleges and University affiliates that have joined together under the banner of The Campaign for the University of Melbourne.

Alumni engagement is a core element of the Campaign, with more than 3,000 alumni and staff attending one of the dozen Campaign Celebration Events held globally in 2013 and hosted by international alumni of the University.

“What is particularly pleasing about the Campaign is the extent to which alumni and friends around the world have received it with such warmth and excitement – we are immensely grateful for their support,” says Sue Cunningham, Vice-Principal (Advancement). Ms Cunningham, arrived at the University in mid-2011. She is proud of the University’s dedication to a globally-engaged fundraising initiative, with alumni and friends supporting the Campaign from many parts of the world.

“It’s a brilliant opportunity to have so many people connected with the Campaign and to help advance the University, whether they be physically in Melbourne, or ten thousand miles away.”

Ms Cunningham believes the Campaign provides an important opportunity to showcase the University to Australian and international communities, and conveys how vital their support is if the University is to achieve its goals.

The tertiary sector is communicating more loudly and with greater passion about the impact of its work, and the vital role that the broader community has to play in delivering impactful outcomes,” she says.

“...there is a sea change going on where people want to make a profound difference to research and teaching – they want the University of Melbourne to have the resources to attract brilliant minds, whether they are academic colleagues or world-class students.”

Bruce Parniczky has a long involvement in philanthropy, with a focus on education and the arts, and joined the Campaign’s Board in 2012. He has observed the ongoing trend for major campaigns around Australia, and believes the University of Melbourne Campaign is critical to providing the University with better opportunities for local and global community engagement.

“The Campaign has re-engaged many University of Melbourne alumni and friends through a number of events in Australia and across the world, re-connecting them with the University,” he says.

“Increasingly, Australian universities are realising that their aspirations for excellence – to be the best in the world – will require a level of investment up there with the best.

“Government funding and fee revenues will simply not be enough and need to be complemented by philanthropic investment if universities are to reach their goals.”

Mr Parniczky says that ultimately the Campaign will build a sustainable and strong culture of philanthropy and involvement in the University that lasts well beyond 2017.

“The Campaign is not just about raising a target dollar amount over the next several years; an equally important objective is to develop a strong culture of giving among the University’s alumni and supporters and build the University’s long-term philanthropic capacity.”

Vice-Chancellor Glyn Davis, acknowledges the need for a dynamic message.

“What makes Melbourne unique is the calibre and breadth of our research and teaching programs,” Professor Davis says.

Professor Davis emphasises the necessity of building a cultural legacy. He attributes Melbourne’s strong international standing to its connectedness to its various institutes and affiliates.

“We invest in the people and research facilities required to make Melbourne globally competitive,” he says.

“But we also offer the cultural richness you would expect from one of the finest universities, from Asialink to the Ian Potter Museum of Art.”

Ultimately, Professor Davis views the Campaign as an opportunity to restate the University’s commitment to excellence.

“We must remain ambitious if we are to become one of the world’s top 25 universities,” he says.

“Australians are sometimes too shy to state our ambitions firmly and with confidence, but our nation needs a university among the finest in the world.”
www.campaign.unimelb.edu.au

Inherited risk: The benefit and burden of genetic testing for heritable diseases

Clinical and research geneticist Professor Ingrid Winship discusses the use of genetic testing to improve the lives of people with inherited diseases and their families, as well as the pitfalls of direct-to-consumer genetic testing. Presented by Dr Dyani Lewis. https://soundcloud.com/upclose/283-inherited-risk-the-benefit

Speaking Siraya: Revitalizing a dormant language, rediscovering cultural identity

Historical and descriptive linguist Associate Professor Alexander (Sander) Adelaar discusses efforts to piece together from scant historical sources the once dormant Taiwanese language of Siraya, and explains the language’s influence on a reawakening of cultural identity. Presented by Eric van Bemmelen. https://soundcloud.com/upclose/282-speaking-siraya

Deferring dementia: Research efforts to keep Alzheimer’s at bay

Neurobiologist Prof Colin Masters explains current medical understanding of Alzheimer’s disease, and discusses ongoing research efforts towards delaying onset of this as yet incurable condition. Presented by Dr Shane Huntington. https://soundcloud.com/upclose/280-deferring-dementia

Visions Podcast
Visions looks at research by Melbourne School of Land and Environment academic Heidi Zimmer, who, at the Burnley Gardens campus, has been examining the fire resilience of Wollemi pine saplings with fascinating results.
Available via iTunes Store, YouTube or online at: visions.unimelb.edu.au

Crowdfunding: A radical new finance model changing product development, research and the arts
Crowdfunding researcher Dr Richard Swart describes the explosive growth of crowdfunding in its very short history, and explains how crowd-sourced funding is radically and irrevocably changing how business is done. Presented by Elizabeth Lopez. https://soundcloud.com/upclose/284-crowdfunding-a-radical-new

Predicting a living machine: A world first in 3D printed living skin
Professor Carolina Zalewski from the Melbourne School of Land and Environment talks about research to create living skin. Presented by Dr Shane Huntington. https://soundcloud.com/upclose/281-predicting-a-living-machine

Defining the future of art and architecture
Interdisciplinary artist and academic Delia Gerhard presents new work exploring the future of building and designing. Presented by Dr Shane Huntington. https://soundcloud.com/upclose/280-defining-the-future-of-art-and-architecture

Up Close Podcast
http://upclose.unimelb.edu.au
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Online

In February, the University of Melbourne hosted three Up Close Podcasts, exploring the power of crowdfunding, the importance of understanding cultural identity, and the impact of crowdfunding on the arts.
Citizens are the leading producers of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide (CO₂), and from an early age we are taught that our plants and trees take in that bad CO₂ gas and give us back our life-giving oxygen.

Yet despite this generational knowledge we as society do not know how much CO₂ specific plants take in. We have limited knowledge of whether it’s best to plant a sequoia or a blue gum to capture the smog and pollution from our cities. We simply know that we can plant trees and the lungs of cities take in pollution but we cannot accurately state or account for how much that is.

In the fight to reduce CO₂ emissions most attention has been placed on energy efficiency measures such as using bicycles or the insulation of homes and offices. Yet little attention has been focused on the lungs of a city, namely green spaces, lakes and waterways, which both capture carbon naturally and act as a natural buffer, reducing the need for heating and cooling of a city.

Recognising this knowledge gap, a team of accountants from the University of Melbourne’s Faculty of Business and Economics and researchers from the School of Botany formed a research team with the Royal Botanic Gardens.

‘It’s an unlikely team of number-crunchers at the particulate period of their own personal interest rather than the idea that children should learn at their own pace. Rousseau was a great believer that the stimulation children should receive – in terms of intellectual stimulation as well as stimulation of the senses – should be very carefully controlled at the particular period of their own personal development. Crucial in what he said was to ensure that children grew up into adults who had fulfilled lives and very importantly that they grew up into adults who were good citizens.

And this argument wasn’t received well by the authorities.

No. Rousseau was stalling about the way small children were taught to read by reciting the catechism, which he thought was ridiculously difficult for them to comprehend. One of the reasons why Émile remains controversial is that it’s very much about the education of an imaginary child named Émile and his development into a happy and fulfilled, civic-minded adult.

With funding from the Australian Research Council, for three years the research team will use the fastidiously manicured beauty of the Royal Botanic Gardens in both Melbourne and Sydney as a laboratory to model a managed ecosystem carbon cycle.

They will test and experiment to find out how much CO₂ a green belt in an urban environment traps, thereby expanding our knowledge of how such areas can be beneficial to the environment.

For urban planners, local councils, property developers and global corporations the research project offers potentially major benefits.

“A council might be interested in how much carbon its football oval holds or emits, and our project creates a way to track carbon flows through the land for which we’re responsible,” says Professor David Cantrell, the Melbourne Royal Botanic Gardens’ Chief Botanist and Director of the Plant Science and Biodiversity Division.

“The potential to roll out this carbon model not just nationally but internationally is huge,” Professor Ian Woodrow, Head of the School of Botany at the University of Melbourne, says globally there has never been a project like this, involving a complex urban ecosystem.

“The creation of this model will enhance measurement of carbon and improve approaches for reporting of this information.”

Across the world shareholders, employees, communities and other stakeholders clamour for organisations to reduce the impact they make on the environment. Despite such market pressure and public scrutiny, in accountancy, the field that underpins all economies, no universally accepted standard exists for reporting of CO₂ emissions by entities.

Karen McKwilliams of the Institute of Chartered Accountants Australia says: “Our project allows Australia to take a lead role in the international debate and will explore how the way CO₂ emissions are reported impacts on decision making by stakeholders.”

In a few years as you stroll through a garden, hopefully you will be able to tell, thanks to an unlikely bunch of researchers, whether that eucalyptus tree was worth all that digging.

Eoin Hahessy

The 10 Great Books series will be the first text analysed in the University of Melbourne’s 10 Great Books series.

Émile, by Jean-Jacques Rousseau, charts the controversial ideal education of an imaginary pupil from birth to adulthood in the mid-1700s.

Rousseau, a Roman Catholic, wrote Émile to argue against the then dominant view that the catechism, which he thought was ridiculous, should be taught to children. But it remains a controversial work.

It’s very much about the education of an imaginary child named Émile and his development into a happy and fulfilled, civic-minded adult.

McPhee in conversation with Ryan Sheales. You remain “very pertinent today”, according to Professor McPhee.

Below is an edited extract of Professor McPhee in conversation with Ryan Sheales. You can listen to a longer version of the interview at voice.unimelb.edu.au.

What is Émile significant?

Émile was controversial at the time because it was a statement on the belief that education should be child-centered, in the sense of being geared to the capacity of the child to benefit from education rather than the idea that children should be instructed in things that they can learn and when? What can they cope with? And Rousseau was effectively saying the same thing, although for him the issue was related more to what he saw as the problem of children being indoctrinated with what he regarded as superstitious belief. But this was an astonishingly powerful volume at the time. And along the way Rousseau seems to be very careful to control the senses – should be very carefully controlled at the particulate period of their own personal development.

Capturing Flora: 300 Years of Australian Botanical Art in Australia

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Political treatises, from antiquity to modernity.

Botanical Riches

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About the author

Richard Atkin is a Melbourne-based architect, historian, and curator. He has been in private practice since 1978 and has prepared conservation plans for many of Australia’s most historic gardens, including the botanic gardens of Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney, and government houses in Melbourne, Hobart and Sydney.

In 2006 Richard was awarded honorary membership of the National Trust of Australia for his advocacy role in the identification and conservation of significant gardens and designed landscapes.


He is currently co-editor of Australian Garden History, quarterly journal of the Australian Garden History Society. See more at: https://www.mup.com.au/

Congratulations to Tim Glennen of Bundoora who was the first Voice reader to correctly identify Muiccia Prada as the fashion designer who also has a PhD in Political Science.
Driving change and participation in Singapore’s arts and culture

In 2010 Angelita Teo received a scholarship from Singapore’s National Heritage Board to take a break in her career and complete further study. She chose to study the Master of Art Curatorship at the University of Melbourne.

“People were asking why I didn’t go to Europe or the USA, but coming to Melbourne was quite an easy decision. Being closer to home was important as there were personal reasons, but mainly I felt I’d be able to learn a lot more here in Australia because our two countries are quite similar,” she says.

“We have similar challenges in arts and heritage, and there are a lot of similarities between our arts policies. We’re both multicultural and multi-ethnic and in our museums we need to deal with related issues. In both Australia and in Singapore we are still trying to build an audience and get people to participate more in museums.”

While the decision of where to study was easy, transitioning from full time work back to study was a challenge. She had not studied full time since graduating with a Bachelor in Archaeology from the University of British Columbia, Canada, almost 20 years before.

“Working and studying is very different. I had to be disciplined enough to read everything before my classes. In the program you have four or five classes each week, there is quite a lot of reading. Sitting down and writing again was difficult, but I started enjoying it again,” she says.

After performing administrative and organisational tasks in managerial positions for much of her career, she found it interesting and refreshing to look at the curatorial work of an unfamiliar field.

“Studying art curatorship opened my eyes to new things. I have always been in a history museum. Curating an arts exhibition is very different. It helped me gain a better understanding and appreciation for contemporary art. It’s important for people to understand our history and heritage but also important to have a reference for what is happening now.

Contemporary art is a great way to see how an individual views and reacts to some current situations.”

A broad understanding across artistic and historical exhibitions will be important as she takes on the next challenges in her career, which will involve driving reform inside and outside of the NMS. Within the Museum, she is aiming to increase visitor participation.

“Attendance numbers are important, but it’s also important to get people participating in the museum. We no longer just educate. We want to have a dialogue with our audience.”

The NMS is hoping to attract new audiences. Upcoming changes to encourage family participation include cheaper eateries, adding colour to the traditional building, weekend programs and a discovery centre for pre-schoolers.

“The discovery centre was one of the first things I wanted to do because if we engage the pre-schoolers we are also engaging young parents.” Ms Teo says the Museum is competing against shopping malls as a place for a family outing.

“For Singaporeans going to the shopping mall is probably more attractive than going to a museum, especially on weekends when they go to the mall to eat and shop together. Going to a museum doesn’t come quite as naturally. We’re trying to position the Museum as an alternative.”

Outside the Museum, Ms Teo will be taking a leading role in the development of Singapore’s arts precinct. As the largest institution in the precinct, which includes five museums, public galleries and arts schools, the NMS is the largest stakeholder.

“In my previous roles I was working with a lot of other precinct stakeholders and I understand the things they want to do. Now as Director of NMS there are a lot more opportunities to make those things happen,” she says.

Institutions within the precinct work together to promote and stage one of the biggest annual events in Singapore – the Night Festival in August.

“Night Festival is one of those opportunities where we get to work with the schools and stakeholders, private galleries and museums to create an event where people can enjoy themselves. It’s the party of all parties in August after Singapore’s National Day and is a very important part of the annual calendar.”

Her advice to students who hope to one day influence the direction of arts and cultural participation in their country is to follow their passions. She made this decision herself when she changed her major from mass communications to archaeology while completing her bachelor degree.

“If you feel strongly enough about something you actually work a lot harder at it, and it makes the work so much easier. You have to have a reason to get up every day to go to work. If it’s not something you enjoy then it makes it so much harder.”

Congratulations to the class of 2014
What’s the buzz? Why flies and mozzies plague our summers

Andi Horvath finds the reasons behind summer’s curse, the mozzies who harass us just as we’re ready to wind down in the evening.

Signs of summer include rituals like unfolding cobweb-covered banana lollies, wishing you had put sunscreen on your neck, and wishing you’d refilled the barbecue gas bottle.

But the reliable without-fail indicator that summer has well and truly arrived is the return appearance of the pesky fly and the thigh-slap attempts to down mosquitoes.

Summer would not be complete without exaggerated moments of wondering ‘Why do they love me?’ ‘Where do they come from?’ “Where do they go when I am not around?”

Professor Mark Elgar, an expert in insect chemical communication says flies eat the bacteria on rotting items.

“They also tattle things with their feet and are attracted to humans, lured by our sweat and the bacteria it generates. Adult flies increase in number in summer when warmer temperatures speed up the life-cycle, meaning eggs may hatch within a few hours of being laid, and the larvae develop quickly.”

“If you followed a fly for a few days of its 20 to 30-day life span, you would find it is active during the day and rests at night. You can find them in the corners of rooms, ceiling fixtures, and sometimes in cells when they are not buzzing about.”

After humans, mosquitoes are perhaps the deadliest animals on planet Earth. Mosquitoes use chemical signals and cues to find mates and food, and thus continue the genetic line.

“A female mosquito detects us as a plume of carbon dioxide (CO₂) or the scent of lactic acid in perspiration and perfumes. They also use their antenna’s thermal sensors to locate blood near the surface of the skin. “The plume of CO₂ is best detected at dawn or dusk when wind is generally calmer. Depending on conditions they can detect humans from 10 metres and high humidity increases the range almost threefold.

“The dusk drop in temperature is also more conducive for blood hunting as mosquitoes are vulnerable to dry hot conditions and can desiccate in direct sunlight. During the day they are found underneath foliage and plants and near standing water. In winter the larvae remain dormant in pools of water ready to spring into action next summer.”

Ever wondered how or why? If you have a question you’d like an expert answer to, email us at: news@media.unimelb.edu.au.

In Australia, this has changed recently with the recent success of films such as Silver Linings Playbook and TV shows like Homeland and United States of Tara, there has been a marked shift in how mentally ill characters are portrayed on screen.

Audiences are no longer expected to laugh at ‘loony’ characters or to fear the psycho killer. Instead, filmmakers and TV producers are inviting audiences to share the journey of a protagonist living with a mental illness. Dr Fircina Hopgood, a lecturer in screen studies in the School of Culture and Communication, describes this as the shift towards empathy. “This shift has significant implications for the creative process and the decisions made by writers, directors and actors, as well as for the wider community, whose attitudes towards mental illness can be shaped and influenced by popular culture.”

Dr Hopgood says, “The experience of empathy involving a mentally ill character leads to a greater understanding of mental illness that in turn reduces stigma and discrimination, which are based on ignorance and fear.”

Dr Hopgood has been researching screen portrayals of mental illness for over a decade, with a particular focus on Australian films. When she began her PhD, she could find only a handful of studies of mental illness on screen. Most of these were written by psychiatrists and psychologists, who were rightly concerned about the damaging stereotypes perpetrated by films and TV shows.

What she felt was missing from this discussion were the insights of screen studies academics and the experiences of filmmakers and TV producers, as well as the opinions of those with a lived experience of mental illness.

In Australia, this has changed recently with a partnership between the Hunter Institute for Mental Health, the Australian Writers’ Guild, SANE Australia and a group of scriptwriters to produce Mindframe for Stage and Screen – guidelines and resources designed to help create more truthful and authentic portrayals of mental illness on screen.

Dr Hopgood points to these guidelines as evidence of the shift towards empathy. “By moving away from stereotypes and stigmatising representations towards more accurate and sensitive portrayals, filmmakers and TV producers can develop a stronger emotional connection between a character who is mentally unwell and the viewer,” she says. “The storytelling becomes richer, more creative, and ultimately more satisfying.”

This shift towards empathy is the focus of an upcoming two-day event to be held at The Dax Centre on 13 and 14 February.

The interdisciplinary symposium, Try Walking in My Shoes: Empathy and Portrayals of Mental Illness on Screen, will bring together filmmakers, academics, mental health professionals and the public to explore questions such as: How is mental illness represented in film and television? What emotions are elicited from the viewer? How have these portrayals changed over time? And what are the implications of these portrayals of mental health awareness in the community?

The program of papers, workshops and screenings includes The Sunnyboy, the documentary about singer Jeremy Oxley’s battle with schizophrenia, followed by a Q & A session with the director Kaye Harrison and mental health expert Professor Patrick McGorry.

There will also be a free public screening of Romulus, My Father, followed by a panel discussion with author and philosopher Professor Raimond Gaita, who will also be delivering the event’s keynote address “The Limits of Empathy.”

The symposium is presented by the ARC Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions, based at the University of Melbourne, and The Dax Centre, a not-for-profit organisation that uses art to increase understanding of mental illness and psychological trauma.
Celebrating Piranesi in Melbourne

Liz Banks-Anderson explores the contributions from VCA artists and alumni to the Melbourne Now exhibition, currently on show at the National Gallery of Victoria.

Many things can define our thriving metropolis. Art is weaving its narrative around Melbourne’s identity, with the landmark Melbourne Now exhibition at the National Gallery of Victoria reflecting the city’s unique and dynamic cultural identity.

Victorian College of the Arts School of Art staff and alumni are well represented in the exhibition, open until March. Among the 300 artists, architects and designers who are participating, there are 86 alumni and 18 current staff, revealing the depth and breadth of contemporary art practice undertaken in Melbourne and the VCA’s contribution to the broader artistic community.

Director of the VCA Su Baker is the former Head of the School of Art and also on the Board of Trustees at the NGV.

Professor Baker says the School of Art has made a significant contribution to the history of Australian art and continues to do so in Melbourne Now. Explaining the curatorial strategy behind the exhibition, devised by NGV Senior Curator of Contemporary Art Max Delany, she says the exhibition represents a snapshot of what is current and exemplary in contemporary art in Melbourne.

“This exhibition includes a broad cross-section of disciplines from visual art, design, architecture, dance and some music, and interestingly, represents the model of the arts at the VCA.”

Civic engagement is key to this exhibition, which is always changing, keeping the audience in touch with new artists and the evolving identity of the city. In this way, Melbourne Now allows artists to contribute to a conversation about the current field of exchange, making a contribution to the community in as much as it is a public ‘conversational’, presented visually, musically or otherwise performatively. In each case, the artists are wanting audiences to respond and form opinions and insights,” Professor Baker says.

Professor Baker says VCA School of Art students use their intelligence and imaginations to add to Melbourne’s reputation as a creative city.

“We hope this also adds to its likability. We’re at the heart of the arts precinct and as such are a source of constant renewal as generations of creative and energetic young people flow through our doors,” she says.

Contributing to this exchange is Melbourne artist and VCA alumni Ross Coulter.

The Fine Art graduates series of photographs Aftermath (1, 2, #3) feature in the exhibition documenting the result of the release of 10,000 paper planes by 165 volunteers into the La Trobe Donned Reading Room at the State Library of Victoria in 2011. Mr Coulter says the VCA School of Art helped establish him as an artist as it provided a place to conduct activities and explore ideas he realized would be considered art.

“I learnt how to establish a studio practice. I joined and developed a supportive and engaged cohort of artists. I listened to and, to some degree, tried to follow the examples of the artists and lecturers who taught there,” he says.

Mr Coulter was compelled to contribute to the exhibition as it showcases the diversity of contemporary art practice in Melbourne.

“There’s always something else the city can reveal,” he says.

The idea of launching paper planes came to Mr Coulter when he was in the copy section of the State Library in the late 1980s.

“A symposium titled, Piranesi and the impact of the Grand Tour, will feature the notable Piranesi expert Professor Luigi Ficacci, Emeritus Soprintendente of Bologna, Italy and a public lecture by Australian artist photographer Bill Henson over 27 and 28 February, as part of a conference at the Australian Institute of Art History at the University of Melbourne.

A curator and artist tours of ‘The Piranesi Effect’ is scheduled for Saturday 22 February and ‘Rome: Piranesi’s Vision’, will also be complemented by a full program of events, including ‘Roman Piazza’, a pizza and bocce day, the Italian Cultural Day in April and a sumptuous New South publication titled Piranesi’s Grandest Tour: from Europe to Australia by Dr Colin Holden, co-curator of Rome: Piranesi’s Vision.

Meanwhile, the largest exhibition of Piranesi’s work ever to be seen in Australia, with over 100 significant works focusing on superb prints from his ‘vedute di Roma’, will be held at the State Library of Victoria until 6 July.

Curated by Dr Colin Holden and drawing on rich State collections, this exhibition shows how Piranesi’s work captures the essence of Rome and the era of the Grand Tour with his elaborate images revealing a city of extreme contrasts: grand churches, imposing palaces and monumental ruins peopled by aristocrats, tourists, priests and beggars.

— By Katrina Raymond

www.art-museum.unimelb.edu.au

www.slv.vic.gov.au/events/rome-piranesis-vision

What is Melbourne Now?

A series of exhibitions, events and a symposium celebrating the visionary achievements of the 18th century Italian printmaker, Piranesi, will be held at the Ian Potter Museum of Art at the University of Melbourne, and the State Library of Victoria over coming weeks.

Giovanni Battista Piranesi (1720–1778) was an engraver, architect, designer, antiquarian and firebrand. While his images of ruined temples and imaginary prisons appealed to the Romantic sensibility of artists and writers in the 18th century, he was also very influential as a revolutionary designer.

An exhibition called ‘The Piranesi Effect’ will be on display at the University’s Ian Potter Museum of Art and will use contemporary art as a guide to understanding Piranesi.

Piranesi’s works will be juxtaposed with Roman and Etruscan antiquities, also works by contemporary artists Rick Amor, Michael Craig-Martin, Mira Gojak, Andrew Hazewinkel, Peter Robinson, Jan Senbergs and Simon Terrill.

The contemporary works have been chosen not because they are directly influenced by Piranesi but rather because they pick up on and amplify elements which are fundamental to how those 18th century Piranesi works achieve their effect.

“This exhibition will draw attention to Piranesi’s dramatic use of scale, viewpoint, light and perspective,” says guest curator Jenny Long, Curator of Australian art at the National Gallery of Victoria.

Long, who is also a professor at the University of Melbourne’s School of Design and Architecture, says the exhibition represents a snapshot of the diversity of disciplines from visual art, design, architecture and engineering.

Senior Curator of Contemporary Art Max Delany, who is also on the Board of Trustees at the NGV, says the exhibition is a guide to understanding Piranesi.

Delany says the exhibition represents a snapshot of the collaborative work by artists who were or are part of disciplines from visual art, design, architecture and engineering.

“Art by its very nature is a contestable field which is always changing, keeping the audience in touch with new artists and the evolving identity of the city,” he says.

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Winter is coming!

While the Sochi Winter Olympic Games are now in full swing, the countdown continues for the Paralympic Winter Games which start on 7 March, with two members of the University’s community in with real medal chances. By David Scott.

When Bachelor of Commerce student Mitchell Gourley took the call that officially named him in the Australian Paralympic team for the Sochi games, it was just the next step in a journey that started on the slopes of Victoria’s alpine region when he was 11.

“It’s always a nice feeling to confirm your selection and get rid of any lingering doubts in the lead up to a major event,” Mr Gourley says. “But by now, it’s more of a relief than anything else. It’s a nice confirmation that things are going well, but also an important reminder that the end goal is fast approaching.”

Mr Gourley, a High Performance scholar will be taking part in his fourth winter games in Russia. “The freedom to ski so fast, it’s a great feeling. It’s a very balanced and rhythmical sort of sport, and I’d say we probably ski quicker than 99 per cent of those getting around a mountain.”

“As much as I love other sports, when I lost my leg to cancer at 13 I just wasn’t able to compete at the same level any more. Yet skiing gives me that freedom and it’s always something different, travelling around the world taking in different terrain and different conditions.”

A career as a competitive skier was never really something he had considered until a series of opportunities presented themselves during high school.

“It’s going to be a challenge in terms of my level of skiing, I certainly won’t be as prepared as some of the other guys, but I have still been skiing well and my passion is still there. I’m just going to enjoy this last month of competitive skiing and the atmosphere of the Games. It will also be nice not to have the same pressure for results that some of the others may have.”

The University will be well represented in Russia, with five students or alumni making up part of the 56-athlete squad, the largest Australia has ever sent to a Winter Games. While Mr Gourley and Mr Rahles-Rabula will fly the flag in the Winter Paralympic Games, Katya Crema (ski cross), Anton Grimus (ski cross) and Brodie Summers (moguls) will all be aiming for gold in the Winter Olympic Games.

As for the thrill of the sport, Mr Gourley concludes that skiing provides equal amounts of elation and heartache.

“It’s a tough sport, with just as many bad days as good ones, but that’s what makes the good ones really count. You know you’ve earned it!”

Follow our athletes on Twitter: @MitchGourley, @KatyaCrema, @AntonGrimus, @Brodie_Sport.

Read more about Melbourne University Sport’s Elite Athlete program: www.sport.unimelb.edu.au/EliteAthleteProgram.

Last call for planet Earth?

The second Transitions Film Festival, supported by the Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute, promises to again challenge viewers on environmental issues. By Katherine Smith.

In 1972 a group of analysts from MIT, suspecting the western world’s addiction to continuous economic expansion could not continue forever, published The Limits to Growth, a book which turned out to be landmark, and incredibly controversial.

The book modelled ever-increasing growth, warning that planet Earth had a finite capacity to support expansion, and complete global collapse would be the inevitable outcome of over-shooting that capacity. Forty years later, filmmaker Enrico Cerasuolo has created a fascinating film tracing the origins and impact of the book.

Forty years later, filmmaker Enrico Cerasuolo has created a fascinating film tracing the origins and impact of the book.

Last Call will be screened as part of the forthcoming Transitions Film Festival, which is supported by the Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute.

MSSI Deputy Director John Wiseman will join Beyond Zero Emission’s Patrick Hearps in an audience discussion after the Festival screening of the film.

Professor Wiseman says he’s excited to be presenting the film, which focuses on the importance of imagining and building an economy of sufficiency, justice and wellbeing.

“There’s an urgent need to rethink the dominant economic paradigm of unconstrained, unsustainable and unjust consumption,” he says. “This has been one of the key points made by the leading international climate and energy policy makers we’ve been interviewing for the ‘Post Carbon Pathways’ project which is also co-ordinated by MSSI.”

Last Call screens at 6.30 pm at Cinema Nova on 21 February. The Transitions Film Festival runs 15-23 February. www.transitionsfilmfestival.com
**February Timetable**

**Events and Courses at the University of Melbourne**

**SHORT COURSES**

**SHORT COURSE PROGRAMS IN ACTING, MUSIC AND MUSIC THEATRE**

More information: 9810 3276

vca-shortcourses@unimelb.edu.au

- **ACTING 3: SHAKESPEARE**
  - Saturday afternoons, 15 February – 5 April
  - Discover the immediacy, energy and vitality of Shakespeare’s language through an exploration of monologues and scenes. This course gives you fun and effective ways to unlock meaning in the text while discovering some of the clues Shakespeare gives you to bring his characters to life.

- **ACTING 3: ACTING TO CAMERA**
  - Saturdays, 3 May – 21 June
  - 1.30pm – 4.30pm
  - An exciting introductory course for performers 17 years and over who are keen to develop skills and techniques for acting in front of the camera. Over eight exhilarating weeks you will explore, practise and learn about working in front of the camera and the demands required from the actor. Some previous experience is necessary. Please visit the website to find out more.

- **LIEDER AND ART SONG MASTERCLASS**
  - Weekends, 15 & 16 – 22 & 23 March
  - 10.00am – 5.00pm
  - A 4-day masterclass for singers and pianists! This course is specially designed for those from across the world who are interested in the study of Lieder and art song. This masterclass will be conducted by experienced teachers. For latest listings visit: events.unimelb.edu.au

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **MUSIC FOR WELLBEING AND CONNECTEDNESS IN SCHOOLS**
  - 21 March, 21 May, 22 August, 18 November
  - A series of professional development workshops designed to support school staff in developing and implementing a plan for using music in your school. You will have the opportunity to learn strategies, develop ideas from their local context, consider different music activities, and receive feedback on your program. Material is based on evidence from the MusicMatters research in schools and informed by music therapy theory.

- **IRONWOOD DEVELOPING ARTISTS CHAMBER MUSIC SCHOOL**
  - Daily, 7 July – 12 July
  - An exciting six-day intensive for young adults: tertiary music students, pre-professional and professional musicians – both period and modern instrument specialists. The program focuses on Classical chamber music repertoire (1750 – 1830), including works for strings, winds and fortepiano. You’ll enjoy structured daily coaching, private and open rehearsals, and lecture demonstrations. The week culminates in public performances by tutors and participants.

- **VCA MUSIC THEATRE STUDIO**
  - Saturdays, 15 March – 1 November
  - If you’re 15 to 20 years old, passionate about acting, singing and dance as practiced in Music Theatre and develops your skills in acting, singing and dance as practiced in Music Theatre performance. Auditions will be held on Saturday, 1 March – register online today!

- **VCA SCHOOL OF ART SHORT COURSES**
  - More information: 9035 9462
  - vca-artshortcourses@unimelb.edu.au
  - vca.unimelb.edu.au/arts/shortcourses

- **FOUNDATION 2014**
  - Starting 4 February 2014 – year-long courses.
  - The Foundation Studio Art is a year-long course that provides opportunities for people with an interest in contemporary art to explore their own artwork at a level that suits their needs.

**EXHIBITIONS**

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

- **Jericho to Jerusalem**
  - to 6 April 2014
  - This exhibition presents over 100 remarkable early ceramics from Kathleen Kenyon’s famous excavations and tells the story of her contribution to archaeology.

- **Floor talks:**
  - Wednesday, 12 February 1–1.30pm
  - Joy Kreemer, Curatorial Assistant, National Gallery of Victoria on the changing role of women in Mediterranean archaeology
  - Wednesday, 5 March 1–1.30pm
  - Christopher Davey, Director, Australian Institute of Archaeology on Kenyon: methods and memories
  - All welcome, no bookings required.

- **The Piranesi Effect**
  - From 20 February 2014
  - This is an exhibition based on collusions and correspondences, rather than direct influence. The 21st century artists will join us into seeing Piranesi in a new way and Piranesi will enrich our reaction to the contemporary works. The Piranesi Effect will include objects from the Classics and Archaeology Collection and prints and folios from the Ballieu Library together with works from the University Art Collection and private lenders. The exhibition is a companion show to Rome: Piranesi’s Vision to be held at the State Library of Victoria from 28 February to 6 July, 2014.

  - **Floor talk:**
  - Saturday, 22 February 2–3pm
  - Jenny Long with Michael Graf and Andrew Hazewinkel

  - Giovanni Battista Piranesi (1720 – 1778) was one of the most extraordinary print-makers of the 18th century. He was also an architect, antiquarian and fechter. Guest curator of The Piranesi Effect Jenny Long will discuss with contemporary artists Michael Graf and Andrew Hazewinkel what it is about Piranesi’s work which continues to excite artists and designers in the 21st century. Mr Graf and Mr Hazewinkel are well-known artists based in Melbourne with a longstanding interest in the works of Piranesi. A number of their works are included in the exhibition.

  - All welcome, no bookings required.

- **Transformations: early bark paintings from Arnhem Land**
  - to 23 February 2014

  - The remarkable bark paintings presented in this exhibition date from 1935 to early 1950. Collected by Professor Donald Thompson in the mid-1930s and early 1940s and by Dr Leonhard Adam in the early 1950s from Central and Eastern Arnhem Land, Caledon Bay and Groote Eylandt in the Northern Territory, these extraordinary works of art are first representations on bark of important ancestral beings, sacred clan designs and totemic animals made in the region specifically for outsiders. They represent some of the earliest translations onto bark of designs and motifs painted on bodies, sacred objects and rock surfaces.

**For latest listings visit:**

events.unimelb.edu.au

**Follow @uomfreelectures on twitter**

**DEVELOPING SAFE DRUGS**

**MONDAY 17 FEBRUARY 6PM**

Safe drugs and products without animal testing? by Professor Thomas Hartung (Johns Hopkins University). 

Bookings: 

www.hartunglecture.eventbrite.com.au

Enquiries: kevrom.paluch@unimelb.edu.au, 9035 8773

**COPLAND THEATRE, THE SPOT BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS BUILDING, 198 BIRKENHEAD STREET, CARLTON**

**POLICIES IN INDIA**

**THURSDAY 27 FEBRUARY 1PM**

The Aam Admi Party: Middle Class Radicalism or India’s New Political Zeitgeist? by Professor Amitabh Mattoo (University of Melbourne). Australia India Institute Trifin Sak

Bookings and enquiries: www.aii.unimelb.edu.au/events/trifin-talk-aam-admi-party, aki-usa@unimelb.edu.au, 9035 7039

**SEMINAR ROOM, AUSTRALIA INDIA INSTITUTE, 147 - 149 BARRY STREET, CARLTON**

**PREVENTING STROKE AND ALZHEIMER’S**

**TUESDAY 4 MARCH 5PM**

The great brain robbery: can we prevent stroke and Alzheimer’s disease? by Professor Vladimir Hachinski (Western University, London, Canada). Newman College Lecture

Bookings: 

www.trybooking.com/73631

Enquiries: outreach@snac.unimelb.edu.au, 9342 8689

**THE CRATORY, NEWMAN COLLEGE, 887 SWANSTON STREET, PARKVILLE**
Veterinary Science & Hospital Open Day

Sunday 16 March 2014
250 Princes Hwy, Werribee
10am – 3pm

Step behind the scenes of our world class Veterinary Hospital.

Our annual Open Day is for the wider community and prospective students to tour our outstanding facilities and find out about all the important services we provide.

Discover an exciting range of animals, attend public lectures, course lectures, interactive displays and impressive demonstrations.

Speak to veterinary staff, current students or members of special interest groups.

For more information visit: vet.unimelb.edu.au/openday dreamlarge