The future at our fingertips

Rebecca Scott and Annie Rahilly explore University of Melbourne research pushing the boundaries of computation as we know it, with applications in medicine and life sciences, and a new Centre dedicated to social interactive technologies.

As technology develops, researchers around the world are focused on enhancing the interaction between humans, computers and the digital world to complement our daily lives,” Professor Frank Vetere says. “Whatever our investigations discover with NUI, the potential for social NUI will only be limited by our imagination.”

Researchers around the world are focused on enhancing the interaction between humans, computers and the digital world to make them more natural and intuitive.

The new Centre will be a focal point for collaboration and interdisciplinary research, particularly into the social uses and applications of these new NUI technologies, to make them more natural and intuitive.

"Social NUIs, in particular, humanise technology, says Professor Sam McEachern, Director of the Department of Computing and Information Systems. "This is a world-class research centre, located at Australia’s No.1 university, that will attract high-quality IT research to the state, the partnership was a fantastic collaboration for the new centre."
From Glyn Davis, University of Melbourne Vice-Chancellor

The future of learning

Universities must move with the times. This year, Melbourne has moved to the forefront of a new generation of learning providers offering innovative study opportunities in the wake of our first Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs).

Online courses on a subject taken completely online by students who might be located anywhere in the world are no longer the challenging new idea they once were.

Determined to face the challenge, the University of Melbourne joined the ranks of the world’s top universities last year and launched its own introductory university-level MOOCs. In seven different subjects, the university recruited 10,000 students who signed up to study. The MOOC subjects included English, law, entrepreneurship and psychology. In all, the MOOCs enrolled more than 100,000 students. This is a startling figure that puts in perspective some of the challenges that are occurring in the world of higher education.

After the University was founded 150 years ago, its first year’s intake was almost 100 students. At any time during the last 150 years, our student head-count has risen near 10,000.

It’s just six months of the MOOCs, but in that time more than six times that number of students— and that is an experimental learning platform which offers no credit towards a degree.

Next year a new set of Melbourne MOOCs will be offered, giving another group of students an exciting opportunity to explore the brave new world of wholly online teaching. As an institution, we will continue to monitor and reflect on the MOOC’s experience, in the hope of learning lessons that may inform our future teaching and research.

It is available to reflect on the virtual world of online learning at the University prepares to welcome a whole new cohort of degree students who will be born as long ago as 2025. They will have never known life without the Internet.

Accordingly this year has also seen the University invest in other types of online tools such as ‘Insite’ with a library about research materials, upgraded internet journal databases and online repositories for student research materials.

This is not a matter of replacing what is already online, but bringing in the future. The aim is to increase flexibility for graduate students who may be studying around work or family commitments.

Yet fundamentally, online innovations are intended to enhance the student experience. There is no substitute for the student encounters that are a feature of a University.

The University of Melbourne is a strong position to take this approach, with resources allowing us to pursue almost any learning opportunity.

Late in November we celebrated this ongoing teaching tradition with the 2014 University of Melbourne Alumni Awards, and particularly a special award to a Distinguished Alumni (EMUS), Dr Jenny Hayes, Professor Gordon Lynch and Professor Mary Wodak, who went on to co-found the Internet Archive.

These three have been able to bring in the future.

On this eve of Melbourne’s 160th anniversary, the University Foundation has mounted an exhibition at the NGV to reflect on some of the seismic shifts occurring in the higher education landscape across the world.

Still the clever country?

By Kate O’Hara

D ale Petcher is worried that kids aren’t studying science and technology. We’re passing by and we don’t have the capacity to recognize and nurture them.

The College of Science is keen to improve transition from primary to secondary schools, and keep up on some of the more fundamental changes in science education. He has spoken about the gap between the changes in the teaching, technology, engineering, and maths (STEM) stream is streets behind where it needs to be.

He has spoken about how technology, across the primary and secondary spheres and keeps up on some of the more fundamental changes in science education. He has spoken about the gap between the changes in the teaching, technology, engineering, and maths (STEM) stream is streets behind where it needs to be.

He has spoken about how technology, across the primary and secondary spheres and keeps up on some of the more fundamental changes in science education.

We can’t just be harried in our mindset and thinking about what we’re doing compared with another state. If we’re not up to speed, which is happening all the time, we’re not matching the changes that are happening within five years in some industries.

It’s certainly a significant challenge for schools in metropolitan areas, but with challenge comes opportunity, and along with a group of City of Yarra primary schools and supporting organisations, fit-Penholon and Associate Professor Ashley Selenitsch have established the ESTEME (Excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Education) partnership.

It will only last for 70 days in the year, but the group has an ongoing interest in it.

We see that some of the group’s partners have that’s really powerful. And with a little bit of investment and help, where would they be in a couple of years? The ESTEME partnership has some significant milestones.

He is keen to see how the fund is used to improve the outcomes of STEM students and support will come not only from increased teaching capacity through the provision of professional development for STEM teachers, but also from industry involvement. As one of the foundation’s partners, the inner eastern local Learning and Employment Network (ILLN), through the Yarra Education Youth Commitment, is keen to improve transition rates from primary to secondary schools and nurture them.

So what does the partnership mean?

We’re trying to look at how link between education and industry and how we really in terms of its offering—" she says.

Kate is very keen, and we’re finding they take to stem courses and more, looking to get into university, looking to get into courses, looking to get out of school and opportunities to inform the partnership’s themes, I spoke to one school where three students were teaching each other programming, it went from one kid teaching another kid, and then the other kids who started learning to be mentors—" she says.

The partnership is targeting to five students.

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Tackling climate change and changing energy systems

With the world facing climate challenges, PhD students at Melbourne’s Australian-German College of Climate & Energy Transitions (TRACE) are developing new strategies and ways to transform the current energy system.

PHD students will focus on areas of research including energy system integration, climate mitigation and climate impacts, with a six-month exchange program at a partner institution.

The College will embed the in-depth research focus of the individual PhD candidates within the multidisciplinary and international scope of students, researchers, from climate physics, economics, energy system theory and political science.

The collaboration with international research partners provides an ideal environment, surrounded by academic staff and fellow students of the highest quality. As the British philosopher Onora O’Neill has argued, it’s perfectly sensible to trust only those you know personally, she says.

"As the political philosopher Onora O’Neill has argued, it’s perfectly sensible to trust only those you know personally," she says.

The conferences sparked my passion for climate change and energy transitions, using the collaboration with international research partners and the excellence in climate and energy system theory and political science.

"It will contribute to innovative new research and to develop new solution strategies, but we should not forget that people from all over the world will be involved, too," Professor Cook says.

Mr Lafleur’s interests in climate change were sparked by the campaign, which has received over 300 applications worldwide for Climate Impact Research (PIK), the German partners the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research and the German College of Climate & Energy Transitions (TRACE), a collaboration between Melbourne and the University of Potsdam, the Humboldt University of Berlin and the Technical University of Berlin.

Dr Dickenson says the College hopes to provide an understanding of the climate system, also facilitating education and ways to transform the current energy system.

Professor Mark Cook left is leading a small group of researchers at the Melbourne BrainCentre, aiming to raise over $3 million as part of the TRACE PhD project.

The trace project team.

The University of Melbourne and St Vincent’s are working on a project focused on monitoring and predicting epilepsy.

A small proof-of-concept study took place in 2018, which showed that it was possible to detect that’s delivered directly to the brain, while the atmosphere allows for the practical aspects of prediction so people can make their environments safer.

Collaboration has been central to Mr Lafleur’s work with the engineering department as "absolutely crucial".

"New developments in materials, computing, engineering – areas that perhaps we wouldn’t have thought too much of once before – actually turn out to be really important components of the systems we’re working with. We lack that perspective if we leave the problem entirely from the biologist’s end on."

The University and St Vincent’s Hospital, recognising the enormous potential around Professor Cook’s work, recently announced a $5 million donation to support his work.

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Digital Rosetta Stone wins software challenge

Victor, a free voice recognition app for preserving the last words of the world’s endangered languages, has been named as the winner of the Open Source Software World Challenge 2013.

These endangered languages, numbering in the thousands, usually have only a few tens or hundreds of speakers remaining in the thousands, usually have only a few tens or hundreds of speakers remaining.

“We are creating a modern version of the Rosetta Stone, which allowed people to understand the world of ancient Egyptian,” says Associate Professor Bird’s research student Florian Hanke.

Recently released by the University of Melbourne School of Engineering, the application integrates two main features: voice-to-text and translation.

The voice-to-text feature can be triggered in three different ways: by voice commands, by tapping a button on the interface, or by shaking the phone.

The translation function allows users to translate their voice commands or text messages into the language they wish to communicate in.

Victor is available for free on the Google Play Store and Apple’s App Store.

Professor Steven Bird in the Amazon with Augustine Tembé, who contributed to the Language Preservation 2.0 project.
Mathematicians, the unsung heroes of research

Andi Horvath finds that mathematicians are often behind the scenes heroes of scientific breakthroughs.

You don’t often see the news headline: breakthrough! But behind every successful drug there will have been some mathematics. You may imagine you go for a walk across the country and you find a new kind of molecule. You mark your discovery down and send off the samples to your lab to test. But it’s not that simple. You may have to test the molecule over and over again. The path ahead is clear: you need to find a reason why this molecule behaves in a certain way. It is also very costly. It may also be that there is another candidate drug molecule which may be better. You need to test and test and test again.

So what is a self-avoiding walk? It is a path that never crosses itself. Imagine you are trying to find a drug for diabetes. You might consider a new drug as a model of a long chain molecule or polymers in nanotechnology. You use the mathematics of the self-avoiding walk to find a path that avoids retracing your steps. You also need to find a way to make the molecules stick to the loops. How many different paths can you make? How long is your walk? How do you test the ability of your molecules to make a long walk? This is one of the key challenges that mathematicians face.

Now imagine this scenario in 3D: you are an ant crossing around a 100-nanometer Rubik’s cube going north, south, west, east, and back again. The path you take could be the same shape as a string of molecules that are free to move in space. The shape that is traced out is a self-avoiding walk. How many different paths can you make? What is the path that makes this molecule the best? This is a tremendously important problem, a problem that led to the Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

“My work builds on the pioneering efforts of Tony Guttmann and others in the mathematical physics group at the University of Melbourne, who have made key contributions to the enumeration of self-avoiding walks and related models.”

The algorithms developed to study self-avoiding walks have been used to study other real-world problems, such as finding the most efficient route for a delivery truck. However, mathematicians are often the unsung heroes of scientific breakthroughs, working behind the scenes to provide the tools that scientists need to make discoveries.

New Urban Horticulture course at Burnley

As the Burnley Gardens turn 150, the University of Melbourne’s School of Land and Environment launched a new Associate Degree in Urban Horticulture, to start in first semester, 2014.

The course was designed in response to the growing challenges of the horticulture industry to produce quality urban environments.

Annette Warner, lecturer in horticultural design, and course co-ordinator at the Burnley campus, says the course covers the many facets of horticulture and will be vital training for the Victorian urban horticulture industry.

The course draws on existing subjects and also includes new offerings in leadership and management, soils and growing media, landscape technology, and ecology.

Changes ahead for nurses managing type 2 diabetes

Nurses in general practice who manage type 2 diabetes patients are undergoing training to reduce the risk of blindness.

The Indigenous Eye Health Unit at the University of Melbourne has launched a new training program to help nurses manage type 2 diabetes in general practice.

The program was developed in response to the growing prevalence of type 2 diabetes, which is one of the leading causes of vision loss in Australia.

Laurel Mitchell Chair of Indigenous Eye Health at the University of Melbourne Professor Hugh Taylor explains that closing the gap in Indigenous vision health is achievable, now.

Eye care for type 2 diabetes is an important component of diabetes care management and referrals follow up. Up to 30 per cent of blindness experienced by Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians can be prevented by early detection and timely treatment. Unlike other complications from diabetes such as kidney disease, diabetes case management and referrals are entirely manageable and treatable. We have the solutions and the treatments.

While the Indigenous Eye Health Unit has seen the significant progress that is being made with Closing the Gap for Vision, there is still much work to be done. The problem is being made more difficult by the significant increase in the prevalence of blindness experienced by Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. The role of the Indigenous Eye Health Unit is to continue to work with partners across sectors to design and implement programs that will improve the health outcomes for all Australians.

“With improved hygiene, antibiotics and laser treatment for those who have diabetes, the rate of vision loss and blindness is falling but ongoing effort is required.”

Alla Medownick, Gandel Philanthropy, Mr Greg Poche AO, the University of Melbourne, Dr Peter Drobac, Gandel Philanthropy, CMA Australia, The Cylinder Foundation, the Taylor Foundation and “Eye Life” Logistics. Funding for work on the Implementation of the Roadmap to Close the Gap for Vision is provided by the Department of Health.

Read more about Hugh Taylor at

www.medicine150.mdhs.unimelb.edu.au/taylor

“While mathematicians often study equations for their intrinsic interest and beauty, sometimes frequently one finds that the problems, in an equally mathematically interesting, are later discovered to be physically relevant,” Dr Clisby says.

http://www.ms.unimelb.edu.au
In early October, University of Melbourne alumna Thom Woodroofe travelled to Washington DC to pick up an award from Diplomatic Courier magazine as a top ‘Top99Under33’ foreign policy thinker. He reflects on the political energy that keeps the US capital buzzing.

Saturday 5 October

It’s an early start on Saturday morning. Saturday night is all set in Washington on a Red Bus from DC to New York and the General Assembly. People who know the bus have warned me that it costs as cheap as $3 and all in typical American fashion, you don’t just pay for what you see, you fix your own train before and after on the grey distance between the commuting to JFK and TSA (the US Transport Security Authority). I’ll never make that mistake again.

No matter how many times you come here, nothing captures the moment you catch that first glimpse of the Washington Monument: the sight or the awe-inspiring power of the Capitol dome. The Monument adorns with its golden colored shadow, just as the country’s democracy.

While the streets of Washington are empty from the Government shutdown that is almost two weeks old now and quickly becoming normal, the hotels are packed as the World is back in town. Booking late, I am confined to a place across the way the Pentagon where the Defense Command ordered everyone back to work today.

Sunday 6 October

It’s pouring rain outside so glad I have only a few last catch-ups set for the day! (I go for a quick run along the Potomac: down past Reagan airport when there is a break in the sound of traffic from above. Crossing the bridge and heading all the way up the hill to Georgetown. The reflection pool greets me, all I think of is the wonderful St Cloud Hotel: White House Down. But there is no way Marine One could find its way.)

Monday 7 October

The weather is only getting worse, same as the city’sPoliticians. The Washington Post’s front pages confirms that a serious weather is early in place until 5pm. Great news from the horizon and head into the city for some meetings including with an old friend from Young Americans for Diplomatic Leadership, the sister organisation of Global Voices.

I find myself at Georgetown that afternoon and wishing that Australia had the same hallowed halls of academic history. This place is like a moving door for administration officials, and I am here for a discussion on Syria. Heading across town to the National Press Club later to hear about the same topic, I tend to wonder why ever all of this talk with the body count growing by the day.

Tuesday 8 October

Walking through the doors of the State Department one thinks there is no Government shutdown in place. The corridors are filled with the usual buzz. Thankfully Foggy Bottom operates on a different budget cycle and the machinations of American diplomacy proceeds on.

I drop by the New York Public Library to see Kathleen Kenyon by my side, full house with more groupies than ever and its unmistakable call for an independent, a better world order.

Wednesday 5 October

That is a whole week about DC is all I think. A depot of every public event on in the world. A host of legends and the legions of celebrity appearances for needs. I off to an even more wondrous event on this day at the Australian Embassy in DC. And one of the maybe secrets is I actually visited the embassy and met with the staff in Canberra. It’s my best day so far.

Thursday 6 October

Hard to decide who is most notable about DC is all I think. A depot of every public event on in the world. A host of legends and the legions of celebrity appearances for needs. I off to an even more wondrous event on this day at the Australian Embassy in DC. And one of the maybe secrets is I actually visited the embassy and met with the staff in Canberra. It’s my best day so far.

Friday 7 October

Hands down the best thing about DC is the constant flow of cards I have stacked in my pocket like thought bubbles and collaboration. I feel like I have a ton of cards I have said in my pocket like thought bubbles and collaboration. I feel like I have a to-do list in my pocket like thought bubbles and collaboration. I feel like I have a to-do list in my pocket like thought bubbles and collaboration. I feel like I have a to-do list in my pocket like thought bubbles and collaboration. I feel like I have a to-do list in my pocket like thought bubbles and collaboration. I feel like I have a to-do list in my pocket like thought bubbles and collaboration. I feel like I have a to-do list in my pocket like thought bubbles and collaboration. I feel like I have a to-do list in my pocket like thought bubbles and collaboration. I feel like I have a
The troublesome truth about politics

Ryan Sheales reviews Jonathan Green's The Year My Politics Broke, published recently by Melbourne University Press.

A

s a detailed account of how politicians and their policies have shaped Australia’s public life in recent years, The Year My Politics Broke offers a valuable perspective on the current political climate.

The book opens with a description of the author’s experiences as a political journalist, highlighting the challenges of reporting on a complex and often controversial subject. The narrative provides a personal account of the author’s involvement in political events, offering insights into the inner workings of the political system.

One of the book’s key themes is the role of media in shaping public opinion. The author describes the power of media to frame discussions and influence public perception, often leading to a distorted representation of political issues.

Another significant aspect of the book is its exploration of the impact of media on political decision-making. The author illustrates how media coverage can shape policy outcomes, sometimes leading to decisions that may not be in the best interest of the public.

The Year My Politics Broke also delves into the complexities of political campaigns and the strategies used by politicians to gain power. This aspect is particularly relevant in the current political climate, where the rise of social media has transformed the way political messages are communicated.

Overall, The Year My Politics Broke offers a thought-provoking analysis of the political landscape. The author’s personal insights and historical context provide a comprehensive understanding of the issues at play, making the book a valuable resource for anyone interested in politics and media.

The Year My Politics Broke is highly recommended for its engaging narrative and insightful analysis. It is a book that challenges readers to think critically about the role of politics in their lives and to question the information they encounter in the media.

For more information or to purchase The Year My Politics Broke, visit the Melbourne University Press website.
**Social media in the Library**

**Maya Borom** looks at the way the University Library engages users – not only students – with social media.

**DESERVING OF PRIDE**

Despite its often scary nature, social media can be an engaging and thought-provoking forum, connecting people who share a common interest. Engagement through the creation of a networked community.

The University of Melbourne Library uses social media extensively to promote the library to a wide audience, creating awareness among students and the public.

The library’s central Facebook site voice.unimelb.edu.au features a healthy balance of library-specific information (such as locations of Allert on Hours) and content promoting cultural events and library services. Its visibility on par with other social networking sites (like Twitter) and a healthy dose of competitive spirit is harnessed to ensure its digital presence remains one of the best in the world.

Posts include links to collections, photos from the various archives that the University maintains and general information about aspects of the library (think of opening hours, behind the scenes tours and the like).

That’s not to say that the library presents an altogether serious voice, in fact, one of the more popular posts on social media this year were stories about the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee, the Queen and Prince Philip.

In terms of social media, the library doesn’t limit itself to using only Facebook.

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**Hitting the high notes through SmArts**

**Liz Banks-Anderson** reports on a collaboration between the VCA & MCM and The Smith Family to engage regional students with arts and education.

The University of Melbourne and the Smith Family have joined forces with central Victorian schools to create the Smith Family’s regional music program, providing a transformative experience for young students.

SmArts is a hands-on program made possible by the VCA & MCM Regional Training & Engagement program, funded by the State Government through Arts Victoria and delivered in partnership with the Smith Family and Regional Arts Victoria.

The program demonstrates the University’s commitment to supporting educational opportunities for young Australians from disadvantaged backgrounds. This includes providing The Smith Family with access to University programs, support and resources for the students under TYP’s Learning for Life program.

**Matias Maturana** is a student with a vision. Working towards his PhD on Electrical Engineering, he took several twists and turns in his studies before he came to understand he could combine two major loves – engineering and medicine. By Annie Rahilly.

**Matias Maturana** was born in Chile and escaped to Australia when he was three, leaving behind his mother and sister as refugees from dictatorship in Chile, and compiled his schooling in Australia. From secondary school, he began an academic journey at the University of Melbourne. His majors were in Japanese and applied mathematics. Upon completion of these degrees, he went to work in Japan’s corporate sector. In 2010 to begin a Masters in Engineering.

“I always had a strong interest in medicine. When I was young, I wanted to become a doctor but as I got older, I realised I didn’t really have the stomach for it,” he says.

When he found interest in engineering he thought it would be a good idea to develop an app that could simulate bionic vision. In fact, it was far from his reach.

“During his Masters, he was able to pursue contacts with professors working on the project.”

Mr Maturana has been part of BVA for three years now and has recently begun a PhD that examines using feedback to improve vision with the bionic eye.

“My primary research was to model the primary output neurons of the retina. This research was frustrating at times. Detailed modelling requires constraints based on experimental data that are often difficult to obtain,” he says.

“I decided to move into in-vivo experiments, where we use live tissue to discover new things about the retina, and develop methods for controlling its activation. My project involves using multi-electrode arrays to record from and stimulate the retina, while using control theory to regulate its response.”

Throughout his study at the University of Melbourne, he became very interested in programming. He learned how to program Java (for Android applications) and CSS (for iPhone applications). As a test project, he thought it would be a good idea to develop an app that could simulate bionic vision. In fact, it was far from his reach.

“This would give the public an idea of what it might be like to experience something with a prosthetic vision device. In other words, simply through an app on a mobile phone, people can gain an understanding of what it might be like for vision-impaired people who have devices implanted to help them regain some sight.”

The bionic eye is a stimulating retinal implant placed at the back of the retina. An external camera captures the visual scene and is processed before sending data to the implant. A number of electrodes on the implant then stimulate the retina to simulate the sense of vision.

In his app, Mr Maturana used a spot of light, also known as a phosphene, to describe the vision elicited by the stimulus. The user of the app can select the number and size of phosphenes, to simulate the impact of increasing the number of stimulating electrodes.

To access the app, visit:


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**New apps show what bionic vision looks like**

**Maya Borom** looks at the way the University Library engages users – not only students – with social media.

To access the app,visit:


University of Melbourne students have embraced the opportunity to build a life-size replica of ancient Asian architecture, by Rebecca Scott.

University of Melbourne graduate and student is off to Oxford with a Victorian Rhodes Scholarship

University of Melbourne student Kristijan Jovanoski is a deserving recipient of this great opportunity. Kristijan is a professional and community achiever who is responsible for his educational, career and sporting successes.

Mr Jovanoski is currently studying for a Masters of Architecture at the University of Melbourne, where his curriculum includes courses such as 'Understanding Architecture', 'The Making of the Modern City' and 'The Materiality of Design.' Mr Jovanoski is also a member of the School of Design and Architecture at the University of Melbourne, and a student at the Melbourne School of Design. He is an active member of the Melbourne Design Studio, and has been involved in the design of a number of significant projects, including the design of a new library for the University of Melbourne.

The faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning at the University of Melbourne is at the forefront of architectural practice and education, and is a centre for innovation and excellence. The Faculty has a strong commitment to engaging young people with the urgent need to understand and address the challenges of the 21st century. The Faculty is committed to providing an intellectually stimulating environment, and is dedicated to preparing students for successful careers in the architecture profession.

The Melbourne School of Design is home to some of the most talented and creative students in the country, and is renowned for its innovative and cutting-edge approach to education. The School is committed to providing students with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in the architecture profession, and to preparing them for a fulfilling career in the field.

In addition to its commitment to education, the Melbourne School of Design is also dedicated to the preservation and promotion of architectural heritage. The School is home to a range of specialist courses in architectural history and theory, and is a centre for research into the history of architecture and its role in society.

The Melbourne School of Design is also home to a number of world-renowned architects, who are committed to providing students with a unique and immersive learning experience. The School is also home to a range of cutting-edge facilities, including a state-of-the-art design lab and a world-class library.

The Melbourne School of Design is committed to providing students with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in the architecture profession, and to preparing them for a fulfilling career in the field. The School is also committed to the preservation and promotion of architectural heritage, and to providing students with a unique and immersive learning experience.
MUSICAL SUMMER SCHOOL

Dec 1, 21 – January 4, 2014
10:30am – 3:30pm
Four-day intensives offering unique aural and musicianship training. Each day commences with a fun warm-up, followed by classes in your chosen stream from one of the following:

- Contemporary Jazz Singing
- Foundation Vocal
- Jazz Piano Basics

Introducing jazzy harmony and improvisation - with a background in classical or pop piano.

Percussion for Fine-Artists: Discover the world of percussion! This course provides you with a broad introduction, covering performance technique and written notation for instruments ranging from classical orchestral to African drums.

- Performing with Confidence
- Learn how to perform confidently and overcome performance anxiety. Open to all musicians who want to explore, understand and develop their performance skills.
- Sight Singing Bootcamp
- Provide instrumented and vocals for the required skills for a confident bass for sight-reading, improvisation and the development of an informed approach.
- VCA Musician: Going it Alone
- For musicians who are looking to understand and develop their musical skills.

DANCE SUMMER SCHOOL

Dec 19, 21 – January 4, 2014
Course providing opportunities for people with an interest in dance and would like more experience in dance and choreography and the creative process of dance.

SHORT COURSES IN ART

- VCA Foundation Studio Art 2014
  - starting 6 February 2014 - writing courses.
- Summer School 2014

- VCA Drama Unit 3
  - Get a headstart on your VCE year! This is specially designed for those students about to undertake VCE Units 3 & 4 Drama, and will introduce you to the non-naturalistic performance style and techniques you'll need for the Unit 3 assessments.

ASK A BOX COURSE

The perfect introduction to acting for beginners – you’ll discover and develop acting skills using improvisation, characterisation and text, as well as having a bit of fun in the process!

FILM SCREENINGS

- VCA Film and Television’s 45th Annual Graduate Screenings
  - 12 – 15 December
  - The annual showcase of work by the School of Film and Television graduating students.

VENUE: ACMI Cinemas, Australian Centre for the Moving Image, Federation Square, Melbourne
Admission: Restricted 18+, fees apply

EXHIBITIONS

- Ian Potter Museum of Art – The University of Melbourne
  - Swanston Street, Parkville

Weekly guided tours: Monday & Wednesday evenings

- Performing with Confidence
- Learn how to perform confidently and overcome performance anxiety. Open to all musicians who want to explore, understand and develop their performance skills.
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