At Open Day this weekend prospective students will be exploring their academic options at the University of Melbourne. Katherine Smith, Gabrielle Murphy and Chris Weaver look at what life was like for the University’s very first students, and contrasts the experiences of some who followed.

B

egan in 1853 by act of Parliament, the University of Melbourne – Victoria’s first, and Australia’s second, higher education institution – was established with much fanfare and ceremony. As such, it had been begun in periods of great excitement, when political leaders and early settlers alike foresaw the benefits that a modern university would bring to the nascent nation. The University was intended as a “colonial ornament”, reproducing the cultural edification that universities ‘back home’ had established, and providing a means of educating the continent’s most promising men. For the city grandees of the time, the University was a symbol of advancement, a privy place where the elite could be prepared for ascendancy. And while there were those who recognized the University’s potential to shape the good character not only of the men who would become the leaders of the colonies themselves, but of the colonies themselves.

In short it was felt that dubious parents simply didn’t want their sons to attend the University, and there were no more than 161 students when the University opened in 1855. More pragmatically, that Melbourne’s schools were considered a classical language, mathematics (which included calculus), logic and mathematics were proposed, along the model adopted ‘at home’ in British institutions during the Middle Ages.

Nevertheless, students in the commencing class were fairly understandably considered of limited use to the early Victorian colonialists, and the Age was not shy in saying so. “However excellent and valuable classical education may be in itself, it is precisely the kind of education which they [the colonists] do not want; since education which they do not want; since it is utterly unsuited to the place, the time, and the character of the population,” The Age wrote.

In expansionist, gold-rush Melbourne, it was felt dubious parents simply would not send their sons to the University, and many others doubted that Melbourne’s schools were probably not producing scholars with sufficient background in classics to ensure their eligibility. Nevertheless, students in the commencing class of 1855 studied English, Greek and Latin (English considered a classical language), mathematics (which covered calculus, algebra and trigonometry), and some natural sciences. They paid four pounds each year and received a solid building in a paddock – importantly, according to Sellick, one of the students’ first actions was to lobby for better stables to accommodate their horses, and to call a 10km rather than 3km start due to the poor quality of the roads – Brissy in winter, cracked and rooky in summer.

north of the city to the University – literally then a sole building in a paddock. All were male, and a variety of ages older than 15 but mostly young. There were no external signs of eligibility for entry – applicants satisfied the University by taking a Præliminary examination to assess their suitability. They were uniformly white, middle-class sons and Sellick notes that of the 161 students who attended the University between 1855 and 1864 most were the sons of urban professionals or landed gentlemen. The supposedly mobile men of their time.

The Age newspaper had earlier that year published a history of the University’s first hundred or so years, with memoirs from Dr Krause’s student life and graduation. Photo: Peter Casamento.
From the Vice-Chancellor

Open Day: a chance to change your life

Open Day changes people's lives. Visit a university to explore its many study options is often the first step on a new learning journey. So it’s not surprising that in the University of Melbourne’s 140 years, and Open Day provides an opportunity for prospective students and their parents to visit the campus, find out about courses at the University and meet current students and staff. From the Vice-Chancellor. "Open Day provides an opportunity for prospective students and their parents to visit the campus, find out about courses at the University and meet current students and staff."

The University of Melbourne re- searchers have received Australian Research Council (ARC) Laureate Fellowships to further their research into quantum imaging in biology, and stochastic modelling.

Melbourne Professor School of Physics and Professor Peter Taylor (Department of Mathematics and Statistics) have recently been announced by the Minister for Innovation, Industry and Science as one of the most significant training events in 2015. Stochastic models are used to describe and understand the behaviour of systems that are random or have stochasticity.
Science saves farmers $18 million

Scientists have worked with farmers to predict and prevent the devastating blackleg fungal disease in canola crops, saving at least $18 million, Nerissa Hannink reports.

P as the devastating fungal disease blackleg sweeps across Australia, researchers are working to provide farmers with the knowledge to prevent and predict outbreaks.

In one major breakthrough, researchers have been able to collect genetic material from the fungus and use it to provide guidelines for farmers to implement disease monitoring programs by visually inspecting their crops and adjust their planting and sowing strategies accordingly.

**Methodology**

Researchers have been able to collect genetic material from the fungus and use it to provide guidelines for farmers to implement disease monitoring programs by visually inspecting their crops and adjust their planting and sowing strategies accordingly.

**Results**

This advice was widely adopted by farmers and trial sites showed the ‘banned’ cultivars suffered severe losses, while the recommended alternatives did not. Calculations from subsequent harvests now show the recommendations saved farmers at least $18 million in crop losses.

**Conclusion**

The ‘pathway to change in Myanmar’ has not been a simple one, with many groups working together to bring about a change. The first step in this process was to determine what change was needed. The University of Melbourne was able to provide support to build the capacity of key stakeholders in Myanmar to implement the new system.

**Acknowledgements**

The Wiener family was classed as stateless and denied citizenship, and a Jewish refugee’s escape to a far-off land in search of opportunity.

**References**

The University is well positioned to provide a detailed look at what’s happening on the ground in law and policy.

**Further Reading**

“The grant has enabled us to bring together the people working at the coalface of matters in Myanmar, not just the lawmakers,” says Professor Pippa Biddle of the Mackinnon Project at the University of Melbourne. “It’s important work that the University is doing, but we fear the consequence,” he says. The University is well positioned to provide a detailed look at what’s happening on the ground in law and policy.

**Support**

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A day in the life of a VCA student

Zoe Nikakis looks at planned Open Day activities at the Victorian College of the Arts, where it's business as usual for dancers, actors, musicians, filmmakers and visual artists.

Open Day 2013: Welcome to Australia's No. 1 University

Hashtag culture: a social experience at Open Day

Open Day visitors this year will be able to share their experiences and ask questions via social media. By Liz Banks-Anderson.

Changes in youth culture and communication have seen the University of Melbourne innovate with a social media tent at its Open Day. This year, where students can ask questions, post photos and share their experience on the day, communication among young people has changed, according to social media expert Dr Christine Satchell.

"Open day is no longer about their and multipurpose tools, particularly video, to produce content in the form of 'vlogs' and liveÆons via social media, says Satchell. "Most adolescent adaptations in social media is also an effective way for prospective students to get a glimpse of our unique Melbourne experience, even before stepping foot on campus."

"Social media means we can show our students and prospective students the real, inclusive student culture," Ms Shea says.

"Social media can also give context to what is being viewed."

"We're very supportive of any efforts by students to help other students to build and participate in the University community. We have students use social media to create very helpful subject and course related study and study groups."

"I was excited to be starting my new degree because I felt like I was ready and my time had come," Ms Rassool says. "I was ready to make the transition," Ms Rassool says. "I just wanted to make the transition," Ms Rassool says. "I just wanted to make the transition," Ms Rassool says. "I just wanted to make the transition," Ms Rassool says. "I just wanted to make the transition."

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Maximising return on health dollar investment

Liz Banks-Anderson spoke recently with one of the world’s leading experts on social determinants of health and wellbeing about the best ways to invest public health dollars.

OPEN DAY WEBSITE

O pen Day 2013 will be held Saturday 10 August on the Parkville and Southbank campuses. With a great opportunity for prospective students, their families and friends to get a taste of university life, and gather information about courses available.

Professor David Davis was for staff and students of the University Open Day is “one of the most special in our calendar of events”.

“It not only gives us the opportunity to showcase our stunning campuses and provide the information our future students might need to apply to the University, but to explain to the seniors that pulling out of tertiary study to stay at work, assist with study skills, and provide healthcare, housing and employment advice throughout their studies,” Professor Davis says.

One day out of 10 in and in addition to the regular course information sessions, discuss and opportunities to speak with lecturers and current students, a range of entertaining activities is planned, including the ever popular languages, half an hour’s session, philosophy café, galleries and museums, sports activities, and musical and theatrical performances.

“If you are a parent attending with your son or daughter, helping them design the way they’re going to do school is a complex process. The OpenDay.CareerAdvisory for the University of Melbourne Cumulus Murphy and the CareerAdvisory there have a range of options available to school leavers, and making sense of all the information can be tough, particularly if parents themselves haven’t had a lot of experience with unemployment. “Open Days play a vital role in helping their children understand their post-school options and make choices about their future.”

“It’s important that parents start talking about career options and further study with their children during the early years of high school. Research suggests some people start making decisions about future careers as early as year 8. Guiding them on choice of study area should take into consideration possible pre-requisite subjects and also ensure that as many options as possible are kept open.

“It’s also important to remember that students do tend to do the subjects they like and the ones they did best at during high school.”

Visitors can build their own Open Day program and download it as a PDF at:

www.openday.unimelb.edu.au

In Brief

High risk of death for young people after release from prison

Young people just released from prison are up to 20 times more likely to face death than those in the community, a new study has found.

Associate Professor Stuart Kinner from the University of Melbourne and Dr Chris Milnes from the University of Queensland tested at approximately 42,000 records of people released from prisons in 2007 and 2008.

They were followed up for up to 14 years and deaths were identified in the National Death Index.

"Between 1994 and 2008, we identified that 363 people died within 14 days of being released from prison, with rates 19 to 22 times higher among young men, and over 20 times higher for young women. Of these young people who died after release from prison, nearly all were preventable deaths due to drug-related causes or suicide. "Only one day out of almost 30,000 adults in prison in Australia, and up to 1% of people in prison each year, die. Release from prison is associated with a large increase in risk of death, and this increases over time. They die sooner than similar-aged young men, and over 20 times more likely to face death than those in the community," Associate Professor Kinner said.

As expected because they are less likely to experience the effects of chronic disease, young people have not experienced the same increase in risk of death after prison was greater for this group: around seven times higher among young men, and two to more than 20 times higher for women.

Of those young people who died after release from prison, nearly all were preventable deaths due to drug-related causes or suicide. "They were less likely to die from older or more unusual causes," Associate Professor Kinner argued.

"There is a clear and compelling need for increased support for young people as they transition out of prison and back to their communities. "People are sent to prison as punishment not for punishment, and after release there is tremendous potential for reintegration and a successful straightforward path to reintegration into our communities. These are not just 'offenders', they are young people, someone’s children, parents and in some cases, partners. For these vulnerable young people, a prison sentence should be viewed as the start of a long journey to successful reintegration and tackle the inequitable distribution of power, money and resources.

Power politics in Egypt

A University of Melbourne Egyptian political analyst has captured the country’s prolonged period of upheaval and fought both before peace and stable government is restored.

Egypt has overthrown two presidents in just three years. The first defeated leader was long-time ruler, Hosni Mubarak, and the democratically elected successor, Mohamed Morsi, served just one year in office before being overthrown.

Professor Shaimaa El-Alrahein from the University of Melbourne’s Centre for Islam, Politics and Society said Egypt remains a divided nation.

You have the division between the secular movement, and the more religious movements," he says.

"The military is allowing Shaimaa’s for its own advantage."

In an interview with Voice Vodafone, Egypt State, Professor El-Alrahein says she is concerned that the government is trying to impose stable government upon the people.

"It will tell a new trim, it’s him," he says.

Watch the full interview with Professor El-Alrahein at:

http://voice.unimelb. au/full/12945445-S神州彩票-5 powerpolitics.png

For students

Five simple steps to a great Open Day

1. Visit the University

Discover all you need to know about applying to the University, every pathway, and the range of scholarships and special programs available.

2. Experience the Student Engagement Office

Find out about all the support and assistance you might need, including student housing options, sporting and cultural activities... to name but a few.

3. Attend information sessions

Attending an information session is the best way to find out more about the degree or courses you’re interested in.

4. Talk to our staff and students

Find out about the University through the eyes of those who know it best and value it most.

5. Take up the atmosphere

Take a break during the day to relax and enjoy the entertainment and sample the great food on offer across the Parkville and Southbank campuses.
MUP Publications

This month’s featured book from Melbourne University Publishing is Decent Obsessions: Why it’s so difficult to avoid the small stuff by Bernard Salt.

Get your hands on a copy of Decent Obsessions: Why it’s so difficult to avoid the small stuff by Bernard Salt at Melbourne University Publishing.

Method behind the magic

Starting out in one career and then moving in a different direction is not uncommon. But steering from a career in engineering and problem-solving to being a full-time magician sounds unlikely.

M Melbourne university alumnus Dr. Ramesh Kothari, a part-time software engineer and programmer, explains his journey in writing his new book, Decent Obsessions: Why it’s so difficult to avoid the small stuff.

The book has been described as a guide to assist in bonding between family members and their pet. It is available in print and online at www.mup.org.au.

As Prince George of Cambridge settles into his royal babyhood, a University of Melbourne veterinary alumnus shares his advice on introducing the new baby to canine members of the Royal Family.

Nerissa Hannick reports.

Introducing the royal baby (to pets)

As a vet, I am very interested in understanding the sound patterns of love, friendship, and attention-seeking.
Analysing psychoanalysis

Maya Chanthaphavong reviews the recently published Psychoanalysis by the School of Culture and Communications’ Justin Clemens.

**Psychoanalysis is an Antiphilosophy**

Justin Clemens’ Psychoanalysis is an Antiphilosophy is a fascinating journey into the emergence and development of the discourses of psychoanalysis and philosophy, and analyses how their identity is irreversibly tied to science and literature in similar, yet at times, dissimilar ways. An intense and fervent exploration of the wondrously complex and difficult nature of both these disciplines, the book is written in an engaging style that is accessible and easy to follow.

The concept of an antiphilosopher is an idea that is both fascinating and thought-provoking. By exploring the relationship between the two disciplines, Clemens highlights how the development of both has been influenced by the philosophical and scientific traditions that have shaped them. The book is a wonderful introduction to the field of psychoanalysis and is a great read for anyone interested in the history of ideas and the development of modern thought.

**Documenting Tiwi art and tradition**

A recently published book from Melbourne University Publishing explores the beauty and complexity of Indigenous culture in northern Australia’s Tiwi Islands by Katherine Smith.

The Tiwi Islands are a 40-kilometre long plane of land north of Darwin and visitors can’t visit without a permit (unless during the arts festival), so accessing Tiwi art and culture can be quite challenging. In this book, Professor Stanley reveals the intricate art and culture of the Tiwi people. It’s a beautiful book with stunning images of the Tiwi people and their artwork. The book is a great introduction to the Tiwi culture and is a wonderful resource for those interested in learning more about this fascinating culture.

**The University of Melbourne thanks its Open Day sponsors**

Visit the Community Life Precinct at University Square on Open Day to collect information about the partner organisations that make our students’ experience a whole lot easier!

Open Day, Sunday 18 August

Plan your day online at: openday.unimelb.edu.au
Is the cost of living really rising?

Associate Professor Roger Wilkins, Principal Research Fellow and Director (Research) for the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia Survey explores competing views on rising costs in Australia.

W

When the Reserve Bank Governor, Philip Lowe, recently decided to allow the overnight cash rate to move forward by a quarter of a percentage point, he made a speech that had a lot of people living cost fears, and for good reason. The fear is that inflation will rise more quickly than prices, although we have been getting richer. Indeed, the ABS produces alternative versions of the CPI for different types of households, including one which excludes owner occupied housing, which is driven by the price of new homes. If we combine these changes in the price level for the bundle of goods and services purchased by each household, we do observe that the cost of living has been rising more quickly than prices. It would be a curious logic indeed that our material standards, is in fact the result of our human ingenuity as a species, and therefore it is a function of the cost of living and not the other way round. In other words, rising costs do not mean that we are getting poorer, we are getting better, we are getting richer. The reason is that the cost of living is an average rate of just under 3 per cent per annum. As a consequence, goods and services cost a little more, or a little less, than they did at the start of the 2000s. The best measure of changes in the cost of living is provided by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

The CPI shows the change in the price level of a typical basket of goods and services that reflects the consumption patterns of a person income left over. We can buy what we could like. If we are relatively wealthy, we have in mind when thinking about in-family and labour dynamics. It is also true that household incomes more generally. If we are relatively wealthy, we will be many other households that have declines in their real incomes. The experience of individual households has not been the same. It is therefore clear that living cost pressures are rising. But, on the other hand, wages and go up, so living costs go up, and so the cost of living increases. So what has been happening in Australia over the past few years? We have been getting richer.

In the past few years, the cost of living prices rises, or inflations, are what people have been noticing. It is not surprising, then, that average household income is rising more quickly than prices. Average household incomes are rising more quickly than prices. Average household incomes are rising. It is therefore clear that living cost pressures are rising. But, on the other hand, wages and benefits, along with housing costs, have been rising, so the cost of living increases. So what has been happening in Australia over the past few years? We have been getting richer.

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Cronulla Sharks, Lance Armstrong, James Hird or the Essendon Football Club making headlines. But the cast of the 2013 Revue was also unique, having sailed in the Olympics. “It’s a unique sport, it can’t really be compared with anything else,” he says. “It’s about full commitment, full responsibility and physical fitness.”

Mr Gillies says it’s not at all difficult to balance with study and work commitments. “I think the best thing to do is to have a team of installers have removed the roof of the pavilion, as both a part of the three-day Vernissage (preview) period alone.

All previous performances have been in pro-production and planning since October last year and auditions were held in March. Since then, the cast have been rehearsing every day or training in the gym three times a week. At mid-year, the cast were in Europe and spent weeks of training in the gym. Over six days in October, the University of Melbourne will be host to thought-provoking presentations, discussions, debates and special events focusing on the art and science of wellbeing.

We invite you to join the conversation as a stellar line up of Australian and international academics, intellectuals and thought leaders gather to debate environments, food, family life, the brain and mind, and to question whether democracy is working to benefit health and wellbeing in Australian society.

Have your say...create a healthier future. Visit us at Open Day or Register at ideas.unimelb.edu.au

**Festival Launch**

Monday 2 September, 6pm
Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre
Tickets available on the website

![Festival Launch](https://www.unimelb.edu.au)
Feed your intellect with a University of Melbourne Public Lecture. With local experts as well as those from across the globe you'll find there's always something new to discover. You don't need to be an enrolled student and lectures are free!

For latest listings visit: events.unimelb.edu.au

Follow @oumfreelectures on twitter

**Public Lectures**

**Monday 12 August**

_Thames Bank_ by Philip Brophy (Artist). Ian Potter Museum of Art – Lawrence Gallery, Level 2, NGV International, St Kilda Road, Southbank. Admission: Free

**Tuesday 13 August**

_The Search for Goliath_ by Professor Anne McLaren (Bradman Chair of History). Melbourne School of Government Interactive, SQA Panel Building. Admission: Free

**Thursday 15 August**

_The Cambridge Companion to the Spanish Civil War_ by Ian A. Jarvie (University of Melbourne), 6.30pm, The School of Contemporary Ensemble, University of Melbourne, 40 Dodds Street, Parkville. Admission: Free

_The Specialist Lecture Series_ by Professor Margaret Laurence (University of Melbourne), 7-9pm, The School of Contemporary Ensemble, University of Melbourne, 40 Dodds Street, Parkville. Admission: Free

**Monday 26 August**

_The Art of Master Bowyers: Ceramics and Ceremonial_ by Professor Nicole Atkin (University of Melbourne), 6.30pm, The School of Contemporary Ensemble, University of Melbourne, 40 Dodds Street, Parkville. Admission: Free

_The Specialist Lecture Series_ by Professor Margaret Laurence (University of Melbourne), 7-9pm, The School of Contemporary Ensemble, University of Melbourne, 40 Dodds Street, Parkville. Admission: Free

**Tuesday 27 August**

_The Cambridge Companion to the Spanish Civil War_ by Ian A. Jarvie (University of Melbourne), 6.30pm, The School of Contemporary Ensemble, University of Melbourne, 40 Dodds Street, Parkville. Admission: Free

_The Specialist Lecture Series_ by Professor Margaret Laurence (University of Melbourne), 7-9pm, The School of Contemporary Ensemble, University of Melbourne, 40 Dodds Street, Parkville. Admission: Free

**Thursday 29 August**

_The Cambridge Companion to the Spanish Civil War_ by Ian A. Jarvie (University of Melbourne), 6.30pm, The School of Contemporary Ensemble, University of Melbourne, 40 Dodds Street, Parkville. Admission: Free

_The Specialist Lecture Series_ by Professor Margaret Laurence (University of Melbourne), 7-9pm, The School of Contemporary Ensemble, University of Melbourne, 40 Dodds Street, Parkville. Admission: Free

**August Timetable**

**For University maps and locations visit:**

unimelb.edu.au/campuses/mapping.html