Land of plenty?

Covering 14 per cent of Australia’s landmass, the Murray-Darling Basin is by far our largest agricultural region, feeding the nation, and contributing a huge amount to export income. But the recent rains may be lulling us into a false sense of security that this is a basin of plenty. Amid predictions of a warmer, drier climate and political pressures on river management, Melbourne researchers are looking at how to ensure environmentally sustainable food and water. By Nerissa Hannink and Katherine Smith.

The Murray-Darling Basin is one of the most important but complex regions in Australia. The Murray and Darling rivers wind their way through a huge geographical area covering most of Victoria, South Australia, New South Wales, some of South Australia and Queensland, supplying water to Australia’s largest agricultural region.

But what is not often recognised is that although the basin generates one third of Australia’s food supply, its rivers actually carry small volumes of water by international standards because little of the rain falling in the basin flows into the rivers.

In conditions in South-West Australia are predicted to get even dryer, experts are urging that we move from our food supply now, not least for those whose livelihoods as well as identity are derived from farming and our capacity to provide food for our communities, but also for the valuable export trade that agriculture supports.

Balancing agricultural productivity while maintaining environmental health is clearly complicated. University of Melbourne researchers are examining the problem at every stage – from the river, to the farm, to the plate.

There will not be a one-off solution for the health of the Murray-Darling Basin, says Associate Professor Rebecca Ford from the Melbourne School of Land and Environment. "A strategy to achieve food security will require ongoing and innovative adaptation and potential transformation events, and some industries will need to scale down or relocate to areas with a more secure water supply." "Farmers have already begun moving rice and chickpea enterprises north, but these and other industries will need help to assess how to move successfully. Any relocation needs to be done on a case-by-case basis to take into account the agronomic requirements such as differences in soil nutrition and environment stations."

Associate Professor Ford adds that in the face of a growing population, probably for the next 100 years, there’s no doubt we need to increase productivity and be smarter about how we produce food. We will need more, to feed more. But we need to be careful about our environmental impact while doing this, making sure we keep as much carbon as possible within the land, and returning nutrients to soil in a way that is available to plants.

"Scientific and technical innovation in agricultural practices require research, and one of the major threats to food security is the continued reduction of investment in research and development, particularly research to improve sustainable production systems," she says.

"But new technology once developed is adopted only fast by farmers. They’re using precision guidance for application of nutrients but also engaging in mapping, keeping their own records of weather and climate conditions, developing their own localised predictions."

At the University of Melbourne’s Dookie campus near Shepparton, researchers are using the on-site working farm to try different methods of water management and food production. Dr Andrew Hamilton, Science Director at Cookie Campus, says research provides the basis for farmers to transform their practices, because an experiment can try new techniques that may result in a loss of productivity which farmers cannot afford.

"The Campus is also located on the Broken River, with many characteristics and management issues in common with the southern Murray-Darling Basin. The recent Farms, Rivers and Markets Project (FRM) was conducted here and on surrounding farms." A multi-disciplinary project directed by Professor John Langford, FRM involved 80 researchers and an initiative of Water4, funded by the National Water Commission, the Victorian Water Trust, the Cookie Farms 2003 Project Fund and the University of Melbourne.

As part of the FRM Project, the delivery of water using automated systems was trialed, led by Professor Andrew Western from the Melbourne School of Engineering. "Automatic control provide water authorities with opportunities to reduce dam releases or reduce damage ordering times, or both. This provides flexibility in how resource use is managed to the benefit of both irrigators and the environment," says Professor Western.

"Under current practice, irrigators need to order water four days in advance. But automatic control systems can deliver water in as little as one or two days, improving productivity for farmers by allowing timely application of water to pastures and crops," Professor Western says.

"With the health of farms and towns so intricately linked, researchers are also looking at ways to improve and assess the health of rivers, which could be used to follow over river health after any changes introduced by the Murray-Darling Basin Plan."

With the likelihood of returning to drier conditions, gaining productivity from agricultural lands without irrigation may be more prevalent. "People may make different or more environmentally sound food choices, and avoid as much waste if they appreciated the value of what’s involved, for example, that it takes around 70 litres of water to grow one apple and 1,500 to 3,000 litres to produce a kilogram of meat," says Dr Vietz.

"Operational constraints, such as irrigation infrastructure or channel capacity, often reduce the ability to pass the required flows. This unfortunately has led to operational constraints inappropriately driving some of the environmental flow variability, rather than the environmental objectives coming from an independent basis." Professor Western says that predicted climate change could cause substantial reductions in both environmental and irrigation water availability in coming decades.

"So it follows that in a drier climate, gaining productivity from agricultural lands without irrigation would be a bonus.

Professor Snow Barlow from the Melbourne School of Land and Environment says in future warmer climates, summer rains may be more prevalent. "We need to be adaptable and opportunist in our agricultural systems to use water when it is available in order to drive productivity further, in current and future environmental and political climates," he says.

"In partnership with farmers and local farmers from TrueCook on his property said that in Shepparton, the one that was established in 1864, traditional tomato crops might be problematic, with success."

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MURRAY-DARLING BASIN

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From the Vice-Chancellor
The future of learning

L ast month, Melbourne became the first Australian university to join the international online course platform, Coursera. This Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) provides an online learning platform that makes extensive use of short video lectures, interactive content and a global community of peers. Coursera offers subjects, worldwide, in the university with a comprehensive suite of learning tools.

Melbourne is joining other globally significant universities in Coursera, including Stanford and Princeton, which already offer more than 120 subjects online to more than 1.3 million students around the world.

The University of Melbourne expects to offer around 10 subjects through the platform by the end of the year, ranging from macroeconomics and animal behavior to epigenetics.

Melbourne will provide 12 Coursera lectures in its first year, starting in March, and up to 24 new lectures each year thereafter. Melbourne is the only university to produce both lectures and assessments for all Coursera courses.

The university will aim to develop more than 50 MOOCs in a range of disciplines over the next five years, to be offered on the second Monday of each month.

In the following weeks, the first Melbourne MOOCs will be distributed to students through the platform.

Professor Doreen Thomas is the Head of the School of Electrical & Electronic Engineering. The following is an edited extract of her presentation to the recent Melbourne Students’ Council Meeting. Dialogue on the need for innovation in mining, together with Mathematics and Statistics. Professor Hyam Rubinstein

FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

R eplying to the challenges the mining sector is facing, Melbourne has launched a white paper that sets out its vision for research to 2025.

Research at Melbourne: Ensuring Excellence and impact to 2025 details a strategy framework for Melbourne over the next decade, aiming at the excellence of the university’s research efforts.

The environment for research-intensive universities is increasingly challenging, says University of Melbourne Vice-Chancellor and President Professor McClurrie (right).

“The importance of research and resources is global and here,” he says.

It is critical that Melbourne undertakes robust research and undertakes rigorous evaluation of the research and services.

Many of these initiatives have begun to be delivered within five years, and will continue to be delivered by achieving broader research goals in 2025.

Central to Melbourne’s future vision for research is an emphasis on the whole of industry and the whole of society. Working with our partners and peers we are exploring the long-term research and supporting sustainability and resilience.

The University has extensive research capabilities in each of these broad areas but seeks to build this capacity further through the whole of industry and the whole of society.

“The Three Grand Challenges represent some of the most difficult problems facing our world in the next century,” says Professor McClurrie.

“An institutional focus on the Three Grand Challenges will enable us to better articulate and share the breadth of our capabilities with our partner communities and we are an institution.

The Grand Challenge of understanding our place and purpose includes all aspects of our national identity, with a focus on Australia’s place in the Asia-Pacific region and the world and our purpose or mission to improve all dimensions of education, health, innovation, and environmental sustainability.

Asian Development Bank projections show that by the middle of the century, Asia will account for more than half of the global’s economic output. The growing force of the Asia-Pacific region in the world will have significant implications for Australia.

“Our historical ties with the United Kingdom, Europe and the United States must accommodate these changes in policy and political outlook,” Professor McClurrie says.

“While the University has one of the largest cohorts of academics focused on Asia, and of this country’s most effective Asia institutes, much of this expertise is dispersed and consequently we do not derive the prominence we should from this range of Asia-related research activities.

To help rebalance this, and as one example to launch the place and purpose agenda, Melbourne is in the process to join Asia-related research at Melbourne a much greater profile through coherence and leadership.

Professor Doreen Thomas is the Head of the School of Electrical & Electronic Engineering. The following is an edited extract of her presentation to the recent Melbourne Students’ Council Meeting. Dialogue on the need for innovation in mining, together with Mathematics and Statistics. Professor Hyam Rubinstein

I n the Australian Bureau of Resources and Energy’s March 2012 quarterly report, the forecast for the value of Australian exports of minerals and energy is about $20 billion for 2011-12. In the Minerals Council of Australia’s quarterly pre-budget submission, 2011-12, the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences reports that advanced projects are valued at $24 billion, with $13 billion of this representing projects that are expected to be or will be implemented within five years, of which $10 billion will be invested in new investments. The financial return on the mining sector is high, and the need for innovation in mining is even more critical due to the complexity and cost of mining projects.

The importance of innovation in mining, particularly in the light of the mining boom, is being realised. The mining sector is being repositioned as an industry more than a resource sector, and the need for innovation to drive projects that focus on sustainable solutions to environmental and social challenges is being realised.

Collaboration or critical mass is vital in this area. The mining industry itself should be international, with industry-wide support for training, universities and research organisations, could help by promoting student and staff exchanges. The mining industry is part of the Innovation Hubs Primary and major industry partners, government and other stakeholders, are already engaged in collaborative research projects.

Our research has been supported by a range of industry partners, including BHP Billiton, Rio Tinto, Yancoal, Newmont, Rio Tinto, Vale and Xstrata (the world’s largest mining company in the world). Oz Minerals, a mining company, also with the Australia Research Council.

Through research in partnership with industry, we have developed software that helps track the amount of funds that go into the life of a mine. The capital costs of construction and development is to Kiplinger for the key reason for delaying the Olympic Games project. In addition, technology is in the top ten averager (most recent) earnings of men, and this is far from the normal vision, rather than short-term thinking.

Bidders to innovate include a short- age of experienced researchers in universi- ty and industry. Also companies are slow to implement new methods. In addition, the industry is run by risk-averse accountants, rather than mining engineers, and there is a need for more long-term vision, rather than short-term thinking.

Additionally, investors want quick returns, and universities and industry can be satisfied if a company delivers results. We need long-term innovation in the mining industry.
Melbourne ranks in top 30 world universities

The University of Melbourne has jumped nine places to be ranked in the top 30 universities in the world and number one in Australia in the Times Higher Education Supplement (THES) World University Rankings.

The University ranked 28th in the prestigious, long-running THES rankings this year, up from 37. University of Melbourne ProVice-Chancellor Professor Adam Raubal announced and Melbourne’s sustained improvement is “a testament to the hard work of students, staff and the University community globally competitive research, internationally recognised degree programs and engagement locally, nationally and globally.”

“Fundamentally, this is a testament to the high-calibre of the work staff undertake every day.”

The THES rankings use 13 indicators of the quality of teaching, research, citations, industry income and international outlook to assess the top universities around the world. The rankings have been developed in partnership with Thomson Reuters and provide a league table of the top universities in the world.

The THES rankings come after the University was ranked number one in Australia and 57 in the world in the Academic Ranking of World Universities and number 36 in the world in the QS rankings, released earlier this year.

“Breaking into the top 30 universities globally is a significant achievement for the University,” Professor Rabbal said. “It is a reflection of the hard work of our students, staff and the University community and speaks to the continued permission of the Australian government for the University to undertake its world-leading research and education.”

Students, the journey proved to be well worth taking. By Gabrielle Murphy.

Corporate social responsibility, not just a box to be ticked

The graduate students from the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences is holding a series of eight conferences throughout the year with the theme “Breaking into the top 30 universities globally”. The conferences are being held to celebrate the University’s continued improvement in the world rankings and to highlight the University’s commitment to social responsibility.

“Swans’ serenity masks stress of Grand Prix

A study of the impact of the Grand Prix on the iconic swans on Albert Park lake has generated some surprising findings. By Rebecca Scott.

Albert Park Lake is surrounded by the Melbourne Grand Prix Circuit. Over the four days of the event, the 160 resident swans on the lake share it with some 20,000 human visitors, and must contend with noise levels that can reach up to 120 decibels – equivalent to standing near a jet plane on the runway.

“Probably the most common question we are asked by the public is how the birds are affected by the Grand Prix,” Associate Professor Malcolm says. “It’s quite a difficult question to answer, because we know that disturbance can trigger many possible reactions, ranging from avoidance, to changes in behaviour or more subtle effects such as increased stress levels.”

By individually tagging the swans, the researchers were able to track the birds’ movements before, during and after the event, to see if any birds fled the site in response to the event. A network of ten “citizen scientists” across Melbourne helped the researchers by reporting any tagged birds seen outside the park via the website myswan.org.au.

In addition to tracking the swans’ movements, the researchers monitored behaviour, body mass and particularly psychological stress, which they did by measuring levels of a ‘stress’ hormone, corticosterone, in small blood samples taken from the birds.

The study revealed that despite the increased noise levels and stress measured in the black swans during the Grand Prix, they did not leave the site.

According to DrMulder, resident swans may have stayed despite the noise and stress because abandoning an established site in search of other suitable habitat was too risky or energetically costly.

“Often with animals, these decisions are driven by trade-offs,” he says. “It might be costly to stay but even more costly to leave, so learning involves giving up hard-fought gains in prime real estate.”

The research team hopes to gain a better understanding of these questions by continuing their work at the park.

“We hope to conduct longer term studies to monitor any possible effects with the continued permission of the Australian Grand Prix Corporation,” he says.

The work is funded by the University and conducted with the cooperation of the Australian Grand Prix Corporation, which agrees to the researchers access during the events.

To learn more about international rankings of universities go to:

http://qsworldrankings.bris.ac.uk/

To find out more about the rankings in Australia visit:

www.timeshighereducation.co.uk

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The search for water inland

Early colonial Australians hoped and believed in an inland sea of freshwater. Their expeditions proved the heart of the country to be dry however, with lasting impact on industry, and the national psyche. By Katherine Smith.

Australia has an erratic climate, detailed in official records that have been kept over the last 250 years or so. However, an Australian Research Council project called SEARCH (North-East Australian Recent Climate History) is working to backfill knowledge about our climate prior to 1920, by collating climate references from historical documents. Research team member and environmental historian Dom Garden is tasked with interpreting information about the early explorers working to backfill knowledge about our psyche. By

A period may have been one of the contributors to the exploration of the continent. As the country emerged from the wet period, other explorers set forth, until Charles Sturt was able to see this drier time to push out to the Darling. His expeditions eventually established that the Murray Darling river system would flow at all times, but not in the grand manner of other great watercourses, instead being small enough to support a thriving ecosystem and delivering on the grand expectations of the explorers’ imaginations.

“Of course there was a such a thing as ‘no rain, no fruit.” The period of no rain may have been one of the contributors to the exploration of the continent. As the country emerged from the wet period, other explorers set forth, until Charles Sturt was able to see this drier time to push out to the Darling. His expeditions eventually established that the Murray Darling river system would flow at all times, but not in the grand manner of other great watercourses, instead being small enough to support a thriving ecosystem and delivering on the grand expectations of the explorers’ imaginations. The period of wet coincided with the Blue Mountains was established. However, the Blue Mountains was established.

The farming sector in India is experiencing enormous change. Farmers are becoming bigger, more mechanised and employing more people. The implications for internal migration are yet to be realised. Will current infrastructure in cities be able to cope with such a dramatic influx of people?

Professor Malano raises these questions within the context of the Krishna River basin, where water capture is another area of concern. The Krishna River basin is a large river basin in India, draining an area of 406,000 km² in the southern part of the country. It is one of the major river basins in India, and is one of the major rivers that flows into the Arabian Sea. The Krishna River is a major water resource in the country, providing water for irrigation, industrial, and domestic use.

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University of Melbourne is leading a project dealing with the potential consequences and climate change for water resources. Now half-way through, the project, that will continue into 2014, is already shedding some light on water reliability and water variability.

The Krishna River basin covers a wide range of climates from semi-arid to wet, humid and tropical. Initial assessments indicate that there will be an increased variation in the availability of water from year to year.

“This will impose a number of challenges to manage water over the most difficult aspect of managing water is the variability. We know there will be warming of the climate over the next century. All these factors combined reveal the Krishna River Basin in India that influences the lives of up to 90 million people.

Australia’s leading university welcomes Indigenous students

Indigenous students come to face and study at the University of Melbourne from all over Australia – from as close as the suburbs of Melbourne to the furthest corners of the country.

They come, from diverse backgrounds and with a whole range of academic results because the University of Melbourne – through our Murray Bank Melbourne Institute for Indigenous Development – offers the support and the services that allow Indigenous students to stand strong, aim high, and reach wide.

The University of Melbourne is proud of its outstanding contribution rates for Indigenous students. Their success matters to us.

To learn more about support services and alternative pathway programs for Indigenous students at the University of Melbourne, check us out at: www.bigdreaming.unimelb.edu.au or ring 1800 457 528.

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**New thinking needed on public service delivery in Finland**

Professor John Alford teaches Public Sector Management at the Melbourne Business School, the University of Melbourne and the Australia and New Zealand School of Government. His book, *Rethinking Public Service Delivery: Managing with External Providers*, was released in August.

**ReProf John Alford**

E ven after decades of public sector management reform, “one-size-fits-all” approaches remain the rule rather than the exception. For all the talk of output focus, Dr Alford and other leading public service management academics have observed that public sector managers still work hard to meet measures of outputs, outcomes, efficiency, and productivity. But what if there’s a better model for the future?

Dr Alford suggests that the UK should be using a new model of public service delivery, which is the foundation for his book – *Rethinking Public Service Delivery: Managing with External Providers*. He argues that the public service sector is in need of a new model of delivery, which he calls “the Finnish model.”

Dr Alford, who is a professor of public management and the director of the Global Public Sector Management Research Group at the University of Melbourne, says that the Finnish model is different because it focuses on outcomes, rather than outputs. The key to this model is the use of external providers, who are hired to deliver specific services to the public. This model allows for more flexibility and innovation in service delivery, and can lead to better outcomes for the public.

Dr Alford says that the Finnish model is based on a number of principles, including a focus on outcomes, rather than outputs, and the use of external providers to deliver services. The model also places a strong emphasis on customer service and the needs of the public.

Dr Alford’s book provides a detailed examination of the Finnish model, including case studies and examples of how it has been implemented in different areas such as health care, education, and social services. He argues that the Finnish model could be a valuable tool for public sector managers in other countries.

Dr Alford’s book is available for purchase at the University of Melbourne Bookshop or online at www.upclose.unimelb.edu.au.
Over its 50 years the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economics and Social Research has become Australia's leading and longest-standing economic research institute. A history and conference are scheduled to celebrate its half century of insight. By Eoin Hahessy

I n 1967 consciousness emerged around the need to establish a new national body to provide academic economics to provide views independent of government, the Treasury, the Reserve Bank of Australia and the Commonwealth. Fortunately, Ronald Henderson, a Cambridge graduate, was invited to the Reserve Bank in 1960-61 but it was the period coincided with a proposal to establish Melbourne University. Henderson had studied in Melbourne, his father being the director of the Melbourne School of Mines and Survey. Henderson was appointed as the first Director of the Institute in 1968.

Today, Melbourne University supports the Institute as a research unit within the Faculty of Business and Economics. The Institute's current Director is Professor John Driffield. The Institute has always been an independent research organization with close collaboration with the Faculty of Business and Economics. The Institute's role is to provide an independent voice in the discussion of the economy and society. The Institute is supported by the University of Melbourne and is part of the Faculty of Business and Economics.

The Institute's research is guided by a board of trustees, which includes representatives from the University of Melbourne, the Australian government, business, and the community. The board is responsible for setting the Institute's research agenda, ensuring that it is relevant and of high quality. The board also provides advice on the Institute's strategic planning and fundraising.

The Institute's research is conducted by a team of economists and social scientists, who work on a wide range of topics, including macroeconomic forecasting, financial economics, and economic policy. The Institute regularly provides research on key economic issues, including poverty, inequality, and economic growth.

The Institute's research is distributed to a wide audience, including policymakers, researchers, and the general public. The Institute also provides training and professional development for economists and social scientists, and hosts a range of events, including conferences and workshops.

The Institute's research is funded by a variety of sources, including the Australian government, private sector organizations, and philanthropic donations. The Institute is committed to generating high-quality research that is relevant to policymakers and the general public.
Looking into the shadow of the Apocalypse

A new Union House Theatre production looks through the prism of satire and opera at protests by Aboriginal activists around Australia Day 1938. By Katherine Smith.

Light and reflection are on show in an exhibition of work by VCA artist and lecturer Stephen Haley.

Opera, satire, activism in 1938: An Opera

W

i Melbourne Museum, the new exhibition by Professor Stokes is on show at the National Gallery of Victoria. Drawing international awareness of the Book of Revelation. "This exhibition plays at Union House Theatre until 13 October."

With a creative team largely consisting of Melbourne University students, and directed by Union House Theatre's Tom Gutteridge, the show creates an alternative history where Aboriginal activists, Marge Tucker teams up with urban dissidents and Chinese Communities to subvert a re- enactment of Governor Phillip's landing. Written Frey Stokes says the idea for the story came while he was reading a subject for his Bachelor of Arts (Politics and Social Work) and History degree. "I was interested in the subject of politics and apocalyptic visions."

Stokes envisions a world in which people are run by their desires and comfort signs and portents for the way things are going to be.

He describes the plots that happened in 1938 on Australian soil. It is a world in which we are all living in a state of siege. "Frey has a very clever understanding of the way politics and comedy interact," says Producer warming Haley's performance. "It's the genre of things like Brecht's Threepenny Opera. It satirical and comedic, with songs and spoken word," he says. "Working with her was really good," says Designer. She says the idea for the story came while she was reading a subject for her Bachelor of Arts (Politics and Social Work) and a genre of things like Brecht's Threepenny Opera. It satirical and comedic, with songs and spoken word." protagonists, and finds the political and cultural exploration of suburban iconography, creative practice and major thematic con- stutions, national art awards and international residencies. Free floor talks by artist Stephen Haley, on the Murray), I went to Canberra where I found recordings of some community activists speaking to Yorta Yorta, and singing songs the community hadn't had access to before. I brought back copies of these recordings and they put it to use in the show. We asked a friend of the community to perform the translation, which was a huge and significant."

Katherine Smith

Stephen Haley: Somewhere About Now

Jim Elwes Gallery is exhibiting a retrospective show of work by Stephen Haley. About face is a major event. Haley's work combines the humdrum realism of Australian art with a simple and direct exhibition that explores the development of Haley's creative practice and major thematic con- stutions over the past few years of his career. Curated by Siobhan McDonald, the exhibition focuses on the ideas and themes behind his work, and how they relate to the world we live in today.

The artist's practice has been focused on the boundaries between real and virtual space for over two decades to convey powerful messages about the rapid urbanisation of contemporary cities, subordinate alienation, environmental degradation and a continu- ously developing virtual world," she says. "Haley is concerned with the poles of the planar glass mirror as the basis for reformation of contemporary space and, through its metaphor and mechanisms – virtual representation, simulation, reflection – as a means to complement contemporary culture and the simulation of actual space."

"His practice resonates with a richly layered and intoxicating beauty, offering the viewer an opportunity to become im- mersed in the wows of a lush, compelling and wondrous visual experience," says Current Curator of Graduate Research, Master of Fine Arts (Visual Arts) at the Victorian College of the Arts. "It's the genre of things like Brecht's Threepenny Opera. It satirical and comedic, with songs and spoken word," he says. Although the 21-year-old Melbourne Bachelor of Arts (Politics and Spanish) and Diploma of Creative Arts graduate has never studied music he worked with Angus Island and Archie Clapp on the score, he says he enjoys a variety of experiences to bring more issues of sustainability and social justice into the work. "It's the genre of things like Brecht's Threepenny Opera. It satirical and comedic, with songs and spoken word." he says. "It's the genre of things like Brecht's Threepenny Opera. It satirical and comedic, with songs and spoken word."

"Freg has a very clever understanding of the way politics and comedy interact," says Producer warming Haley's performance. "It's the genre of things like Brecht's Threepenny Opera. It satirical and comedic, with songs and spoken word." he says. Although the 21-year-old Melbourne Bachelor of Arts (Politics and Spanish) and Diploma of Creative Arts graduate has never studied music he worked with Angus Island and Archie Clapp on the score, he says he enjoys a variety of experiences to bring more issues of sustainability and social justice into the work. "It's the genre of things like Brecht's Threepenny Opera. It satirical and comedic, with songs and spoken word."

Next up he plans to turn his attention to before. I brought back copies of these recordings and they put it to use in the show. We asked a friend of the community to perform the translation, which was a huge and significant."
Melbourne joins free online learning provider

The University of Melbourne is one of 150 institutions joining Coursera this week, bringing the total number of universities to offer online courses to 53. Coursera offers more of a sense of belonging to some of the world’s top universities online to more than a million learners around the world.

As well as opening up to online offerings, the University is looking at ways to increase its use of technology in existing campus-based courses.

The University of Melbourne has a history of more than 150 years of providing educational opportunities. It has been part of a number of educational and cultural initiatives in the country and internationally. The University of Melbourne is one of the leading universities in Australia and is known for its excellent research and teaching programs.

Gigi Scaria: Prisms of perception
13 to 28 October 2012

Free admission

Artist’s talk: Wednesday 17 October 13:30
IBPP required
Sea Fox website for more details

Solemn recognition for Melbourne’s first Indigenous medical graduate

The University of Melbourne has conferred a rare and significant cultural gift and one of its highest honours on a respected trailblazer.

By Gabrielle Murphy.

A part of the Melbourne Medical School’s sesquicentenary celebrations, a solemn handover ceremony was held in the University of Melbourne’s St Patricks Prebendal Building last month to recognise the significant Indigenous contribution to the School’s long and distinguished history.

The gift of a possum skin cloak, commissioned by the native people of Melbourne, and made with the assistance of Melbourne Medical School’s Indigenous Medical Program, was presented to The Ian Potter Museum of Art.

Professor James Bird, head of the Melbourne Medical School, said the gift of a possum skin cloak, with characteristic handwoven blankets and aplic added squares to cast their minds back 150 years.

The tradition is significant, marking as it does the opening of the Melbourne Medical School and pointing to a period of catastrophic impact on Melbourne’s first peoples.

“One is the highest honours the University can bestow, one infrequently proposed and sparingly given,” says University of Melbourne Chancellor Elizabeth Alexander.

Professor Anderson donned the cloak for an academic procession which included nine other Melbourne graduates who were honored for their remarkable achievements and whose lives and careers have, in Chancellor Alexander’s estimation, “generated enduring improvements in the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities across the world.”

The ceremony was the first of such formal University occasions at which the cloak will be featured.

“The cloak is a rare and significant cultural gift,” says Professor Anderson. “It is also a gift to the University of the Wurundjeri, whom the University acknowledges as the traditional custodians of this land and their country, the Bunurong and Maarneetung (Upa Upa Wurrung, Tunapurdung).

Professor Anderson accepted the gift of the possum skin cloak with characteristic handwoven blankets, and appliquéd squares to cast their minds back 150 years.

Jitish Kallat: Circa
13 to 28 October 2012

Photo: Dr Bhau Daji Lad Museum, Mumbai

by having the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) and the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) publish a working paper series.

The Network for Comparative Constitutional Studies (NCCS) was launched in 2010 to promote comparative electoral studies. The network was established in response to the growth of “Super Political Action Committees (Super PACs)” in the United States and the influence of “Citizens United” on federal campaign law.

In addition, the network will hold regular events and forums for policy and scholarly discussion, including workshops, symposiums and visits to government or political institutions and archives. The network also aims to engage in non-electoral forms of participation, but at the same time they are becoming more likely to engage in electoral forms of participation, particularly in demonstrations.

“People are increasingly concerned that young people are becoming more disengaged from political life. Understanding the role of electoral politics is the most important channel through which their views can be heard,” he says. Part of it may have to do with young people not being prepared to vote on a daily.

According to Dr Martin, civic education plays a large role in engaging young people in electoral politics, and we should improve our civic education programs so that people are actually aware of the effect of policy on their lives.

“Young people are becoming less likely to get engaged with our political parties and its involved in electoral forms of participation, but at the same time they are becoming more likely to engage in non-electoral forms of participation, but at the same time they are becoming more likely to engage in electoral forms of participation, particularly in demonstrations.”

He also says another part of the solution could be through political parties’ efforts in mobilising young people, which has some advantages. This was why he started that strategy in his election campaign in Victoria.

“Both of these groups are highly motivated, and if you can get them involved in the democratic process, you can start thinking about electoral politics.”

The university is looking at ways to open up to online offerings, and in existing campus-based courses to improve learning and enhance the University’s online learning experience for our students on campus and for our students who are learning in an online environment. It is also exploring the use of technology to encourage more agile and effective development of learning technologies.

For instance, a recent symposium co-organised with the Australian Electoral Commission covered the topic of ‘The Challenge of Young Electoral Participation’ by having the Australian Electoral Commission Chair Ian Gillespie, on behalf of the Network for Comparative Constitutional Studies (NCCS) — Diane Squires

Understanding the electoral system

Earlier this year, the Electoral Regulation Research Network (ERRN) was established at Melbourne Law School. Associate Professor Rhonda Smith explores how the Network is encouraging debate and research on the regulation of elections.

The Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) provider Coursera is expanding. The University of Melbourne is among the latest education institutions to join the program.

The Ian Potter Museum of Art
Exhibition supporters

Indigenous contribution to the School’s sesquicentenary celebration ceremony was held in the University of Melbourne Medical School, Professor Ian Anderson was conferred the University’s highest honours on a respected trailblazer. Professor Anderson donned the cloak for an academic procession which included nine other Melbourne graduates who were honored for their remarkable achievements and whose lives and careers have, in Chancellor Alexander’s estimation, “generated enduring improvements in the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities across the world.”

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The Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) provider Coursera is expanding. The University of Melbourne is among the latest education institutions to join the program.
A new program run by Melbourne University Sport is inspiring high school students to reach for the stars.

By David Scott.

Taking it to the schools

The first school to play host to the program has been Grovedale College in Geelong, which is also home to one of the state's only dedicated secondary school sports academies. Students from Year Nine and Eleven had a few hours to pick the brains of athletes such as recently retired London Olympic boxer James Medcraft, Beijing Olympic modern pentathlete Angela Darby and former swimming world championship representative Alice McNamara.

"The athletes were fantastic," says Mr Lenaghan. "The information they offered up was just incredible, they were very enthusiastic in responding to student questions," says Mr Lenaghan, College Manager.

For Grovedale, the visit was especially important in the context of the sports academy program. "One of the main aims of the program is to expose students to what it takes to be an elite athlete, the lifestyle, the training, the things you may have to give up," he says. "We try to incorporate at least one athlete to come in every year and give a presentation but we have four or five at one time so it was fantastic." "In speaking to the students afterwards, all they said they found it very useful and they felt that the messages the students put across were not just helpful but impressive. We'll definitely be doing it again." Grovedale's College in Geelong, which is also home to one of the state's only dedicated secondary school sports academies. Students from Year Nine and Eleven had a few hours to pick the brains of athletes such as recently retired London Olympic boxer James Medcraft, Beijing Olympic modern pentathlete Angela Darby and former swimming world championship representative Alice McNamara.

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## October Timetable

**Mondays**

- Lunch Hour Concerts at Melba Hall, 12 noon – 1pm

**Tuesdays**

- Tuesday Timetable

**Wednesdays**

- Melbourne Recital Centre
- The University of Melbourne Orchestras
- MCM Wind Symphony and String Ensemble Concert

**Thursdays**

- Theatre at Old Arts Building
- Enquiries: jeremy.taylor@unimelb.edu.au, 8344 4720

**Fridays**

- Student Performances at Old Arts Building
- Dance for Change Concert

**Saturdays**

- Performances at Old Arts Building
- Enquiries: marielacastro@unimelb.edu.au, 8344 5815

**Sundays**

- Performances at Old Arts Building
- Enquiries: julie.hill@unimelb.edu.au, 8344 6205

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### Events

**CONCERTS**

- Lunch Hour Concerts at Melba Hall
- Melbourne Recital Centre
- The University of Melbourne Orchestras
- MCM Wind Symphony and String Ensemble Concert

**DANCE**

- Melbourne Recital Centre
- The University of Melbourne Orchestras
- MCM Wind Symphony and String Ensemble Concert

**THEATRE**

- Melbourne Recital Centre
- The University of Melbourne Orchestras
- MCM Wind Symphony and String Ensemble Concert

**EXHIBITIONS**

- Ian Potter Museum of Art
- School of Arts and Social Sciences

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**For University maps and locations visit:**

unimelb.edu.au/campuses/maps.html

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**October Timetable**

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 most lectures are free!

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

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**MONDAY 15 OCTOBER**

**CRAFT**

- Melbourne College of Art

**SPEAKERS**

- Dr Andrew Bell
- Dr Jane O’Donnell

**WORKSHOPS**

- Creative Writing Workshops

**TUESDAY 16 OCTOBER**

**CRAFT**

- Melbourne College of Art

**SPEAKERS**

- Dr Andrew Bell
- Dr Jane O’Donnell

**WORKSHOPS**

- Creative Writing Workshops

**WEDNESDAY 17 OCTOBER**

**CONCERTS**

- Lunch Hour Concerts at Melba Hall

**SPEAKERS**

- Dr Andrew Bell
- Dr Jane O’Donnell

**WORKSHOPS**

- Creative Writing Workshops

**THURSDAY 18 OCTOBER**

**CRAFT**

- Melbourne College of Art

**SPEAKERS**

- Dr Andrew Bell
- Dr Jane O’Donnell

**WORKSHOPS**

- Creative Writing Workshops

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**MONDAY 22 OCTOBER**

**CRAFT**

- Melbourne College of Art

**SPEAKERS**

- Dr Andrew Bell
- Dr Jane O’Donnell

**WORKSHOPS**

- Creative Writing Workshops

**TUESDAY 23 OCTOBER**

**CRAFT**

- Melbourne College of Art

**SPEAKERS**

- Dr Andrew Bell
- Dr Jane O’Donnell

**WORKSHOPS**

- Creative Writing Workshops

**WEDNESDAY 24 OCTOBER**

**CONCERTS**

- Lunch Hour Concerts at Melba Hall

**SPEAKERS**

- Dr Andrew Bell
- Dr Jane O’Donnell

**WORKSHOPS**

- Creative Writing Workshops

**THURSDAY 25 OCTOBER**

**CRAFT**

- Melbourne College of Art

**SPEAKERS**

- Dr Andrew Bell
- Dr Jane O’Donnell

**WORKSHOPS**

- Creative Writing Workshops

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**FRIDAY 26 OCTOBER**

**CONCERTS**

- Lunch Hour Concerts at Melba Hall

**SPEAKERS**

- Dr Andrew Bell
- Dr Jane O’Donnell

**WORKSHOPS**

- Creative Writing Workshops

**SATURDAY 27 OCTOBER**

**CONCERTS**

- Lunch Hour Concerts at Melba Hall

**SPEAKERS**

- Dr Andrew Bell
- Dr Jane O’Donnell

**WORKSHOPS**

- Creative Writing Workshops

**SUNDAY 28 OCTOBER**

**CONCERTS**

- Lunch Hour Concerts at Melba Hall

**SPEAKERS**

- Dr Andrew Bell
- Dr Jane O’Donnell

**WORKSHOPS**

- Creative Writing Workshops

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**YOUR FUTURE IS WAITING FOR YOU**

If you’ve completed or are about to complete your undergraduate degree and have your sights set on graduate study, Graduate Access Melbourne may be able to give you the support you need.

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