Mega events such as the Olympics and the World Cup, are celebrations of the national and the international, bringing together transient, transnational communities every four years. But behind the competition for individual and national glory, the lavish opening and closing ceremonies, and the crowds of excited fans, are ongoing issues. In the month before London 2012, Zoe Nikakos asks the question: is the Olympics the culturally and historically significant event it’s said to be, or is it all just commerce and hype?

T he Olympic Games are arguably the most hyped of the world’s mega-events, billed as a global cultural and sporting event that celebrates international, national and individual achievement, its popularity and audience has grown to the point where every Olympics sets new records in virtually every quantifiable category since news for television rights, box office earnings of participating athletes, numbers of participating athletes, journalists, and television viewers.

This cultural significance, the Games’ position as one of the few truly international cultural icons, and the surrounding hype together overshadow many of the questions that need to be asked as the Games grow. Are the Olympic Games all they’re cracked up to be? At which Olympics does success truly begin, who pays? In the build-up to London 2012 the question must be asked: what’s driving this hype, and do the Olympics live up to it?

Dr Barbara Keys from the history program at the University of Melbourne says the Games are one of the few events that unite almost all the world. “In the world today the Olympics are one of the most powerful cultural forces promoting a sense of global identity," she says.

“Because the Olympics are the most accessable and emotionally resonant symbol of the global community, they can be used to represent aspirational goals for those who are not part of the world’s population who watch part of the Games. It has unparalleled cultural influence.”

Dr Keys says this cultural influence is matched by the tactic political influence and influence of soft diplomacy nations integrate and further at the Games. “It’s strange to think of so many political issues and political pressures, meaning they can be used for many political purposes, which is often the case. Local politics are always tied to politics. It’s inevitable.”

Dr Keys says a great deal of hidden diplomacy goes on during the Games. “From a political perspective, more important than the sports events are the far more numerous social and cultural events that happen in conjunction with the Olympics – parties, receptions, dinners, conferences, art shows and the like, where global elites from the worlds of politics and business gather and network.”

“These provide opportunities for global elites to build connections that might otherwise be hard to achieve. It is quite probable countries without formal diplomatic relations use the event as an opportunity for casual, relatively low-pressure contacts, because so much of this activity remains invisible, it is difficult to judge its effect.”

The political effects and their outcomes aren’t the only aspects masked by hype, the business of the Olympics and the commercialisation which now goes with it is inevitable, says University of Melbourne marketing expert Professor Simon Bell.

“The games were meant to be the epitome of amateur sporting skill, so to have sponsership and commercial interests involved initially was ridiculous. I think you have to compare that with the commercial realities of staging this kind of event, the financial pressures and the resources required. These things don’t happen without sponsorship. Cultural events need sponsorship with commercial interests.”

“The modern Olympics, as well as being sponsored by different brands, is also a brand itself,” Professor Bell explains. “At its core, a strong brand is one that’s known and thought of favourably, in a unique way.

“Strong brands, such as the Olympics, are favourably positioned, and consumers have strong positive associations with it, such as sponsorship, integration and diversity. It’s a great example of an event where co-branding becomes a big part of the commercialisation.”

“The strength of the sponsored brand is borrowed by the Olympic brand and vice-versa. It’s about finding the mutual overlap, and in the case of the Olympics, the exposure is just enormous.”

Professor Bell says commercialisation and its management has become increasingly important since the 1964 Olympics in Montreal, which were an “absolute financial debacle” which the city was still paying for 30 years later.

“In the last 30 or 40 years, the International Olympic Committee has become extraordinarily interested in how they manage the events,” he says.

“Brands rarely grow by accident and it’s a testimony to good stewardship and management of the brand that it still exists, and it is as strong as ever. Brands don’t last long, they aren’t immortal by dint of their existence.”

Professor Bell says despite the Olympic brands ongoing strength, there are challenges ahead.

“By virtue of its international status, the Olympics has to preserve its integrity, goodwill, ethical behaviour and strong human values. High expected pressures when it awarded the games to Beijing, given China’s human rights record. You could say it was in the commercial interest to hold the games in China, but at what cost? The endowment of a particular regime is in turning a blind eye to human rights abuses? It’s a trade off, and it’s a slippery slope.”

The Olympics are a vehicle for good in the world, there’s a lot at stake, and it’s worth doing properly.

Professor Richard Benyon, Chair of Urban Planning at the University, says despite increasing sponsorship and commercialisation, mega events are often an extraordinary waste of resources, with enormous amounts of money and resulting in absolute obsolescence after the event has finished.

We say our results are common with a few notable exceptions such as Barcelona and Melbourne, where the government commissioned the infrastructure was wanted as part of its strategic plan.

“I visited Olympic Parks in Sydney one Sunday afternoon, and it was a wasteland,” he says.

“At the entrance to the Olympic Queen in Beijing, the top of the 8 had broken and one of the ones in 2008 had fallen off the is an incredibly high value location with incredibly low land use. Their Bird’s Nest stadium drove a lot of attention for a little time, and now it just sits there.

“This phenomenon, he says, isn’t unique to the Olympics. “After the World Cup in South Africa, Cape Town was left with the very expensive, empty stadium that’s costing a massive amount of money to maintain. It’s a shame, but totally predictable.”

Professor Thomason says though the amounts of money spent by each host city and the country in which it’s situated vary, it only realistic results in reusable infrastructure and from improved transport systems.

“The bigger the role national chauvinism plays in the event, the more money the government is prepared to waste on it.”

“It’s a very different ball game if you’re looking at Brazil or Russia or South Africa than if you’re looking at London or Sydney. In Brazil, South Africa, Brazil, Russia and India, there’s no budgetary limit on getting it right, whereas for a place like London or Atlanta, there is a cost consciousness. “There’s the knowledge that the infrastructure in place, the willingness to be spendthrift is a greater in poorer countries.”

Professor Thomason says increasingly, the Olympics aren’t living up to their hype, instead, the London Olympics are “almost redundant.”

“London doesn’t need the Olympic Games. It’s the most touristic city in the world,” he says.

“The people who live in the areas of urban gentrification are says Alexander is not a big fan of urban regeneration.”

“The Minister responsible for the London Olympics said, If we knew then what we know now, we wouldn’t have bid.”
Putting football racing in its place

For the thousands of people affected by irrelevant criminal records discrimination each year, the past is never really the past. Kate O’Hara looks at a student engagement project trying to turn the tide.

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Studying media and communication is fascinating, but one area we've discovered students often struggle with is writing. For many, the process of structuring a well-argued essay can be daunting, especially when it comes to composing a strong introductory paragraph. This piece aims to provide guidance on how to craft an effective introduction for a discourse analysis essay. It begins by explaining the importance of discourse analysis in media and communication studies, followed by an overview of the key components of an introductory paragraph. The essay then delves into strategies for engaging the reader and setting the stage for the rest of the analysis. Finally, it concludes with a discussion on the role of the introductory paragraph in high-stakes contexts such as academic writing and professional communication. By following these principles, students will be better equipped to present a strong foundation for their arguments and engage their audience effectively.

The University of Melbourne

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New Centre to boost the health of biostatistics

A new Centre of Research Excellence will help bridge the gap between quantitative data in the health sciences, and our ability to analyse it. By Silvia Dropulich.

The link between rapid evolution and the presence of colour polymorphism in birds has been confirmed, using information from birdwatchers and geneticists accumulated over decades, by University of Melbourne biostatisticians David Stuart-Fox and Andrew Hugall (jointly based at the Melbourne Museum).

The link between the presence of more than one colour variation (colour polymorphism) in birds of prey – hawks and eagles, owls, and their relatives – and the presence of multiple colour forms leads to rapid generation of new species, "Dr David Stuart-Fox says.

Bird species with multiple plumage colouring within the same population evolve into new species faster than those with only one colour, according to a new study which confirms a 60-year theory of evolution by Nerissa Hanifin.

The link between rapid evolution and the presence of colourful plumage forms in birds has been confirmed, using information from birdwatchers and geneticists accumulated over decades, by University of Melbourne biostatisticians David Stuart-Fox and Andrew Hugall (jointly based at the Melbourne Museum).

"Well-known examples of colour polymorphic species in these families include the American peregrine falcon, which has a grey and pure white form, the North American eastern rough-legged, and the Andean condor, both with grey and red forms," Dr Stuart-Fox says.

"Rarely, we found, based on birds because, although colour polymorphism occurs in many animals, such as butterflies (for which there are hundreds of species) and many mammals, there is a wealth of information on colour variation in birds, as well as species classification taxonomy," partly thanks to birdwatchers or "twitchers."

"We looked at five bird families with a high proportion of colour polymorphism and compared their rates of evolution with those with only one colour form," Dr Stuart-Fox says.

By modelling evolutionary rates using publically available genetic information accumulated over a quarter of a century, the study found that colour polymorphism speeds up the generation of new species. Colour polymorphic species tend to evolve more species with only one colour form (monochromics), which explains why existing species with different colour forms are relatively young and also rare. The study found that colour polymorphic species were younger not only in birds of prey but also in songbirds, which account for more than half of the world’s bird species.

Study co-author Dr Andrew Hugall noted that, when half over a century ago scientists like Julian Huxley proposed that colour polymorphism speeds up the generation of new species, they did not have the huge amounts of data needed to support the theory. "Using many decades of natural history data, as well as sequences from different species, we now have a much better understanding of how species evolve," Dr Hugall says.

"The existence of ViCBiostat will greatly enhance the microbes that eat oil. ViCBiostat, which receives funding from industry, will have the best possible solutions with her, she says. "ViCBiostat plans to support and mentor these women scientists for leadership roles."

ViCBiostat is a Centre of Research Excellence that aims to address the structural and functional problem in a key component of the health research workforce, by establishing a centre of excellence in biostatistics and public health analysis. The Centre is part of the Victorian Centre for Biostatistics (VCBiostat), an association of biostatisticians and public health analysts from universities, hospitals, and other research institutions.

"Our new centre, ViCBiostat, aims to foster the careers of a new generation of biostatistical leaders, by developing an integrated group of researchers and collaborative research that will equip them with the skills required for real-world health problems," Associate Professor Simpson explains.

"There are many female biostatisticians in Europe, but in Australia, there are far fewer," says Associate Professor Simpson.

"There are major centres with a sufficient critical mass of biostatisticians, and there are far fewer in Australia. Dr Meenakshi Arora has been part of a project led by Professor Geoff Stevens from the School of Population Health. "Nowhere is this gap more apparent than in biostatistics more appealing to a range of students, in particular undergraduates in biostatistics," says Associate Professor Simpson.

"In the past five years VCBiostat plans to support and mentor these women scientists for leadership roles."

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University of Melbourne – CSIRO relationship agreement

After more than 85 years of collaboration and interaction, the University of Melbourne and the CSIRO entered into a strategic relationship agreement in May. The collaboration will support the ongoing work of researchers and academics across all fields of research, but in particular in health sciences, mathematics, and computing, developing a number of new initiatives.

CSIRO Chief Executive Officer Megan Clark said the agreement has been under development for the past 18 months and is designed to build on the strength of both organisations.

“The value of the relationship to each organisation is significant and provides an opportunity to deliver impact and to access new knowledge, expertise, and infrastructure that may not be available solely within one organisation,” Dr Clark said.

CSIRO Deputy Chief Executive Office Megan Clark said the agreement also signals a dose from both parties to build a strong human science focus in the Parkville Precinct, in the wider CSIRO precinct development strategy.

Dr Clark said this precpect concept could provide Australia with a focal point for promoting excellence to the rest of the world by increasing investment and attracting new talent.

Senior staff appointments

Former University of Melbourne Provost Professor Peter McPhee has been appointed Chair of the Board of Melbourne University Publishing. Professor McPhee, who is a Professional Fellow of the University and continuing to work with the University’s higher degree students in the School of Historical and Philosophical Studies, succeeds Alan Badger. Mr Badger, a graduate of the University of Melbourne – the LH Martin Institute.

Professor Alan Badger has been appointed as the new head of Publishing and will add to his role of Deputy Director, and succeeds Professor Lynne Niel who retired after four years at the university.

With close to thirty years experience in higher education policy and management, Professor Guglielmetti has worked as an expert on governance and management in Central and Eastern Europe, Africa, South East Asia and South America, working on projects initiated by the European Commission, the World Bank and others.

He has also held senior roles in the Centre for Higher Education Policy Studies, University of Twente, Netherlands.

The LH Martin Institute has a mission to improve management and leadership in the tertiary education sector by assisting current and aspiring leaders, and is located in the University of Melbourne’s Graduate School of Education.

Students selected to attend G20 Summit in Washington

Bachelors of Commerce Health and Human Health students will join youth representatives from 19 G20 countries to debate issues relating to international development at the G20 Youth Summit in Washington DC this June. The University of Melbourne will be represented by three students, with the Somali student Alaa Arab as a full delegate and the other two students to be youth delegates. The G20 Summit will provide a forum for youth leaders from members of delegations to discuss internationa affairs, promote cross-cultural understanding, and build global partnerships.

Alaa Arab will be an honour to represent young Australians at the summit, and an avenue to a lifetime opportunity to build global relationships and gain a valuable understanding of the world economy and international affairs. The overseas students will attend the Summit to expand their international understanding, to network with students from around the world and to provide them with an opportunity to take part in an exciting and unique international experience.

The University of Melbourne is committed to providing a multicultural and inclusive environment, and the G20 Summit will provide an opportunity for students to network with students from around the world and to provide them with an opportunity to take part in an exciting and unique international experience.

The Olympics are made on the Melbourne campus

Melbourne University students, alumni and sport club members are well represented on the Australian teams for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Many of them have represented Australia on several occasions. By Katherine Smith.

A mong those who have been selected for the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games are many more of whom have nurtured their sporting talents and interests through Melbourne University’s sports facilities and coaching staff.

University Provost Professor Margaret Sheil says “Melbourne is proud of the Olympic and Paralympic Games for our athletes, who have been representing Australia since the games in 1912.

Educating the whole person involves academic as well as physical and cultural activities, and I am thrilled to see so many of our Melbourne athletes and staff involved on the Olympic team. We’ll watch them progress through the Games, look forward to hearing about their experiences when they return.”

Team leadership and staff include

- Alanna Kitch Chalmers – Australian Deputy Chef de Mission, 2000 Olympic (Modern Pentathlon)
- Fiona Miall, Boat Club Head Coach Chris O’Brien – Rowing Coach for Australia
- Alanna Michael Maksoud – Swimming Team Director
- Alanna Allison Campbell – Paralympic Team Physiotherapist

- Team members include
- Mui Boal – Club member Lisa Weightman – Women’s Marathon Rowing 8; Women’s Rowing 8 and Men’s Rowing Captain; 2008 Olympic Champion
- Mui Boal Club member Lizzii Patric – Women’s Relay 4x100m, 2008 Australian representation
- Fiona Miall, Boat Club Head Coach Chris O’Brien – Rowing Coach for Australia
- Alanna Michael Maksoud – Swimming Team Director
- Alanna Allison Campbell – Paralympic Team Physiotherapist

- The University of Melbourne is Number 1 in Australia and Number 4 in the world for the employability of our graduates.*

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- An internationally renowned teaching by academic leaders
- A professional learning environment tailored for graduate study

Find out about your options at the Reinvent Your Career Expo from 16–17 June at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.
No place for the imagination

Katherine Smith speaks with Geraldine Cook - head of the School of Performing Arts at the University of Melbourne - about the blurry line between performance and exploitation of girls’ bodies.

I n June in Sydney, Universal Royalty will stage its second Australian child beauty pageant, with girls between the ages of 2-10 being judged against each other on looks, “comportment” and “talent.”

Universal Royalty is the USA-based company behind the child pageants, which gained notoriety through the TV show Toddlers & Tiaras. A similar event in Melbourne last year generated controversy, with anti-child pageant organisations formed and filled media debates.

The organisation pull the pin in seeking to legally ban beauty contests for children in Australia, and there are similar activities afoot in France to ban child pageants. These critics say the pageants are soul-destroying in ways that are exploitative, even abusive. Certainly it’s difficult to watch images of an eight-year-old girl having her eyelashes glued, or a two-year-old having her hair extensions seen.

While the arguments against the pageants say the events are no different to other stage-school education programs like ballet classes and calisthenics, where costumes, hair and makeup similarly play a part.

-Head of Performing Arts at the Victorian College of the Arts, Geraldine Cook, explains.

“Experts in early childhood agree that education for young children needs to be playful, and in terms of performing arts of necessity must allow the child to use his or her own imagination. Is it the playfulness in a safe, respectful setting that’s at stake, whereas dance classes or even home dress-ups are about dressing a character, attributes of which are reflected in costume, but also in imagined behaviour, words, songs and actions. The child is engaged in thinking about how a fairy princess might move or speak, and is not judged only for it.”

For Ms Cook, the judging that takes place in these pageants is one of the more troubling aspects – more troubling even perhaps than the very green-lipstick-look that are encouraged.

“The beauty-pageant task is a matter of taste or aesthetics, and I wouldn’t want to make assumptions about that, but what’s really distressing is the coerced socialization that teaches the girl-child that her body is there to please others, to be made to conform to what someone else says it should, and she is rewarded if it makes it conform. The beauty-pageant task is a matter of taste or aesthetics, and I wouldn’t want to make assumptions about that, but what’s really distressing is the coerced socialization that teaches the girl-child that her body is there to please others, to be made to conform to what someone else says it should, and she is rewarded if it makes it conform. The beauty-pageant task is a matter of taste or aesthetics. It’s bound to have an effect, probably not only on the child, but on the upbringing she has. And by her fellow actors. The problem is: does my child really want to do this, or is there a pressure she is under to do it? Does my child really want to do this, or is there a pressure she is under to do it? Does my child really want to do this, or is there a pressure she is under to do it? Does my child really want to do this, or is there a pressure she is under to do it?

“Secondly, look at the values of the person who’s taking the child. Are they imposing their views on the girl-child in an environment that’s feedbacking the imagination and supporting positive social interaction? What opportunities are there for autonomy, for authentic self-expression? It comes down to intent with the adult. There are all sorts of forms of feedbacking the imagination and supporting positive social interaction.”

Premier’s Award to young MD researcher

University of Melbourne researcher Dr Stefan Gehrig has been awarded the prestigous 2012 Premier’s Award for Health and Medical Research, for a discovery into a potential treatment for muscular dystrophy.

As part of his PhD investigating novel therapies for Duchenne muscular dystrophy, Dr Gehrig conducted the research, and has received the $30,000 Jack and Robert Smorgon Families Award as part of the 2012 Premier’s Award for Health and Medical Research Program.

The study, lead by Dr Gehrig, has been awarded the prestigious 2012 Premier’s Award for Health and Medical Research, for a discovery into a potential treatment for muscular dystrophy.

Dr Gehrig led a team of researchers that investigated the potential of administering a compound to patients suffering from Duchenne muscular dystrophy, a disease caused by a genetic mutation on the X chromosome that affects boys and young men.

The team, led by Dr Gehrig, has been awarded the prestigious 2012 Premier’s Award for Health and Medical Research, for a discovery into a potential treatment for muscular dystrophy.

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Walking the green mile to climate agreement

International climate conferences often end in stalemate. By Chris Weaver.

A ccomplishing a global agreement on climate change is a formidable task. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was opened for signature in 1992 to do just this. The conference in Kyoto in 1997 was hailed as the beginning of a new climate regime. In 1997, the governments of 140 countries agreed to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by an average 5 per cent below 1990 levels by 2008-2012. In their subsequent negotiations, they have failed to agree on an ignition procedure for the Kyoto protocol.

There have been three major climate conferences since 1997 - in Kyoto, Montreal and Marrakesh - culminating in a process to review implementation of the Kyoto Protocol. The next conference is to be held in 2009 in Copenhagen. If the current negotiations proceed as expected, the 2009 Copenhagen conference could produce a successor to the Kyoto Protocol with an ignition procedure, a review process and a mechanism for enforcement.

Modern climate change negotiations have been characterized by the inexorable rise of the leaders of developing countries. The negotiators from the developing world have become truly powerful players in the world of climate negotiations. They are no longer just signatories to the Kyoto Protocol. They are players in the game of climate change negotiations, and they are no longer in the ranks of observers. They are now in the driver's seat. Their success in negotiations is now a measure of the world's climate negotiations.

The Kyoto Protocol represents the first major attempt to tackle the complex issue of climate change. It is a complex and difficult process, and it is not going to be easy to achieve. But we have to be optimistic, and we have to believe that we can achieve it. I have been optimistic about the outcome of the conference in Copenhagen. I believe that we can achieve a new climate regime that will be more effective than the Kyoto Protocol. And I believe that we can achieve it in Copenhagen.
"It was a blessed relief, after all this time, to finally know what was going on." - JUNE

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Of course, JUNE did not write that. It is S. S. Steinbeck, an American author, known for his novel "Of Mice and Men." The quote is from his book "The Grapes of Wrath." The novel is a powerful and compassionate portrayal of the struggles of farmers during the Great Depression, and the impact of the Dust Bowl on their lives.

The quote you provided is from the novel's protagonist, JUNE, who has been through a series of unfortunate events and is finally finding some relief. The quote highlights the importance of understanding the root cause of one's problems in order to find lasting solutions.

The quote is also a reminder that even in the darkest of times, there can be moments of hope and redemption. As JUNE says, "It was a blessed relief, after all this time, to finally know what was going on." This sentiment resonates with many readers, as it speaks to the human desire for understanding and resolution.

In conclusion, the quote from "The Grapes of Wrath" is a powerful reminder of the importance of understanding the root cause of one's problems. It is a hopeful message, affirming that even in the darkest of times, there can be moments of relief and understanding.
Rural dairy vet training in action

Researchers from the University Of Melbourne are participating in rural placements around Victoria to help increase the skill levels of vets working with dairy farmers and their herds. The residency training program aims to ensure the ongoing supply of skilled dairy veterinarians in rural and remote areas, and enhance career opportunities for recent graduates.

Groton Yorta nation takes world stage

On the occasion of the fourth annual Dangula Kaela Oration on July 18 at the end of May, the University of Melbourne celebrated its partnership with the Kaela institute and showcased the significant achievements its association has brought to the Goulburn Valley and beyond. Gabrielle Murphy reports.

Every year for the past four years, farmers improve around Australia, and the University of Melbourne has been hosting the annual Dangula Kaela Oration on the University of Melbourne campus to discuss rural futures in the region.

This year’s oration was titled “Dungala Kaiela: the voice of the Yorta Yorta nation” and was delivered by former High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Sir Brian Hartzer, who has returned permanently to Australia to take up the position of Chief Executive Officer Australia and Asia for ANZ. He was joined by RBS Australia and the Goulburn Valley Group's Ian Anderson, who was Chief Executive Officer Australia and Asia for ANZ, and the successful candidate for the University of Melbourne's Senior Vice Chancellor for Research, Professor Ian Anderson.

The creation of the Yorta Yorta nation is the signature event in the University calendar for the Goulburn Valley Indigenous partnership,” says Professor Ian Anderson, Director of the University of Melbourne’s Murrup Barak Institute for Indigenous Development. “It provides a unique opportunity to bring high profile leaders in politics, business, research and the academy to challenge us about a possible future for the cultural, social, environmental and economic development of Indigenous futures in the region.”

And over the four years, it has given an effective forum to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural identity, create a shared vision for the people of the greater Goulburn Valley region, and promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander socio-economic development.

This year’s oration, titled “Brian Hartzer to step down from the prime minister’s office and become CEO of ANZ,” was delivered by former High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Sir Brian Hartzer, who has returned permanently to Australia to take up the position of Chief Executive Officer Australia and Asia for ANZ, and the successful candidate for the University of Melbourne’s Senior Vice Chancellor for Research, Professor Ian Anderson.

The oration features a range of topics, including research on setting targets for morbidity, mortality and economic development of Indigenous futures in the region. And over the four years, it has given an effective forum to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural identity, create a shared vision for the people of the greater Goulburn Valley region, and promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander socio-economic development.

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A certified Fair Trade university

The University of Melbourne has been accredited as a Fair Trade university, thanks to activism by student groups. By Zoe Nikakis

Smart phone stethoscope win

A team of University students has won the Australian final of the 2012 Microsoft Imagine Cup with a device that could revolutionize the diagnosis of childhood pneumonia in developing countries, Annie Rahilly reports on this intrepid group bringing together the best of Engineering and Medical minds.

Melbourne scoops AUS awards

Melbourne was acknowledged as a leading sporting university in the recent Australian University Sport Awards. By Rod Warnecke

The wonders of ancient Mesopotamia

An exhibition of over 170 amazing objects from the British Museum}

Melbourne University Boat Club Director of Rowing Alex Henshilwood was acknowledged for his outstanding contribution to university sport. He accepted the award on behalf of the team and was euphoric when its project was named Best Exhibition App in the Microsoft Imagine Cup. The prize was awarded for the team’s Android app, which allows users to turn a Windows 7 smartphone into a stethoscope.

Andrew Henshilwood says the accreditation signalled the power to make ethical decisions, “We can be destructive when we don’t understand the context of the things we are doing and why it is important they act.”

The accreditation signalled the power to make ethical decisions, “I want to make sure everyone is given this same opportunity, to ensure those in a position to change the status quo are aware of what they can do and why it is important they act.”

Hamish McKenzie is President of the University’s chapter of World Vision. He says the team's success will help them to promote and showcase their work internationally.

The team explored why it’s imperative they act. “I want to make sure everyone is given this same opportunity, to ensure those in a position to change the status quo are aware of what they can do and why it is important they act.”

The team’s success will help them to promote and showcase their work internationally.

The team plans to undertake post-graduate study and continue their work with the aid of experts and support from the University.

A team of University Sport award recipients Marieke Guehrer and Jessica Morrison (both members of Melbourne’s Swim team) win the Mg Sport Director’s Award for being the most hard working and dedicated. Marieke Guehrer was also bestowed with Champion status as part of the Australian University Sport Honour Roll. Jessica Morrison was also recognised for her gold medal as part of the Australian women’s 4 x 100m Freestyle Relay in China with induction to the Australian University Sport Honour Roll.

Mr Henshilwood said he was delighted to work with “one of the great rowing dynasties” in Melbourne University Boat Club, particularly his opportunity to work closely with many of Australia’s best rowers. And he looked forward to having great success at London 2012, even against my countrymen and women back home,” the English-born coach said.

The other Melbourne University award finalists were: Erin Sheppard (Swimming) for Male Athlete of the Year (cycling) and Lachlan North (Sailing) for Outstanding Performance of the Year (Sailing). As a multiple medalist including a gold medal at the World University Games, Mareike Guehrer was also bestowed with Champion status as part of the Australian University Sport Honour Roll. Jessica Morrison was also recognised for her gold medal as part of the Australian women’s 4 x 100m Freestyle Relay in China with induction to the Australian University Sport Honour Roll.
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!

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**June Timetable**

**MONTGOMERY 25 JUNE**

**Lecture: Hellenistic Bouquets: a fourth-century Peacock in the Bodleian Library, Oxford.**

By Dr Georgios Georgiou, Senior Archivist of the Cyprus National Department of Antiquities.

New light on peacock mosaic evidence from recent excavations.

TUESDAY 10 JULY, 6:30 – 7:30pm

Victoria University, Level 1 Annex Gallery. No booking required.

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**TUESDAY 17 JUNE**

**Lecture: The legacy of Ursula Hoff.**

By Germaine and Maxine College.

Tuesday 19th June, 1 – 1.30pm

John Brack’s The Queen (1988). A key work, presented by Potter curatorial.

TUESDAY TALKS: talks on the third Tuesday of each month until November 2012. The talks will focus on a key work in the Potter collection, presented by the curator or another expert, and related to the exhibition Martinis Roe, Michelle Nikou to 17 October

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**MONDAY 25 JUNE**

**Lecture: Public Talk: ‘A One-day Symposium: A Dialogue between Experts’.**

Presented by and featuring a range of 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!

**MONDAY 25 JUNE**

**Lecture: Two 12th-Century Paintings in the Bodleian Library, Oxford.**

By Dr Georgios Georgiou, Senior Archivist of the Cyprus National Department of Antiquities.

New light on peacock mosaic evidence from recent excavations.

TUESDAY 10 JULY, 6:30 – 7:30pm

Victoria University, Level 1 Annex Gallery. No booking required.

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