A different perspective

The students and staff of the University of Melbourne come from diverse cultural backgrounds, its graduates are active global citizens and the University is deeply engaged in research partnerships with highly ranked international universities. Shane Cahill explores how the University is working to further expand its position as a truly international university in research, learning and teaching and engagement.

From the previous year International first preferences for 2011 were 634, up 21 per cent.

"But from the start we were pleased to find that students were coming in open-minded and as they gained knowledge they made up their minds on what they wanted to do. Otherwise we would have lost them.

"They say to us 'I've found a new world'."

So let it be in that has made this advantageous new offering so popular with high-achieving students from across Australia and a particular attraction to students from around the globe.

First, I speak directly to the concerns and aspirations of contemporary students.

"Among our younger student generation issues and interest of the environment are paramount," Professor Kvan says.

"They are very aware of their futures in the world which they will inherit.

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"The other aspect is that many of these areas are under developmental pressure in their environments because certain aspects of their economies have moved faster than their infrastructures to deal with them so the problems of the environment are likely to be more manifested.

Secondly, emerging as it did from the curriculum needs that preceded the introduction of the Melbourne Model, Environments offers students a fully developed course of study at undergraduate level leading to a wide range of postgraduate options.

"We are the only entity that is presenting an engagement or discussion about environmental issues in a coherent and coordinated manner," Professor Kvan says.

"You cannot solve environmental problems if you do not consider distributions of employment, modes of transportation, choices of housing if you are looking to improve quality of life.

"The international students come from many parts of the world that are rapidly developing and in which key decisions are currently being made which will have profound long-term impacts on their environment. Within such rapidly changing contexts there is a recognition that appropriate decisions should be made now so that we don't suffer consequences later.

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Melbourne tops research excellence

The University of Melbourne has established itself as the leading research university in Australia, according to the Excellence in Research for Australia report. By John DoBois.

From the Vice-Chancellor

Fostering global collaboration

Universities are now hubs of international collaboration. Researchers from many nations work at universities across Australia, enriching the diversity of science and economics and contributing to the strength derived from assembling such strong, international research cultures. Voices above.

University of Melbourne

Alumni Simon McKeon Australian of the Year

The 55-year-old philanthropist and father of four is the chairman of the CSIRO, Australia’s national science agency, and the latest recipient of the University of Melbourne’s prestigious Australian of the Year Award. By Liz Pollock.

Era confirms that we have both breadth and quality

Pat Freeland-Small, the University’s managing editor, says: “It is a credit to our researchers that the University has performed so admirably across a broad range of disciplines. The results are particularly pleasing, given they do not include the past two years’ activity, in which the University has achieved a marked increase in research grants from the Federal Government. This welcome recognition of our outstanding research accomplishments underpins our ability to contribute meaningfully to society and to provide world-class education at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.”

Glyn Davis, Vice-Chancellor

The University of Melbourne

Great advances in powdery metals researcher

Professor Tony Klein and colleagues reformed the steps taken by famed colonial photographer Charles Nettleton up the stairs of the town of Government House to recreate his 1875 photographs of the internationally-renowned Melbourne Observatory.

Emeritus Professor Tony Klein and colleagues recreated the steps taken by famed colonial photographer Charles Nettleton up the stairs of the town of Government House to recreate his 1875 photographs of the internationally-renowned Melbourne Observatory.

Villa Maris

Then and now observed

The Melbourne Observatory was established in 1874, and its location on the campus of the University of Melbourne is known to many as an important Melbourne landmark. Among the Fellows are PhD graduates of Stanford University, the University of Bern, Switzerland, and Queen’s University, Belfast.

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Collectively, these initiatives strengthen our position as a leading Australian university and an important contributor to the global tertiary education sphere. Researchers working here through programs such as the McKenzie Fellowships, also a competitive measure enabling graduates from universities other than Melbourne to conduct research at the University, are now hubs of international collaboration. Researchers from many nations work at universities across Australia, enriching the diversity of science and economics and contributing to the strength derived from assembling such strong, international research cultures.

The new IBM lab will focus on smarter natural resource and disaster management. Collaborations in computational life sciences have begun with the University of Melbourne. Among the Fellows are PhD graduates of Stanford University, the University of Bern, Switzerland, and Queen’s University, Belfast.

Some noted the impressive connections between the University of Melbourne and CSIRO, National ICT Australia (NICTA) and Australian business. "They are taking the old Observatory to the next level. Now we can make big business to dig deeper. Mr McKeon and his associates are the crème de la crème and they are doing the right thing," said Mr McKeon's former business partner, Prof Chris Jones.

The Observatory is most likely to be used for cosmology, astronomy, astrophysics and the study of the universe. The structure was the site of the first telescope in Australia, as well as the site where the Hubble and other space telescopes are also available to Australian astronomers, including very active research teams. The Observatory is currently closed for maintenance for two years.

The remarkable instrument, specially designed and built in 1944, is now used for in situ monitoring of the ground and for measurement of the movement of the Earth’s surface. The Observatory is also used for education and outreach activities. The Observatory is part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Mount Stromlo and Wattle Hills Historic Site.

The Observatory is also working to increase further the number of early-career researchers working here through programs such as the McKenzie Fellowships, also a competitive measure enabling graduates from universities other than Melbourne to conduct research at the University, are now hubs of international collaboration. Researchers from many nations work at universities across Australia, enriching the diversity of science and economics and contributing to the strength derived from assembling such strong, international research cultures.
Reduced early alcohol mitigates later risks

A new website for parents provides strategies on how to deal with the issue of teenagers and alcohol. Rebecca Scott reports.

Teenage drinking is a major concern for parents and health professionals. The Australian Federal Government in 2009 first detailed guidelines on the consumption of alcohol by teenagers. Professor Tony Jorm of the Centre for Youth Mental Health at the University of Melbourne's Centre for Research into the Wellbeing of Children and Young People said a recent review of research across the globe finds that early excessive drinking puts young people at risk of developing alcohol problems in later years.

"Parental monitoring is a key to teenag- ers drinking less. Studies show that when parents are aware and are doing something about it, they are less likely to drink," he says.

"Familial prevention has been found to be a contributing factor to teenagers drink- ing alcohol."

Many people think that parental supervision of drinking is the solution to re- ducing alcohol problems in young people, but this is not the case. In fact, encouraging abstinence by teens, for as long as possible, is key.

"To get the message out to parents, the University of Melbourne with Orygen Youth Mental Health Centre and Tanning Point have developed a website aimed at providing parents with advice and strategies on how to deter teenagers from drink- ing alcohol.

"www.parentingstrategies.net will be able to send to parents each week educational modules with informa- tion on how to reduce the risk of their kids drinking by visiting the website and answering a questionnaire.

"Parents can personalise feedback on their parenting skills and efforts to stop their kids drinking by filling out the website and answering a questionnaire.

"With more visits to the site we can build the most predictive which is the develop- ment of educational content for parents on a range of related topics which will be able to send to parents each week for further support," he says.

For more information: www.parentingstrategies.net

Fast tracking prosthetic feet

With just a little help from a University of Melbourne grant, and a lot of support and direction from their academic mentor, a group of final year bio-medical engineering students travelled to Cambodia to help fast-track a solution to prosthetic feet breaking too soon and too often. Gabi Murphy reports.

It should be surprising, the presence of landmines in developing nations is something we have all heard of, and few of us will have considered the actual extent of the problem. Could it be that those under the age of 15 should not drink at all, while those over 15 should be supervised by parents and detemined greatly from starting drinking during the adolescent years.

Professor Raja Harishchandra, from the Centre for the Wellbeing of Children and Young People, Research Centre said a recent review of research across the globe finds that early excessive drinking puts young people at risk of developing alcohol problems in later years.

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Unraveling the secrets of the universe is the focus of a new $25m national centre, led by the University of Melbourne. Rebecca Scott reports.

For more than 20 years, particle physicists from the University of Melbourne’s School of Physics have been contributing to the research and development of a giant particle detector called the ATLAS experiment, based at the Large Hadron Collider at CERN in Geneva, Switzerland.

The University of Melbourne will explore the origins of the universe after the Big Bang using the ATLAS experiment.

With partners including the University of Adelaide, Monash University, the University of Sydney and a list of interna- tional collaborators, the Centre will explore particle physics at tevatron energies (a million million electron volts).

Director of CoEPP Professor Geoff Taylor of the School of Physics at the University of Melbourne said by probing fundamental particle interactions at higher energies, more would be discovered about the early stages of the evolution of the universe after the Big Bang.

"Exciting new physics such as the existence of extra dimensions of space, microscopic black holes, and an extension of relativity called super symmetry, are poss- ible discoveries motivated by plausible ex- tension of the standard model of particle physics," Professor Taylor says.

In particular, scientists say they are on the verge of making a major breakthrough in physics which explains how particles of matter get their mass and what they are made from.

"The Centre will greatly expand Australian role in the largest particle science enterprise on planet Earth, the Large Hadron Collider at CERN," Professor Taylor says.

"Our collective scientific effort will leave a legacy of enhanced national capability at the forefront of this intellectual endeavour."
unveiled Melbournes Unique Research Mentoring Program. In 2010, University of Melbourne. Professor Iven Mareels, who is also Languages Discipline Chair at the University Faculty of Architecture, Building and Sustainable Design, says the Tertiary Languages Network will create strong links between languages culture in Australian higher education. It is supported by动生成器

The Melbourne mentoring program is different. It is about mentoring as an ability and how to deal with the key issues in which current research leaders as mentors should not only have the ability to help others to give assistance and advice. The Research Mentoring Program is comprised of 11 to 12 sessions spread across the year with different research leader mentors serving as moderator and presenting in each session. The mentors cover a range of topics from "Being an inspiring mentor to "Sparking and developing the BIG idea" and "Knowing yourself and your effect on others." The BIG idea session led Professor Nossal to insist and summarise his experience at a time when nature's immunity defense system was being considered in a new light. I told the mentors what I did to find out how the immune system works, I also talked about my experience as a young professor at Stanford University. In other sessions Professor Nossal has focused on mentoring and listening to learn. And he is passionate about generosity. "Never argue with yourself, achievement is made by another, including your juniors," cautions Professor Nossal. The Melbourne Research Mentor Program has been developed and designed by a group of some of the most knowledgeable senior research leaders in the university who are also highly experienced mentors. The group includes Professor Nossal, Peter Dolan, Jennifer Clarke, Nancy Mills, Bob Williamson, Tom Hajig, Jim Rodwell, David Macrihan, Peter McWhir, Kwong Loo Doo, John McKenna, Bill Savar, Leon Mair, and Dr. Marjana Dunlop. The aim of the program is to provide a cohort of 20 outstanding researchers each year who hold or are moving into positions of research leadership in the University with the tools, skills and knowledge to become effective mentors of their own staff and students, who work with them on programs. Associate Professor Julie Williams, the Associate Dean Research at the University's Faculty of Arts, Architecture, Building and Sustainable Design, says the research leaders who will play a crucial role in mentoring staff and EHD students. "The Research Mentor Program provides an opportunity to engage with some of the University's best researchers who have had years of mentoring experience," says Associate Professor Williams. "I've learned that appreciating the experience and wisdom of others is very important; that no one is on a pedestal; that mentors and mentees are all the same; and that fostering the careers of others is about understanding their needs and skills and working alongside them to achieve their goals."

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The University of Melbourne has increased the number of offers for undergraduate places this year, with more than 40,000 students admitted, the highest number ever. The increase is due to the Access Melbourne program, which offers more places to students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The biggest increases are for the Arts and Sciences degrees, each of which is offering more undergraduate places overall than ever before. More than 6000 new places were offered this year, a 13 per cent increase on last year. The number of offers to students from low socio-economic backgrounds has almost doubled, from just over 2000 last year, and accounts for more than 28 per cent of all offers for Commonwealth-disadvantaged backgrounds. The number of offers to students from low socio-economic backgrounds has almost doubled, from just over 2000 last year, and accounts for more than 28 per cent of all offers for Commonwealth-disadvantaged backgrounds.

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A silent art form

A music conductor’s prime goal is to communicate their vision to the players through physical gesture. Each performance is a quiet collaboration with musicians and a good conductor will enable them to express themselves and feel free while playing. Lieve Pham reports.

Conducting is the art of knowing what you want without using words,” says University of Melbourne’s School of Music professor and former conductor Benjamin Northey. “In my experience, if a conductor starts talking, musicians stop listening. It’s only through a lack of technique that conductors need to work to this.

Conductors and their orchestras will normally rehearse a program a day or two before a performance. The orchestras are too quick and able to retain an enormous amount of detailed information over that period,” he said.

Northey, who has conducted the St. Petersburg Symphony Orchestra (Russia), the Australia Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra (Australia) and the Queensland Symphony Orchestra (Australia), said his studies enabled him to travel to Europe to continue his musical education with the Australia Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra (Australia) which was his first experience of an orchestra at a professional level. He was accepted to study conducting at the Royal College of Music in London, where he studied with the legendary conductor Sir Colin Davis.

Northey’s first break came in 2001 when he was appointed Assistant Conductor of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. From performing in the pit of the Melbourne Opera House to conducting the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Northey has come full circle, conducting for Melbourne’s opera and symphony orchestras.

“I was always very aware of the importance of the music, the story and the directorial guidance of the work,” he says. Conductor José Cura, also studied with Northey, calls him “an exceptional young conductor with a great future.”

Northey is the first Australian conductor in more than a decade to be invited to study at the renowned London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts. He has been advised on his career path by Sir Simon Rattle, Chief Conductor of the Berlin Philharmonic.

Northey was born in 1981 and grew up in Melbourne, where he studied at Melbourne High School. He received an undergraduate degree in Electronic Engineering at the University of Melbourne in 2003, and a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Music from The Royal College of Music in London. He was awarded the Gold Medal, one of the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts’ highest awards, in 2005.

Northey has conducted a wide range of repertoire, from Beethoven to contemporary music, and has collaborating with many of Australia’s finest musicians, including The Australian Chamber Orchestra, the Australian Opera and the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra.

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Up for grabs

Take a man searching for his missing left hand, two con artists out to make a few hundred bucks, and an overly curious, slightly disturbed hotel clerk, and the rest is up for grabs. Christy Hogwood previews Martin McDonagh’s hilariously volatile, outrageous black comedy A Behanding in Spokane starring Colin Moody, Tyler Coppin, Nicole Da Silva and Bert Labonte.

The mysterious, gun-toting Colin Moody (as Lally Katz) is searching for his missing left hand for almost half a century. Enter two looking for a new and more robust critical and historical overview of the popular genre of this particular Australian playwriting.

Student artists, curators and audiences can explore the University’s George Paton Gallery, by Katherine Smith.

A fascinating program of exhibitions, workshops and performances, throughout 2011 at the MU Student Union’s George Paton Gallery, one of the University’s most innovative art spaces. Open from 11am – 5pm Monday to Friday during semester and located on the second floor of Union House, the George Paton Gallery is the University’s primary venue for school and university artists, curators and audience, and also provides an exhibition platform for the University’s current and former students.

From 22 February to 4 March the exhibitor Closing The Will of Beverly Sutton, Danielle Miles and Linda Spencer respond to each other’s artists in a manner that uses the gallery as a site to retest the loose boundaries between art and everyday life. Catherine Dunn’s Swim Songs is on show from 3 March to 4 April and features the songs of local artists who have been influenced by the English vernacular. The artist interprets their songs in a way that maps a territory that sparks impending death or disaster. Using visual nugget of the Australian black swan, Cygnus atratus, the artist will challenge the audience to question what happens if the song is left unanswered.

A block at the back of the gallery from 22 March to 1 April is an invitation to the collaborative and performative installation place by Helenity Sauce-Decker and Hermine Barry informing us about the concept of the live body, memory and death. The live is viewed against its mediatised counterpart, and the managing process confronts the afterworld and the here and now. The visitor is invited to interact with this three-dimensional cinematic world.

The sixth-year University of Melbourne student, who will finish his combined Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Creative Arts degree later this year, says No Place Like plays the concept of home, and the ideas that feed into it. “In particular I looked at themes in circulation in mass culture, such as violence on the streets of our home town, the萨姆·麦克唐纳德, by Andrea Boromeo from 5-15 April, depicts a young woman’s regression from societal norms during a nervous breakdown. The character Blue Eurydice welcomes us into her fragmented reality through the landscape of the narrative. She becomes both the spectator and the spectator while the public becomes the observer and the observed.

The fifth show for the semester is Greg Chris’s It’s Time, from 3-13 May. The 2010 recipient of the George Paton Gallery’s annual Award, It’s Time follows the artist as he continues his historical investigation. For this exhibition, the artist has decided that the observer step-out of the shadows and take life to the next level.

The University’s Ian Potter Museum of Art is viewed against its mediatised counterpart, and the overlapping images oscillate between the afterworld and the here and now. Telling the story of a young theatre student, whose life is turned upside down by the loss of his missing left hand for almost half a century, it’s the latest play written by English-language playwright Martin McDonagh.

The show is set in a grungy hotel in Inisheer, off the coast of Ireland. As a playwright, McDonagh has a knack for a narrative that combines black comedy, danger and old-fashioned yarn-spinning. He has also collected a few awards – an off-Broadway director-in-residence and a long-term screening award for McDonagh’s Dialogue – a spiky, brash, centred, but delightfully desolate. A Behanding in Spokane starring Colin Moody and Tyler Coppin, Nicole Da Silva and Bert Labonte.

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...But you could also be looking for something that would continue the great tradition of launching talented young playwrights into the Australian scene,” he says. “It’s Time has a strong history of presenting new playwrights to Melbourne and Australia. There are some of the most influential in Australia. People are aware that luminaries like Barry Humphries, Max Gillies, Harry Range, and Johanna Murray-Smith and Cale Branchett were all associated with Melbourne University’s student theatre groups but this trend continues on the contemporary scene as well, with people like Lally Katz, Angus Cerini or Javan Darven known as important players in the theatre world. They are all alumni of UHT shows.”

Artistic director of UHT Martin Gutteridge says his aim is to try to create a unique perception that student theatre is only for the artsy clique, and he says that in fact most people who get involved are doing it for something totally extra-curricular, and it’s not to do with what they are studying. “Although there is a focus on student Union members we draw our cast and other talent from students of a range of backgrounds, as well as from those with more professional backgrounds. The idea of these experiences is that both professional and emerging artists when thrown together are able to harness a collective energy to create something very special,” he says.

No Place Like says that among other universities in Australia Melbourne is in a position of having access to resources that enable student theatre to flourish. “We put on two major shows each year, plus a program of workshops and readings, and usually have a certain residence, but across the campus with all the various theatre groups or independent amateur groups that use theatres, there are about 50-60 shows on campus in any year so there is quite a significant arts community humming away all the time, all supported in some form or another by the University and the Student Union.”

No Place Like, by Chris Summers, directed by Tarja Bor, Guild Theatre, 19-28 May. More info http://unsw اللغى، المساعدة من بلال الأوشن، وتعشى. مابينًا وهب المعرفة، فما من الإعلام نفسه إلا تناول، من حكايته، أن أنيقها، ويصمد ويساعد على تطور نظام حكمه، ويستفيد من قوة القلم، وتكون المعلومة هو معنى الفصل بين الواقع والخيال. هل يمكن أن تكون المعلومة هو معنى الفصل بين الواقع والخيال.

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The fabric of a society: a world-leading university

Professor James McCluskey will take over from former Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research next month, he speaks with Rebecca Scott about the challenges ahead.

W

ith a passion for research and building partnerships the job is about more than just research, Professor James McCluskey will become the next Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research at the University of Melbourne. He will take over the reins in March from Professor Peter Rathjen who has held the role since 2008.

"We need a fact that research is a fantastic investment, whether in terms of cultural environment or community engagement or economically – in terms of the long-term benefits of high-health policy, high-science policy," Professor McCluskey said.

"I believe the challenges we face as a globally connected university are helped by achieving excellence in scholarship and research, and ensuring we are understanding what it is we are doing," he says.

"You can’t take the time by learning excellence in performing arts with say somewhere you are doing specific research. Each in its own paradigm and we are striving to learn from each other and to avoid excluding scholarship through broad brushstrokes. We need a wider view of society.

"Understanding that a definition of history is actually about life, about society, about the way we live as a society for 78, or a new energy efficient motor vehicle, as these are all parts of our society.

"The University is there to reflect society and to understand the context we are in and to reflect our engagement of human kind.

"We have been having the focus for our new role Professor McCluskey was a big part of the job is a matter of building partnerships internally and externally.

"A major role we play is to provide the best support services we can in supporting our teachers when applying for funding, big initiatives, and interacting with decision-makers at high levels.

"But it’s a lot about how the University interfaces with the outside world and that in addition to being a world-leading teaching and research institution we engage with those outside of the minds of the students.

A strong and vibrant arts, humanities and social sciences community is one of Melbourne’s traditional strengths. Building this community involves many funding telling funding levels to future sustainable growth and ensuring the University’s focus is on helping the society, on water, energy, social issues and health.

"In his lifetime Professor McCluskey has won a shift in the daily life of experimental research. One of the biggest changes we have seen in the past 20 years, particularly in the last decade, is that the sciences is the emphasis on team based research and in particular form building research that are society’s problems. The society’s problem is a major thing of the past.

"He says the shift has proven highly successful for the University to be able to create research network, address society’s problems, remain a world leading teaching university and compete on the world stage.

"The Perez Cultery Institute is a focus on getting and understanding the world in the field of infection and immunity and is a prime example of partnership of the type of which he speaks.

"The PDI puts together researchers and our Royal Melbourne Hospital partners from across campus and surrouses, into a critical mass to create an institute.

"With more that 100 staff this Institute has the visibility internationally to compete on the world stage as a centre of excellence in the field of infection and immunity, he says.

"In another example, the Melbourne Brain Centre, soon to be the largest brain research centre in the southern hemisphere has a capacity to be a world leader in the field of neuroscience. Here, the Florey Neuroscience Institute, Mental Health Research Institute and different components of the University’s neuroscience community are collaborating on research projects.

"As diagnosis and treatment of these conditions have advanced, the funds will see publicly-funded health costs rise substantially over the next few decades, and with that the need to move towards greater efficiency in our research efforts.

"With through collaboration partnerships, the dual of those of the problems of health is greatly enhanced.

"He says the critical mass enables researchers to share infrastructure, which means smaller institutions getting their own equipment and perhaps not having the funding upgrade when it becomes obsolete.

"It’s about the synergies and efficiencies that go with it. It’s that philosophy of the way in which we do the work and the supersystem.

"He says the partnerships and relationships Melbourne University has been able to establish over the years involve significant institutional relationships, such as government, at state and federal level, other international and national collaborators and big partners like industry, training hospitals and major international organisations.

"These are important strong working relationships that are extremely important both professionally and further relationships that we show as we are to each other, and creates the base and with a reputation for excellence.

"The University values all research excellence and if collaborations enhance research, that is a matter of course. Beyond the scale and scope, it is largely through collaboration that we broaden our existing knowledge and research capabilities.

"Some of the biggest ones are international and national disciplines.

"The Melbourne – Vorarlberg partnership, with Landesuniversitat in Nachchi, USA although established only recently, demonstrates how the University seeks more closely with institutions that share a global education vision, providing platform for researchers to network across disciplines and in particular for PhD students.

"The BM collaborative, professor McCluskey says, is an example of a platform that leads to translation of the whole in lot of research.

"By enhancing the in-house capability by linking with the world’s best private and public R&D centres, the University of Melbourne is creating an environment where it can bring in the latest research and it can and will make to science, to industry, to our city and our broader community.

"I’m really excited about the future of Melbourne University;” he says. “One of the many activities that helped shape my current research was my focus in the study of Pavement Art.

"This ‘chore’ no doubt nurtured my love for the design of the streetscape, and the fascinating surfaces, especially the scalding heat of the railway track,” Ms Smith recalls.

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“Without any break in the shooting, we took our cream-coloured dairy cow Peggy deep into the bushland of the Maroondah highway for the first of many times. We had been recommended by someone to go bush to take our cream-coloured dairy cow Peggy deep into the bushland of the Maroondah highway for the first of many times. We had been recommended by someone to go bush to help the cow with her calving. It was a 5km walk from our farm, along the side of the dirt road that ran alongside the railway line.

"Peggy and I would often venture far as the point where this road met with the old High Road, as the guns that lined the road were that way too. It had been banished and I still remember the feel of cold metal on the surfaces, especially the heating of the old railway track. Even in the time of the temperature rarely ever became too hot to be outdoors.

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"This ‘chore’ no doubt nurtured my love for the design of the streetscape, and the fascinating surfaces, especially the scalding heat of the railway track,” Ms Smith recalls.
I n February, we spent an enjoyable and enriching week in Melbourne, Australia. We visited the Destination Melbourne program, led by Monica Griffin. The program is designed to welcome and orient new students to the University of Melbourne. It is a well-organized and comprehensive introduction to the university's community, helping students feel at ease and ready to succeed.

The Destination Melbourne program consists of several events and activities. One of the highlights is the formal dinner, held at Queen's College. It is a traditional and elegant evening, with students from all parts of the world gathering to enjoy a meal and engage in conversation. The dinner is held in the historic and beautifully designed dining hall of Queen's College, providing a memorable experience.

Another important aspect of the program is the Destination Melbourne welcome lunch in the Walter Burley Griffin-designed dining hall. The lunch is a special event where students are introduced to the history and culture of Melbourne. The venue is a stunning example of Australian architecture, with its large windows and open空间.

The Destination Melbourne program also includes visits to the University of Melbourne's most iconic buildings, such as the pink granite arches of the Melbourne Museum and the ornate facade of the State Library of Victoria. These visits provide students with a sense of the university's rich history and culture.

One of the most important goals of the Destination Melbourne program is to foster a sense of community among new students. The program offers opportunities for students to connect with one another and with the wider Melbourne community. This is achieved through group activities, workshops, and social events.

The Destination Melbourne program is an excellent opportunity for new students to become familiar with the University of Melbourne and its culture. It is a welcoming and supportive environment that helps students feel at home and ready to embark on their academic journey.