

JUNE 2014

3010

melbourne university magazine

War and Remembrance

Professor
Antonio
Sagona
walks in the
footsteps
of the first
Anzacs



MEDICAL MARVEL THE MAKING OF A PRECINCT



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

Why it pays to stay connected...

Take advantage of these exclusive alumni benefits and services

LOOK AFTER YOURSELF

Alumni can access discounts on optical, audiology and dental services, and fitness memberships. Hearing and eye care tests are bulk-billed on Medicare, while dental fees are significantly less than other private practices for most procedures.

KEEP ON LEARNING

Enjoy discounts on single subject study, executive education and Chinese classes. Also take advantage of Coursera, a social entrepreneurship company partnering with the world's best universities to offer free online courses.

READ AT BARGAIN PRICES

Get a world of research at your fingertips, with library e-journals and discounted titles from Melbourne University Publishing. Many top academic journals from around the world are available to alumni subscribers.

ADVANCE YOUR CAREER

Staying in the loop with alumni groups, social occasions and events lets you connect with fellow alumni who are working in your industry, or who know somebody who is. Access our latest career videos, webinars, workshops and expos to boost your skills and secure your ideal job.

STAY CONNECTED

Keep in touch with old friends and make new ones at alumni events around the world, or reminisce about your time at Melbourne through Faculty and College reunions.

HEAR FROM THE EXPERTS

Attend public lectures on all kinds of exciting topics and hear expert opinions on current affairs, research and points of interest at a Melbourne public lecture.

Visit alumni.unimelb.edu.au for more details

CONTENTS



MEDICAL MARVEL The making of a precinct

The concentration of medical institutions dedicated to learning, research and treatment puts Parkville on the map both nationally and worldwide.

6

UNIVERSITY NEWS

Melbourne still No. 1 in Australia 4

FIRST PERSON

Social media - the tweet science 13

THE ESSAY

Lessons of poetic prophesy 14

NOW AND THEN

Opening the gates of learning 19

TEACHING THE TEACHERS

A model for education excellence 20

CONNECTIONS

Students expand their horizons 22

90 YEARS OF FARRAGO

Celebrating a literary launch pad 24

ALUMNI PROFILES

Forging ahead in the world 26

ALUMNI NEWS

Friendships 50 years on 31

ALUMNI MILESTONES

Appointments and accolades 32

LETTER FROM ARNHEM LAND

Man's best friend 34

COVER STORY WAR AND REMEMBRANCE

An archaeological survey of the Gallipoli battlefield has revealed more about life in the trenches

OUR COVER:

Professor Antonio Sagona inside the Sanctuary at the Shrine of Remembrance.

PICTURE: CRAIG SILLITOE



16

THE GREER FILES A living treasure

The wit and wisdom of a brilliant mind will be documented for posterity



26

PROFILE

Gillian Triggs

The inner thoughts of the Australian Human Rights Commission President



10

3010

You'll have noticed that this magazine not only has a new look - it has a new name too. If, like most people these days, you rely on email and social media for written communication, you may not recognise 3010 as the postcode for Parkville. The postcode is unique to the University of Melbourne and while today the University extends far beyond 3010, we wanted to recognise the place where it all started 161 years ago.

EDITORIAL TEAM

MANAGING EDITOR
Val McFarlane

EDITOR
Ken Merrigan/Mediaexpress

DESIGN
Bill Farr/Mediaexpress

CAMPAIGN

Believe off to strong start

The University has been overwhelmed by the generosity of alumni since the launch of *Believe – the Campaign for the University of Melbourne*.

Of more than 15,600 donors who have given to the Campaign, which was launched publicly last May, more than half are alumni. Their donations have helped push the Campaign total to \$293.3 million (as of the end of March).

The Campaign, the biggest in the University's history, aims to raise \$500 million by 2017 to support three priorities: educating tomorrow's leaders, finding answers to the world's grand challenges and enriching our communities.

Sue Cunningham, Vice-Principal (Advancement), says: "Our alumni know what a very special place the University of Melbourne is. It is wonderful to see the lifelong pride they have in their alma mater and their faith in the University's ability to transform lives.

"The University has received some remarkable gifts from its alumni, including \$10 million from our Campaign Chairman Allan Myers AO QC and his wife, Maria.

"But we are equally appreciative of the many smaller gifts received which, when added together, can have huge impact. It has also been fantastic to see so many alumni at the Campaign celebration events around the world."

Their gifts are already having significant impact in a whole range of ways, from supporting students through scholarships, funding ground-breaking research and helping with projects that enhance communities in Australia and overseas.

To find out how you can give, visit the Campaign website at: campaign.unimelb.edu.au

Follow [#believemelb](https://twitter.com/believemelb) on social media for the latest news on the Campaign.



AWARD

It's not even finished yet - but the University's newest building has already won its first international award. The Architecture, Building and Planning building was one of only 10 to receive a citation in America's prestigious Annual Progressive Architecture Awards. The building, designed by John Wardle Architects and NADAAA, will officially open next year.

For more information visit: abp.unimelb.edu.au/blog

RANKINGS

Melbourne still No. 1 in Australia



International rankings continue to endorse Melbourne's reputation as a world leader.

This year the University has again been named Australia's top university in the *Times Higher Education* World Reputation Rankings. It is placed 43rd in the world, cementing its position as Australia's leading university.

The 2014 reputation rankings are based on the world's largest invitation-only survey of academic opinion, featuring 10,536 respondents from 133 countries.

The University was also ranked number one in Australia in the National Taiwan University (NTU) Ranking, Performance Ranking of Scientific Papers for World Universities 2013.

The NTU rankings, previously known as HEEACT, offer annual performance rankings for the world's top 500 universities based on the production and impact of their scientific papers.

Melbourne, now ranked 38th in the world, slipped three places this year but remains the Australian leader and is the only Australian university in the top 50.

The excellence of individual disciplines was recognised in the QS World University Rankings by Subject, which list the top 200 universities around the world in 30 subject areas.

Education at the University was ranked second in the world, Law and Accounting and Finance were ranked eighth in the world, psychology was ranked 10th and medicine, environmental science and linguistics all ranked 12th.

SCIENCE AWARD

Cochlear pioneer receives prize

Laureate Professor Emeritus Graeme Clark AC (pictured below) has been honoured with one of the world's most respected science prizes for developing the modern cochlear implant – the "bionic ear".

Professor Clark, Honorary Professor, Electrical Engineering and Distinguished Researcher at NICTA, received the Lasker-DeBaakey Clinical Medical Research Award alongside fellow cochlear developers, Professors Ingeborg Hochmair of MED-EL, Innsbruck, Austria, and Blake Wilson of Duke University, North Carolina, USA.

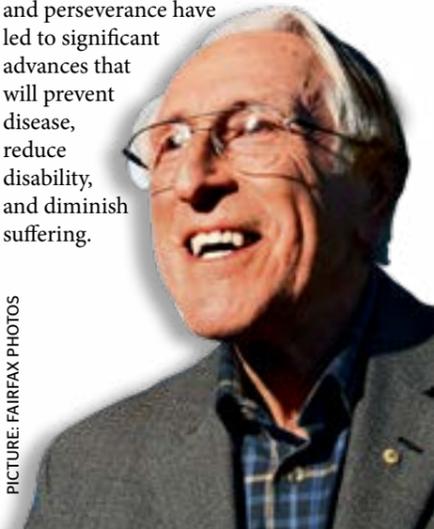
In the late 1970s, Professors Clark and Hochmair created prostheses that deployed multiple electrodes and routed particular sounds to different parts of the cochlear. These devices improved the ability of deaf people to understand speech.

Two decades later Professor Wilson designed a speech-processing strategy that minimised distortions and omissions, enabling implant recipients to understand words and sentences without visual cues.

In 1982, the first device was implanted, allowing the recipient, Graham Carrick, to hear for the first time in 17 years. Today about 320,000 people worldwide are fitted with cochlear implants.

The Lasker-DeBaake Awards honour visionaries whose insight and perseverance have led to significant advances that will prevent disease, reduce disability, and diminish suffering.

PICTURE: FAIRFAX PHOTOS



PARTNERSHIP

\$100m fund for scholarships

The University has joined forces with the Westpac Bicentennial Foundation to establish the largest private education scholarship program in Australian history.

The \$100 million fund, launched in April, will provide about 100 scholarships every year in perpetuity, starting in 2015. The University will offer three of the five types of scholarship instigated by Westpac. Programs are expected to be fully operational by 2017.

Deputy Provost Professor Susan Elliott says the University welcomes the addition of the program to the Australian scholarship scene. "The University is thrilled to announce its founding partnership with Westpac Bicentennial Foundation and looks forward to working closely with Westpac to strengthen our existing programs on offer."

The foundation was launched by Westpac Chief Executive Gail Kelly and Westpac Chairman Lindsay Maxsted to mark the bank's approaching 200th anniversary in 2017. The University of Sydney is also a founding partner.

Scholarship programs include:

- Future Leaders scholarships will be awarded to recent graduates for postgraduate study at a global institution. Recipients will come from various disciplines, with preference given to Australia's relationship with Asia, and technology and innovation.
- A Best and Brightest program will provide awards to post-doctoral researchers. Recipients will be selected on their research, which will focus on enhancing Australia's competitive position in technology and innovation, or strengthening ties with Asian economies.

- Asian Exchange scholarships will allow undergraduate students to spend a semester at a leading Asian university, with a focus on increasing the number of Asia-literate graduates in Australia.

westpac.com.au/200years

ELIZABETH BLACKBURN TRIBUTE

Science school opening a boost for bright sparks



Education Minister Martin Dixon, Vice-Chancellor Glyn Davis and school Principal Robert Newton with Year 11 students Jorge Pavlidis and Helena Kalfas at the opening of the Elizabeth Blackburn School of Sciences.

PICTURE: PETER CASAMENTO

A specialist senior secondary school for Victoria's brightest science students, named after Australia's first female Nobel Prize winner, has opened in Parkville.

The \$7 million purpose-built school was named in honour of Professor Elizabeth Blackburn AC, an alumna of the University and University High School.

The Elizabeth Blackburn School of Sciences is in the University's western precinct, next to the High School. It was officially opened in March by Victoria's Minister for Education, Martin Dixon.

The specialist Year 11 and 12 school will cater for 200 high-performing science students from across Victoria. Students have to sit an entry exam and undergo an interview to gain admission.

The school was created from a partnership between the University of Melbourne, University High School and the State Government.

Vice-Chancellor Glyn Davis says the students will be mentored by scientists from the university's science faculties, its Bio21 Institute and other science, engineering and mathematics institutes around the Parkville Precinct.

The school's building has a five-star green energy rating. It

will be heated and cooled by a geothermal system fitted by the University's Geotechnical Group of the Department of Infrastructure Engineering. Students will carry out research on data generated by the building.

Professor Blackburn (BSc(Hons) 1970, MSc 1972, Janet Clarke Hall) was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physiology or medicine in 2009. She is professor of biology and physiology at the University of California, San Francisco. In a video message at the school's launch, she said she was deeply honoured that the school was named after her.

She said the school's location would enable students to have easy access to outstanding scientists. "There is a hub of tremendous minds and scientists in the Parkville Precinct and you will have the benefit of these great people as I did when I was there," she said.

Rob Newton, the Principal of University High School, says the new school represents a fresh approach to the study of sciences and to the link between secondary school and university.

"This is an innovative way to help reverse the decline in the numbers of young people studying sciences at school and at tertiary level," he says.

SCHOLARS PROGRAM

135

Number of offers made to high-achieving students under the University's Chancellor's Scholars Program in 2014.

99.9 and above

The ATAR required by the program.

124

Number of offers made in 2013.



10,000 minds, one ambition

New projects and bold thinking are helping to raise the Parkville Precinct's status as a world leader in medical research.

BY JO CHANDLER

In a previous life, Dr Ashley Ng graduated in medicine from the University of Melbourne. Then, after venturing all of a few city blocks to St Vincent's Hospital and the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre for specialist training, he crossed Grattan Street, Parkville, to practise as a clinical haematologist at the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

He'd realised his ambition – to treat adult patients with too-often lethal blood cancers. Then one day he came to an inconvenient, albeit professionally energising, realisation: that he might ultimately save more lives by stepping away from the bedside and returning to study, navigating his way into a premier research laboratory.

In part this insight was nurtured by the story of one of his medical heroes – Professor John Colebatch, whose work in childhood leukemia in the 1950s and '60s at the nearby Royal Children's Hospital evolved the practice of randomised clinical trials that are today the international gold standard by which new therapies are tested.

Previously, medicine had nothing to offer young leukemia patients beyond a more comfortable death. But Colebatch's then controversial trial of what we now recognise as chemotherapy, treating children with anti-folic acid, began to yield dramatic improvements.

"It revolutionised treatment," Ng says.

In a generation the disease went from being uniformly fatal to a 75 per cent cure rate. "That arose from medical research here in Melbourne."

For Ng this proved a motivating parable of the power of translational research – ushering the latest insights from laboratories into practice on the wards and in the community. It's a rare capacity even in neighbourhoods boasting elite institutions, requiring access to the precious resources of patients, tissue samples, data about how patients respond as well as an engaged corps of research and clinical professionals.

Having resolved to switch from the clinical to the research realm, Ng found, again, that he didn't need to venture far to find an opportunity many young scientists would cross hemispheres to reach. Next door at the storied Walter and Eliza Hall Institute (WEHI) was a laboratory recognised as a world leader in deciphering, and interrupting, the behaviour of cancer cells.

Soon Ng was pursuing his research PhD in a unit founded by the legendary Professor Don Metcalf, who at age 85 can still be found working at his laboratory bench, and with whom Ng went on to co-author several journal papers. Think of it as the scientific equivalent of the just-signed guitarist being invited to share a set on stage with the Rolling Stones.

Ashley Ng could be the poster child for the cluster of institutions known collectively in the game as the Parkville Precinct – educated, inspired, nurtured,

employed, equipped and deployed within the space of a couple of city blocks, ultimately to the benefit of both Victorian patients and the national medical enterprise. But he's also no wide-eyed ingenue.

Having worked both sides of the track – Royal Parade historically separating the hospital and research jurisdictions of the Precinct – he's had a glimpse of the challenges ahead in the more porous, collaborative future being orchestrated for the research, educational and clinical institutions of Parkville.

The Precinct is undergoing dramatic change, most obviously flaunted by the shiny new kids on the block. There's the \$210 million Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity (PDI), where 700 infection and immunology specialists are now settling in – among them knockabout Nobel Laureate Doherty himself, who confesses to still feeling discombobulated entering a building with his name on it. On the opposite corner the \$1 billion Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre (VCCC), the new home of the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and the research and clinical services of the nearby hospitals and

University, is rapidly taking shape.

But the change is, as Ng observes, "about so much more than the buildings. It's the way of thinking about how we approach disease and treat it in a collaborative way, both for the patient today and also for the patient who comes in 10 years time". And it won't be easy.

"We need a small earthquake to shake our thinking out of historical and political silos," he says. The seismic shifts are starting to be felt, and are both welcome and challenging.

"We know we need to initiate projects and embrace a culture that allows us

NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK: Professor Stephen Smith outside the Peter Doherty Institute; and (above) the view from the top of the building, with the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre under construction on the left.

PICTURES: MAL FAIRCLOUGH

to collaborate effectively across the partner institutions, to deliver cutting-edge clinical care as well as to become a vanguard of cancer research worldwide.

"The nice thing about Parkville is that we have institutes here with the experience and the technology to do this work. The idea behind (the emerging) alliances is to get together and try to optimise all those things, to pull them all together to try to answer specific questions in the best and most cost-effective way we can.

"We have a major opportunity with the initiative of the VCCC. The bulk of the hard work however, to achieve our aspirational goals, still lies ahead of us."

Sometimes monumental institutions can hide out in plain sight in a neighbourhood where they are part of the furniture.

The Parkville Precinct is the product of careful strategic planning in recent years, capitalising on origins that long recognised – if rather more organically than explicitly – the synergies of medical education, treatment and research. Proximity, not mere serendipity, has played a powerful role in shaping the happy accidents of collaboration.

From the early days on its original Swanston Street site, the 160-year-old, pioneering facility that would become the Royal Women's Hospital had an association with the nearby fledgling University of Melbourne and some of the innovators of specialist obstetric practice.

Meanwhile the Melbourne Free Hospital for Sick Children (now the Royal Children's Hospital) was taking shape through the late 1800s, for many years occupying the grand former

home of Judge Redmond Barry (one of the founders of the University) on the corner of Pelham and Rathdowne Streets, eventually being granted a couple of acres to spread out in Royal Park in 1948.

Back in 1929 the city burghers decided to relocate the Royal Melbourne Hospital from its crowded CBD site to land alongside the University of Melbourne. It would be another 15 years before the "new" hospital took shape. Within it was a wing containing laboratories for the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute.

Founded in 1915 from a widow's bequest to honour her entrepreneur husband, the WEHI, Australia's oldest medical research institution, had already gained formidable scientific kudos under the 20-year stewardship of Charles H Kellaway, who had just passed the baton to his protégé, Macfarlane Burnet, who would go on to be awarded a Nobel Prize in 1960.

The WEHI facilities were transformed again recently through a \$185 million investment, its legacy and stature in immunology research continuing to define Melbourne's credentials in the international sphere.

Across the road, in 1971, the Howard Florey Institute opened its laboratories. Today it endures in the Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health, amalgamated with the Brain Research Institute and the National Stroke Research Institute within the Melbourne Brain Centre.

Work at the dazzlingly high-tech \$200 million multi-campus centre focuses on conditions including stroke, epilepsy, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's,

CONTINUED PAGE 8

Avenues open up

Undertaking her fourth year of medical studies, Jade Lim is already getting mileage out of the affiliations within the Parkville Precinct, diverting for a year from the MD (Doctor of Medicine) program into a Master of Public Health at the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health.

Her passion has always been to work in public health or global health, “and so having the Nossal Institute and the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health is really enticing to me”. Next year, as part of her MD research work, she will go to Beijing to pursue research on breaking barriers to disability education.

Lim (below, left) and Carolina Radwan, also in her fourth year and now undertaking a six-month research project on stroke with the Melbourne Brain Centre at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, are encouraged by the changes they see in the evolving precinct - both the buildings and the avenues they open up. “You can literally see your options expanding across the street,” says Lim.



PICTURE: DARREN HOWE

FROM PAGE 7

multiple sclerosis, Huntington’s, motor neurone disease, brain and spinal cord injury, depression, schizophrenia, mental illness and addiction. Their pre-eminence continues to boost Melbourne’s medical brand.

Professor Geoff McColl, Senior Associate Dean (Academic) at the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, stands at the hub of it all - Grattan Street and Royal Parade - and shouts a tour over the traffic.

“You can walk for one minute and go from what will be a world-leading cancer centre, and an infection and immunity and teaching facility on this side, to an established general adult hospital with an international reputation in stroke and in cardiothoracic surgery (RMH), then the Royal Women’s Hospital around the corner, the WEHI - where I did my PhD - and then this oldish but still iconic ‘60s building that has the medical school.”

Tucked away in various corners are the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, the Nossal Institute for Global Health, the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute, the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories (CSL), the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) biochemistry unit and Victorian College of Pharmacy - Monash University - among others.

“There’s not a lot of places where you can stand on a corner and see such a collection. It’s an extraordinary place to work,” says McColl. Layered on top of that is opportunity for “the next phase”, gluing together the collaborative links.

McColl sees parallels between what is occurring now and what he observed within the WEHI 20 years ago when then director Professor Gus Nossal (PhD 1960, LL.D 1997) was shaking things up, exploiting the opportunities of a new building to break old barriers.

“WEHI divisions were their own little silos to some extent. So Gus put one tea room on the top floor looking north and there were three rules when you came to work at the institute - thou shalt go to morning tea, afternoon tea, and the WEHI seminar. Gus was saying all those informal connections were very important.”

For all the ease of electronic communications, proximity matters as much today as ever, argues McColl. “I’m a great believer in the corridor. About 30 per cent of my business is transacted in corridors.”

By now we’re standing outside the Melbourne Brain Centre. “Here you’ve got master scientists and master clinicians coming together and saying, ‘What do we need to do around neuroscience?’ We built a building so scientists with slightly different views on the problems of neuroscience are all sitting together with the platforms of technology they need.

“That’s the other thing that’s changed with research - the notion of me having my laboratory and all my own equipment, it doesn’t make sense. The (Gus) Nossalian thinking is to put all the platforms there. Give them the stuff to let them do what you want them to do, the cognitive bit.”

It’s a very impressive facility, a very impressive precinct, compared to anything I know in the United Kingdom or even in the United States,” says the Dean of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences at the University of Melbourne, Professor Stephen Smith. Having taken up his position only last September, he still brings the perspective of the outsider.

Few neighbourhoods around the world can boast the basics of the critical trifecta:



PICTURE: SHANNON MORRIS

university, research institutions and hospitals. Fewer still have proven calibre attached to all of them.

“Some things here are absolutely world-class - immunology is the obvious one.”

Parkville paediatrics, microbiology, infectious diseases, inflammation and stroke expertise all resonate in the top sector of their respective international spheres.

“But the precinct itself is less well known and needs to be shouted about a bit more,” says Smith. This isn’t merely a matter of institutional pride, he argues, but the driver of jobs, investment and better patient outcomes, the benefits resonating far beyond Parkville.

Smith flips open a random recent copy of *Nature*, one of the handful of journals that define the currency of elite institutions and, inevitably, determine their attractiveness to investors, donors, specialist staff and patients.

He points to a recent study on schizophrenia and flips to the list of authors’ affiliations - Harvard Medical School; the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai; Massachusetts General Hospital; the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute in Cambridge, UK; the Karolinska Institute in Sweden; and the Centre for Human Genetics in Belgium.

“That is modern science,” he declares. “You have to have the infrastructure to do that. And the collaborations.”

It’s not just about having the intellectual grunt, the specialised teams and the expertise to run increasingly complex robotics and infomatics, but also - critically - access to the patient populations required for testing modern therapies, which target tightly defined, precise constituencies within the disease landscape.

“What Australia hasn’t done is move fast enough to integrate its institutes, hospitals and universities. And that is what we can do here, and we’re

FUTURE PERFECT: Dr Ashley Ng sees a more collaborative approach to research.

moving as fast as we can to do that.”

It matters “because, first, there are the jobs”, in the building phase and beyond. “We think there are about 10,000 scientists, clinician scientists, doctors, technicians, nurses etc in the biomed business in the Parkville Precinct. We should be thinking about how to grow that to 15,000.

“Second, because unequivocally patients get better treatment.”

Centres that have an academic bent deliver better health outcomes. “You get the very latest treatments coming into the system. You can’t just buy this in from elsewhere - you need the doctors at the forefront of the research.”

The Precinct is, in Smith’s view, within shouting distance of the internationally recognised benchmark brands of Oxford, Cambridge, Stanford, Yale and Harvard, which attract the hottest young post-docs from the highly mobile global pool and the biggest corporate investors and partners.

“The point, of course, is the human capital. The buildings are part of the mechanism of getting the capital.

“We have to make sure that Melbourne is seen by clinicians and scientists and health infomatics people and bioinformatics people as a place you would naturally consider stopping as part of the global journey of your career.”

THE PARKVILLE BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH & TEACHING PRECINCT

GENERAL RESEARCH

- 1 Melbourne Medical School** More than 3000 researchers
- 2 Walter and Eliza Hall Institute** More than 650 researchers
- 3 The Royal Melbourne Hospital and Melbourne Health** 450 researchers
- 4 The Royal Women’s Hospital** More than 50 researchers
- 5 The Royal Children’s Hospital RCH, the University Department of Paediatrics and the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute** have more than 2000 researchers
- 6 Murdoch Childrens Research Institute**
- 7 St Vincent’s Hospital** About 600 researchers
- 8 St Vincent’s Research Institute** 140 researchers
- 9 Orygen Youth Health** About 150 in research and training and 150 in the clinical program
- 10 CSL Ltd (Royal Park-Parkville)** 357 researchers
- 11 CSIRO Molecular & Health Technologies (Royal Park-Parkville)** More than 50 scientists working in biomedicine and health care

SPECIALIST RESEARCH

- NEUROSCIENCES**
- 12 The Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health** More than 550 scientists, of whom 400 are located in the precinct
- INFECTION & IMMUNITY**
- 13 The Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity** About 700 infection and immunology experts
- CANCER**
- 14 The Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre** More than 1300 researchers (anticipated)
- 15 The Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre** More than 500 laboratory-based scientists, clinician-researchers, research nurses and others
- LIFE SCIENCES AND HEALTH CARE**
- 16 Victorian Life Sciences Computation Initiative** More than 30 scientists and support staff
- 17 IBM Research-Australia and the IBM-Melbourne Life Sciences Collaboratory** By 2016 will be employing 150 research and technical staff
- 18 VRL-NICTA** About 40 researchers and PhD students engaged in research
- BIOTECHNOLOGY**
- 19 Bio21 Molecular Science and Biotechnology Institute** About 600 researchers
- DENTAL HEALTH**
- 20 Dental Health Services Victoria and the Melbourne Dental School** 73 staff currently researchers
- HEALTH IN AGEING FOCUS**
- 21 National Ageing Research Institute** More than 40 researchers
- VISION AND HEARING**
- 22 Centre for Eye Research Australia** More than 130 staff and student researchers
- 23 Bionics Institute** 80 researchers
- SUSTAINABILITY & RESILIENCE**
- 24 Carlton Connect Initiative (taking over site of old Royal Women’s Hospital)** Will accommodate about 2000 co-located researchers



MAP: FRANK MAIORANA

New search for



the Anzac story

The trenches and dugouts of Gallipoli have proved a fertile and emotional research ground for Professor Antonio Sagona.

BY GARY TIPPET

On certain mornings at Gallipoli in 1915, the Turks inflicted an added, unintentional, pain on the Anzacs dug into the ridges below. If the conditions were right, a breeze would waft down upon them carrying the unmistakable, tantalising smell of warm, freshly baked bread.

That, notes Professor Antonio Sagona AM, must have been a special sort of torture for the Australians and New Zealanders surviving on meagre rations of bully beef and hard biscuits.

Sagona, of the University of Melbourne's Classics and Archaeology Program, heads the Joint Historical and Archaeological Survey that has uncovered the evidence for this small but evocative aspect of daily life during one of Australia's – and Turkey's – defining periods.

The distance between the Anzac and Turkish trenches near Quinn's Post, where the fighting was often fiercest, gets down to 27 metres – “little more than a cricket pitch”, says Sagona. And not far to the rear on the Turkish side, at a location known as Merkez Tepe, the survey team has found remains of a battlefield oven. There are locally handmade bricks, some with their makers' thumbprints, and large flat stones, which would have been heated in the ovens before thin dough was poured on them to bake flatbread.

“What such finds are helping us unfold is a very interesting story of life in the trenches,” Sagona says.

“This shows one area where the two sides differed ... a colleague sent me the (Turkish) menu. They had lentil soup for breakfast and went forward with pouches of dried fruit and nuts. So they would have had fresh food.” The Anzac diet, on the other hand, was “pretty awful” – tinned, salty meat and hard, stale bread.

Sagona (BA(Hons) 1977, GDipEd 1983, PhD 1984) is an expert on the archaeology of the Greater Middle East and has worked in Turkey for more than 30 years, but until the survey had never visited Gallipoli. The experience has been moving. “When you're there you tend to focus on the job; you photograph and record and you're pretty tired by the end of the day, but you can't help but feel, when you have a quiet moment, that it is an extremely tragic place.

“When you look at the trenches and dugouts and realise the shocking conditions both sides were in, it must have been horrific. What we can't recreate is the incessant noise, the shells going off.” The remnants of shrapnel lying around – which would have been flying everywhere in 1915 – add to the horror, he says.

To a lesser extent, the challenges for the team are also taxing. Since the Peninsula became a national park it has become overgrown with trees and scrub, some three times as tall as the archaeologists. Combined with the steepness of the landscape and the effects of erosion on the trenches, tunnels and dugouts, it is what Sagona describes as “probably the most difficult terrain I've ever had to survey”.

Though Gallipoli is of critical, near mythical, importance to three of the nations – Turkey, Australia and New Zealand – that battled there, it has never been investigated using modern archaeological methods and techniques. “It is not really understood,” says Sagona.

The Joint Historical and Archaeological Survey began in 2005 after the Australian Government launched an inquiry into the management of the site. Following high-level diplomatic negotiations between the three governments, a proposal was approved for the first detailed survey and when the University of Melbourne won a tender, Sagona became field director, with project permits held by nearby Canakkale Onsekiz Mart University.

The team made its first reconnaissance trip in 2009 and its goal is to pull together historical data, landscape archaeology and artefact analysis into a new assessment of the site and provide the three governments with what Sagona calls “some kind of defining document”, a report in book form, for the centennial next year.

A journalist visited in 2012 and later wrote of Sagona as “one of those infectious archaeologists in the mould of Indiana Jones from Hollywood's *Raiders of The Lost Ark* ... (who) loves nothing more than getting into the scrub”.

He laughs at the comparison: “I do get excited about artefacts and about archaeology and I think my students would vouch for that – but not in the Indiana Jones style. I hope that's what the journalist meant, that it was about passion, rather than illicit digging or whip-cracking”.

That passion has been life-long. Antonio Sagona was born in Tripoli, Libya, and came to Melbourne with his parents when he was four. “I was always fascinated by the ancient past. I remember

CONTINUED PAGE 12

Professor Antonio Sagona (left) and his team found revealing artefacts during the Gallipoli survey.

PICTURE: ANTONIO SAGONA

PICTURE: CRAIG SILLITOE

FROM PAGE 11

seeing a documentary about Egypt as a primary school kid and I started to take out books and read and I never looked back.”

He came to the University in 1974, finished his BA in 1977 and soon after “opportunity knocked” – a position opened up and he has been here ever since, now with an office in the attic level of the Old Quadrangle.

“My association with this place is a long one: 40 years as a student, 30 years as a lecturer. It’s a bit like Hotel California – you can’t get out of here. Every time I think I’m going away somewhere it drags me back.”

A Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, London, (and, since 2013, a Member of the Order of Australia) he specialises in the archaeology of the ancient Near East, in particular the regions of Anatolia and the Caucasus. From 1988–2003 he carried out extensive fieldwork in north-eastern Turkey, notably at the sites of Buyuktepe Hoyuk and Sos Hoyuk, and since then has shifted his focus to the Republic of Georgia.

“The period doesn’t bother me,” he says. “I started as a Bronze Age specialist and I’ve looked at Iron Age and Roman.



On location: Professor Antonio Sagona carries out his survey work at Gallipoli.

“But geographically I like the area we call north of Mesopotamia. It goes back to my student days when I was interested in a particular culture and just kept pulling on the chain, which drew me up to Anatolia and the Caucasus.

“I like the idea of working on frontiers. The Caucasus is that area between Eurasia and the Near East and that interaction of frontier society fascinates me.”

And though his work at Gallipoli is his first dig into the 20th century, the

Peninsula has links stretching back into antiquity. Few know it, but Lone Pine was above an important Roman farmstead settlement and Troy is nearby. “A lot of the officers went to Gallipoli with translations of Homer, and many had the idea that they were going to a new Trojan war.

“A lot of archaeologists are, how can I put it, a bit apprehensive about crossing historical boundaries, in the sense that you become a specialist – in fact, like so much research these days, it’s becoming reductionist. But I like crossing boundaries – I’ve worked in Turkey, I’ve worked in the Caucasus, I’ve worked classic, late historic and prehistoric sites and now this.”

PICTURE: SIMON HARRINGTON

Mourning a lost generation

*Now peace has come, but they that fell
Know only that they sought it well.
They cannot know that peace has come
Let us make haste and let us build
Great worlds with strength
and wonder filled,
Then shall they know their
peace has come.*

In July 1920, student Nellie Palmer contributed a poem, *Their Peace*, to an issue of the *Melbourne University Magazine* commemorating its students’ and graduates’ part in the Great War. In seven short stanzas it summed up the deep sentiments at the institution – both grief and the hope and potential for a better future.

As the University’s War Memorial on the South Lawn records, 1725 of our people served on active duty during World War I, of whom 253 died from wounds or illness. They included “past and present students, teaching staff, administrative staff and servants of the University of Melbourne”.

As the student population of the

University until 1914 was little more than 1000, it represented an inordinate sacrifice, not only in lives but the extinguished futures of many of the young nation’s “best and brightest”.

“That loss of potential was devastating for Australia,” says Professor of Australian Studies and History Kate Darian-Smith (BA(Hons) 1983, PhD 1988, GDipEd 1992). “Following the war there is this lost generation of young men, often very brilliant men, who don’t come back or come back incapacitated.

“There’s personal grief and a wider social grief and I think the lost generation haunted Australia through the 1920s. That decade was a period of huge adjustment – in the nation and at this university – to that loss.”

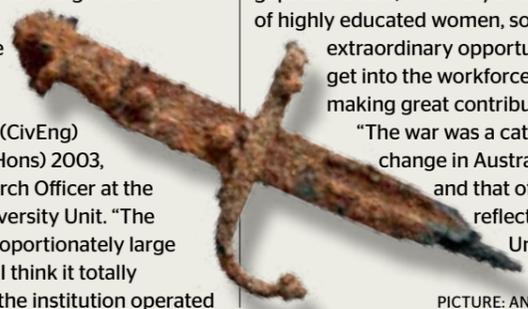
The war years were “a grim time” that brought significant change to the University, adds Dr James Waghorne (BA/BE(CivEng) (Hons) 2002, BA(Hons) 2003, PhD 2008), Research Officer at the History of the University Unit. “The effect of such a proportionately large loss was massive. I think it totally changed the way the institution operated

and the way its people saw themselves, in so many different ways.”

Where the University had previously been a somewhat insular, elite place, its student body and staff now engaged with broad social issues, forming a Public Questions Society and leading debate on such issues as conscription and the implications of the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia. The University also brought its research capacity to bear, with medical research and the engineering department’s work on mass production of armaments.

And, in a sense, the loss of that generation of men opened up opportunities for one section of society, says Professor Darian-Smith. “Those gaps did create, for a very small number of highly educated women, some extraordinary opportunities to get into the workforce and begin making great contributions.

“The war was a catalyst for change in Australian society and that of course was reflected in the University.”

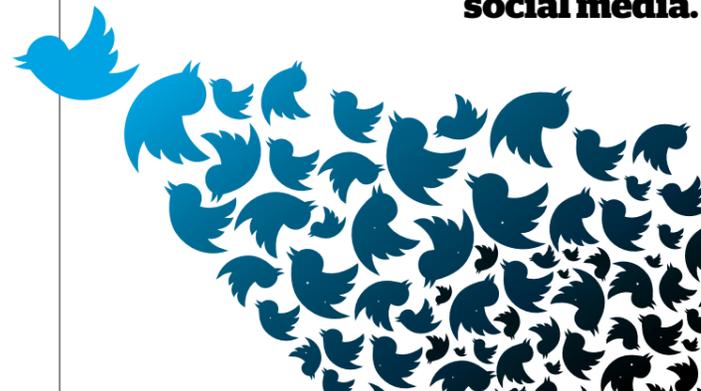


PICTURE: ANTONIO SAGONA



Unlocking the secret of tweet success

She’s a committed researcher at the University’s School of Physics, but Dr Katie Mack has another identity that helps her spread the science message on social media.



I travel a lot for conferences and collaboration visits, so I often introduce myself to students and other researchers. Lately, when I say, “Hi, I’m Katie Mack”, there’s every chance the other person will pause disconcertingly, then say, “Oh! You’re AstroKatie!” My profile on Twitter — as @AstroKatie — has grown steadily for the past couple of years and I now have almost 9000 followers. It’s a rather weird experience. I started using Twitter as a professional tool in 2012. A colleague was using it to share astronomy-related news and papers with others in the field, and he asked me if I’d be willing to live-tweet a conference for him because he was going to miss the talks.

I agreed, and discovered that it was a nicely focusing task, having to find at least 140 characters from each talk that were significant enough to share and remember. (In case you don’t have an intuitive feel for how long a tweet actually is, this sentence is 140 characters, with the parentheses included.) Tweeting kind of snowballed from there. I connected with other physicists and astronomers and followed along with conferences I couldn’t attend by watching hashtags. I asked questions, received references to papers, and got to know whom I should tweet at to get quick answers about things such as galaxy mass functions or Python coding.

I discovered a whole community of astronomers and physicists who use Twitter as a kind of ongoing virtual conference coffee break, without the constraints of timing or location. I jumped right in and found it to be an excellent resource for keeping up with astrophysics and the world-wide academic community.

The thing about Twitter is that your experience depends entirely on who you choose to follow. The vast majority of people I follow are fellow scientists and science communicators, and in general they make up a community that is articulate, clued-in and eager to share interesting and/or useful information – not to mention often wildly entertaining.

Once I got going with Twitter as a professional networking and info-sharing tool, it became clear that a lot of people outside of science are fascinated by the universe and are thrilled to have a chance to ask questions of a real scientist.

I’ve gradually adjusted my own Twitter stream to be as much about outreach and science communication as it is about maintaining a professional community. When I tweet about a cool new result, I sometimes include a few tweets of background information to put it in context. I answer questions about black holes, the speed of light, the Big Bang and what the expansion of the universe really means.

These days, I frequently get requests to write articles for popular websites or do interviews or podcasts based primarily on my ability to explain things on Twitter. It’s a fantastic tool for science communication, and it’s a great way for the public to get access to a real scientist and find out what all this research stuff is really about.

When a scientist on Twitter veers away from the pure science and talks about the life they’re balancing with (or building around) a research career, it helps break down stereotypes and increase public trust in science. I think it can be an especially good opportunity for women or minorities in science to become role models for young people hoping to follow the same path.

The number one question people ask me about using Twitter as a scientist is, “How much time does it take?” It’s a question I can’t answer. It doesn’t take time in the same way other outreach tasks take time. It’s a constant ongoing conversation; you just dip in and out of it when you have a spare moment.

Being active on Twitter is like having a chatty officemate; you can put on headphones if you want to, but if you have a question, or if you want to take a moment to chat (and are willing to risk being interrupted by a particularly amazing cat video), you might end up learning something, and it’ll certainly make those solitary nights in the office a heck of a lot more fun.

Dr Katherine J Mack holds a Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA) from the Australian Research Council on the topic “Dark matter particle physics and the first sources of light in the universe”. Follow Melbourne Uni Alumni on Twitter: @uomalumni





PROFESSOR GLYN DAVIS AC VICE-CHANCELLOR

From Horace to the digital age

The University's motto, *Postera crescam laude*, often translated as "I shall grow in the esteem of future generations", is taken from an ode of Horace, the Latin poet, who in around 23 BC prophesied his own fame would endure through his poetry.

"I have finished a monument more lasting than bronze, more lofty than the regal structure of the pyramids, one which neither corroding rain nor the ungovernable North Wind can ever destroy, nor the countless series of the years, nor the flight of time.

"I shall not wholly die, and a large part of me will elude the Goddess of Death. I shall continue to grow, fresh with the praise of posterity ..."

While Horace's words are not humble, his treatise proved correct. It is a reminder that a well-executed body of work can prevail for generations.

One hundred and sixty years since the University's founders adopted the motto, the prophecy of Melbourne's growth and esteem is being fulfilled. For a successful institution, however, there is the risk of hubris. Self-praise does not bring further accomplishment.

The aim of a new discussion paper distributed to the University community this year, *Growing Esteem 2014*, is not to revisit things the University has done well, but to ask how it can continue to grow in esteem. The injunction to improve remains, as ever, the imperative.

In two earlier documents, *Growing Esteem 2005* and *Growing Esteem 2010*, the University set a strategic agenda that this year's discussion paper takes for granted. The intention now is not to revisit our excellent reforms of recent years. Our task now is to complete the vision, while being prepared to address the needs of a changing world.

There is no destination for a university, no landing point. Our tasks repeat, as we offer knowledge, learning and engagement to each new generation. Mission is shaped by present circumstances, but profoundly attached to a long tradition.

Over the past decade, the University of Melbourne has made choices about how best to serve its many communities. We have adopted a curriculum that stresses breadth of learning at undergraduate level, and a graduate approach to professional education.

The institution has expanded dramatically its research reach, and given voice to engagement. It has deployed new technologies to speak with an international audience. Nearly half a million people around the globe have enrolled in online courses offered by Melbourne.



"The next few years will see the University of Melbourne continue to "enlighten, strengthen and make fit" its research, teaching and engagement offerings in the service of the nation."

The University of Melbourne is performing strongly, but faces a number of strategic challenges unparalleled in the higher education sector. Experts have described these challenges as "deep, radical and urgent transformations".

The most significant challenge is the online 'evolution'. Digital technologies are transforming the way education is delivered, accessed and supported. With the rise of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) and resources such as the Khan Academy, TED talks, and Google search, university lecturers and libraries no longer hold a monopoly on knowledge. The rate at which we create knowledge is unmatched and far beyond the capacity of universities alone to corral and to organise.

Digital technologies and the ubiquity of knowledge have particular implications for students and learning. With the prevalence of wholly online and blended learning (formal programs in which students learn in part through online delivery of content), alternative economic models for tertiary delivery are likely to emerge. Universities must innovate to meet student demand for technology-enabled learning.

As the cost of research infrastructure escalates, fewer universities can manage large-scale research agendas alone. Collaboration and international partnerships now drive highly cited research. Precincts – which bring together industry, government and researchers to address global problems – have become a source of competitive advantage, placing some universities in a position to contribute more directly to prosperity in their cities.

For the University of Melbourne, a successful strategy today demands continuing improvement in many fields, including the impact of our research, the quality of our students' experience of learning and our partnerships with industry and communities around the world, including alumni.

Growing Esteem 2014 canvasses some important proposals in all these areas.

- One dilemma for a comprehensive university such as Melbourne is balancing enquiry-led research with world-changing discoveries. Institutionally, we have adopted three Grand Challenges as research goals: understanding our place and purpose; fostering health and well-being; and supporting sustainability and resilience. Articulating these research goals has been an important step towards greater research impact. Our next steps toward greater impact will include working with individual scholars on how they contribute to the wider picture, recruiting more senior researchers with a capacity for impact, and more closely aligning our research training offerings with the strategic big picture.

- The University seeks to build innovative, blended learning opportunities into all its programs to improve student experience and learning outcomes. We seek to build on the considerable attractiveness of the University's existing atmosphere to provide physical and virtual on-campus infrastructure that will further enrich the student experience.

- Effective research and teaching at Melbourne are both bound up with greater opportunities for students to engage with the world and with future employers. Industry engagement is a critical area here. Accordingly, we propose to develop new incentives to encourage more academics and research higher-degree students to engage with industry. Our international engagement and public engagement are also being enhanced in important ways.

The University of Melbourne hosts hundreds of conferences, seminars, lectures and other community activities throughout the year, providing an important mechanism for the debate of public issues and sharing of expertise. Many of our research programs are established as resources for government and community organisations, both in terms of research findings and practical application in the community.

There is also an opportunity to encourage greater public engagement through an emerging precinct around public policy. A number of significant partners have set up around the University's Parkville campus in recent years. These include the Australia and New Zealand School of Government, the Centre for Advancing Journalism, The Conversation, the Grattan Institute, the LH Martin Institute, the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research, and the Melbourne School of Government.

Finally, building relations with the University's many alumni and supporters is a key part of our engagement strategy. Alumni support the University in myriad ways, acting as ambassadors, mentors, volunteers, career advisers and donors. The demographic of our alumni body is becoming more interstate-based and more international. The nature of student experience, and therefore the strategy for

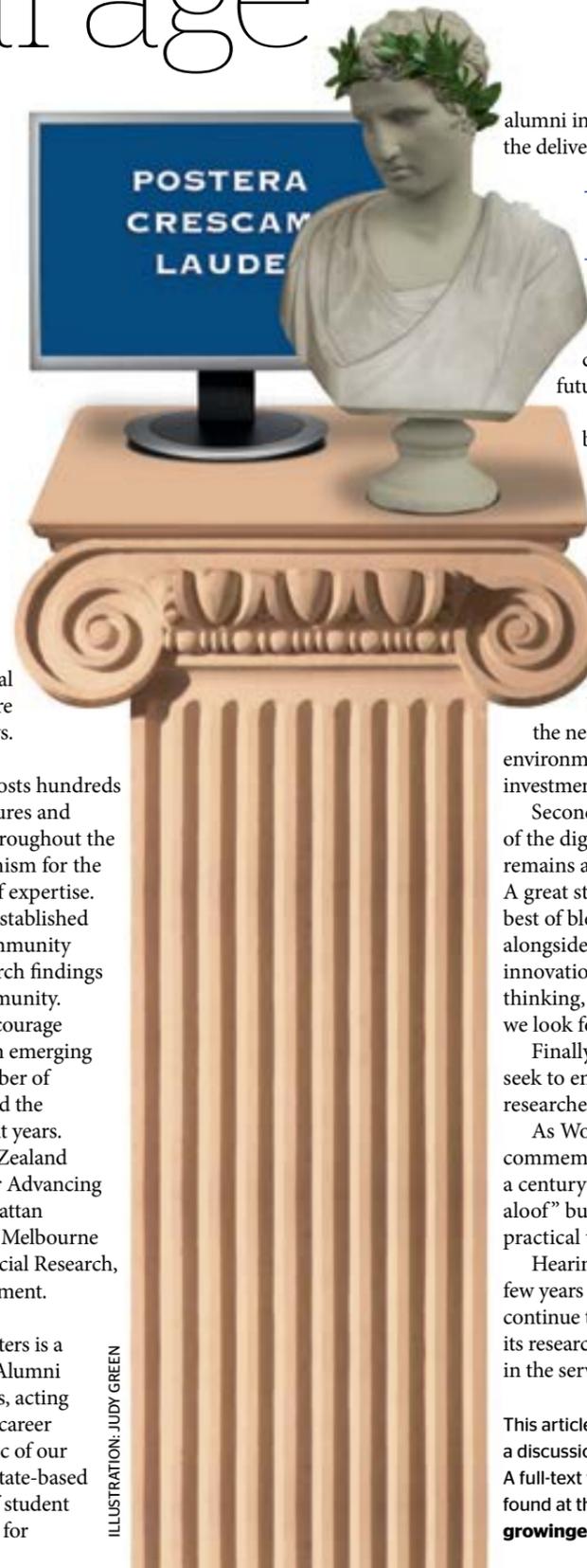


ILLUSTRATION: JUDY GREEN

alumni interaction, is being transformed through the delivery of the Melbourne Curriculum.

In perhaps the most famous of his poems, *Tu ne quaesieris*, Horace cautions his young companion to "carpe diem" — seize the day. He warns that the future is unknown. One should not leave tomorrow to chance, but rather take action for the future today.

The University of Melbourne has been following Horace for 160 years, and his advice seems more pertinent than ever. The future may be difficult to predict, but we can plan on the basis of reasonable assumptions.

Firstly, this public-spirited research-intensive institution will continue to generate knowledge that addresses the greatest challenges of our time. We will do so by balancing research strengths against

the need to demonstrate the social, economic, environmental and cultural outcomes of investment in new ideas.

Secondly, we will embrace the possibilities of the digital evolution, yet ensure there remains a place for campus-based education. A great student experience will combine the best of blended learning with time spent alongside teachers and peers. As lively places of innovation, international diversity and the latest thinking, our campuses will model the attributes we look for in each graduate.

Finally, all the University's activities will seek to engage with our city, our peers, fellow researchers and the community that we serve.

As Woodrow Wilson declared in a famous commemorative address at Princeton more than a century ago, universities should not "stand aloof" but should be intimately bound to the practical world.

Hearing Wilson's advice on this score, the next few years will see the University of Melbourne continue to "enlighten, strengthen and make fit" its research, teaching and engagement offerings in the service of the nation.

This article is based on *Growing Esteem 2014*, a discussion paper for the University community. A full-text version of the discussion paper can be found at the University of Melbourne website: growingesteem.unimelb.edu.au

Inside the

AGES OF GERMAINE
Above: during a recent
visit to Melbourne.

PICTURE: JASON SOUTH/
FAIRFAX PHOTOS

Opposite: a 1969 portrait
by Bryan Wharton, which
hangs in the National
Portrait Gallery, London.

COPYRIGHT BRYAN WHARTON
Bryanwharton.com

The University is acquiring the massive personal archive of one of Australia's most influential thinkers. But just what will be found in this pay dirt of history?

BY KATHY KIZILOS

In a converted barn at Germaine Greer's home in Essex, England, are more than 150 filing cabinets documenting her extraordinary life over six decades.

The trove includes multi-coloured hand-written notes on *The Female Eunuch*, her best-selling feminist manifesto published in 1970, along with letters from actor Warren Beatty, director Federico Fellini, writer Margaret

The papers shine a light on Germaine Greer's writing process, with her notes on works such as *The Female Eunuch* and *The Obstacle Race* (a book on the historic barriers facing women artists published in 1979) forming part of the collection. "There is a lot more background, context and personal perspective than can be gleaned from simply reading her published works," says Dean. Greer's notes on *The Female Eunuch*, for example, describe it as "my book on women for which I have not yet devised a title".

In addition, the archive documents how Greer's work was received: by other writers, by women whose lives were changed after reading Greer, and by those disturbed by the ways in which she challenged tradition.

"Historians are very interested in social networks and how they operate in terms of political and social change and cultural production," Dean says. "The archive is network-rich if one wanted to understand some currents of UK and international public life in the second half of the 20th century."

Greer files

Atwood and serial killer Myra Hindley, to name but some of the better-known correspondents.

There's also Professor Greer's work on a translation of *Lysistrata* for the National Theatre, which was never performed, and video recordings of her many television appearances.

University of Melbourne archivist Dr Katrina Dean travelled to Essex to inspect the collection last year. "It took me a couple of days to survey the archive and to see enough to satisfy myself it is sufficiently rich in unpublished content and has substantial research potential," she says.

"Because the archive was offered for sale we needed a valuation and I worked with a very experienced and able valuer who has a strong track record of valuing modern archives. She is brilliant at being able to drill down and pick out items and snippets of significance, which really helps to indicate the potential of an archive. It also just helps to have a second opinion."

Dean says the collection is "in good order" and arranged by theme or format. The correspondence files, for instance, are stored in a group of about 40 filing cabinet drawers. "There is also an index which is a good guide but is not comprehensive," she says.

The University's chief librarian Philip Kent says the University was interested in buying the collection "because we have a strength in related areas ... the Women's Electoral Lobby archive, archives of the feminist publishers the Seven Sisters, the McPhee Gribble archive ..."

He describes the archives as the raw material of research – "the pay dirt of history, as Germaine calls it".

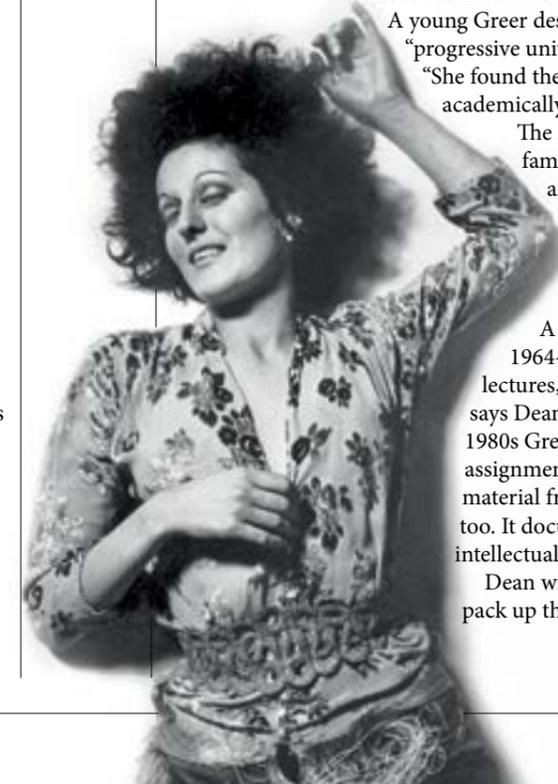
Greer was an English major at the University of Melbourne. She moved to Britain to study at Cambridge in 1964.

A young Greer described Melbourne as a "progressive university at the time", says Kent. "She found the place to be invigorating academically."

The Australian material includes family history, school reunions and papers relating to the protest movements of the early 1960s, including the women's liberation and anti-war movements.

A Cambridge diary from 1964-5 describes "a round of lectures, poker, parties and evensong", says Dean. In the 1970s and early 1980s Greer went on journalism assignments in Africa and Asia, and material from this period is included, too. It documents her life as a public intellectual and environmentalist.

Dean will travel again to Essex to pack up the collection in coming weeks.



CONTINUED PAGE 18



PICTURE: CHRIS HOPKINS

'The art of fulsome correspondence on matters of substance seems to have waned as email and most forms of social media are not the mediums for this.'

DR KATRINA DEAN

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVIST

FROM PAGE 17

She says important unpublished parts of the collection, such as Greer's own correspondence, will be converted to digital form.

The extent of Greer's archive, with its extensive correspondence – including a “nutter file” – is unusual, says Dean. She believes that in a computer age it will become increasingly rare to find such a rich and varied collection.

“The art of fulsome correspondence on matters of substance seems to have waned as email and most forms of social media are not the mediums for this,” she says. “People are more likely to outline arguments and personal perspectives in blogs these days but the fact that these are self-published online means they have a slightly different character, no longer a personal communication between individuals: more like a printed circular letter.”

Dean expects it will take a year to provide basic access to the collection, which will be open to researchers and the public, and detailed cataloguing and selective digitisation will take three years.

The acquisition of the archive was possible due to the support of a number of donors, but the fundraising continues.

To donate, visit bit.ly/1ky1te6

GERMAINE THE INTERVIEW

Professor Greer discusses her archive in an email exchange.

WHY DID YOU KEEP THE PAPERS OVER THE YEARS?

If someone writes me a letter, it does not occur to me to throw it away after I have answered it or even if I haven't answered it. I have kept files ever since I was a student – files of my research, my written essays, and, once I became an academic, of my lectures and of my interaction with students.

WHAT HAS BEEN THEIR SIGNIFICANCE TO YOU?

The importance of the correspondence files is that they offer a genuine insight into the processes of historical change. The letters, reviews and so forth provide documentary evidence of the gradual change in awareness that has taken place over the last 50 years. There are bits and pieces from celebrities, and biographers of a whole range of people will find material to interest them.

WERE THERE ANY SURPRISES IN THE PAPERS?

If there were, there still are, especially to Australians who have no idea what I have been doing since *The Female Eunuch*.

ARE THERE REFLECTIONS ABOUT THE COLLECTION YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE?

I have not spent my life re-reading my own correspondence and recycling my own research. It is now time for other people to use this enormous resource to track down not me, but the development of the issues that have kept me busy, whether they be women's health or abortion rights or eco-feminism or conservation or Australia or none of the above.

WHAT INTERESTS YOU MOST ABOUT THE COLLECTION?

I use the papers to remind myself of what I have already written about certain issues, especially when I am accused, as I have been, of changing my mind, being inconsistent, being a ratbag, and so forth, but I don't do (that) so often.

WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE WILL PROVE TO BE OF INTEREST TO OTHERS?

That depends upon the others. A sociologist will use the collection differently from a psychologist or a historian or a graphologist or a linguist. A great deal will depend upon the retrieval system, which will probably involve digitisation of the originals so that they are machine-readable. The cataloguing system, too, will direct readers in certain ways, which will not and should not be under my control.

DO YOU HAVE A FAVOURITE CORRESPONDENT OR MORE THAN ONE?

I am always delighted to receive a letter from a friend, from my godchildren, and most delighted to get one from my sister. These days I get wonderful emails from a young botanist known online as Plant Nerd. He sends me really hard stuff, which I regard as a huge compliment.

WHY DID YOU KEEP THE 'NUTTER' FILE?

I have had letters from a young man threatening to burn himself at a May Ball, from a woman I had never met who wanted to plunge a knife into my stomach because I denied her love and so forth and so on. One such person actually came to my house several times and ended up keeping me pinned to the kitchen floor for four hours. We keep letters from such people in the file under the names they are using, with copies and cross references to the nutters file, so that we can check when the same handwriting appears over different names. In most cases we have succeeded in getting help for the disturbed person.

WHAT'S IT LIKE HANDING OVER A SIGNIFICANT PART OF YOUR PAST?

I haven't done it yet. I'll tell you when the 200 file drawers are empty.

PICTURE: CHRIS HOPKINS

Opening the gate on history



They made for an imposing entrance to the University of Melbourne, where they had stood in Grattan Street since 1876. But soon after the photograph below was taken in 1957, the large gates and pillars were dismantled and removed. The gates from what was then Gate 6 (now known as Gate 10) were relocated to near the Botany School. The Gothic-inspired pillars were designed by the architects Reed and Barnes. Joseph Reed designed several significant campus buildings, including the old Wilson Hall, which was destroyed by fire in 1952. Reed also designed the Melbourne Town Hall, the original State Library, Trades Hall, the Royal Exhibition Building, Ormond College, Rippon Lea House, and a great number of churches.

MAKING AN ENTRANCE: Gate 10 on Grattan Street as it is today (above), and as it was as Gate 6 in 1957 (below).



unimelb.edu.au/3010

Pathway to top of the class

Amid rising alarm at Australia's decline in international student rankings, the Melbourne Graduate School of Education offers a model for transforming our schools.

BY CAROLINE MILBURN

Matthew McDonald is one of a new breed of data-savvy school teachers, whose expertise has been honed by a teaching degree ranked as one of the world's best.

He is an alumnus of the Melbourne Graduate School of Education (MGSE), which recently won global recognition for its ground-breaking approach to teacher training.

"You hear a lot of teachers bag their teacher training course because it didn't prepare them well for the reality of the classroom," McDonald (below) says. "But my course overall has been very useful. We had inspirational lecturers and tutors and everything had a practical application, it wasn't just theory.

"We spent three days a week at university and two days a week in a school

placement, with block placements on top of that. It meant you could take an idea from what you were learning at university and try it immediately at your school placement ... It meant you were never operating in a vacuum."

McDonald is in his third year as an English and history teacher at St Leonard's College, Brighton. Last year he was nominated for a National Excellence in Teaching Award and has taken on the role of student debating co-ordinator at the school.

His stellar academic record as a high school student and then as a graduate of the University of Melbourne, earning an arts law degree with honours in 2010, is typical of the high calibre but diverse backgrounds of graduates who apply to enter the Graduate School's Master of Teaching program.

Demand for places is outstripping supply, and in February the Graduate School was recognised as one of the world's best education faculties. It was ranked second in the latest QS World University Rankings by Subject.

In the same month, the Graduate School's reputation for pioneering a more rigorous model of teacher training led the Federal Government to appoint the school's Dean, Professor Field Rickards, to an expert panel responsible for reviewing Australia's beleaguered teacher education system.

The system has been regularly criticised in teacher surveys and several studies for producing graduates ill-equipped to handle the demands of classroom teaching. One-year diploma courses, very low tertiary scores for entrance into some courses, weak links between theory and practice and not enough practical teacher training in classrooms were listed as the main flaws of many courses run by universities nationwide.

The criticism has gained urgency against a backdrop of Australia's slide in the rankings of international test results for school students, known as PISA, and evidence showing teacher quality is the biggest influence on students.

Rickards says the PISA evidence reveals

why it is important for education courses to become more rigorous.

"We need teachers who can stretch the brightest students and understand the misunderstandings of the most struggling students," he says. "Teaching is the most complex and challenging profession of all because we're trying to deal with classes of children who have different learning experiences and different backgrounds and we're trying to achieve at least a year's growth every year in every child. It's extraordinarily complicated work."

Rickards says Australia's slow but steady slide in the rankings of international student test results also reveals the nation's schooling system has reached a critical point.

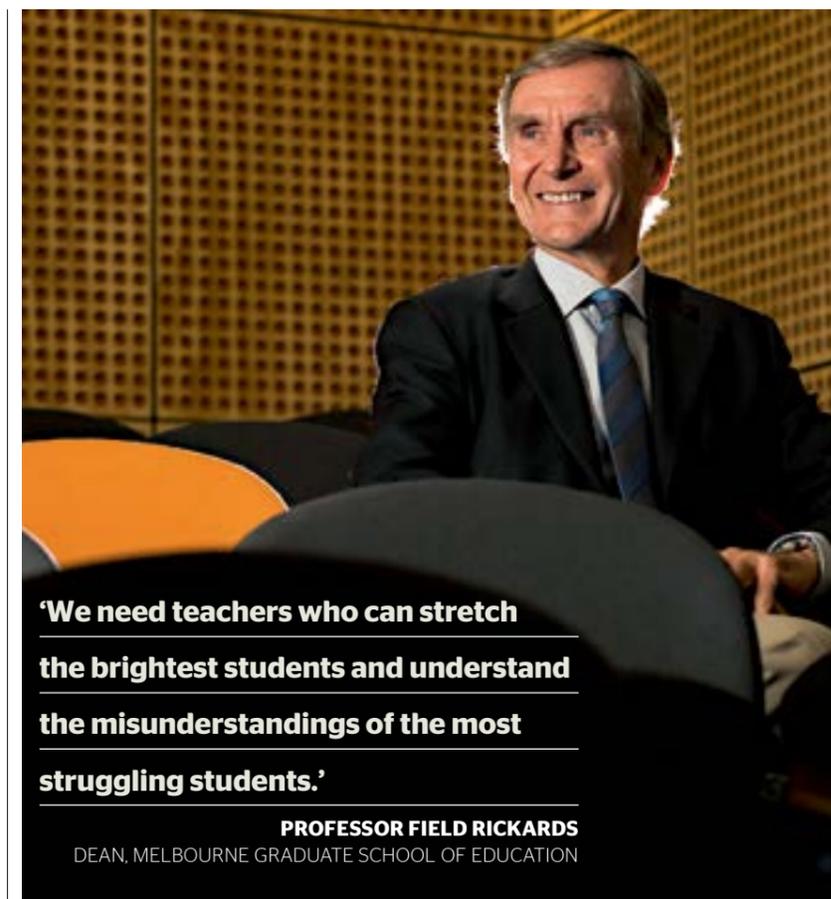
"At a broad level our schools have been doing things in a similar way for decades but the world changes and I don't believe our schools have changed sufficiently to adapt to those changes," he says. "That's why we need a Master of Teaching degree. Teaching has always been a challenging profession. But it's now even more complex and challenging and so we need to better equip the next generation of teachers with skills that can adapt to the changing environment."

The University of Melbourne introduced an overhauled model of teacher training in 2008 with a seeding grant from the Federal and Victorian governments and the Catholic Education Office in Melbourne. A year later an extra \$8 million was provided by the Rudd Government for the next three years.

The University replaced its traditional courses with the two-year, graduate-entry Master of Teaching course. The program is based on a "clinical model" of training, equipping teachers with higher-order diagnostic skills to act as researchers in their classrooms. Trainees are taught to collect and analyse student data and use it to take a more interventionist approach to their pupils' learning needs.

Unlike traditional education courses, trainees spend a lot of time each week working and learning in schools. Many universities offer much less practical training time in schools, mainly because it is highly expensive.

Despite the Graduate School's clinical model being more expensive to run, it is achieving impressive results.



'We need teachers who can stretch the brightest students and understand the misunderstandings of the most struggling students.'

PROFESSOR FIELD RICKARDS
DEAN, MELBOURNE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

By the numbers

Since the MGSE began offering graduate-only teaching courses:

- Almost 7000 students have completed more than 8000 courses
- More than 3000 students have become qualified primary and secondary school teachers

An external, independent review in 2010 surveyed its graduates employed in primary and secondary schools. The survey was taken six months after the graduates started their first job. It found 90 per cent of those surveyed said they were well prepared for their new profession.

Other surveys of new teachers conducted in Australia, the United States and the United Kingdom typically reveal about 40 per cent of new teachers are satisfied with the way their courses prepared them for the classroom, according to Rickards.

He says it is pleasing to see the Graduate School receive global recognition from the only international measure that examines the quality of university subjects.

The QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) World University Rankings is an annual league table of the top universities. For the 2014 rankings by subject, QS evaluated 3002 universities and ranked 689.

"The QS ranking reflects our research and the impact of that research, including its impact on teacher education," Rickards says. "It also reflects how our peers around the world rank us and what employers think of the quality of our graduates."

For Matthew McDonald, the decision to choose teaching as a career instead of law is one he doesn't regret. "The law degree was great and it's given me fantastic knowledge and skills," he says. "But when I started to do placements at law firms I realised I didn't want to spend many years of my life as a lawyer.

"I wanted to do something more creative. At the end of the day I wanted to feel that I was making a difference in someone's life, that I was helping someone. That was the reason I chose teaching."

Learning takes on a foreign accent

Melbourne students are hitting the road in big numbers to take advantage of the plentiful options for studying abroad.

BY ANGELA MARTINKUS

The UK is hot in 2014 and for the first time is outstripping America's Ivy League universities as a study destination of choice.

Europe has an enduring attraction for Arts students. Commerce students fancy the US. Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) students favour North America, Japan and China, while Veterinary Science, Medicine and Dentistry students are those most likely to venture into Africa and South-East Asia.

Studying overseas while completing an undergraduate, postgraduate, or masters degree at the University of Melbourne has never been more popular, or accessible.

A little over a decade ago a mere 0.1 per cent of all students had an overseas study experience. Last year 18 per cent of the University's graduating students participated in a long or short-term global study program and it is fast becoming a routine part of the student experience.

In fact, the University sends more students abroad than any other Australian institution, more than doubling the national average of 8.2 per cent.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Engagement) Professor Sue Elliott oversees the Melbourne Global Mobility (MGM) program, under which the University partners with 189 universities in 43 countries to provide access to accredited study programs to students.

"The aim of the program is to graduate active global citizens who are attuned to cultural difference and competent in a globalised business environment," she says.

While overseas scholarships have been part of University life for more than a century, this new global push is promoting more options, such as flexible short-term programs, internships, clinical and work placements.



'Back then student mobility only meant exchange. It was a rite of passage for a year abroad.'

NIGEL COSSAR
MGM ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Elliott aims to lift the outward-bound study experience by 10 per cent a year and her team is leading an array of programs to make overseas study possible for every student.

This year, MGM Associate Director Nigel Cossar and his team of 11 mobility officers will administer more than 4500 student movements (1500 coming in and 3000 going out) and \$2 million in scholarship funds from an office in Swanston Street, Carlton.

The first overseas scholarships were offered in the 1850s, funded by shipping companies to support the travel of students to British universities. Rhodes scholarships started in the early 1900s and after World War II scholarships increased, providing the likes of former Governor-General Sir Zelman Cowen (BA(Hons) 1939, LLB 1940, LLM 1941,

LLD 1973, Ormond College) and former Victorian Governor Sir James Gobbo AC CVO KJ QC (BA(Hons) 1952, LLD 2000, Newman College) with an overseas study experience.

While self-funded international students have studied at the University since 1853, many more arrived after 1951 when the Commonwealth-funded Colombo Plan commenced and hundreds of students from across the Asia-Pacific region joined the institution. This ran until the mid-1970s.

In the 1990s the Melbourne Abroad Office managed an outbound exchange program with a meagre annual budget of \$100,000.

In 1997 the University sent more than 90 students overseas and was a founding member of Universitas 21 (U21), an international network of 27 research universities in 19 countries. U21 members sign up for five years and agree to host an equal number of students over the life of the agreement. Students fund their own passage and accommodation but tuition is free and coursework completed is credited back to the student's degree.

Momentum grew, and in 2007 the MGM office opened, led by ex-student Cossar (MIntBus 2006) who at 28 had already been on two overseas exchanges and had worked in education abroad

administration in Denver in the US.

"We sent 365 students abroad that year, mainly to North America and Europe," he says. "Back then student mobility only meant exchange. It was a rite of passage for a year abroad but the numbers weren't big and students needed to source opportunities themselves."

Since then the number of institutions, funding options and the types of study options have swelled. According to the 2012 report *Outgoing International Mobility of Australian University Students*, 24,763 students undertook international study experiences across 38 Australia universities.

"We aren't alone; every Australian university is like this," says Cossar, who credits an increasingly global community, the strong Australian dollar and the Commonwealth OS-HELP loan scheme for the surge in outgoing numbers.

But it isn't a free-for-all. There are minimum standards and competition for prestigious courses is steep.

To be eligible, students must complete a year of study before they depart, complete a financial plan and have a weighted average mark of 65 per cent, "but it is usually higher, more like 70 to 75 per cent".

"If we have five spaces available for the Wharton School in Pennsylvania in the US then the top five will be offered the places," Cossar says.

"So we are finding that over time more students are open to going to Canada or the UK if they want an English-speaking destination."

MGM's website lays out all of the courses, funding options, selection criteria and critical dates. The program also runs information sessions and offers personal service at the front counter at the MGM office.

An array of funding options are available, including the Melbourne Global Mobility grant of \$1000-\$2500 to all students accepted into a course. Students with an ATAR of 98 or more are guaranteed a grant. OS-HELP offers loans of up to \$7500, paid back with the HECS debt. Faculty funding is also available.

Students are often choosing more than one experience. "If they plan enough they can do a short course overseas, a semester and an internship, all abroad," says Cossar.

mobility.unimelb.edu.au

GABRIELA BRAND
ARTS

Spent 2013 studying at the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile

"I chose Chile because my mum is from there and I have family in Santiago. I applied around June 2012 and it wasn't hard to get in. I am doing a BA with a double major in media and communications and Spanish so I studied arts electives and Spanish. I received a \$4000 language scholarship and \$6000 per semester as a HECS loan and also received Centrelink youth allowance because I was studying full-time as an independent student away from home. The hardest part was settling in, dealing with the language and cultural barrier and homesickness at the beginning. I can now speak Spanish and travelled a lot when I was there. Doing exchange is different to travel because you build a life there, make friends and really integrate into the culture. The further out of your comfort zone, the better off you will be when you get back."



AINSLEY SUTTON
VETERINARY SCIENCE

Work placement at the Elephant Nature Park, Thailand, January 2014

"It's a requirement of my course to do 12 weeks of extramural placement so I combined travelling with a vet placement in Thailand. I filled in the forms in October and was okayed but the program at the Elephant Nature Park itself was harder to get into because it is an extremely busy program. I was a Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholar so I received \$1000 from the University. The best part was being able to travel to Thailand and discover the culture and interact with some amazingly beautiful elephants and people. Doing physical hands-on work all day, every day for a week and hearing the sad stories of how elephants had been abused was the hardest part."





Student newspaper Farrago, an incubator for writers, journalists and politicians, is about to turn 90.

BY RAY GILL

A former editor of *Farrago*, the University student newspaper, once offered a lament of her time on campus in the 1970s. “Right place. Wrong time. I started at Melbourne University in 1976 with a sneaking suspicion that I missed out on all the fun,” wrote Kate Legge in *More Memories of Melbourne University* (MUP).

Every student since the tumultuous 1960s has probably wondered what it might have been like to be at the centre of a cultural revolution. But each generation since has had its wars to oppose and its ideological battles to win, even if during my time in the 1980s the only on-campus demonstration I remember was a scuffle-free protest against a multinational winning a contract to run the Union caff.

The personal may have become political by then but what still endures is *Farrago*, where the editors and contributors like to believe they are shaping the world.

Farrago is 90 years old next year. It may be staffed by a few, lowly paid editors and a team of volunteers, but in its time it has outlasted dozens of other Melbourne newspapers that have crumbled under changing tastes and the continuing onslaught of the digital revolution.

It helps, of course, that *Farrago* can rely on funding from the Student Union (though this is never certain as it depends on the ideology of whichever federal government comes along), and it does

have a captive university audience. Still, it's surprising that in the era of sprawling social media, *Farrago* maintains its role reflecting the interests, issues and causes célèbres of University students.

Its first editor was Randal Heymanson in 1925. Among its editors since then have been dozens who made careers in journalism, literature or public life, including Bill Tipping, Amirah Gust (later Inglis), Geoffrey Blainey, Morag Fraser, Lindsay Tanner, Pete Steedman, Arnold Zable, Kate Legge, Kathy Bail, James Button, Nam Le and Christos Tsiolkas.

Its current team of four editors, elected as Student Union media officers, is Zoe Efron, Kevin Hawkins, Michelle See-Tho and Sean Watson. The issues covered in the first two editions for 2014 included smoking restrictions on campus, homophobia in Africa, female masturbation and the East-West Tunnel.

While the list doesn't sound all that different from the kinds of stories *Farrago* has been covering since the 1970s, a lot has changed around *Farrago* if you haven't been on campus for a while.

The editors are still elected in a week-long campaign of balloons, speeches and stunts. The four editors each receive \$19,000 a year (once it was a one-person labour of love), and they publish about 4000 to 5000 copies of each edition. Fortnightly publication is long gone. *Farrago Magazine*, as it's now known, is produced only eight times a year, but the online version is updated regularly and it has a Facebook and Twitter feed.

The chaos once characteristic of putting together a student paper from its office on the first floor of Student House has also given way to a more orderly schedule.

Hawkins says the four editors were elected late last year under the non-party-aligned “Independent Media” ticket. Now they are working 9 to 5, Monday to Friday and slipping off to lectures throughout the day. (Hawkins finished his degree last year but the others are all still students.)

When they asked for volunteers to write, contribute to and sub-edit the publication, they received 180 applications, compared with the 60 who volunteered last year.

Good stories, good times ...and the odd angry shot



Once upon a time the windowless bromide room was where *Farrago* editors repaired for Machiavellian student politics plots, drugs and sex, sometimes all at the same time.

“What's a bromide?” asks Hawkins. “Oh, yeah we've heard about what things went on.” Bromides, Stanley knives and wax all disappeared sometime in the 1980s.

From my '80s perspective, I think *Farrago* changed radically in 1983 when Kathy Bail, John O'Hagan and Bruce Permezel were its editors. They were non-party-affiliated left who ripped the paper out of the dull hands of the campus political clubs who had used it as a plaything.

BOP (an acronym of their initials), were pop in the best sense. They used a sophisticated visual language and embraced the world beyond campus politics. Art, fashion and style were not verboten. Given it was the age of Madonna, ideological warfare often found expression in the battle between the '70s feminists and the first wave of post-feminism. Semiotics was big. Bail, who went on to be editor of

Rolling Stone and is now chief executive of UNSW Press, recalls that the “look” her team created was influenced by the *Popism* show at the National Gallery of Victoria in 1982.

“In a campaign short on policy and full of promises to tell good stories and have a good time, we were all up for a year learning how to run a newspaper,” Bail says of her year in the chair.

“The world was changing. People were wondering whether it was possible to be a left-winger and read *Vanity Fair*,” recalls former *Age* journalist James Button, who became editor with Deborah Cass and Tania Patston in 1985.

“They (BOP) captured the zeitgeist of the '80s: the emphasis on look and design, the witty detachment, the transformation of student politics away from a faith in revolution into something less conventional – John O'Hagan's piece, “Could you be an anarchist without knowing it?” and Chris Tsiolkas' dare I say it, seminal piece on being a gay Greek.”

Tsiolkas was editor in 1988 with Julia Cabassi, Lauren Finestone and Mandy Brett. He says the team thought of themselves as “independent left” but the ALP campus politicians thought they were a “pack of femo-nazi, Trotskyist, aesthete dilettantes”.

“The BOP *Farrago* was a rejection of leftist asceticism and probably the first of the *Farragos* to be influenced by the style politics that came in the wake of punk and post-punk,” says Tsiolkas, who is best known now for his novels, including *The Slap*.

Farrago has influenced generations of students who went on to careers in journalism, creative writing, acting, comedy, publishing and politics, and many, many more who resumed the direction set by their courses.

Those who take the reins as editors learn as much about themselves as they do about the hard work of producing a newspaper.

Tsiolkas says, in retrospect, he wishes he and his co-editors had been a lot more mischievous and less self-righteous.

“I think I'd tap the young Christos on the shoulder and shout at him, ‘Be a little bit more responsible, mate. But I learnt so much about editing from working with Mandy Brett that has been so important for my writing life now.”

Button, too, wishes he'd been more tolerant of opinions he didn't agree with.

“A young guy wrote a piece on (former RSL State President) Bruce Ruxton. He had gone to a lot of trouble to challenge Ruxton and wrestle with his views, but he also had respect for some of the things Ruxton said. And I think in hindsight it was a pretty good job. I think it ran – though I can't even swear to that – but certainly it took a politically driven cut in a few places. I regret that now. I didn't

PRESS GANG: Kathy Bail, John O'Hagan and Bruce Permezel (above), editors in 1983; and Pete Steedman, editor in 1967.

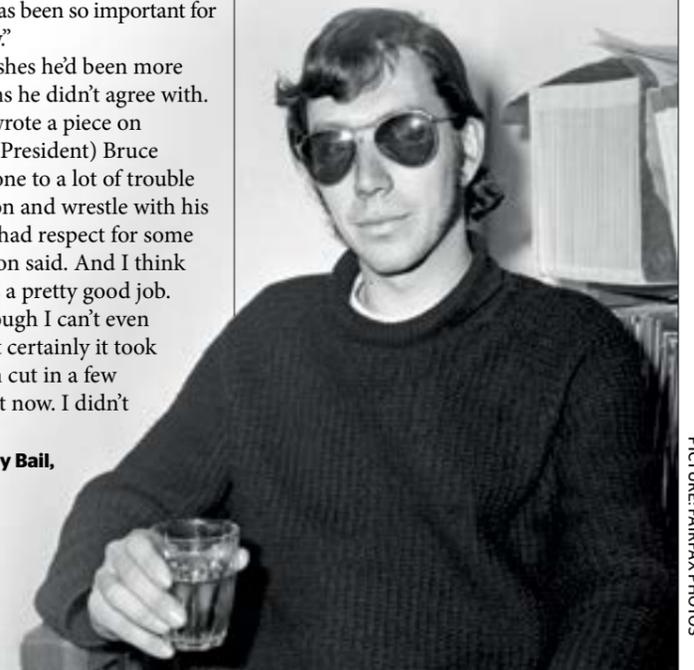
yet understand that you don't have to agree with everything you publish.”

As well as being a training ground for a career in journalism, *Farrago* provides editors with lessons in the cut-throat political process from students who are often on training wheels for a life in politics.

“We covered a federal election (Hawke versus Fraser) in our first issue and battled it out with student politicians, several of whom stayed in the game (Julia Gillard, Lindsay Tanner),” says Bail. “We got sued for defamation and lost funding for an issue as a result. We reviewed arts and cultural events, and published essays, comics, posters, fiction and poetry.”

“All this – the mechanical production line, negotiations, mistakes, scoops and friendships made along the way – was just the right training for a career in media and publishing as it turned out,” she says.

Raymond Gill (BA 1983, LLB 1984, Ormond College) unsuccessfully ran for a *Farrago* editorship in 1984 with journalist Luke Slattery and writer Joanna Murray-Smith, whom he married.





THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONER



COMPASSION AND STRENGTH:
Gillian Triggs was imbued with a strong sense of social justice by her parents.

PICTURE: FAIRFAX PHOTOS

'I was hugely stimulated by the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights from 1948, in which Australia and 'Doc' Evatt played such an important role, and in particular how these ideals, once articulated, are implemented.'

GILLIAN TRIGGS

LLB 1967, PhD 1982, Janet Clarke Hall and International House

Gillian Triggs offers a businesslike handshake and beams an intense, penetrating power gaze. It's instantly clear that a mistake has been made; the President of the Australian Human Rights Commission believes I'm at her Sydney offices for a job interview. With the error corrected, Emeritus Professor Triggs, a noted international lawyer, softens. "This should be much more pleasant," she says with a smile, her blue eyes widening.

The conversation turns quickly to the Commission's inquiry into children in detention and her recent visit to the Christmas Island immigration facility, where 315 children are held behind a wall of wire. She describes the conditions as "disgraceful", and the adjective is uttered in an emotional minor key. "It's really heartbreaking to be there," she says.

Having been offered a glimpse of Gillian Triggs woman of steel, thanks to a case of mistaken identity, a woman of compassion is now laid bare. It's clear that both qualities are needed to operate effectively in the politically charged arena of human rights.

Triggs was born in London in 1945 to parents who both served in the war. Her accent still bears the imprint of a middle-class English childhood. This "Paddington Bear" life, as she calls it, may have been socially conventional, but it was ethically broad, humane and sympathetic.

"Both parents had good wars," she recalls. "And what emerged from it is that they had marvellously open minds on issues of race and shared a strong sense of social justice. These attitudes were part of my world."

En route to Australia as a 12-year-old, immediately after the British and French invasion of Suez, she vividly remembers the poverty in Aden and Cairo and its effect on her. "I realised at this time that I'd come from a terrace in north London and was looking at a wider world." When, more than a decade later, she graduated with a law degree from the University of Melbourne and a specialisation in international law, she headed to the United States to work as an adviser to the Dallas police chief on civil rights legislation. That "wider world" became her world. She has inhabited it ever since.

"I was hugely stimulated by the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights from 1948, in which Australia and 'Doc' Evatt played such an important role, and in particular how these ideals, once articulated, are implemented," she says.

Along the way, as she sees it, fortune favoured her. "I was lucky enough to do Melbourne law and then, after my PhD in 1982, to walk into a lectureship. That wouldn't happen today." Until 2005 she was director of the University's Institute for Comparative and International Law. She has also practised commercially as a barrister and consultant.

Triggs took up her appointment as President of the Australian Human Rights Commission in August 2012 after five years as Dean of Law and Challis Professor of International Law at the University of Sydney.

A little over a year later a Liberal-National Party Government was elected. If she harboured any illusions

about the difficulties of championing human rights under a Coalition Government nettled by Andrew Bolt's transgression of the Racial Discrimination Act's controversial section 18C, they were dispelled in the last week of March.

This was the week in which Attorney-General George Brandis, after first declaring that "people do have the right to be bigots", announced plans to repeal sections 18C and D of the act. It comes as no surprise that Triggs, wary of attempts to position the Commission as a creature of the left, is keen to emphasise its breadth. Indigenous social justice, women, age, gender, children, disability, freedom; all come within its bailiwick.

Triggs notes the Commission's work on the new disability insurance scheme, the military's gender culture, and a \$12 million project on bilateral human rights with China and Vietnam commissioned by the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Much of her own work as President is focused on issues around asylum seekers, in part because she has the power to hold an inquiry and compel evidence – an example is the new children in detention inquiry. She concedes, though, that she faces a dilemma in her management of the body's public face because the lightning rod issues grab all the attention.

"Our work on asylum seekers and racial vilification are very important and of course the public is interested in them," she explains. "But those who object to the Commission's position in those areas tend to transfer that concern to other areas of our work, and in that sense I'm attempting to defend the quality of the work we do most of the time here.

"I'd like to see us mainstreaming our work so that more Australians understand what we do. But of course many Australians see us as standing against government policy and against the views of the majority of Australians."

The Commission operates independently of government, even though it is government-funded. But after criticism from Brandis that it "has become increasingly narrow and selective in its view of human rights", it is undergoing a period of reorientation.

Triggs takes the criticism, or at least the essence of it, as a fair cop. "There is an element of truth in the argument that there is too much emphasis on anti-discrimination law and not enough on freedoms. That's an argument that should be listened to. The trouble comes when you re-balance with antiquated ideas that are often legally bankrupt and misconceived and seriously out of date."

It's hard to imagine Gillian Triggs with a use-by date, and not only because questions of human rights and freedoms, as vexed as they are, animate the big international issues of the day. She seems to have burned brightly from a young age.

Before leaving I ask what she does to unwind. "I've just been riding around Paris on a motorbike," she says. And there it is again: that blue-eyed smile.

LUKE SLATTERY BA (HONS) 1983

THE OPERA SINGER



SPINTO SOPRANO:
"I really do get that rush from singing."

PICTURE:
CHARLIE KINROSS

OLIVIA CRANWELL

BMusPerf 2010, BA 2011, MMusic (Opera Performance) 2013

Singing in a fat suit while playing the wombat in the new Australian opera *The Magic Pudding* was part of the program for Olivia Cranwell when she was studying her Master of Music (opera performance).

Cranwell, a soprano, was one of eight singers chosen to take part in the University of Melbourne's inaugural postgraduate opera performance degree in 2012 and 2013. Forty-five singers auditioned for the program; each of the eight chosen was granted a scholarship.

The program, a collaboration between the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music and the Victorian Opera, is the first time a training institution has partnered a professional opera company. As well as hamming it up as a portly marsupial, Cranwell studied Italian language, German, French, English and Italian diction, researched soprano singing techniques and performed in *Puss in Boots*.

Taking part in the inaugural program was wonderful, she says. "You got to shape and develop it, to fit what you wanted."

She has a spinto soprano voice, which she describes as a young dramatic voice. "It is a very difficult to categorise," she says. "It is more of a rare voice type. There is not a lot of information about it."

Cranwell says she always loved singing. "When I am having a bad day, it gives me an endorphin kick. I really do get that rush from singing."

At school she performed in school choirs, taking voice lessons in Year 11. Her singing teacher asked if she had ever considered singing opera. "I hadn't really," she says, adding that she loves opera now.

This year Cranwell is performing as Rapunzel in Stephen Sondheim's *Into the Woods* with the Victorian Opera and as a soloist in the Victorian Opera Gala; she is also singing in the chorus in *Carmen* and *Eugene Onegin* with Opera Australia.

She recently visited Germany and England, and acknowledges that there are more opportunities overseas for young singers.

"One needs to be modest, but not too humble," she says. "You have to put yourself in a position where you are heard. If you don't believe in yourself, why would anybody else?"

KATHY KIZILOS



THE SCIENTIST



PICTURE: DARREN JAMES

'These are huge experiments with hundreds of people working on the main experiment and hundreds more required to put together the greater facility and they cost hundred of millions of dollars to build.'

PHILLIP URQUIJO

BSc(Hons) 2003, PhD Science 2007

Phillip Urquijo is the Justin Bieber of the physics world. Well, sort of. Like Bieber he's everywhere. Not in the tabloids, but by the end of March he had already published five academic articles for the year and last year he published an astonishing 67 of them. He's young too.

At 31 he is the youngest ever co-ordinator of a large-scale physics experiment. He's not just a star, he's a "protostar". Granted, the similarities between one of the most exciting minds in high-energy collider physics to emerge from the University of Melbourne and a Canadian teen who can sing end there – but the point is, Urquijo is big in physics.

Talking to him, though, you'd never know it. The scientist, who completed his PhD in 2007 and spent nine years working in Japan, France and Germany, wouldn't describe himself as a science whizz at school.

The Healesville High School student arrived at the University in 2000 and four years later moved to Japan to join the Belle experiment, the first of four large experiments – Belle, ATLAS, LHCb and Belle II – that he has worked on.

Particle collider physics experiments are carried out at large facilities, such as KEK in Tokyo or the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at CERN, the European Organisation for Nuclear Research in Geneva.

These campus-style facilities house machines that accelerate and collide particles so scientists can observe and analyse how they react. "These are huge experiments with hundreds of people working on the main experiment and hundreds more required to put together the greater facility and they cost hundred of millions of dollars to build," says Urquijo.

While both experiments re-created conditions shortly after the Big Bang, the Belle experiment at the KEK lab described the difference between matter and antimatter, and the ATLAS experiment at the LHC was made famous in 2012 with its discovery of the Higgs Boson – the particle that explained how particles attain mass.

Urquijo moved there in 2007 as the facility was being built, before the experiments started in 2008, and worked at the Geneva facility "with a mixture of PhD students and post-doctoral researchers" for more than three years, regularly working 10 to 12 hours a day, six or seven days a week. It was an intense time.

He had wanted to live in Europe and work in a university environment for a while, so he accepted a junior professorship at Bonn University and continued to work on experiments while teaching a Masters course.

He also joined the SuperKEKB experiment and was later appointed as the Physics Co-ordinator. He is now working on the project as part of an Australian Research Council Fellowship at the University of Melbourne.

His ambition was always to make his way back to Australia, so being able to co-ordinate the experiment while working in Melbourne is a highlight.

ANGELA MARTINKUS

EUAN FERGUSON

DipForSc 1977, BForSc(Hons) 1980

If he had wished, during his days at the University in the late 1970s, Euan Ferguson might have spent some time in a laboratory carrying the family name. It was named for his father, Arthur, who had been Reader in Electronics, and it remains a mark of the Fergusons' abiding bond with the institution.

But Ferguson preferred another University landmark, the small botanic garden behind the Agriculture and Forestry buildings. It was tranquil and spoke to the love of the outdoors that had brought him to the place.

It also encapsulated the lifelong sense of collegiality and learning that the University imparted, he says. "I can recall sitting out there in the sunshine, having lunch and talking to people from my forestry course. I just got a real buzz being with a group of like-minded people and having stimulating conversations."

He has been Chief Officer of the Country Fire Authority (CFA) since 2010. The qualities of equanimity and consultation he says he took from his university days held him in good stead when he took the role – and to face future risks posed by climate change.

Ferguson, who came to the job from a similar role in South Australia, says Victoria's fire agencies have been through significant change recently and continue to work through the lessons and the recommendations of the Black Saturday Bushfires Royal Commission.

But there are new challenges: "There are real uncertainties about what I call extreme weather into the future. Clearly fire in rural Australia is going to present enormous challenges – and that requires us to continually look with a scientific mind at what's happening around us and try to explain it.

"We're not in control of a lot of the natural environment as a consequence of severe weather. We need a culture of shared responsibility between senior managers, bureaucrats and scientists and members of the community who have a part to play, but also may be victims if we don't do our job properly."

Ferguson's love of the outdoors was sparked at Melbourne Grammar, where he was involved in the cadets and hiking club. By the time he finished he had "a passion to do forestry". In 1975 he went to the Victorian School of Forestry at Creswick where the then Forestry Commission offered a diploma course, before doing Honours at Melbourne.

He initially worked as a field forester in East Gippsland and "was very lucky, or unlucky I suppose, that in my first three or four years as a young forester I did an awful lot of firefighting... fire for me was a constant and recurring theme and experience and I enjoyed it".

He later became one of Victoria's early forest fire managers, based in Geelong, and joined the CFA as an operational officer in 1992, before being recruited to South Australia's Country Fire Service in 2001.

Ferguson, who holds an MBA from Deakin University, is still a member of the rural fire brigade at his wife's home town of Woosang, north-west of Bendigo.

GARY TIPPET

'... in my first three or four years as a young forester I did an awful lot of firefighting... fire for me was a constant and recurring theme and experience and I enjoyed it.'

THE CFA CHIEF



PICTURE: COURTESY CFA



QUAN LAU

BE(Civil) 2012

Since delivering the valedictory speech to her graduating cohort in December 2012, Quan Lau has wasted little time establishing her civil engineering career. Having landed on her feet at global consultancy AECOM, Quan has been putting what she learnt at the Melbourne School of Engineering into practice – all the while maintaining her extensive volunteer efforts.

“The most exciting thing about my job is working on real projects that will affect real people and enhance the world we live in,” says Quan, reflecting on her position as a graduate engineer at one of the world’s largest engineering firms.

These projects have spanned a diverse range of areas, including climate change flood-risk assessments, integrated water management and model stormwater flows in urban environments.

Being exposed to this work has helped Quan work towards her career ambition of “making a meaningful and effective difference to the world” – an ambition also embodied in her volunteer work.

As a student, Quan became involved with the not-for-profit organisation Engineers Without Borders (EWB) via its University of Melbourne chapter, which is made up of students with a dream of combating engineering challenges in developing countries.

“The work of EWB is incredibly meaningful and makes a big impact in the communities we work in,” says Quan, who is the regional vice-president for the organisation’s Victorian chapter.

“I believe extreme poverty can be ended in our lifetime and organisations like EWB are part of a global movement working to achieve this goal.”

Quan’s commitment to this goal saw her travel to southern India with EWB in 2013. She spent three weeks visiting renewable energy projects and observing integrated water management in rural Tamil Nadu.

Her volunteering extends beyond EWB to Oaktree, Australia’s largest youth-run aid and development organisation. In 2012 Quan was the national director of a program supporting international schools through fundraising efforts.

“As national director I managed a team across six states to implement our development education and mentoring programs, and in December 2012 I led a trip to Cambodia to visit our partner schools,” she says.

For Quan, giving up such extensive time to these causes is an easy decision based on a deep-seated philosophy of giving back.

JOE FENNESSY



PICTURE: TOM MCGHEE

INDRAN PURUSHOTHAMAN

MAppFin 2001

Global financier Indran Purushothaman has been doing for decades what labour market pundits predict is the work path of the future – pursuing a project-oriented career as an independent consultant.

Working on large-scale transformation and infrastructure projects throughout Australia, New Zealand, Asia, the Middle East and North America seems like a glamorous lifestyle – but in reality, it’s tough.

“As a consultant you live by your capabilities and you need to be comfortable with ambiguity and uncertainty,” he says.

Two factors, he says, are key to maintaining a successful career as a consultant – your capabilities and your networks. Purushothaman has paid a lot of attention to both.

Since obtaining his accountancy credentials Purushothaman has been studying. He completed honours in accountancy, an MBA and later a Masters in Applied Finance.

Early on he identified what parts of his CV needed attention and sought out roles that filled the gaps – moving from bread and butter accountancy, to project work, into strategy and later external advisory roles with KPMG. He also landed work on the privatisation of Victoria’s utility industries, valuing gas contracts “to the tune of \$1.1 billion”.

If Purushothaman needs experience in a particular area he’ll chase the work regardless of its location. An appetite for complex transactions led him to New York and then a 12-month contract working at the housing finance giant Fannie Mae, in Washington. Leading a project to improve the closing of monthly accounts, he came face to face with the impact of the Global Financial Crisis.

“The transactions were so complex that I don’t think anyone understood the impact,” he says.

Now, he observes, networking is the only way to get prime roles. “In the US I went to a lot of industry functions, while in Abu Dhabi I attended a lot of geo-political talks. You never know who you will meet.

“A third of your time needs to be networking and drumming up new business. If you can’t do that then consulting is going to be a challenge.”

But the lifestyle isn’t for everyone. “It has an impact on your personal life. I remain single, as it’s hard to maintain family links let alone a relationship when you are working in different countries.”

Back in Melbourne contemplating a project management refresher course, Purushothaman’s advice is simple. “Cultivate networks from an early stage in your career. Build capabilities and understand the dynamics of the business. Make sure you are always learning.”

ANGELA MARTINKUS

ALUMNI COUNCIL

Get involved and make a difference



The Alumni Council, established just three years ago, is already making a real difference to the alumni community and the University.

This talented group of alumni is led by Council President David Laidlaw (LLB 1975), a Melbourne lawyer.

Like many alumni, David (pictured above) made many long-term friendships at Melbourne and his studies opened the door to a very satisfying professional career. And like all those on the Council, David sees his involvement as an important way for alumni to give something back and to bring about change in a meaningful way.

“The Alumni Council is the peak body representing the university’s alumni. It is vital that alumni voices are heard and that we continue to strengthen the ability for alumni to connect with each other, and play a role in supporting the University. We are all about promoting educational excellence and enriching the student and alumni experience,” he says.

“The Council is focused on making a real difference as part of the University’s engagement agenda. We are working on how we can encourage alumni networks to grow, how alumni can play a greater role in enhancing the student experience and how we build awareness of the roles alumni can play in supporting the University. Understanding the changing landscape of higher education is also important so that we are aware of the context of decisions and focus on the most critical issues.”

Since its establishment in 2011 the Council has steadily built its profile through ties with alumni groups around the world and with key University representatives.

“This is a great time to be involved,” says David. “The University has a firm commitment to engagement and I sense an increasing appetite among alumni to explore opportunities to connect. There is a lot of good work ahead of us.”

David is encouraging alumni to consider standing for or voting in the next Council election, to be held later this year. “It’s not hard to be involved and it is very rewarding.”

For more information on the election visit alumni.unimelb.edu.au

INTERNATIONAL

New alumni welcomed home

International alumni returning home after their graduation were invited to Welcome Home events in early 2014. Held in Singapore, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Beijing, Kuala Lumpur and Jakarta, the events introduced graduates to the University’s local alumni networks.

More than 300 alumni participated in the events, which reinforced to graduates that – despite their time in Melbourne coming to an end – their connection to the University continues.

The events provided the opportunity for alumni old and new to enjoy fine food and networking activities and to celebrate the achievements of recent graduates.

More than a quarter of University of Melbourne graduates are now international students, many of whom return home upon completing their degree. Welcome Home events are held in those countries where there is a high concentration of international alumni and associated activity.

Ms Sunny Chen (GDipArts Mgt 2003, GDipEd 2004), Office Manager of the University’s Beijing Office, says the Beijing event was a great success.

“After the lunch, no one wanted



to leave. Everyone really appreciated the opportunity to meet new friends,” she says.

Similar enthusiasm was evident at the Singapore event (pictured), which involved a wine education and tasting session, together with guest speakers.

“It was a great night, and a great excuse for a nice mix of graduates – both old and new – current students and speakers to get together,” says the Vice-President of the Singapore alumni association, Thomas Danny Jeyaseelan (MA(Edit&Comm) 2008).

The largest event was held in Jakarta, where Dr Avery Poole (BCom 1999, BA(Hons) 2003), a lecturer in international relations from the Faculty of Arts, spoke to an enthusiastic audience.

The University hopes to extend Welcome Home events to more countries in 2015.

Making a local connection

Moving to a new country to study can be a daunting experience – but University of Melbourne alumni are making it easier for one group of international students.

Each semester, the Welcome to Melbourne program pairs alumni with Australia Awards (formerly AusAID) Scholarship students arriving in the city.

Typically the hosts invite the students to share a home-cooked meal, visit one of Melbourne’s hidden gems, or enjoy a snack at one of the city’s famed cafes.

The local connection helps the students settle into Melbourne life.

Since the program’s launch in 2009, more than 500 students have been matched with hosts. Many of the pairings have developed enduring friendships.

The students are undertaking postgraduate studies and come from developing nations around the world, including countries in Africa, South East Asia and the Pacific.

New hosts are always welcome. To register your interest in taking part, contact the Alumni Relations team at alumni-office@unimelb.edu.au or call +61 8344 1746.

GOLDEN REUNION

Celebration stirs memories and rekindles old friendships

Tales of women's liberation, famous classmates, post-war history and mischievous antics filled the air at the biggest-ever gathering of the University's 'golden alumni' – those who graduated 50 or more years ago.

The celebration, held at Wilson Hall in October, attracted more than 420 alumni from across 10 faculties and Parkville and Mildura campuses.

Chancellor Elizabeth Alexander AM (BCom 1964, St Hilda's College) hosted, with guest speakers including distinguished alumni Dr James Guest AM OBE (BSc 1938, MB BS 1941, Trinity College) (pictured) and Professor Adrienne Clarke AC (BSc(Hons) 1959, PhD 1963, Janet Clarke Hall).

Professor Clarke's speech recalled a very different University to that of today, with the 1950s figuring heavily. One recollection though presaged a coming era of rebellion.

"We were very innocent in those days, but I remember one person stood out, swooping around the campus dressed all in black with black make-up around her eyes – it was Germaine Greer. We were all horrified."

For many alumni, it was a rare chance to return to see the many changes to the Parkville campus that have occurred since their time there. Indeed, many remembered the moment when Wilson Hall's predecessor burnt to the ground in January 1952.

Deep personal connections to the campus abounded. Many a true love bloomed among the plane-tree-lined paths.

"I made lifelong friendships, met my wife and – strange as it might seem – actually enjoyed most of my lectures too," recalled Professor Douglas Williamson RFD QC (LLB(Hons) 1955).

Professor Williamson is one of many protégés of the late Sir Zelman Cowen – the Dean of Law who later became Governor-General of Australia. He described Professor Cowen as "simply an inspiring man".

As Jennie Vaughan (BAgrSc 1956, GDipEd 1974, Janet Clarke Hall) recalled, it was not unusual to retain a lifelong friendship with one's academic inspirations.

"My favourite lecturer by far was Professor Nancy Millis," Mrs Vaughan says. "We became close friends and kept in touch over the years."

The Golden Alumni Celebration was a reminder that a university is not just bricks and mortar – it is a community, drawn together by love, spirit and friendship.



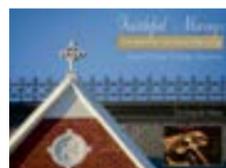
BOOKS PUBLISHED



Journalist and former Young Labor member **Aaron Patrick** (BA 1991, Ormond College) chronicled the Julia Gillard/Kevin Rudd leadership feud in his book *Downfall*, which appeared shortly before the 2013 Australian Federal Election. Mr Patrick identified the key issues and challenges facing the Federal branch of the Australian Labor Party.

Melbourne ophthalmic surgeon **Harry Lew** (MB BS 1970) released his fifth book, *Lion Hearts – A Family Saga of Refugees and Asylum Seekers*. Dr Lew's book follows on from his previous work, *The Stories Our Parents Found Too Painful To Tell*. *Lion Hearts* builds a portrait of pre-war Poland, the Holocaust and events that moulded Jewish migration to Melbourne.

Dr Kay Dreyfus (BMus 1964, MMus 1966, PhD 1972, University College) detailed the life of noted Australian violinist Alma Moodie in *Bluebeard's Bride: Alma Moodie, Violinist*. Ms Dreyfus deftly constructs an image of an expatriate musician who performed with the likes of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra during a period spanning decades, from World War I, to the Weimar Republic and the rise of the Third Reich.



Dr Danielle White (BA(Hons) 1991, GDipWH 1992, MA 1995, PhD 2003) explored the history of Sacred Heart College, Kyneton, in *Faithful Always – Celebrating 125 Years 1889-2014*. Dr White, who runs two agricultural businesses in the Macedon Ranges, also writes about rural life in her blog, *The Countryphiles*. thecountryphiles.com/author/dranni/

Aid worker **Tom Bamforth** (BA(Hons) 1999, MDevSt 2004) published *Deep Field: Dispatches From The Frontlines of Aid Relief*, his account of working in dangerous humanitarian operations across the globe. Mr Bamforth's memoir emphasises how life can change dramatically in an instant.

EXHIBITIONS AND PERFORMANCES



Award-winning soprano **Elena Xanthoudakis** (BMusPerf (Hons) 2001, MMus MusPerf 2003, GDipOpera 2003) performed at a special fundraising concert in February. The concert – *Mozart Magic* – raised money for The Melbourne Musicians, an orchestra providing experience and support to local musicians for more than 40 years. Miss Xanthoudakis has built a glittering international career, one highlight of which was winning the 2006 International Mozart Competition for singers in Salzburg, Austria.

Jazz pianist **Monique diMattina** (BMusPerf 1994, BLitt 1999, MMusPerf 2001) has been prolific in recent times, recording five albums in as many years. Ms diMattina spent nine years working in New York City, where she performed with greats such as Lou Reed and Bjork. Her latest album – *Nola's Ark* – was recorded in New Orleans. Late last year she headlined the Melbourne Women's International Jazz Festival and the Wangaratta Jazz Festival.

Visual artist **Carolyn Cardinet** (BFineArt 2004) produced a "one-day installation" for the Sustainable Living Festival, held in St Kilda. The French-born artist has a fast-growing international reputation, with solo and group exhibitions appearing in Delhi, Singapore and Dubai. Mrs Cardinet has also had her work exhibited at the French Consulate in Melbourne.

SENIOR UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

Distinguished health economist **Professor Barbara McPake** has been appointed Director of the Nossal Institute for Global Health at the University of Melbourne School of Population and Global Health. Since 2005, she has been Professor of International Health and Director of the Institute for International Health and Development at Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh. She will succeed retiring Foundation Director, Professor Graham Brown AM, in July.



Professor Sharon Lewin has been named the inaugural Director of the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity, which opens later this year. Professor Lewin is an internationally renowned researcher in HIV/AIDS and currently heads the Department of Infectious Diseases, Alfred Health and Monash University and is co-head of the Centre for Biomedical Research, Burnet Institute.



Alumna **Professor Karen Day** (BSc(Hons) 1977, PhD) has returned to Melbourne as the new Dean of Science. Professor Day, a renowned international biologist, was previously a Professor in the Departments of Microbiology and Medicine at the New York University School of Medicine. A former resident of Trinity College, Ormond College and International House, she has also worked at Imperial College, London, and the University of Oxford.

Leading researcher **Professor Stephen Smith** has joined the University as Dean of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences. Previously Vice-President (Research) at Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore, he was also founding Dean of the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, a joint initiative of NTU and Imperial College, London. Professor Smith succeeded Professor James Angus AO, who stepped down last year after nearly a decade leading the faculty.

AWARDS AND HONOURS



Teacher and disability advocate **Dr Christine Durham** (MEd 1992) is Victorian Senior Australian of the Year 2014. Dr Durham's life was turned upside down when she sustained a serious brain injury in a horrific car accident. Determined to return to teaching, she used her experience to inspire her students. In 2012 she completed a PhD examining ways to empower people with brain injury.

Distinguished Australian historian and former Dean of the Faculty of Arts **Professor Emeritus Geoffrey Blainey AC** (BA(Hons) 1950, MA 1955, LLD 2007, Queen's College) has been awarded the University's inaugural Tucker Medal. The award recognises his contributions to the University, the Faculty of Arts and to public life.



The University's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Engagement), **Professor Susan Elliott**, has been named the Vice-President of the Asia-Pacific Association of International Education (APAIE). Professor Elliott (MB BS 1982, MD 1992) is the first Australian and first female academic to hold the position at APAIE, which promotes the internationalisation of higher education in the Asia-Pacific region.



Professor Patrick McGorry AO (MD 2002), Executive Director of Orygen Youth Health, is the first researcher outside the US to win the National Alliance on Mental Illness Scientific Research Award. The award, presented by the USA's largest grassroots mental health organisation, recognises Professor McGorry's role in developing treatments for young people with mental disorders, and the influence he and colleagues have had on health policy. Professor McGorry has also been voted President-Elect of the Schizophrenia International Research Society and will take up the position in 2016.



Professor Peter Singer AC (BA(Hons) 1968, MA 1969, Ormond College) has been named the world's third most influential contemporary thinker in a study conducted by Swiss think tank the Gottlieb Duttweiler Institute. He was the only Australian in the top 100. The study measured the significance of thought leaders' networks across countries and subject areas, as well as their presence on social media.

Researcher, educator and mentor Emeritus **Professor Simon Turner** (BVSc(Hons) 1972, DVSc 2011, Ormond College) has been awarded the American College of Veterinary Surgeons (ACVS) Founders' Award for Career Achievement. Professor Turner was the first University of Melbourne veterinary graduate to become a member by examination of the ACVS, and the only Australian veterinarian to date to be recognised by the American Veterinary Medical Association for lifetime achievement in research.

Eight University of Melbourne alumnae were included in the 2014 Victorian Honour Roll of Women. Honour roll inductees are recognised for their remarkable leadership and expertise in a range of fields. The Melbourne alumnae included were: **Professor Marilyn Anderson** (BSc(Hons) 1972); **Dr Helen Durham** (BA 1989, LLB(Hons) 1991, SJD 2000); **Professor Mary Galea** (BA 1986, PhD 1992, GDipEpid&Biostat 2004); **Professor Christine Kilpatrick** (MB BS 1976, MD 1986, MBA (Exec) II 2007); **Fiona McLeod SC** (BA/LLB 1987, MPub&IntLaw 2012); **The Honourable Nicola Roxon** (BA/LLB(Hons) 1990); **Professor Emeritus Sally Ann Walker** (LLB(Hons) 1976, LLM 1980, Janet Clarke Hall); **Dr E Marelyn Wintour-Coghlan** (MSc 1963, PhD 1972, DSc 1988).



World-leading clinical neurologist **Professor Sam Berkovic** (Bachelor of Medical Science 1974, MB BS 1977, MD 1984) was just one of many alumni to be rewarded in this year's Australia Day Honours. Professor Berkovic was recognised as a Companion of the Order of Australia, along with fellow alumni, renowned physicist **Professor Bruce McKellar** (DSc 1976, Ormond College) and **Professor Ed Byrne** (DSc 1995), Vice-Chancellor of Monash University.

Four Melbourne alumni, including three current staff members, have been elected to the Fellowship of the Australian Academy of Science in recognition of their outstanding contributions to and application of scientific research. The School of Botany's **Professor Barbara Howlett** (BSc(Hons) 1969, PhD 1981, University College), the Department of Mechanical Engineering's **Professor Ivan Marusic** (BE Mech&ManufEng (Hons) 1986, PhD 1992) and **Professor Ingrid Scheffer** (PhD 1998) from the University and Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health joined alumnus **Professor Craig Moritz** (BSc(Hons) 1979, Trinity College), now at Australian National University, on the list.

Eye health expert **Professor Hugh Taylor AC**, Melbourne Laureate Professor and the University's Harold Mitchell Chair of Indigenous Eye Health, has been named President of the International Council of Ophthalmology. Professor Taylor (Bachelor of Medical Science 1970, MB BS 1971, Grad.Diploma - Ophthalmology 1975, MD 1979, LLD 2012, Ormond College) is the first from the southern hemisphere to be appointed to this role.



Professor Emeritus Miles Lewis AM (BArch(Hons) 1967, BA 1970, PhD 1973) is the winner of the 2014 Neville Quarry Architectural Education Prize, awarded by the Australian Institute of Architects. The prize recognises his teaching in architectural history and heritage and his decades of influence on heritage and conservation.

CHRIS WEAVER (BA/LLB 2006)

Dogs, dust and long days in the stone country



BY CAMERON RAW

I am sitting with my legs stretched out over bags, veterinary supplies and banana boxes packed with our food for the next two weeks. Ochre dust kicks up from under the wheels and the back door squeaks rhythmically as we round a final corner towards Gunbalanya. Herons crouching around the nearby billabong give us little attention, ever wary of hungry reptilian eyes sitting just above the surface. Injalak and Arguluk hills rise up before us as we enter the settlement and the great stone escarpment stretches off over the horizon, a vast interlude to the surrounding floodplains. While the floodplains are green, it's July and the middle of the dry season – which is just as well. The only way in or out of here during the wet season is by plane or boat.

For the next two weeks I will be working in a group of eight providing veterinary services to remote Indigenous communities as a part of the Western Arnhem Land Dog Health Program, or WALDHeP. Dogs, locally known as durruk, are such an important part of the community in areas such as this, and indeed are part of creation stories concerning the lands surrounding Gunbalanya itself. The human-animal bond is a central part of life here.

For almost 10 years the program has been travelling to this part of the world, and each year the evidence of the impact that previous years' work has made is profound. With the nearest veterinary clinic four hours' drive away, this is the only veterinary attention that most of these dogs will ever get. As our troop carrier turns down the main street I can see some of the patients of last year's trip hoping for some

food outside the local shop. They're healthy looking dogs from any standpoint – they've been desexed, which decreases dog-to-dog and dog-to-human aggression and allows them to maintain a better body condition, and they have been treated for parasites, leading to healthy skin, healthy digestive systems and less parasite spread to humans. The program and the treatments really work.

As our first week in Gunbalanya ends, we prepare to head out to the associated outstations of Kabulwarnamyo, Malgawa, Manmoyi and Gamargawan with our basic but very effective mobile treatment facilities. Days of driving are rough, with around seven hours out to the furthest outstation, crossing rivers, sand stretches and rocks, but this is more than made up for by the immense diversity and beauty of the surrounding stone country.

As a veterinary student it's something I've been looking forward to all year. An opportunity to undertake an incredibly unique project and experience, to practise field surgical and anaesthesia skills – not to mention it's a welcome break from the regular stresses of hospital rotations.

As an Indigenous person it's something I have wanted to do my entire life. To be able to combine my passion for veterinary medicine with work in Indigenous communities to help bring about better health outcomes for both animals and humans has been something I have always hoped to be a part of. The chance to connect with and experience life in a remote Indigenous community is a privilege I will always treasure.

Dr Cameron Raw (BVSc 2013) is a veterinarian at the Rochester Veterinary Practice, Rochester, Victoria.

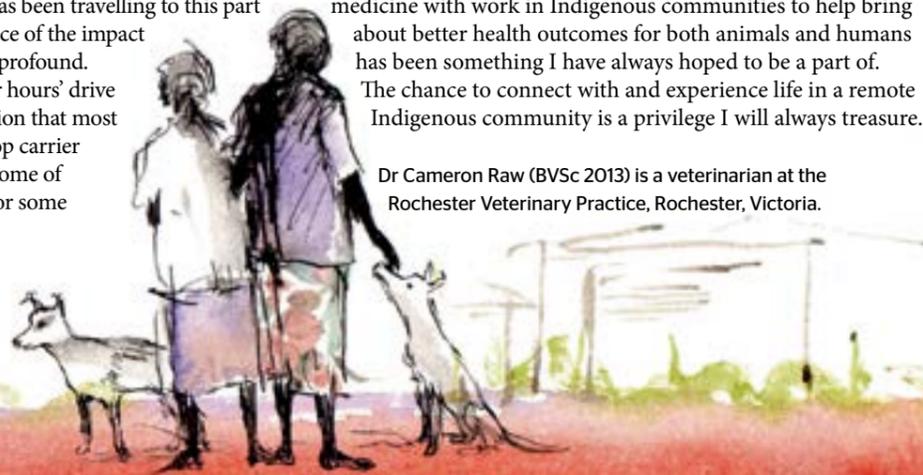


ILLUSTRATION: ROBIN COWCHER

Robin Cowcher

Want more? Go online!

Visit unimelb.edu.au/3010 for more alumni news and updates.

And join a network of more than 100,000 alumni on social media:

-  [linkd.in/ze48YK](https://www.linkedin.com/company/unimelb-alumni)
-  [facebook.com/melbourneunialumni](https://www.facebook.com/melbourneunialumni)
-  twitter.com/uomalumni
-  [flickr.com/photos/unimelb_alumni/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/unimelb_alumni/)
-  [pinterest.com/unimelb/alumni-in-the-news/](https://www.pinterest.com/unimelb/alumni-in-the-news/)

EDITORIAL BOARD

LEONIE BOXTEL
Director, Alumni Relations and Communications, Advancement

ADRIAN COLLETTE
Vice-Principal (Engagement) (MA 1980)

SUE CUNNINGHAM
Vice-Principal (Advancement)

JOHN DUBOIS
Director, University Communications

DR CHRISTOPHER KREMMER
Senior Lecturer, Centre for Advancing Journalism

PETER KRONBORG
University of Melbourne Alumni Council (MBA 1979)

SIÓN LUTLEY
Director of Development, Advancement

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR TIMOTHY LYNCH
Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences

SIMON MANN
Editor, *The Citizen*, Centre for Advancing Journalism

LARA MCKAY
Director, University Marketing

PROFESSOR PETER McPHEE AM
Melbourne Graduate School of Education/ Melbourne University Publishing (BA(Hons) 1969, MA 1973, PhD 1977, LLD 2009, Trinity College)

DR DAMIAN POWELL
Principal, Janet Clarke Hall (BA(Hons) 1989)

KATHERINE SMITH
University Communications (BA(Hons) 1989, MA 1992)

PROFESSOR DORIS YOUNG
Chair of General Practice and Associate Dean (Academic), MDHS (MB BS 1972, MD 1998, International House)



This publication is produced on a Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Certified paper that is produced at an FSC certified paper mill under an ISO14001 environmental management system, using elemental chlorine free whitening processes.

Printed by Complete Colour, an ISO14001 environmental management system and ISO9001 quality management system certified printer with FSC (Chain of Custody) certification and Sustainability Victoria Wastewise Gold certification, printing on an ecologically rated printing press using a chemical recirculation system and produced with vegetable based inks made from renewable resources. This publication is fully recyclable – please dispose of it wisely.

Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily endorsed by the University. ISSN: 1442-1349

We welcome your feedback. Contact us at alumni-office@unimelb.edu.au
The Alumni Relations Team, The University of Melbourne, Vic, 3010, Australia



Professor
Glyn Davis AC
Vice-Chancellor

BELIEVE

AUSTRALIA DESERVES A UNIVERSITY EQUAL TO THE BEST IN THE WORLD

The Campaign for the University of Melbourne is the largest such undertaking in our 160-year history. Providing us with the opportunity to showcase the impact our ground-breaking research and world-class teaching has so far been able to achieve. It also gives us the opportunity to seek your support to continue our work in educating the leaders of tomorrow, finding answers to the world's most important challenges, and strengthening our ties with communities – from right around the corner to the furthestmost reaches of the world.

Find out more campaign.unimelb.edu.au

THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE