Homecomings

Kanchana Kanchanasut is one of the University’s many alumni taking their skills to the world.
When writers talk to each other
For a teenage Alice Pung, author John Marsden was just the write stuff.  PAGE 20

THE METRO PROJECT
Full bore
Melbourne’s massive underground rail project is drawing on the wide-ranging skills of University alumni.  PAGE 10

ALUMNI PROFILE
Mr Movember
Tracing Movember’s humble beginnings in a Brunswick Street pub to the fund-raising behemoth of today.  PAGE 32

INTELLIGENCE
News from around the University 4
MEDICAL FIELDS
Why medics are an integral part of the team 6
HOMECOMINGS
Alumni who take home their new-found skills 12
RESPECT AND RESPONSIBILITY
Why respectful relationships start in the classroom 18
THE MELBOURNE MODEL
The impact of a curriculum 22
PERFECT PITCH
Music is the basis for a 20-year collaboration 24
FIVE QUESTIONS
Data crunching for the future of Melbourne 26
THE STUDENT PRECINCT
Environment enhancing the learning experience 28
AFTER THE FIRES
On the hunt for feral predators in the Otways 30
ALUMNI OPPORTUNITIES
The benefits of remaining connected 35
MILESTONES
Appointments and accolades 36

THE LAST WORD
Having a nose for it
Adrian Utter’s lucrative search for truffles on the family farm in Buxton.

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We hope you enjoy your exclusive alumni magazine, 3010. It’s just one of the many benefits available to members of our alumni community. For more information, see page 35.

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**INTELLIGENCE**

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**PARTNERSHIP**

**Boost for rights of the stateless**

One of the most significant gifts in Melbourne Law School’s history will help establish the world’s only academic centre devoted to the problem of statelessness. Peter (LLB 1974 Law, BCom 1974) and Ruth McMullin made the public announcement of their intended donation at a gala dinner celebrating the 160th anniversary of teaching law at Melbourne. University of Melbourne Chancellor Allan Myers AC QC (BA 1969, LLB(Hons) 1970, LLD 2012, Newman College) said The Peter McMullin Centre on Statelessness would examine the causes and extent of statelessness around the world, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region.

**IN BRIEF**

**FUNDING FOR CANCER RESEARCH**

The Li Ka Shing Foundation has invested $US3 million to support precision oncology research (specifically in upper gastrointestinal cancers), as well as a clinical knowledge exchange program between the University of Melbourne and China’s Shantou University Medical College. The latter will bring together specialists at the University’s Centre for Cancer Research and the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre at the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre (above) and Shantou’s Affiliated Cancer Hospital, in Guandong Province. The Foundation is a very significant donor to health and education programs worldwide. This investment marks its first donation to an Australian university.

**INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP**

Professor Shaun Ewen has been appointed Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous). Professor Ewen is the Foundation Director of the Melbourne Poche Centre for Indigenous Health, a position he will continue to hold. As Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous), Professor Ewen will have responsibilities for leadership of the University’s Indigenous higher education strategy and development, working closely with the Associate Provost, Professor Marci Langton. “The University is proud to have two outstanding Indigenous academics in such vital Chancellery leadership roles,” said the University’s Vice-Chancellor, Professor Glyn Davis AC.

**INVESTMENT**

**Turbo-charging city innovations hub**

The University of Melbourne is working with two other key Melbourne institutions to create an ‘urban innovation district’ that is set to drive investment in the knowledge economy and shape the city’s future. Located north of the CBD, the urban innovation district is part of the Melbourne Innovation Districts initiative, a collaboration between the University of Melbourne, RMIT University and the City of Melbourne. Home to 21 per cent (60,260) of all knowledge sector jobs in Melbourne, the urban innovation district features the central campuses of RMIT and the University of Melbourne, State Library Victoria, Queen Victoria Market, the Royal Exhibition Building, Trades Hall and the Melbourne Museum.

The three institutions will work together to draw more small businesses, start-ups and social enterprises to the area. Through community events and improved public spaces, the Melbourne Innovation Districts initiative will provide more opportunities for Melbourne’s knowledge workers, researchers, students, business and community organisations to connect and collaborate.

Planning considerations for the area are intended to help innovation flourish and will include upgrades to streets, parks and other public spaces, while at the same time protecting the district’s suburban character. This is expected to increase collaborative and engaging green spaces, encourage walking and cycling and incorporate greater use of sensors, apps and other networking technologies, such as wifi.

University of Melbourne Vice-Chancellor, Professor Glyn Davis AC, said “Precincts and hubs that bring together government and researchers, established industry and start-up companies to address global problems will become important for research and contribute to prosperity in our city and our nation.” mid.org.au

**Yarra battle extends Melbourne-Sydney rivalry**

The 150-year-old sporting rivalry between Australia’s two oldest universities will be reignited in this year’s Australian Boat Race on the Yarra River. The rowing event on Sunday, October 22, will feature men’s and women’s eights from the Universities of Melbourne and Sydney. Melbourne’s women are undefeated in the past seven meetings, while Sydney have dominated the men’s event. The schools’ elite college races from 9am, with the main races from 9.45am in front of the Melbourne University Boat Club on Bolte Bridge.

Free barista-made coffee will be available for spectators. australianboarace.com

**CLEAN ENERGY**

**German collaboration**

The University of Melbourne and the Australian National University are joining forces in a bilateral research collaboration with top German institutions to build economic and technological opportunities from the global transition to clean energy. The Energy Transition Hub will generate collaborative and world-leading research to help the technical, economic and social transition to new energy systems and a low emissions economy.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull acknowledged the hub’s potential at this year’s G20 meeting in Hamburg. The hub, which is expected to be worth more than $20 million at full funding stage, will include more than 60 Australian researchers and industry partners.

energy-transition-hub.org

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**The MOOC story so far…**

AS AT SEP 2017

1.12m Total enrolments

446,363 Active enrolments

2m Assessments submitted

4.63/5 How they rated courses

**PARTNERSHIP**

**Extending the reach of online learning**

The University of Melbourne is expanding the reach of its open online learning programs by partnering with the UK-based social learning platform FutureLearn. Announcing the new partnership, Professor Gregor Kennedy, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning), said: “We are excited to be joining FutureLearn. We believe our partnership will provide opportunities for a new group of learners to experience our high-quality educational offerings.” The University entered the MOOC (massive open online course) space five years ago through the Coursera network. Its partnership with FutureLearn will help diversify the University’s open learning platforms, allowing it to continue to offer exemplary online education worldwide.

FutureLearn is a private company wholly owned by Britain’s Open University, with the benefit of more than 40 years’ experience in distance learning and online education. It has more than 130 global partners including many of the best UK and international universities, as well as institutions with a huge archive of cultural and educational material, such as the British Council, the British Library and the British Museum, as well as the UK’s National Film and Television School.

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Sports medicine has come a long way from the days of the gnarled trainer with a slimy, wet towel and a few choice words of encouragement.

By Peter Hanlon

Peter Brukner chuckles at the memory of the sports medicine landscape in the early days of his 47-year association with University Blues, when he was playing in the 1970s. Now, Dr Brukner runs the Blues' medical department of two doctors, four physiotherapists and eight physio students, who augment their studies working as trainers. Then, it was rather more primitive.

“We had a St John’s Ambulance guy, and if you got hurt and saw him running towards you, you got up straight away and pretended you were all right,” recalls Brukner OAM (MB BS 1977, Ormond College). “When you had a cramp he had this rope he used to put around your calf … God, he did some weird things.”

As in all aspects of the game, amateur football’s maturity when it comes to sports medicine is merely a reflection of life at the top. Sport and science have never been more entwined as the appetite to improve prevention, treatment and recovery becomes ever more ravenous. When Brukner and colleague Karim Khan (BMedSc 1982, MB BS 1984, PhD 1998, Ormond College) collaborated in 1993 to write Clinical Sports Medicine, which came to be regarded as the field’s bible, each chapter was appended with two or three references. “In the latest edition,” Brukner says, “every chapter has 200 to 300 references.”

The boom in research and knowledge has spawned an industry. Brukner’s first job at AFL level was as Melbourne’s club doctor in the late 1980s. He’d do a full day’s work at his Olympic Park clinic, head down Punt Road to the Junction Oval and treat footballers who’d arrive for training from their day jobs or university studies. “It was Tuesday and Thursday nights from 5 to 8pm, then Saturday at two o’clock.”

Doctors, physiotherapists, dieticians, massage therapists and sports scientists have become a team within every elite sports team. Richmond Football Club physio Anthony Schache (BPhysio 1994, PhD 2003) started with the Tigers in 2000, and rates the cohesion among the club’s medical and high performance professionals – and, crucially, their intersection with the football department – among the most enjoyable aspects of the job. He agrees with Brukner that prevention has been the area of the biggest advancements.

“When I started at Richmond the mentality was do everything we can to get as many players on the track for the next training session,” Schache says. “There was no, ‘How about we back off, try to manage this guy’s condition and work through a plan to build his load up and get him back playing pain-free?’ You’d do whatever Band-Aid stuff you could to get him out there, and worry about the next session when you got to it.”

Exercises specifically geared towards prevention have become the bedrock of individual programs. Hayden Morris, who was schooled by the “godfather” of knee surgery, John Bartlett, would love to see every child at Auskick or netball’s NetSetGo learning an exercise routine aimed at reducing the prospect of injury. But as someone who performs around 250 anterior cruciate ligament reconstructions every year, he acknowledges that ruptured knees are simply a fact of sporting life.

“Australians play a lot of sports, and we play dangerous sports,” says Morris (MB BS 1983). “We play Australian Rules football, netball, soccer, basketball, rugby, we ski. These are all very high risk.”

HAYDEN MORRIS

“Exercises specifically geared towards prevention have become the bedrock of individual programs. Hayden Morris, who was schooled by the “godfather” of knee surgery, John Bartlett, would love to see every child at Auskick or netball’s NetSetGo learning an exercise routine aimed at reducing the prospect of injury. But as someone who performs around 250 anterior cruciate ligament reconstructions every year, he acknowledges that ruptured knees are simply a fact of sporting life.”

Knees are the Everest of sporting injuries. Treatment a few decades ago involved major, open surgery that left tram track scars and stiffness, and often led to arthritis. “A lot of those people are coming back to see me now and having knee replacements,” Morris adds.
When he began operating in the 1990s the patient’s hamstring, quad or patella tendon, started appearing in the 1980s. Synthetic grafts of Gore-Tex or carbon fibre, rather than conventional grafts from the patient’s hamstring, quad or patella tendon, started appearing in the 1980s. The French introduction of a ligament augmentation and reconstruction system (LARS) was seen as revolutionary, with footballers returning to play in little more than three months rather than the standard eight to 12. It proved a fad. ‘A hamstring is an 18-day injury’, Brukner says, exuding his best imitation of the legendary coach. ‘He’s still not far wrong. It won’t become a nine-day injury unless we can find some magical way of injecting something that’s going to accelerate the healing of the muscle tissue. But we’re way, way off that.’ Schache points to the AFL’s 25 years of injury surveillance data, in which the first five years showed an average of slightly more than six players per club suffering hamstring injuries each season. In the most recent five-year block, that’s dropped to a little more than five, not a huge gain, but progress. As with knees, the improvement in how the player presents upon returning to play, and the subsequent ‘punch drunk’ in boxers, caused by repeated head trauma. Blast injury is now also recognised as a cause of brain trauma in soldiers returning from combat zones. There have been calls for a ‘three strikes’ policy in some sports, where three concussions in one athlete would spell the end of their career. Dr Shultz sees potential merit in an amateur sport trial, and barriers to such a blanket approach at higher levels. When it comes to professional athletes in particular, to choose a somewhat arbitrary number and start making mandatory decisions that affect their livelihoods, I’m hesitant to endorse that without evidence.” In a nutshell, Dr Shultz says, we need an evidence-based approach to concussion, tailored to the sport in question. The most difficult by the fact that every brain is different, as is every recovery from brain trauma. This explains why Joel Selwood missed a week with concussion, yet in the AFL season Adelaide’s Rory Sloane played just six days after a similar injury.

The extent of brain injury depends on speed, impact and forces involved in the blow to the head. ‘A living brain is so delicate, imagine it to be the texture of lightly set jelly, not solid at all,” Dr Shultz says, “yes, we might be getting better at preventing injury, but the game keeps taking more and more.”
Melbourne's massive underground rail project is drawing on the wide-ranging skills of University alumni.

By Anders Furze (MJourn 2016)

When engineering and arts alumnus Matt van der Peet heard a job was going at Victoria's biggest-ever public infrastructure project, he leapt at the opportunity. The reason, he says, was simple: “It's going to be iconic.”

Construction of the $10.9 billion Melbourne Metro Tunnel is expected to finish some time in 2026, when the city will have twin nine-kilometre railway tunnels running through five new stations. The project will connect the Sunbury line in Melbourne’s west to the Pakenham and Cranbourne lines in the south-east. Construction is divided into six precincts: one for each of the new stations at Domain, CBD South, CBD North, Parkville and Arden (in North Melbourne), and another covering the sections in between. The State Government will decide the final names of each new station after considering suggestions from the public.

The Metro Tunnel is a much-needed intervention in Melbourne’s ageing public transport system. The city’s population is booming. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Melbourne was Australia’s fastest-growing capital city in the 10 years to 2016, adding more than 964,609 people.

“As the city evolves, it seems as though the need to get to the CBD is becoming more and more pressing,” notes senior project engineer and University of Melbourne alumnus Michael O’Sullivan (BE(CivEng)(Hons) 2005).

The three-decades-old City Loop is now at capacity. While more services can be added to other parts of the network, much of the demand is still centred on getting to and from the CBD. The Metro Tunnel will offer “turn up and go” services, along the lines of metros in cities such as London and Hong Kong. “[There will be] no having to check for a timetable,” explains van der Peet (BE(EnvEng)(Hons) 2005, BA 2003). “You know if you rock up at a station that there’ll be a train there within a few minutes, because they’ll be so frequent.”

Above ground, Melbourne’s heavy traffic is impacting everybody’s quality of life. According to authors and engineering alumnas Nina Michaelides (BA 2002, BE(Mech&ManufEng)(Hons) 2002), who is a senior project engineer for the Domain precinct, “I hope it is a catalyst for Melbourne growing into a big city where it is easier to catch public transport, walk and ride than it is to drive.”

Cutting down commuting time is a priority. Melburnians can spend well over a dozen hours commuting each week: “If your commute is cut, then that means you have more time to do other things [like] spending time with your family,” O’Sullivan notes.

While most of us work, live and play in our cities without really paying attention to the systems humming around us, engineers are paid to obsess over them.

“I’m a civil engineer,” says O’Sullivan. “Classically, a civil engineer’s duties would be to provide infrastructure for the community, for life to go on – the things that operate in the background. At the core of engineering I’ve always thought … [is] a responsibility for trying to make things more efficient, for optimising things.”

Of course, there is one clear exception to the rule of general ignorance: we take notice when things go wrong. Headlines like “Flinders Street in meltdown” are a familiar sight in Melbourne thanks to a rule of general ignorance: we take notice when things [like] spending time with your family, or the environment, or your health, or other lines.

The Metro Tunnel aims to remedy that congestion. O’Sullivan notes that one of the “great benefits” of the project is that “if there’s a problem on one train line, it can cascade into problems for other lines.”

The Metro Tunnel aims to remedy that congestion. O’Sullivan notes that one of the “great benefits” of the project is that “if there’s a problem on one line then, yes, that’s still a problem, but at least it’s confined to that line.”

The result will be “the biggest infrastructure project in Melbourne since the City Loop”, according to Veronica Fink, a Bachelor of Environments alumnus who is in the second year of the Metro Tunnel graduate program.

Reflecting the wide variety of skills that are increasingly being sought to solve infrastructure problems, the 18-month program is open to graduates from a variety of disciplines including engineering, planning and environment, accounting, safety, and communications.

In Parkville, Fink (BEnv 2014) sits on workshops with representatives from the University, hospitals, the local council and others, all getting together to talk about what they want from their station.

“For someone in their first year of working, and for somebody who went to Melbourne Uni every day – I know that area really well – it was so cool to see the curtain drawn, to see how it works behind the scenes.”

She is particularly excited about how the new station will use what’s called biophilic design, a type of construction that uses organic design principles. “[It] has proven positive impacts on people’s health and mental health, and the coolest thing is it doesn’t have to be a live plant,” she explains. “Rather than straight poles, you could have them in more of a leaf form, or an organic shape.

“It is a well-incorporated initiative that helps support the sustainability targets in the project.”

The city of Melbourne emerges from an urban landscape dominated by佝偻的 CBD, pedestrian-friendly public space, just south of the main cultural opportunities.

The Metro Tunnel project is coming right to the University of Melbourne’s door. Preparatory work has already started on a station underneath Grattan Street, near Royal Parade.

“The hole we dig in Grattan Street is going to be the size of a skyscraper on its side basically,” says Parkville precinct co-ordinator and engineering alumnus Matt van der Peet.

Although Parkville sits on many existing tram and bus lines, van der Peet says that the area needs more public transport infrastructure.

“Within a very short distance – about 800m or so – there are tens of thousands of students, researchers and medical professionals,” he notes. Almost 60,000 passengers are expected to use the station daily by 2031.

To be completed in 2026, the Parkville station will have four entrances, two providing direct access to the University of Melbourne, and two accessing the Royal Melbourne Hospital and Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre.

A lot of planning has gone into minimising disruption during construction. Planners have gone so far as to identify where delivery trucks access buildings, even and during precisely the size of the trucks’ turning circles.

Van der Peet says that this intense preparation means that once construction starts, contractors will have enough knowledge to “understand our precinct, and what you need to do to keep it functioning”. Highlights of the station design include the use of bluestone and sandstone, in keeping with the precinct’s character, and landscaping that incorporates medicinal plants used by Indigenous and western cultures.

The City of Melbourne plans to close Barry Street to traffic, and reduce traffic to one lane in each direction on Grattan Street. The idea is to create a more pedestrian-friendly public space, just south of the main University campus.

The University is campaigning to have the Parkville station named ‘University’. metrotrunnel.vic.gov.au/stations/suggest-a-station-name
For Kararaina Te Ira, the care and preservation of cultural artefacts is more than just a job. These objects, known in Maori tradition as "taonga", are thought to be prized representations of the ancestors. "They are believed to contain parts of an ancestor’s soul," says Te Ira, the 26-year-old curator of Taonga Maori, or the Maori collection, at the Puke Ariki Museum in New Plymouth, New Zealand.

"The feeling I get when caring for something that is important to my heritage is the same feeling you would possibly feel when you are expressing the love you have for a grandparent or family member," she says.

As curator, Te Ira is responsible for preserving and presenting a range of artefacts – such as woven textiles and wooden carvings – from Maori communities in New Zealand. Te Ira knew from a relatively young age that this would be her vocation. As part of her parents' commitment to enabling their children to understand their Maori identity, Te Ira lived with her grandparents in Waitahanui, a rural community on New Zealand's North Island, where she was immersed in the Maori language and way of life.

"In a Maori village you’re watched very closely by your elders to discover what your skills and your qualities are. You’re nudged toward certain areas," she says. "I guess I used to be the odd child that would really look after my toys. I would make them special little boxes. So I was nudged to look more into museums and caring for things."

Te Ira was only seven when she accompanied her parents to a preservation workshop, where two Maori conservators taught her how to box a wooden basket called a kete.

"It wasn’t just the fact of having them that gave you pride, the pride came from being able to talk about them and being able to care for them in a practical sense," Te Ira says. "I knew then that was a path of importance that I could go down and a way to contribute back to my community."

Te Ira was single-minded in her pursuit of her passion and was keen not to waste time. She undertook a Bachelor’s degree in Art History at the Victoria University of Wellington and shortly after, a Master’s degree in Cultural Material Conservation at the University of Melbourne – all while pursuing internships and jobs in the field.

"I wanted to get into conservation quite quickly and not have the time just drag on," she says.

Te Ira says the University's course allowed her to explore traditional conservation practices, the care of heritage objects, paper and paintings, while learning about the responsibility that heritage professionals have toward the communities whose cultures they are protecting.

"It reaffirmed how I was going to practise as a heritage professional," Te Ira says. "Te Ira worked in various roles at the New Zealand Ministry of Culture and Heritage, the New Zealand, the NZ Historic Places Trust and eventually, as a project conservator at the Auckland War Memorial Museum."

In late 2016, Te Ira stepped into her current role at the Puke Ariki museum, where she is working to expand the depth and range of the collection. She also works with communities around the country, helping them to find ways to better preserve their artefacts.

"The Maori way of thinking is you never go forward in the future without reflecting back," she says. "Without these physical markers of our identity, what will stop them from being lost in our memory?"
Kanchanasut has fond memories of her days as a PhD student in the University's computer science department, when she and her student peers spent late nights on campus, often walking to Lygon Street for a coffee or pizza to talk through their research.

“Our department was really a home for me,” she says, “because we stayed and worked mostly during the night. It was a real time of intellectual exposure for me.”

It was the 1970s and 1980s, when computer science researchers around the world were just discovering ways to connect their individual networks across borders. And it was that need to share ideas that led to the worldwide system we know today.

Kanchanasut is now professor and director of the Internet Education and Research Laboratory at the Asian Institute of Technology in Thailand. But it was her need to talk to her former University colleagues in Melbourne that led her to create a computer communication channel to Australia and countries around the world, opening Thailand to the internet.

“For Thailand, the first group of people that needed connectivity were academics,” she says. “Once you enjoyed the benefit, you wanted to share it with as many people as possible.”

Born into a family of TI in Tak Province, near the Myanmar border, Kanchanasut could not have envisaged a future working with computer systems, but her academic strengths were clear.

“The blend of maths and machines was ideal for me,” Kanchanasut attended the University of Queensland on a scholarship to study mathematics. But it was the late 1960s and early ‘70s, making for a difficult transition for a young woman and international student in a time of great turmoil for the region.

“It was during the Vietnam War,” she says. “A lot of anti-war protests were ongoing. It was quite an experience coming from a country with so many US military bases.”

Kanchanasut moved on to the University of Melbourne, where she worked as a programmer within the then Faculty of Medicine. She studied part-time and would eventually complete a Master’s degree and PhD in computer science.

When she returned to Thailand to join the faculty of the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Kanchanasut found that she could no longer connect to mailing lists and discussion groups she had access to through the University of Melbourne’s UNIX system, a pre-internet platform used by programmers and academics to communicate with each other.

“I was completely cut off from mailing lists and useful discussion groups. That was my motivation to get connected,” she says. In 1986, Kanchanasut and another colleague at AIT started working on setting up a UUCP connection, which links UNIX systems together, allowing them to transfer files and messages.

Working with Robert Elz, a renowned University systems engineer and internet pioneer, Kanchanasut set up a UUCP gateway to other systems in Melbourne, France and Tokyo. They could suddenly talk to computing academics around the world.

It was Thailand’s first connection to what Kanchanasut calls “the global village.”

Tourism is family business for Eric Chung, the Shanghai-based chairman of the hotel and resort company Regalia Group. “My family has always loved travelling,” says Chung, who grew up in countries across south-east Asia, including Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand. “We were all very separated in different countries. But holidays and resorts were where we would get together. It still is.”

Chung’s mother, Amy Poon, founded Regalia as a real estate development firm and still acts as its president. But in Chung’s hands, business has expanded to include a luxury range of hotels, resorts, restaurants and adventure parks across China.

Chung says his lifelong enthusiasm for travel inspires him to create tourism experiences for the whole family. “That’s what really drives me,” says Chung, “to know that I am able to develop something that many families can enjoy the same way I do.”

But developing hotels and tourism parks across China opened his eyes to the poverty and lack of education available to people living in large swathes of the country. Regalia builds most of its resorts in rural areas, employing mostly local families as employees.

“I got to know a lot of the families that we hired and learnt their kids didn’t go to school. They didn’t have proper facilities - desks or paper, for example - to not mention a computer. That really sparked me to try to help them.”

Chung started donating books and computers to local schools, even asking some of his staff to teach local children part-time. Today, Regalia runs educational programs for rural employees to provide them with opportunities beyond farming, the most common profession in China’s rural communities.

The company has since built a campus for students in Suqian, near Nanjing, and raises funds every year for Teach for China, which brings teachers from all over the world to rural China.

Chung’s interest in property started at a young age, when his love of drawing was encouraged by an uncle who worked as an architect in Hong Kong.

“I spent a lot of summers hanging out in his office,” he adds. “So the design and architecture environment has always been very familiar to me.”

The youngest of four children, Chung followed his siblings to Melbourne University for a Bachelor of Architecture. It was there that he developed his passion, with inspiration from the “grand” architecture of the University’s Parkville campus, as well as the cultural and architectural diversity of Melbourne itself.

“In Melbourne, it’s all about mixing old and new. You have these old Victorian buildings next to new funky futuristic buildings,” Chung says. “It was very inspiring.”

After working for several years as an architect in Melbourne and Hong Kong, Chung moved to Shanghai to join Regalia as chairman and run its burgeoning tourism and hospitality businesses. He started relatively small, building family-friendly resorts, and then started to think bigger.

Regalia Group began building what Chung calls “tourism destinations”, town-sized holiday villages for whole families, known by the brand name Andaman.

Regalia also build huge adventure parks with mountain biking, hiking and other outdoor activities for the family. Chung says he is inspired by his family, aiming to create places they can enjoy together.

“I developed a lot of these resorts with my own needs in mind,” says Chung, who is married to prominent Chinese fashion designer Lulu Ren and has two children. “When I got married I also wanted to take my wife and my in-laws to resorts where we could spend more time together.”
Musiitwa is now a prominent figure in efforts to develop Africa's economic and trade prospects around the world. She founded the Hoja Law Group, representing clients such as the governments of Rwanda and Liberia, on matters relating to trade, corporate governance and financial services. She has served as legal counsel to the head of the Eastern and Southern African Trade and Development Bank (PTA Bank) and as an adviser to the director general of the World Trade Organization.

Though she initially wanted to be a human rights lawyer, Musiitwa says her experience has taught her that strengthening Africa's financial and government institutions is key to its prosperity.

“There’s a lot of work that needs to be done at the micro level, but unless we strengthen institutions or create laws where they’re lacking, we’ll never reach any of the goals we set out to achieve,” she says.

Musiitwa technically lives in Nairobi now, but she says she spends most of her time “on planes and in hotels”.

Musiitwa’s legal career started in 2004. She had just graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, representing women who could have worked in the US but stayed in Zambia to educate others in her native country.

“They always found that to be inspiring. If we don’t do it here I’m not sure who else will.”

ARCHITECT PEIING TAN (BArch(Hons) 1984, International House)

Pei Ing Tan, who would grow up to be one of Malaysia’s most prominent architects, was raised in a two-room house behind a bicycle shop in Kangar, a town about 26 kilometres outside Kuala Lumpur.

Her family was poor, and they lived without electricity or indoor plumbing, a far cry from the luxury hotels and stylish shopping malls she would one day design.

Tan was born in 1960, just three years after Malaysia’s independence from the British Empire. Her childhood was marked by a time of great political and economic transition.

“There was a lot of excitement,” she says.

“We were building a new nation.”

On journeys to Kuala Lumpur with her parents, the young Tan marvelled at the fast-paced growth of her capital city.

“We could see the skyline transforming,” she says. “I got really excited and I told myself I wanted to be part of the process. I wanted to be part of that nation-building.”

Tan, a diligent student, was eventually accepted into the University of Melbourne’s Bachelor of Architecture. She left for Australia in 1980, despite the reservations of her parents, who had advised her against working in a male-dominated industry.

“They thought that it wouldn’t be very suitable for a lady,” Tan says. “But I was very passionate about it, and they eventually gave in.”

Her persistence served her well in the University’s challenging architecture program, which she found so difficult she “hardly got any sleep.”

When Tan returned to Malaysia five years later, the country was in the midst of a deep recession. The building boom had collapsed, and developers, reluctant to hire any graduate architects at all, were especially sceptical about hiring a woman.

“It was so demoralising,” says Tan, who questioned whether she had made the right decision to return to Malaysia, until her mother introduced her to a business partner who owned a small development company.

Tan worked during the day and used her night-time hours to start her own architectural firm, Pi Architect, in 1989. In the decades since, Tan has led the firm in designing some of Malaysia’s most recognisable buildings, including the IOI Mall in Puchong, the Marriot Hotel and IOI City Mall in Putrajaya and Le Meridien Hotel in Kuala Lumpur. In Melbourne, she consulted with architects APB during the construction of the University’s award-winning School of Design.

But Tan says she would not have found success without her trademark perseverance, which proved the naysayers wrong.

“I had major problems with contractors recognising my authority,” she says. “I learned that you have to work hard, you have to know more than them. It’s how you convince people that you’re actually capable.”

Tan’s fierce commitment to excellence and outspoken resistance to gender discrimination earned her the nickname the “Iron Lady of Architecture”. In 2016, she received the more formal title of “Datin”, given to Malaysians of significant standing in the community.

A former president of the Malaysian Institute of Architects and former president of the Architects Regional Council Asia, Tan has also made socially responsible architecture one of her key professional priorities. She founded Malaysia’s chapter of Architects for Humanity and established a forum for people in need to access design and housing services.

Tan says she once thought of being a doctor or a lawyer, but now sees architecture as the best way for her to have a long-lasting impact on her country.

“You do a lot of influence on the environment and people who use it,” she says. “You’re able to see something you created last into the future.”
RESPECT AND RESPONSIBILITY

By Kate Stanton (MJourn 2016)

I

n a lesson plan devised by Professor Helen Cahill, year 3 and 4 students are told a story about Jacque, a young girl who overhears her best friend’s parents having a fight. Someone is hurt. Jacque’s friend asks her to keep it a secret, but Jacque is scared and worried for her friend.

What could Jacque do?
The students work to recognise that sometimes it takes courage to ask for help, and to put into practice the skills of help-seeking. They learn the No, Go, Tell model, which teaches them skills for personal safety, and that it is important to “tell” rather than to keep secrets about violence.

This is the kind of scenario Victorian students will be asked to contemplate by the time they have completed a new respectful relationships program developed by education experts at the University of Melbourne.

The learning materials include lessons on emotional literacy, positive coping, problem-solving, help-seeking, and stress management – laying the foundation for a focus on positive gender relationships. The age-appropriate topics evolve in complexity as students move from prep through to year 12.

Cahill and her team at the Youth Research Centre in the Melbourne Graduate School of Education study ways to improve the learning experiences and wellbeing of children and young people. In 2016, they were asked by the Victorian Department of Education to create a series of lesson plans and learning tools for teachers to talk about gender, sexuality, discrimination and gender-based violence.

The result is the Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships (R3R) RR3R learning materials, which are now being rolled out to an initial 120 primary and secondary schools across the state. They extend an earlier version of the program designed to teach children about self-esteem, problem solving and other social and emotional skills.

“We build the social and emotional skills for positive relationships generally, with an additional focus on understanding how gender norms affect us, and on the importance of seeking help for those affected by gender-based violence,” says Cahill, who has been leading professional development workshops to help teachers introduce the program into their schools.

The learning materials come at a critical point for policymakers and institutions. High-profile incidents of violence against women and increased awareness of the issue have forced us all to contend with a darker side of Australian life, in which one in four women have experienced violence by an intimate partner.

In August, the Human Rights Commission released a long-awaited, landmark study into sexual assault at Australia’s 39 universities, in which a high proportion of students who were surveyed reported experiencing or witnessing sexual harassment or assault of some form, or on or off campus in 2016. The survey findings underscore the need for action on gender-based violence.

While the majority of incidents occurred off-campus, one in four students reported being harassed while in a university setting, or while travelling to or from university.

University of Melbourne Vice-Chancellor Professor Glyn Davis AC has promised to use the findings to drive sustained improvements in the University’s culture, policies and practice. “Sexual harassment and sexual assault are unacceptable – every time,” he said in a video message to students and staff.

Heading the University’s response is the formation of a Respect Taskforce to develop comprehensive strategies for achieving change, amid a range of training and educational initiatives and a more visible campus presence for anti-harassment messages.

The RR3R learning materials, meanwhile, aim to encourage better behaviour and understanding of the issues from an early age.

The initiative is supported by the Victorian Government, which set aside $21.8 million for prevention education and support services in schools in the aftermath of its Royal Commission into Family Violence.

“This is a huge investment,” Cahill says. “There are very few places in the world where you can find such a comprehensive approach to improving awareness and services, and the provision of a curriculum all the way from foundation to year 12.”

She says social and emotional learning and violence prevention should be addressed in schools, in addition to homes and the community at large, because young people are especially vulnerable to mental health issues, and need particular help to overcome the barriers to seeking help in relation to gender-based violence.

“It’s also about getting them ready for adulthood, when they’ll be needing to look after their own affairs, needing to know how to reach out if something happens, how to set boundaries and manage themselves in increasingly complex relationships, including intimate ones,” Cahill continues.

“The earlier we lay down the track, the longer lasting and better the results are.”

So, how do you teach children about something as complex and challenging as gender, sexism and sexual assault, especially when adults are still grappling with those issues themselves?

In the early years, Cahill says, students are taught to notice and appreciate difference. Teachers might start asking small children what kinds of toys tend to be given to boys and girls, and if boys and girls have to be limited by these options. They talk about fairy stories that feature damsels in distress or knights in shining armour, and consider whether girls, too, can do brave acts, and boys can also show vulnerability.

Toward years 5 and 6, teachers work with children to talk about fairness, and human rights and the different ways that gender norms play out in their lives – how they dress, how they act and what options in life might be open to them. The emphasis is on opening up options for students, on questioning those gender norms that have limiting effects, and on challenging those that lead to harmful practices.

As students enter their teenage years, they are taught about the prevalence of gender-based violence, the legacies of sexism, and how to provide peer support and set boundaries. Also, what to do if they – or someone close to them – experience harassment or assault.

Andrew Musgrove, a PE and maths teacher at Hume Secondary College in Broadmeadows, in Melbourne’s outer north, has been working with earlier incarnations of Cahill’s learning materials for three years. He will teach the lessons on gender and gender-based violence for the first time in 2017, but he already pushes his students to question preconceived notions about what it means to be a man or woman.

“When they ask me my favourite colour, I say it’s pink straight away. And they go, ‘that’s a girl colour’, and I say, ‘it’s my favourite colour and I’m not a girl’.

“Obviously the idea of gender is a lot more in-depth than that,” Musgrove adds. “It starts with challenging the kids’ ideas of what’s normal.”

Cahill says each school decides how best to provide for respectful relationships education and social and emotional learning in their programs, under the general guidance of the Victorian Curriculum. At Musgrove’s school, students in years 7 to 9 engage with the RR3R learning materials every fortnight.

Hume Secondary College’s deputy principal, Kate McArthur, says Cahill has taught her and her staff that the learning materials needed to be provided in a collaborative and participatory environment, one that encourages role-play, discussion or collaborative exercises.

“It can’t be taught in the traditional way where the teacher stands at the front and puts stuff on the board,” McArthur says. “If they find themselves in a preconceived notion that they need to have practised these skills beforehand.”

Current and former students who have experienced sexual harassment or assault can contact the University’s Safer Community Program for information, support and advice. Visit safercommunity.unimelb.edu.au or email safer-community@unimelb.edu.au or phone +0061 3 9345 8675

Helen Cahill.
For a teenage Alice Pung, author John Marsden was just the write stuff.

By Gay Alcorn

Alice Pung sent writer John Marsden a copy of her new book, freshly edited. “Well, damn you Alice Pung,” it said. “You have succeeded in bringing tears to my eyes, which began when I read p45 and didn’t go away until long after I got to the end.”

Pung’s short book is about Marsden and the profound influence his young adult fiction had on her when she was a teenager growing up in the working-class suburb of Braybrook. The profound influence, too, on her own writing.

Pung (LLB(Hons) 2004, BA 2004) is picking at a veggie burger at a café around the corner from where she works three days a week as a researcher for the workplace relations tribunal, the Fair Work Commission. She is slight, her black hair pulled back into a pony-tail, her work ID hanging around her neck.

The 36-year-old is an accomplished writer of two best-selling family memoirs, Unspooling Gem and Her Father’s Daughter, as well as a young adult novel, Laurinda. In that book, Lucy Lam wins a scholarship to a snooty private girls’ school. She is asked by the principal what she’s studying. So Much to Tell You by John Marsden, Lucy replies. Mmm, sniffs Mrs Grey. “We don’t study any school. She is asked by the principal what

When Black Inc. publisher Chris Feik (MA(EngLang) 1996) had asked Pung last year if she would like to be part of a new series of books, Writers on Writers, she agreed immediately. There was only one writer that came to mind – Marsden, the much-lauded author of young adult literature, most famously for the Tomorrow, When the War Began series.

Who would not cry if someone wrote this about your work? “Newspapers hail her as ‘Australia’s King of Young Adult literature, most famously for the 1990s – rocks were thrown through Melbourne’s western suburbs. Braybrook was not always welcoming in the 1990s – rocks were thrown through her home’s windows, and her best friend’s father had pictures of Pauline Hanson on her friends were transfixed. “It’s about a very traumatised girl who is half scarred because her dad poured some acid on her face, which is quite confronting. (Marsden) was a man who wrote like a teenage girl, but it wasn’t creepy or anything.”

In her essay, Pung acknowledges that Marsden, now in his 60s and running two alternative schools in Victoria, has been controversial, with critics accusing him of being too dark for teenagers, too confronting. That was what the young Pung loved about him, that he didn’t idealise teenagers, and didn’t turn them into stereotypes. Nothing she has ever read has had such an impact.

“There’s a tendency now with a lot of young adult writing, a lot of it is coming from America, a lot of dystopians, a lot of science fiction. There hasn’t been the trend against the audience, “ she says, and that, too, has cemented then. “I’m Buddhist. You know about the ego; it’s very easy to become a bit of a wanker if you’re a writer and you get profiled. The Fair Work Commission keeps me grounded. As a writer, you’re doing things for yourself or by yourself with your own thoughts a lot. The work gets me thinking about other things.”

So Much to Tell You is a young adult novel written in the 1990s – rocks were thrown through her home’s windows, and her best friend’s father had pictures of Pauline Hanson on the wall, “although he loved us.” Adolescence isn’t a concept recognised in Cambodia. “You’re a child, you start work, and you’re an adult,” says Pung. Her mother is illiterate and began working at the age of 13. “Our literature came in the mail box once a week. My mother read the Safeway, Bu-Lo and Best & Less ads. Pung laughs, as she does often, a hearty and slightly nervous laugh.

“Books were my moral barometer in life. They seriously gave me guidance because I couldn’t think of an adult that I could talk to to navigate adolescence, because it didn’t exist in my parents’ world.” At age 14, Pung’s school, Christ the King College, studied Marsden’s first book So Much to Tell You, and Pung and saw her, and knew something was wrong. She blurted it out to him and he sent her an email afterwards.

“It gave me more comfort than you will ever realise,” Pung writes in her book on Marsden, “because you did not offer false consolation. I think our friendship was cemented then.”

As for Marsden, he says in an email he “prickled all over” as he read Pung’s book. “I read it very slowly, so that was a lot of prickleprickles.

“I am deeply grateful to Alice for suggesting that the books are still worth reading, that they still have something to contribute. Her book made me feel that my writing career mattered, and I feel so honoured to be acknowledged in this way.”

For a teenage Alice Pung, author John Marsden was just the write stuff.
In 2008, the University undertook the biggest transformation in its history to introduce a groundbreaking new curriculum.

**BY ANDERS FURZE (MJourn 2016)**

When Sarah Last enrolled in a Bachelor of Science at the University of Melbourne, she thought she wanted to become a vet. Less than a year after graduating, she is the co-founder of a start-up changing the world of agriculture. When Shaan R Ali enrolled in a Bachelor of Arts, he felt he was simply delaying the law degree that he was really set upon doing. Then he took a class at looking at how drugs shape society.

“The old days where you chose a career at the age of 18, and that was that, are gone,” says Professor Peter McPhee AM, former Provost of the University. “You need a broader undergraduate education that gives them more time to think through the options, and by shifting our professional degrees to graduate level it would mean they would make a very considered choice about what to do in graduate school.”

Associate Professor Michelle Livett, Program Director for the Bachelor of Science, agrees. “Seventeen or 18-year-olds might know exactly what they want to do. But giving them the opportunity to explore options is absolutely one of the model’s premises.”

At the time, the move was controversial. Working out the details was an “extraordinarily intense” undertaking, says McPhee, who chaired the Curriculum Commission that designed the Melbourne Model, and then oversaw its implementation. “If you set about a root and branch reform of your curriculum structure, you could get it horribly wrong.”

A decade on, the model is firmly entrenched, with the University turning away from the postgraduate students who are actively meeting the evolving needs of our economy and society.

“What we demand for postgraduate qualifications - both from employers challenged by fast-changing business models, and from students who need to be prepared for an unknown future – is a broader undergraduate education that gave them moving time to think through the options, and by shifting our professional degrees to graduate level it would mean they would make a very considered choice about what to do in graduate school.”

“Seventeen or 18-year-olds might know exactly what they want to do. But giving them the opportunity to explore options is absolutely one of the model’s premises.”

At the time, the model was fully embedded in the University, and it was not without its teething problems. But it paid off: the degree ended with a night where students pitched their ideas to real investors. Mimictec’s core intellectual property basically says that maternal care is very important in raising chickens, and if maternal care can be incorporated into production then it can improve both the business and the animal welfare.

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Life as an entrepreneur is a rollercoaster for an emerging business. It was very much a trial by fire,” Last says. But it paid off: the degree ended with a night where students pitched their ideas to real investors. Mimictec’s core intellectual property basically says that maternal care is very important in raising chickens, and if maternal care can be incorporated into production then it can improve both the business and the animal welfare.

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Perfect pitch

Violinist Dr Helen Ayres (DMusArts 2006) and pianist and author Dr Anna Goldsworthy (DMusArts 2004) have been friends since their final year of high school, and colleagues in the acclaimed Seraphim Trio (alongside cellist Tim Nankervis) for more than 20 years. For the past 18 months, Ayres has been living in London, and travels back to Australia regularly to perform alongside her musical partners.

They spoke to Erin Munro (BA 2006)

HELEN AYRES

I was eight when I started learning violin, which was relatively late. I grew up playing the Suzuki method in Adelaide. I can remember the benefits of the method were that we had private lessons but, more importantly, we also had group lessons every week, which for me didn’t feel like lessons, it felt like I was getting together with my friends.

I met Anna when we both won the Don Maynard prize for music in year 12, and when I met her my whole world opened up, because she really is the most generous person that I’ve ever known.

We immediately decided that we would like to play together. The opportunity came up to form a piano trio and go to the Barossa International Music Festival. That was the first experience of the really immersive, intense life of chamber music.

Anna completed a doctorate of musical arts when I had a full-time job in the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, and I attended the recitals that were part of her degree. She said that the doctorate had been wonderfully beneficial so I started one myself several years later. We never studied at the University together but we were physically there all the time, having lessons from William Hennessy, who was then Head of Strings, and rehearsing there all the time together.

I moved to London 18 months ago, and since I’ve been here I’ve been performing with the London Philharmonic Orchestra and also the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra up in Glasgow. I’ve been really lucky.

I’ve come back to Australia five times, for periods of between three and four weeks. We’ve presented concerts that concentrate on repertoire that we already know quite well.

On stage, we have to be strong together. It’s important that we support each other by being individually strong and not seeking support each other in any relationship actually; to know what the right balance is between seeking some support, but also remaining individually strong so that you can support your friend or colleague.

Chamber music has always been the place where I can express myself the most. On stage, there’s a sense of communication between audience and performer, which is so deep. It crosses centuries. Yet at the same time it’s so fleeting, because it only lasts as long as the performance.

I’ll probably be returning to Australia by next year, and I’m happy to say that I’m going to settle with my family in Adelaide, which is where Anna has settled. So it feels like we’ve come full circle and the next stage of our lives is going to be just really wonderful, I think.

ANNA GOLDSWORTHY

“Artistically, musically, I feel we’ve actually been playing better than we ever have.”

What Helen probably didn’t mention was she also played the piano at a very high level, and I’d met her over the course of high school. Well been competing in the same piano eisteddfod. After year 12, we shared the prize for the top music student in the state, and pretty much we became friends from that moment. When we were about 19, we took part in a summer school called Summer Academy, which was actually held at Melbourne University. That was revelatory and introduced us to the absolute joy of chamber music-making at a high level.

Then, when we came back to Adelaide, we started a trio with another girl who’d been there, Leah Jennings, and eventually set up our trio as Seraphim. Leah only stayed in the trio for a couple of years, and then we got Tim. Tim’s been with us since 1998.

I did my doctorate at the University under the supervision of Ronald Farren-Price. I ended up moving into Janet Clarke Hall while I was a student, and that was also a really transformative and terrific experience for me. My eldest son was born when I was living there. It was a really enriching time in my life.

I think my friendship with Helen has deepened and become richer and richer with every year. We’ve been there for each other alongside more or less every milestone of our adult lives. Beyond that there’s the particular pressures of performing at a high level, and the ways in which we’ve had to support each other through that. I really appreciate Helen’s loyalty. I also appreciate her vitality, her positivity, her constant desire to learn.

When I first met Helen I was still torn, trying to work out my vocation. Is it music? Is it literature? And then I got to a stage where I realised I couldn’t not do one; I had no choice but to do them both. I love the lessons that you can learn from ensemble or from playing chamber music because they can be applied more generally in life. They’re lessons of compromise, of where you’re an individual but also part of a team. They’re very much about listening, really deep listening to someone else’s intention and supporting that. And that’s all about stepping into the limelight and having your fair say.

With the trio, the three of us have been living in different cities for quite a few years now. Before Helen moved to the UK, she was in Melbourne, I was in Adelaide and Tim was in Sydney. So already we’d worked out a way of dealing with the long distance nature of the relationship. Artistically, musically, I feel we’ve actually been playing better than we ever have. But personally, I’ve just missed having Helen around.

I can’t wait for her to move back to Adelaide. My little dream is that her children might end up at the same school as my boys.
Crunching the numbers for common good

FIVE QUESTIONS FOR SERRYN EAGLESON, DATA EXPERT
BY GARRY BARKER

Melbourne is Australia’s fastest-growing city. Experts estimate that by 2050 its population will reach 8 million. How will that number be managed, housed, fed, watered, supported and employed? The Australian Urban Research Network (AURIN), a spatial intelligence network housed in modest headquarters on the Parkville campus of the University of Melbourne, is working on that awesome issue. It is measuring our nation and guiding its future. Serryn Eagleson (BA 1998, BGeomE 1998, PhD 2003, GDipPB 2012) leads the team that collects huge streams of data from myriad sources, analyses it and delivers results to researchers and policymakers charged with advising governments, organisations and companies on what lies ahead, and why.

1 The data is obviously valuable and unique. Where does it come from, and who wants it?

We have about 80 different data providers – the Australian Bureau of Statistics provide the Census, of course, plus scientific organisations, industrial peak bodies, companies and so on. Increasingly, too, data is supplied through citizen science. People have mobile devices, handheld detectors that measure such effects as atmospheric pollution levels, and they deliver the results to researchers and policymakers charged with advising governments, organisations and companies on what lies ahead, and why.

2 Do you know who is accessing your information?

We know that 7500 people have accessed the system. We know that 84 per cent of them are academics and 10 per cent are governments, and we know the kinds of information they are getting and who they are in the sense of their department, organisation or research establishment, but we don’t know the individual. Many councils use our data. For example, we contributed to the Resilient Melbourne project that looked at how pockets of isolation developed and poor health and other social, physical and economic challenges.

3 How do you present the information so it can be easily understood?

It is based on statistics, mathematics and geometrics, but I also look on it as an art form. We present data as maps of the location under study, working on computers to visualise it in various ways, and so it can be examined according to various criteria. For example, a project to identify and help isolated, lonely, elderly people used our data to map where such people live. This, overlaid with other maps, such as one indicating where government and other services are available – planned activity groups, volunteer visitors and so on – showed what the future might look like. It was also about how older people might be kept working, stimulated, active and contributing.

4 How do you keep such a large volume of information up to date?

We constantly update the data we have. As well, we decide on the type of data we want and then go looking for someone to provide it. We point out that it is for research and the public good. When we get the data, it has to be structured so that it can be read by the system. Then we monitor its use, how many people log in to use it. Is it valuable? If it is, we update it. If it is not being used, we archive it.

5 When did your interest in this kind of work begin?

At AURIN, I am Manager of Data and Applications and also the Assistant Director of Research at the CRC for Spatial Information. I grew up on a cattle station in East Gippsland but I was always interested in mathematics, statistics and data.

My father was a builder. He spent a lot of time surveying land and I spent a lot of time out there with him. Geography, geometrics, spatial information are where my interests lay, and still do. So I moved to Melbourne for a university course in those areas. My undergraduate degree was a Bachelor of Geomatics/Art and my PhD was in geographical information systems, both from the University of Melbourne.

I was interested in the analysis of that kind of information but also in the artistic side. A lot of what we do is representation and visualisation, working out the right way to present such information. Maps and cartography are art forms in themselves.

My training was all about spatial information and how to bring that alive for improved population specific, and understanding where people live and how that impacts their lives and how it can be changed for the better. So we think of green spaces, what services are needed, whether people can access their health services on foot, and how, as a society, we can liveable spaces.

By Garry Barker

Illustration: Andrew Hopgood
Reimagining a campus
A massive building project at the heart of the historic Parkville site is enhancing the student experience.

BY MURIEL REDDY

The University of Melbourne is set to add a fresh chapter to its fabled history with the unveiling of a bold new student precinct. The $229 million project will revolutionise the way students experience life on campus. It represents a collision of two worlds, the old and the new, while creating connections between what has been, what is, and what is to come.

The precinct has been a long time in the making, and will take the next three-and-a-half years to complete. It will be – more than anything else – the product of a co-creative effort, with more than 4000 students already contributing to all aspects of its development, a very modern step for Victoria’s oldest university.

It will be located in what was formerly the Melbourne Teachers’ College cluster of buildings nestled in the south-east corner of the original Parkville campus, bounded by Monash Road (to the north), Swanston Street (east), Grattan Street (south) and the School of Engineering (west). The site makes sense for a grander student vision on two key fronts: it enjoys easy access to transport services, which will ultimately include the planned Parkville metro station, while recognising a population shift (40 per cent of students now study south of Grattan Street).

The new precinct will incorporate student services, mixed-use retail, restaurants and food and beverage outlets with extended opening hours, festivals and events, an arts and cultural centre and dynamic study spaces. It promises to create things, be a bit more artistic. "We need an atmosphere that encourages both handson and shaping. "The importance of the student voices in the decision-making along the line has been very powerful," explains Paul Duldig, Head of University Services. "And that connection has also been a very powerful design principle for us."

"Enhancing connections has been central to the evolution of the new precinct. Students indicated they wanted a place where they could chill, find balance and reflect. For a start, the levelling of the ground between key buildings within the precinct – the Alice Hoy, Frank Tate, 1888 and Sidney Myer Asia Centre, to name a few – will be key to achieving a more interactive space, and is set to commence before the year is out. But students also wanted a haven where they could make friends, collaborate on projects, and belong to a community. Additionally, they wanted somewhere where they could experience something new, gain life skills and express themselves creatively. "A lot of our students live in student accommodation," says Duldig. "That can be an isolating experience for many of them. The big driver for this new development was to create extensive remodelling of the south-east corner of the campus is under way." - ZACK DAHDOULE

"We need an atmosphere that encourages both productivity and creativity. I want somewhere to create things, be a bit more artistic." - STUDENT FEEDBACK

A precinct that would enhance connections so that students felt less isolated and have access to greater levels of socialisation, particularly for students not originally from Melbourne.

In the past 20 years alone, the University’s student population has doubled to more than 60,000. And while being ranked consistently among the leading universities in the world, its student cohort has found facilities for them (outside of their own faculties) less than inspiring. "Our feedback from students suggested that while they think our heritage buildings and landscape are both impressive and beautiful, the campus facilities, social spaces and amenities beyond their own faculties were viewed as poor," says Alex Kennedy, Project Lead for the new student precinct.

Until now, all student activity has been centred on Union House, but time has finally caught up with the historically significant building. The expansive new precinct will reflect a new age, one that respects the past, celebrates the present, and maintains an agility to be relevant to future generations. "The new precinct represents a lot of exciting possibilities, as well as a real opportunity for students to have a say about what happens to our campus and our spaces," says Van Zhuang, President of the University of Melbourne Student Union.

"It’s important for students to have spaces they can call their own, and that they feel ownership of," she adds. "We’d be eager to see spaces like those we currently have [around Union House] available to us in the new precinct, like the current site of our legendary ‘Tuesday bands and BBQs, which is also home to a whole range of activities.”

Interestingly, the storyboard that most resonated with students for their home away from home was the one that centred on the ‘natural harmony’ mood. ‘Their ideal aesthetic was naturalness, with elements of history and comfort. They felt it should be possible to keep the ‘prestige’ feeling of the campus while making significant upgrades.

The project team has been working hard to encourage student engagement with the precinct through a variety of initiatives, some of which are already in place. These include an outdoor gallery that provides a feature creative space for students not dissimilar to Melbourne’s creative laneway culture. A recently-launched cargo bike, dubbed ‘The Unicycle, has been designed to make sustainable on-campus catering and cooking easier. The initiative, led by student group Fair Food Challenge, provides food education, skills development and outreach programs for students, while encouraging staff and students to come together to cook, eat, share and connect.

The precinct will be timeless because of its strong connection and how we achieve that will change over time," explains Duldig. "You do not finish a project like this and then say, ‘this is it’. You keep listening and you keep collecting data. You keep surveying and you keep engaging ongoing.” The students are at the heart of the project and the University is listening. They want technology to be part of their precinct but only as an enabling force. Curiously, for a generation raised on social media, many students have suggested the establishment of ‘no internet’ zones within the precinct. "There was a real desire for things that create connections with one another like a ping pong table and a piano," says Kennedy.

Tyson Holloway-Clark (BA 2016), a former president of the UMSU and a member along the Student Precinct Project committee, believes the precinct will be "the most exceptional and largest evolution in student life” that the University of Melbourne has seen.

Visit students.unimelb.edu.au/student-precinct for more information about this project. You can watch a short video about the project at vimeo.com/230391907

WHAT THE NEW PRECINCT OFFERS
- A richer campus experience for the University’s 60,000 students
- Co-located, student-led services
- Better food and retail offerings, and a host of special features
- A ‘feel-good’ environment allowing easier interactions
- A mix of open and some quieter spaces, with improved accessibility
- Key infrastructure upgrades
- Close proximity to key transport services, notably trams and Melbourne’s upcoming expanded underground rail network

Extensive remodelling of the south-east corner of the campus is under way. - ZACK DAHDOULE
Feral predators become opportunists following a forest fire, researchers have found.

**BY TIM TWAYNIES**

(BSc(Hons) 1974, Trinity College, Janet Clarke Hall)

The research, some the first of its kind internationally, is the work of Associate Professor Alan York has been working on for more than a decade. It is part of an innovative study of the interaction of invasive predators and wildlife with fire. It all demands clever and careful research at a landscape level. Professor York says: "I was always interested in applied research. I was always interested in applied science."

The research won the Nancy Millis Science in Australia Award in 2017, and the Victorian Government awarded the team the AgriFutures Australia National Environmental Science Program award in 2018. The research is supported by the Australian Government's National Environmental Science Program.

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ADAM GARONE
(MMBkg1999)

BY GERARD WRIGHT

Compared with the great literary and public moustaches of history - Samuel Langhorne Clemens’ unruly brush, Henry Lawson’s thatch, and lawman Wyatt Earp’s famous Rowing whiskers - this one is a mere shadow. Arrow-straight across its top, with the merest glimpse of skin beneath the nostrils, close-cropped and flaring narrowly at the side of the mouth, the one on Adam Garone’s face is less a modified Fu Manchu than a pair of matchsticks.

It’s superficial, of course, to judge a man by his ‘stache, especially when it belongs to a former captain in the Australian Army’s crack Special Forces, but as the eleventh month of the year approaches, that is the world that Garone and his brother Travis, and their mates, have created.

The humble beginnings of Movember - and a month dedicated to liberating the hair on the upper lip in support of initiatives to improve men’s health - dates to a few beers being shared in a Brunswick Street pub between Travis and schoolfriend Luke Slattery, back in 2003. Adam and another friend, Justin Coghlan, quickly came on board. As health awareness campaigns gained traction, airing on humour - rather than fear or tragedy - as its galvanising force.

“We decided to create a brand that’s hopeful and fun and inspirational, and creates a new level of thinking,” says Garone, who is a global ambassador for the Movember Foundation, a charity that now operates in 21 countries and has raised almost $1 billion for research and awareness campaigns focused on prostate and testicular cancer, and male suicide. “We never used fear-based tactics.”

But the seed of a worthy and critical cause was planted much earlier. The Movember co-founders were students at Whitefriars, a Catholic boys’ school in Donvale, in Melbourne’s outer-east. The friends had gone their separate ways after school - Adam Garone to the Australian Defence Force Academy - but stayed in touch. At gatherings they shared a sense that something was not quite right. That uneasiness proved a catalyst for their later campaign.

The formative years of Garone’s life were spent in institutions that were almost exclusively male. Whitefriars was run by the Carmelite order of fathers and brothers; they made up a quarter of the teaching staff. The army, from officer training to the sharp end of the spear, was no less male. Both institutions expected their charges to learn by example. “They taught me about service,” Garone says. “They taught me about leadership,” he says of his new white-collar world. “It felt really flat and honest, about every aspect of a person’s life, is the new essential ‘guyness’.

Movember is as much a personal journey as a professional one.” Garone says. "I was 31 when I started. The early 30s came up and, at that point, I had spent all bar a couple of years of adult life in the military, starting out of secondary school, and you come to realise it’s important to have really good friends around you and have the confidence to show your vulnerabilities to them. You have this feeling of ‘I don’t want to burden my mates’, but they’re there for me, as I am for them. We need to break down the stigma of men talking to each other.”

Garone graduated with a Master of Marketing, and started hunting for “a good corporate job”. He was soon disillusioned. “It sparked this entrepreneurial fire in me to create something, which ultimately was Movember.”

But Movember, and its mission to improve health outcomes for men, “felt absolutely right,” he says. It amounted to the right sort of collision between his sense of service and his knowledge of marketing. The world that Movember entered in those early days was one where prostate and testicular cancer were known, but rarely spoken of beyond close friends and family. Suicide statistics were their own note. The result is more than $850 million so far raised worldwide since Movember’s inception, with a new campaign called Farmstrong, tested in New Zealand since 2015 and aimed at curbing rural suicides, to be piloted next year in Australia.

 Movember, which encourages men to grow a ‘mo’ and have a laugh, while raising millions through sponsorship, strikes a refreshing note. The result is more than $850 million so far raised worldwide since Movember’s inception, with a new campaign called Farmstrong, tested in New Zealand since 2015 and aimed at curbing rural suicides, to be piloted next year in Australia.

Garone moved to Los Angeles in 2007 and stepped down as Movember’s chief executive last year. He returns to Australia several times a year for Movember related business. But home is now a three-minute mountain bike ride from the end of Mulholland Drive, and the starting point for trails through the Santa Monica Mountains.

He has the native Melburnian’s deep appreciation for the fabled LA weather, an American wife who works in the entertainment industry, and a two-year-old daughter. He works from home a couple of days a week, managing a dip in the swimming pool at lunchtime.

Unlike the idea that grew out of a yack with mates over a few beers in Melbourne to become a global re-think of how men might be and might interact, Adam Garone is not going anywhere.

"We need to break down the stigma of men talking to each other."

"We were all around 30, and wanting to do something for our community."

PICTURE: DAN TUFFS

au.movember.com
Australian filmmaker Sam Voutas released his film Red Light Revolution in the UK in 2012, and just one week later its pirated copy began to appear on the streets of Beijing.

“Not only was it pirated but the people who stole it did their own really unique artwork, with their own imaginary credits,” Voutas recalls. “They even marketed it with film stars who weren’t in our movie.”

Voutas took action: he knew he could either get angry or turn the experience into something positive. The result is his new film, King of Peking, which featured in this year’s Melbourne International Film Festival, and was made in China.

Set in 1998, it tells the story of a travelling film projectionist who starts an underground career as a movie pirate in order to support his son. Much of the film focuses on the relationship between father and son and the idea of the film focusses on the relationship between father and son and the idea of the film focusses on the relationship between father and son and the idea of the film focusses on the relationship between father and son and the idea of the film focusses on the relationship between father and son and the idea of the film focusses on the relationship between father and son and the idea of the film focusses on the relationship between father and son and the idea of the film focusses on the relationship between father and son and the idea of the film focusses on the relationship between father and son and the idea of the film.

Voutas first envisaged his career as being in theatre. He loved the world of film to him.

It’s also about fighting the system,” Voutas says. “And even though it is in Chinese, it has a lot of that ‘Aussie battler’ feeling – that there is a way to make things work.”

At the VCA, he made short films with friends, and then began entering them in festivals. “That gave me more confidence to keep going,” he says, “and I’ve been well worth persisting.”

“It was an open sort of degree, and I didn’t have to decide a path for myself. I just did all sorts of subjects.”

During that period, there was much talk about the many low-budget independent films that were making it big on the festival circuits, and Voutas began to think he had a chance. “We felt we could actually do this, too. It set me on that trajectory. Little did we know the market would change so phenomenally in 20 years, so that now, if you have a $2000 movie, your chances of getting into a big festival are much less.”

“At the VCA, he made short films with friends, and then began entering them in festivals. ‘That gave me more confidence to keep going,’ he says, ‘and I’ve been well worth persisting.’

“Beijing has changed so much that we couldn’t shoot an historical movie there because none of the old architecture remains. We wanted the flavour of places like an old amusement park, or a pool parlour.”

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APPOINTMENTS

Former Victorian Premier, the Hon Ted Baillieu (BSc(Hons) 1976) has been appointed joint chair of a new State Government committee that will investigate the use of non-compliant cladding on Victorian buildings. Mr Baillieu practiced as an architect before turning to politics.

Allan Myers AC QC (BA 1969, LLB 1970, LLD 2002, Newman College) has been reappointed Chair of the Board of the National Gallery of Victoria and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory. He first took up the position in 2012. Mr Myers is also Chair of the National Gallery of Australia, Chancellor of the University of Melbourne and a governor at the Ian Potter Foundation.

Andrew V Myers (MBA(Exec)III 2003) has been named Chair of the Arts Centre Melbourne Foundation. A well-known philanthropist, Mr Myers continues his family’s long tradition of supporting the arts in Australia.

ARTS, BOOKS & ENTERTAINMENT

A Melbourne couple have both been appointed Professors Emeritus. Noel Gough (BSc 1966, GDipEd 1967, BA 1989, BA 1976, MEd 1976) was conferred as Emeritus Professor at La Trobe University, while Annette Gough (BSc 1967, MEd 1989) was appointed Emeritus Professor at RMIT.

Three alumni have been appointed Vice-Chancellor’s Fellows at the University of Melbourne. They are artist Sally Smart (MFAnt1991) who will be based at the Victorian College of the Arts; former President of the Australian Human Rights Commission, Professor Gillian Triggs (LLB 1967, PhD 1983, International House, Janet Clarke Hall, St Hil’s College) (pictured) who will be based in the Melbourne Law School; and journalist Al Moore (BA 1983) who will be based within Asialink.

Three of State Library Victoria’s 2017 book recipients are alumni of the University of Melbourne.

Dr Lili Wilkinson (BComm(Hons) 2002, PhD 2006) (pictured) received the Children’s Literature Fellowship and will use the $15,000 to continue writing The Wild Kindness, a post-modern feminist young adult novel which has girls as central characters.

Dr Monique Webber (BApp(MLit) 2009, BAHons 2011, GcertInTeach 2014, PhD 2013) received the La Trobe Society Fellowship ($15,000) to further her research on Victorian’s colonial history specifically looking at Lieutenant-Governor Charles La Trobe’s vision for formal gardens in Melbourne.

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Having a nose for truffles

BY ADRIAN UTTER
(BAgrSc 2002)

The aroma is hard to describe. It’s pungent. Sweet. It has an element of fungus to it, like mushrooms. Sometimes, you can smell the soil and you think it just smells like really good soil, but you have a dig around and you find a truffle.

My interest in agriculture started from age four. I used to take cuttings of plants and propagate flowers to give to my family. I then started selling them at my Mum’s art workshops that she used to run on the family farm in Buxton. That love of plants just morphed into me wanting to pursue a career in agriculture or horticulture.

I enrolled in Agriculture at Melbourne Uni without necessarily knowing exactly where that would take me. I wanted to focus on plant production rather than animal production, particularly having spent a fair proportion of my younger years trying to be vegetarian.

At the time, my father started making wine and the process interested me. I studied plant production and viticulture. I studied subjects at different campuses and also lobbied strongly for plant subjects that weren’t necessarily going to be run as the focus was shifting towards animal production.

I went to Tasmania for work and one of my colleagues was talking with a nutritionist about truffles and it got me thinking. It was a completely different challenge to standard horticulture. In mainstream horticulture, we are trying to keep fungi away. We’re trying to grow a plant where you can manipulate the yield and the harvest date so as to meet market specifications. Everything is very controllable and you’ve got the use of fertilisers and fungicides and insecticide to manage the crop.

With truffles, it’s a different kind of challenge and quite opposite to what I do in my day job managing different horticultural crops for a family-owned company. I look after viticulture in my local region but also cherries, olives and a bit of citrus.

One of the challenges I find with truffles is that chefs are often asking how the truffle season will go and how much you are going to produce. But everything is underground. You don’t know how much is there because you can’t see it. You don’t know when it’s ripe because it can be there and present but it ripens in a very short, distinct period and you have to rely on your own nose – and your dog’s nose – to determine when the truffle is ready for harvest.

We planted the truffles in the winter of 2008, just before the February 2009 bushfires. We were very lucky compared to many neighbours, but it burnt through the truffle patch and I wonder if that did something to start producing the truffles earlier. We found our first truffle when the trees had been in the ground for three to four years.

A truffle is an ectomycorrhizal fungahi. It lives as a sheath on the outside of the tree root in a symbiotic relationship. The mycelium of the truffle fungus grows through the soil and is able to mineralise fixed phosphorus, making it available for the tree’s growth. In return, the tree provides carbohydrate as an energy source for the fungus.

You need to train your dog to identify that aroma and then mark where that aroma is coming from. Then you get down and smell whether the truffle is ripe. It is a unique experience working with the dog and quite fun to have to have that interaction with the animal.

Playing truffles has been a little bit harder than people expect. It is a gourmet product and the market is fairly small in Australia. The awareness of truffle is high but a lot of people think that it is priced out of their reach. But if people understood the small amount they needed to cook with and what it could do, they wouldn’t think it is priced particularly high.

The main thing a truffle does for a meal is really enhance the aroma of the food. It can be quite difficult to cook with truffle because you don’t want to heat the truffle too much. I love it with scrambled eggs, partly because you can infuse the egg with the aroma before you cook it. I love it in simple dishes. Potato and truffle together are beautiful. You want to preserve those aromatics.

Treasure hunt: Adrian Utter with dogs that help locate the truffles to determine when they are ripe.

With Karin McLean

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