

**THE 'MODEL' EDUCATION
APPEALING TO EMPLOYERS**



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

ISSUE 2, 2017

3010

melbourne university magazine

Homecomings

Kanchana Kanchanasut
is one of the University's
many alumni taking their
skills to the world.





COVER IMAGE: PATRICK BROWN/PANOS PICTURES

WE WELCOME YOUR FEEDBACK

Email your comments to: alumni-office@unimelb.edu.au
Write to us at: The Advancement Office, The University of Melbourne, Victoria 3010, Australia
Call us on: **+61 3 8344 1751**
For more exclusive content visit: unimelb.edu.au/3010

EDITORIAL ADVISORY GROUP

- DR JAMES ALLAN**, DIRECTOR, ALUMNI AND STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS
- DORON BEN-MEIR**, VICE-PRINCIPAL FOR ENTERPRISE
- ZOE FURMAN** (BA(Hons) 1991), UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ALUMNI COUNCIL
- DR JENNIFER HENRY** (BAgr(Hons) 1990, PhD 2001), BEQUESTS MANAGER
- PETER KRONBORG** (MBA 1979), UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ALUMNI COUNCIL
- ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR TIMOTHY LYNCH**, GRADUATE SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
- MAXINE McKEW**, HONORARY FELLOW OF THE MELBOURNE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
- PROFESSOR PETER MCPHEE AM** (BA(Hons) 1969, MA 1973, PhD 1977, LLD 2009, Trinity College), MELBOURNE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY PUBLISHING
- DR DAMIAN POWELL** (BA(Hons) 1989), PRINCIPAL, JANET CLARKE HALL
- CAROLINE STRONG**, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, BRAND VISION AND DELIVERY

EDITORIAL TEAM

MANAGING EDITORS
KATE MAZODIER (BMusPerf 1994, Ormond College)
AND **VAL McFARLANE**
EDITOR **SIMON MANN**/MEDIAPRESS
DESIGNER **BILL FARR**/MEDIAPRESS

 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, 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: 2205-1112
Produced for the University of Melbourne by MEDIAPRESS mediapress.net.au
CRICOS Provider Number 00116K



When writers talk to each other

For a teenage Alice Pung, author John Marsden was just the write stuff. **PAGE 20**

PICTURE: MATT LYNN



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 medicos 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.



STAY IN TOUCH

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

For more news and features visit unimelb.edu.au/3010

WANT MORE? GO ONLINE

Social media can connect you to many of the University's 300,000-strong alumni community. Our alumni are represented on all the major channels.

Go to alumni.unimelb.edu.au/alumni/connect

 With more University of Melbourne alumni on Facebook than any other social network, it is the place to go for the latest alumni news, events and benefits. facebook.com/melbourneunialumni

 Go to Twitter to follow famous alumni, or to enjoy live tweets from selected alumni events. twitter.com/uomalumni

 Keen to move up the career ladder or help others who are? Go to LinkedIn to get - or give - career advice and discover new opportunities. linkedin.com/groups/3693333



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.

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.

The MOOC story so far ...
AS AT SEPT, 2017

1.12m

Total enrolments

446,363

Active enrolments

2m

Assessments submitted

4.63/5

How they rated courses



IN BRIEF

FUNDING FOR CANCER RESEARCH

The Li Ka Shing Foundation has invested \$US3 million to support precision oncology research (specifically in upper gastro-intestinal 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 Guangdong 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 Marcia 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

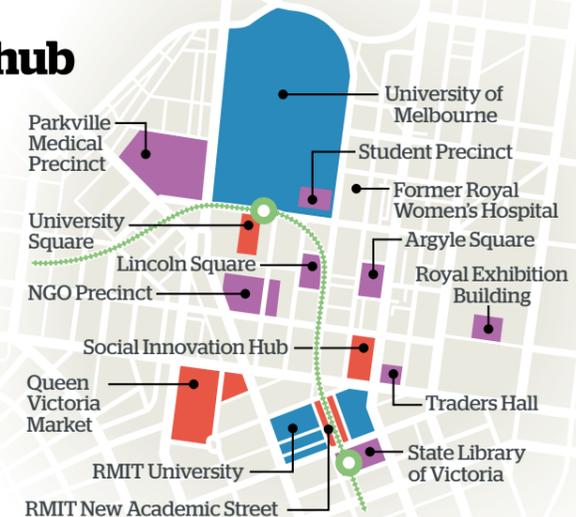
The University of Melbourne is working with two other key Melbourne institutions to create an 'urban innovation district' that is set to drive investment in the knowledge economy and shape the city's future.

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

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

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 action starts with college races from 9am, with the main races from 9.45am in front of the Melbourne University Boat Club on Boathouse Drive.

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



Medical fields

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."

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.

"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."

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.

CONTINUED PAGE 8



Kangaroos star forward Ben Brown is treated for concussion during an AFL match in 2017.

PICTURE: FAIRFAX/AAP/JULIAN SMITH

FROM PAGE 7

When he began operating in the 1990s the patient would start their recovery in a plaster cast, be on crutches for months and embark on rehabilitation with a withered leg. American orthopaedic surgeon Don Shelbourne broke new ground with an “accelerated” rehab model that featured full extension and weight bearing from day one post-surgery. “That went really well, until we realised there is a limit. The graft that we put in doesn’t reach full strength – and get strong enough to withstand the rigours of sport – for around six months.”

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.

“I put a few in,” Dr Morris says, “but the problem is they all fail. All of the AFL footballers who’ve had them put in have had them done at least twice. I tell you right now, there’ll be no more AFL players having a LARS.”

The great advance in knees is understanding what actually happens when an ACL ruptures. This appreciation of damage done to the joint’s homeostasis – essentially, the knee’s overall health – leads Morris to view it as an 18-month to two-year recovery process. “If I’ve got young kids who have a significant injury, I’ll say to the parents, ‘Give it two years.’ But it’s difficult – these kids are elite athletes, if they were going to get drafted and I say two years, that’s the end of their career.”

“The mentality was do everything we can to get as many players on the track for the next training session.”

ANTHONY SCHACHE (pictured, right)

Research into stem cells, growth hormones and other means of speeding up healing continues apace, but just as knee and hamstring injuries still occur, their recovery times remain relatively rigid. “Allan Jeans said to me once,



PICTURE: MATT LYNN

‘A hamstring is an 18-day injury,’” Brukner says, essaying 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

recurrence rate, is where the major ground has been made.

Brukner has worked with Australian Olympic teams, the Socceroos, Liverpool and, most recently, was head doctor for the Australian men’s cricket team. He regards the determination of when an athlete is ready to resume playing among a sports physician’s biggest challenges, particularly within games. “In your sports medicine practice you’re in your little room, the patient comes in, you sit down, take a history, do an examination, perhaps get an MRI done and then make a diagnosis. Whereas, you’re in the middle of the MCG, there are 80,000 people watching, the coach is screaming down the phone, ‘Get him back on, get him back on!’ Send someone back on and their knee buckles, it’s pretty public.”

The reality is that just as sports medicine continues to advance, more is being asked of the human beings playing games at the elite level. Schache likens it to driving a car, where even wearing a seatbelt and sticking to the speed limit can’t safeguard you from mishap.

“Maybe the demands of the game have increased substantially,” he says of AFL, in particular. “Yes, we might be getting better at preventing injury, but the game keeps asking more and more.”

3010



PICTURE: FAIRFAX/PAT SCALA

Protecting the head a game changer

Shortly after Sandy Shultz arrived in Melbourne from Canada in 2010, he observed with professional interest the kerfuffle that followed Jordan Lewis (pictured) being knocked unconscious while playing for Hawthorn. As Lewis lay prone on the turf it was hard to imagine he could be cleared to play just six days later – let alone return to the field that afternoon, as he did to widespread alarm.

“It was quite striking how far behind the concussion management was versus the North American sports,” recalls Dr Shultz, an associate professor at the Melbourne Brain Centre, University of Melbourne. “But in the past five or six years, the AFL has done an excellent job in implementing new rules that facilitate better on-field and in-game diagnosis. There’s clear guidelines and protocol. I think a lot of progress has been made.”

The sight of Geelong’s captain and renowned battering ram Joel Selwood being forced to watch from the sidelines after he was knocked out in the opening minute of this year’s Round 14

game against Fremantle – not just for the remainder of the afternoon, but the following week, too – underscores Dr Shultz’s observation of a shift towards greater caution in the AFL. Yet the issue of concussion in elite sport can still seem as complex and as sensitive as the brain itself.

Miranda Jelbart, of the Hampstead Rehabilitation Centre’s Concussion Clinic, in Adelaide, agrees that policing of the “five Rs” in concussion management – recognise, removal, referral, rest, return – is vastly improved. She also concurs with Dr Shultz that American sports have set a benchmark in treating every injury individually, rather than lumping them under a single heading.

Research at Buffalo State University anchored around treadmill testing has been significant. “They put athletes who have had concussions into training regimes on the treadmill,” says Dr Jelbart (MB BS 1975, Trinity College, Janet Clarke Hall). “They find that the athletes cannot achieve a maximal pulse rate to match their pre-injury levels, and often they have to

stop due to onset of headaches, profound fatigue or nausea.

“With regular re-testing and gradual upgrading of exercise intensity, and keeping below what triggers adverse symptoms, the athlete can build up exercise tolerance and return successfully to training and play.”

Sudden ballistic head injury can stretch nerve fibres at vulnerable regions, such as the brainstem, causing altered control of the body’s automatic functions such as pulse rate, blood flow and blood pressure. It takes time for healing, and for symptoms to abate.

Jordan Lewis’s experience in 2010 supports the need for patience. Out of competition, footballers are subjected to cognitive testing such as the SCAT (Standard Concussion Assessment Tool), and other tasks such as reciting numbers or months of the year backwards, along with checks of mental precision. Questions about venue, stage and state of the game are added on game day, and additional cognitive testing may be undertaken before the athlete is cleared to play. Lewis’s results married up with his baseline, but in the weeks following his concussion he admitted his decision-making was hampered in the high intensity environment of an AFL game.

International “brain banks” have been set up to conduct vital research by analysing brain tissue from deceased athletes which has revealed more about the risks of chronic traumatic encephalopathy. Historically, a form of this was called being



Dr Miranda Jelbart.

PICTURE: JAMES ELSBY

“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, territory that’s made all the more 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 later 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 Jelbart explains. “If you accelerate it and then stop it suddenly, the delicate nerve fibres that hold the ‘jelly’ together can be stretched or torn, or surface bruising can occur. In head trauma, the brain keeps travelling inside the skull; that’s when damage occurs.”

PETER HANLON

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 964,600 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 2005). "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 arts and engineering alumna 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."



FULL BORE

Tunnel vision: alumni (clockwise from top left) Nina Michaelides, Michael O'Sullivan, Matt van der Peet and Veronica Fink; with an artist's impression of the new Parkville station.

PICTURES: IAIN ANDERSON

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 key weakness of the city's rail system. Because everything is connected, 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 alumna 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) sat in on workshops with representatives from the University, hospitals, the local council and others, all getting together to talk about what they wanted 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. "So, 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 almost mind-boggling number of overlapping systems and processes, and designing an intervention on the scale of the Metro Tunnel is no simple task.

But there's a genuine sense from those involved that, despite the challenges, their work will be worth it.

"When it's completed, and Parkville Station is in place, I'm going to be really proud to say 'I was the project manager on that,'" says Matt van der Peet. "I helped make this happen."

WHAT THE METRO RAIL PROJECT WILL DELIVER

- Twin nine-kilometre rail tunnels from the west of the city to the south-east as part of a new Sunbury to Cranbourne/Pakenham line.

- Five new underground stations – Arden (in North Melbourne), Parkville, CBD North, CBD South and Domain (near the Shrine of Remembrance).

- Capacity for 39,000 additional peak-hour passengers a day.

- More frequent services.

- Better access to education, health, employment and cultural opportunities.

- Less congestion on the St Kilda Road/Swanston Street tram corridor.

NEXT STOP, UNIVERSITY

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 measuring 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.

ANDERS FURZE

HAVE YOUR SAY

Victorian residents have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to make their mark in Melbourne by naming the five new underground stations. The University is campaigning to have the Parkville station named 'University'. metrotunnel.vic.gov.au/stations/suggest-a-station-name

Homecomings

The University of Melbourne is a top destination for the world's brightest students, with more than 12,000 people from 130 countries taking advantage of the University's wide-ranging opportunities.

On graduating, many head home to apply their newfound skills and learning, and to make a difference in their own communities.

Profiles by **Kate Stanton** (MJourn 2016)

CURATOR KARARAINA TE IRA (MCuIMatCons 2015)

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.

She says she remembers the look of pride on the faces of her family members when they worked with objects representing their heritage.

"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?"




EDUCATOR KANCHANA KANCHANASUT (MSc 1980, PhD 1991)

Dr Kanchana 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 '80s, 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 11 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."

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 would become the internet of today.

Kanchanasut, who also founded the .th internet domain as a result of her work, remains its administrative contact point. In 1998, she was one of 13 members appointed to the first membership advisory committee for ICANN, the non-profit organisation responsible for managing the internet.

Recognised around the world as an internet pioneer, Kanchanasut wants to continue to bring the internet to people who need it. She researches simple and economic wireless internet opportunities for post-disaster and remote community networks.



PICTURES: PATRICK BROWN/PANOS PICTURES


CHAIRMAN ERIC CHUNG (BPD(Arch) 2003, BArch 2005)

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 (pictured), 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 - not to 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 Group 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."





LAWYER JACQUELINE MUSIITWA (JD 2005)

Jacqueline Musiitwa was born and raised in Zambia until age 14, when she moved to the US to live with her father. But it was on her visits to Zambia that she felt called to return to Africa one day to make a difference on her home continent.

"Every time I came for a holiday I would get really upset at the daily difficulties and inconveniences they experience," says Musiitwa, who was often appalled by the lack of infrastructure and opportunity she saw in her birth country.

"Seeing street kids begging or spending every weekend at a funeral because people died from HIV-related disease," she says. "It made me feel upset but also amazingly blessed that I was in this position to help."

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's legal career started in 2004. She had just graduated in the US with a degree in political science, and was considering a law degree, when she learned of the Melbourne Law School

through a friend. She also wanted the opportunity to learn from Professor Cheryl Saunders AO. "To be able to study under one of the world's foremost human rights lawyers - and a woman at that - was a main drawcard."

Musiitwa thought she would study human rights, but became "fascinated" instead by regulation and administrative law.

She moved back to the US after graduation and wound up in New York City, eager to work as an international lawyer and travel the world. She started her own practice at the relatively young age of 25.



"A year-and-a-half out of law school for most people is absolutely insane," she says. "At the time, I think it was the ignorance of youth."

As Musiitwa's practice expanded, she travelled so regularly to Africa that she decided she needed a change. When the Rwandan government signed on as a client, she moved to the country to advise its Ministry of Justice and Attorney General on government contracts.

While running her New York-based practice from afar, Musiitwa continued to work to influence economic development and trade policy across the African continent. She took up a one-year position in Switzerland as a Mo Ibrahim Foundation Leadership Fellow, worked as legal counsel to the CEO of PTA Bank in

Nairobi, Kenya, and founded her own non-profit organisation, Transitional Trade, to promote entrepreneurship in post-conflict countries.

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

Musiitwa was particularly inspired by her mother, a professor in education policy and gender who could have worked in the US but stayed in Zambia to educate others in her native country.

"I've always found that to be inspiring. If we don't do it here I'm not sure who else will."



ARCHITECT PEI ING 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 Kajang, 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 "Datuk", 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. "What you do has 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."

Respectful relationships begin in the classroom.

BY KATE STANTON (MJourn 2016)

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



RESPECT AND RESPONSIBILITY

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 (RRRR) 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.



Professor Helen Cahill.

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, 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 educative initiatives and a more visible campus presence for anti-harassment messages.

The RRRR 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

Anti-harassment messages are prominent across University of Melbourne campuses.

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. "But 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 within their programs, under the general guidance of the Victorian Curriculum. At Musgrove's school, students in years 7 to 9 engage with the RRRR 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-playing, 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 challenging situation, 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 email safer-community@unimelb.edu.au or phone +0061 3 9035 8675

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. He emailed back. “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.

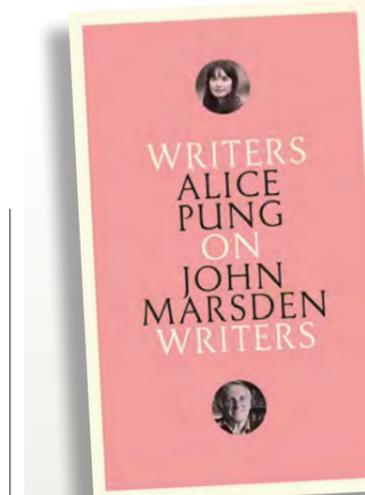
Pung (LLB(Hons) 2004, BA 2004) is picking at a veggie burger at a café around the corner from where she works three days a week as a researcher for the workplace relations tribunal, the Fair Work Commission. She is slight, her black hair pulled back into a pony-tail, her work ID hanging around her neck.

The 36-year-old is an accomplished writer of two best-selling family memoirs, *Unpolished 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 been studying. *So Much to Tell You* by John Marsden, Lucy replies. Mmm, sniffs Mrs Grey. “We don’t study any books considered young adult literature. For instance, your John Marsden.”

Marsden launched *Laurinda* for Pung, calling it “funny, horrifying and sharp as a serpent’s fangs”.

Pung’s relationship with Marsden is personal. She credits his books with helping her through her own adolescence. She is the daughter of Cambodian refugees who fled the horrors of the Khmer Rouge and arrived in Australia a month before Pung was born. Like a lot of Asian migrants of the time, the family settled in 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



The Writers on Writers series is published by Black Inc. in association with the University of Melbourne and State Library Victoria. Also available now: Erik Jensen on Kate Jennings. Next year: Christos Tsiolkas on Patrick White, Ceridwen Dovey on JM Coetzee, Nam Le on David Malouf and Michelle de Kretser on Shirley Hazzard.

ALUMNI OFFER

Get 20% off until 12 November 2017.
blackincbooks.com.au/unimelb

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

the time they’re set on hammering down a point – don’t bully gay kids, or love these refugees. Terrible books.”

Pung spent last Christmas re-reading all of Marsden’s work and wrote the Writers on Writers volume in about four weeks. She gets little time to write normally. She and her husband, Nick, live with their two-year-old son Leo in a three-room apartment at Melbourne University’s Janet Clarke Hall, where Pung is an artist-in-residence. (She completed her undergraduate law degree at the University of Melbourne.)

If she’s lucky, she gets two solid hours a week to write, but she’s always thinking, always taking notes. She’d like more time to write, but doesn’t want to do it full-time.

“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.”

She has a few ideas for young adult books swirling around in her head. “I love the audience,” she says, and that, too, has been influenced by Marsden.

The two met at writers’ festivals over the years, and became friends two years ago. That was after the Bendigo Writers Festival, when Pung was reeling from a devastating family tragedy that she does not want to speak about in detail. Marsden

Writers speak to one another

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 you as ‘Australia’s King of Young Adult Fiction’ because you’ve sold millions of books; but I reckon you’re the king because in all your writing, it’s as if you are on your knees, eye-level and ear-level with your child subjects, humbling yourself before them to see what they see and hear what they hear.”

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 13. “Our literature came in the mail box once a week. My mother read the Safeway, Bi-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

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 of realism, which was what I grew up with – [Australian author] Robin Klein, John Marsden.

“You get a lot of single issue-based books that I really don’t like. In the ’80s, it was divorce, now it’s the transgender movement, and it’s great when you have an authentic, interesting story but a lot of

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 prickles.

“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.”

In 2008, the University underwent the biggest transformation in its history when it introduced 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 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 of Melbourne. The world of work is changing rapidly, and our universities are changing with it.

Last (BSc 2015, MEntr 2016) and Ali (BA 2010, JD 2016) enrolled at the University after the biggest shake-up in its venerable history. What became known as the ‘Melbourne Model’ replaced 100 undergraduate courses with just a handful, while vocational training in professions like engineering, medicine, teaching and law shifted to the postgraduate level. Undergraduates were required to take a set number of subjects from outside their main field of study.

At the time, the move was controversial. Working out the detail 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 out workplace-ready graduates who are actively meeting the evolving needs of our economy and society.

Indeed, the rise in 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 – reflects a global trend, as cited by the University’s Vice-Chancellor, Professor Glyn Davis AC.

“The future needs of the workforce are requiring universities to provide undergraduates with skills that cross discipline boundaries. As undergraduate degrees broaden in scope, the depth of professional expertise must come at a postgraduate level.”

The success of the model is reflected in a range of statistics: the University has the highest retention rate in Australia, at 95%; it ranks first in Australia



Degrees of difference

PICTURE: MADELINE ELLERM/WADE INSTITUTE OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP



Top: Alumna Sarah Last at the Wade Institute of Entrepreneurship at Ormond College.
Above: Professor Peter McPhee AM, key architect of the Melbourne Model: an “extraordinarily intense” undertaking.

and eleventh globally for graduate employability; the post-grad employment rate four months after graduation stands at 93%, with median salary \$70,000.

So, why has it worked so well? And why does it matter? Says McPhee: “We wanted students to have a broader undergraduate education that gave 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 same time, the courses are flexible enough to accommodate students who know exactly what they want to do.

McPhee (BA(Hons) 1969, MA 1973, PhD 1977, LLD 2009, Trinity College) notes that Australian graduate coursework degrees have historically been a “poor relation” of other courses, awkwardly caught between an undergraduate degree and a PhD. Melbourne wanted to “develop the North American idea of graduate schools as being an elite part of university education”.

As well as the concept of combining a generalist undergraduate degree with a professional postgraduate one, the model also encourages an interdisciplinary approach.

There’s a simple reason why: both the workforce and the world of research are moving in that direction.

“There are no big research questions where all you need to know is one discipline,” says McPhee. The walls that once divided disciplines – and even professions – are crumbling. Hence, the rise

of ‘breadth’ subjects that are taught by academics from a variety of faculties.

First-year students can now take classes like ‘Introduction to Climate Change’, which tackles everything from the science of the greenhouse effect to public policy strategies and the impact of climate change on food, water and health.

Livett (GDipEd 1981) says that her students gain new perspectives from taking breadth subjects. “There is a science, technology and engineering way of thinking, which is really important. But not everything is well addressed by that approach alone. It’s really good for our students to be aware of the fact that people might have different views about things.”

It took a while for the model to be fully embedded in the University, and it was not without its teething problems. Photojournalist and lawyer Shaan R Ali, who studied a Bachelor of Arts in the first year of the model, says that, initially, he felt annoyed at the prospect of having to defer the law degree that he had been set on since starting high school.

There were moments when that first BA cohort felt “like quintessential guinea pigs,” he says, but “this was not all we felt. [We] also reflected on the fact that we were pioneers, paving the way for future students and co-creating a new degree with our tutors and lecturers.”

He identifies the breadth subject ‘Drugs that shape society’ as a highlight, run by legendary professor Ian Malkin (he used “drama, theatre and performance as teaching tools instead of PowerPoints and handouts,” Ali notes). The class, which still runs, approaches drugs from a variety

The Melbourne Model
by numbers (2016)

48,000

Full-time equivalent (FTE) students

50:50

Postgraduate versus undergraduate student enrolments

30:70

The same split in 2007

40%

Of students rethink their career direction during undergraduate studies

400+

Masters and doctoral courses at the University

#1

Ranking among Australian employers (QS Graduate Employability)

#11

Ranking for graduate employability among employers worldwide (QS Graduate Employability)

\$26,000

Difference in average annual salary between holders of a graduate degree over those with a bachelor’s degree only

of unique perspectives: scientific, social, historical and legal.

These interdisciplinary approaches to subjects are having a very physical impact on the Parkville campus itself. So-called flexible learning spaces have taken off as an alternative to the traditional lecture hall – smaller rooms with break-out spaces for group work.

Alumna Sarah Last has firsthand experience of these changes, spending a year living and studying at the newly-constructed Wade Institute of Entrepreneurship at Ormond College.

She grew up on the Mornington Peninsula, spending a lot of time on a nearby farm. “I had a strong love for animals,” says Last. After starting a Bachelor of Science, she was accepted into the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine’s accelerated pathway, meaning she started her postgraduate degree in the third year of her Bachelor of Science. Then she received a scholarship to take a year out of her course to study the brand new Master of Entrepreneurship.

She had come up with business ideas before, but they had never really gone anywhere. At the very least, Last thought, the Master of Entrepreneurship would give her the business skills she’d need if she decided to run her own veterinary clinic.

Eighteen months later, and she is the co-founder and chief technology officer of agriculture start-up Mimictec. Both Last and fellow student Eleanor Toulmin (BCom 2012, MEntr 2016) started the company in the second semester of their Master of Entrepreneurship.

“For someone who had a science background, I didn’t know the first thing about 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 start-up ideas to real investors.

Mimictec’s core intellectual property basically says that maternal care is very important in rearing chickens, and if maternal care can be incorporated into production then it can improve both the business bottom line and animal welfare. Because you can’t actually put mother hens in with chickens on a commercial scale, Mimictec identifies the key features of maternal care, and then replicates them using technology.

Life as an entrepreneur is a rollercoaster of highs and lows for Last, but she loves what she does. “I’m pretty blessed to be able to wake up every morning and do what I do.”

Read more about the Melbourne Model:
unimelb.edu.au/MelbourneModel

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 a 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 strength from the other person. I think that's a good philosophy to carry through 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.



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

ANNA GOLDSWORTHY

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. We'd been competing in the same piano eisteddfods. 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 then it's 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. **3010**

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 the results to researchers and policymakers charged with advising governments, organisations and companies on what lies ahead, and why.

Dr Serryn Eagleson is Manager of Data and Applications at the Australian Research Infrastructure Network (AURIN, aurin.org.au) and Assistant Director of Research at the CRC for Spatial Information.

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 feed that information to us. For instance,

data provided in this way helped reveal that some cases of lung cancer in non-smokers had been caused by pollution.

We have 1850 data sets that have been curated and are accessible through our website. We are funded by the Federal Government through the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Scheme (NCRIS) and housed by the University. We don't charge for our information. Anyone can see it, but a custodian controls access and some data are secure. There are sub-sets for specific users, such as researchers who apply to the custodian for approval and permission.

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.

We are dealing with quite rapid changes in population so that requires constant

updating. We can have live information but we also have archival information so we can see how something has changed, over time and over areas. Changes such as the gentrification of an area – meaning an increase in disposable income and changes in the interests and activities of the residents – are important to identify.

We can also track the movements of migrant populations as their fortunes change. We can track the movement of pockets of people and also see if some ethnic groups are clustering together. That's important for purposes such as matching available services with the needs of specific populations. We work with the research community; we provide the data and they are the experts to do the analysis. We have built a whole range of case studies – housing affordability, use of hospital emergency services, and so on. The range of studies is very wide; for instance, we did a case study on live music scenes and what stimulates them.

We also look at how the population of cities will grow in the future, making a computer animation on a number of assumptions and putting it against a timeline to see how things might change.

We have done a study of what Melbourne could look like in 2051; where people might be living and how it might mesh with fringe developments that have already been planned and how we will deal with autonomous vehicles that require millimetre accuracy in control. That could have immense consequences for the planning of infrastructure.

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 specifics, 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 create liveable spaces.



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 be welcoming, colourful, light-filled and earthy – very much a home away from home for students.

It will also be a home that students themselves have been hands-on in 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 –



Extensive remodelling of the south-east corner of the campus is under way.

GRAPHIC:
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

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

(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 Yan 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

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

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.

Also, the aptly-named 'Growroom' is an immersive, spherical garden structure being built in collaboration with students across faculties. The 2.6 metre-high, edible garden has interior seating, making it an ideal place for students to meet and unwind amid the foliage.

Pedal power will be celebrated, too, through 'Precinct Pedal Projections', a custom-built projection bike that will bring stories and events to life through light, sound and film. It will have many applications, including projecting film onto a building – for example, screenings of recently digitised films from the Victorian College of Arts' School of Film and Television Digital Archive – or creating audio-visual works of art.

The precinct will be timeless because of its agility. "Our fundamental goal is 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 engagement ongoing."

The students are talking 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 of 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 precinct at vimeo.com/231031907

After the fires

Feral predators become opportunists following a forest fire, researchers have found.

BY **TIM THWAITES**
(BSc(Hons) 1974, Trinity College, Janet Clarke Hall)

Warily, the fox creeps up to sniff at a cluster of three metal tea strainers suspended from a pole in her territory. They smell of nuts, golden syrup and rolled oats. They are also at exactly the right distance for an infra-red camera triggered by her movement to catch her in the act. She has unwittingly become part of an innovative study of the interaction of invasive predators and wildlife with fire.

Her picture is one of thousands captured at more than 100 such sites in an effort to determine the distribution of foxes and feral cats, and their prey, before and after a control burn in the dense bushland of the Otway Ranges, south-west of Melbourne. The idea was to compare the impact on wildlife of burning a block of about 1200 hectares with what happened in a nearby, untouched area of similar size.

The study showed that, in the Otways, invasive predators intensively used areas where prescribed burning had removed the undergrowth. In fact, appearances by foxes and feral cats occurred at five times their pre-burn rate.

And, by analysing faeces, the researchers determined that the foxes had switched their diet from the swamp wallabies of more open areas to smaller native mammals, such as bandicoots, echidnas and bush rats.

The research, some the first of its kind in the world, formed part of the PhD project of Dr Bronwyn Hradsky in the University's School of Ecosystem and Forest Sciences, as well as the Honours project of Craig Mildwaters (BSc(Hons) 2013). The work was published earlier this year in the respected US Journal of Mammalogy. In another segment of her PhD, Hradsky tracked the movement

of individual foxes she had trapped and fitted with GPS collars, research which is currently under review for publication.

Anyone who came across Hradsky deep in the forest during her 10-day tracking stints would certainly have taken a second look. "I was often standing at a funny angle on one leg on a log holding an antenna over my head and balancing a laptop in the other hand," she laughs.

Now, as a Research Fellow in the School of Biosciences, Hradsky (BSc(Hons) 2008, PhD 2017) is using her findings as a basis for developing a general simulation model of how foxes and their native prey react to fire.

"I was always interested in applied outcomes from my research," she says, a triumph confirmed by Dr John Wright (BSc(Hons) 1989, PhD 1997), Team Leader for Research Co-ordination at Parks Victoria and an alumnus of the University.

"Her research is already embedded within real management," he says. "It has informed and influenced the design of Otway Ark, a major predator control program Parks Victoria is implementing across the Great Otway National Park."

That's one of the reasons why the Victorian Government through the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and Parks Victoria is providing about half of Hradsky's ongoing support.

The issues raised by the interaction of fire management with wildlife, however, are much broader than ensuring native animals persist within one national park. And Hradsky's work is playing an important role in filling gaps in our knowledge.

As a result, she is also supported by the Australian Government through the Threatened Species Recovery Hub of the National Environmental Science Program, a \$60 million consortium of 10 universities and the Australian Wildlife Conservancy. The hub is led by University of Melbourne alumnus Professor Brendan Wintle (BForSc(Hons) 1994, PhD 2003).

As more and more people seek the serenity and beauty of the Australian bush – on the fringes of cities, up and down the coastline, in forested and mountain areas – there is growing concern over the risk to life and property of bushfires, especially in an era of climate change.

So, one of the key recommendations of the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission – convened in 2009 as a response to the catastrophic Black Saturday fires – was to increase significantly the level of control burning across the state. But the effects and consequences of prescribed burning are neither simple nor easy to predict, with complicated trade-offs to be made.

For instance, if prescribed burning makes native animals more vulnerable to foxes, as Hradsky's work suggests, does protecting bushland living in this way end up damaging one of its drawbacks? That's just one of a series of paradoxes to do with fire management. And the answers depend on the conditions and objectives of burning. What is best for a city fringe differs markedly from a national park; what's good for grassland may be disastrous in forest.

It all demands clever and careful research at a landscape level. And that is what the Fire Ecology and Biodiversity research group led by Associate Professor Alan York has been working on for about nine years.

Based in the School of Ecosystem and Forest Sciences at Creswick, the group grew out of the Victorian Government's old Forest Research Division, which migrated to the University of



"I was often standing at a funny angle on one leg on a log holding an antenna over my head ..."

Dr Bronwyn Hradsky, top, tracks fox movements while, below, a camera caught predators in the act.



Melbourne. It is one of six research groups at the University that the government employs by external contract.

For the past seven years, the group has been running a major project in the Otways entitled Fire, Landscape Pattern and Biodiversity. "After the Royal Commission, the government wanted to know if you put more fire into the landscape whether it would have a positive or negative effect on biodiversity," Professor York says.

"Two questions were particularly relevant. If you use fire to create burnt and unburnt vegetation over time, is the resulting mosaic pattern of bush regeneration good for biodiversity? The second question was how do factors other than regeneration – weather patterns, climate, predation by foxes and feral cats – interact with fire to affect outcomes? And that's where Bronwyn [Hradsky] came in."

By working with the land managers of DELWP and Parks Victoria who conduct the prescribed burning program in the Great Otway National Park, the overall project has been able to look at many aspects of plant, bird and mammal diversity before and after fire. In June 2017, the research won the Nancy Millis Science in Parks Award, which recognises the role of science in managing Victoria's parks.

Dr Hradsky has now moved to the School of Biosciences where she is working on her model. Because you can't just walk into a landscape and burn it as an experiment, she says, a major reason for the model is to bring together all the snippets of information on aspects of the question from studies all over the place. Some of the best research on the dynamics of fox populations, for instance, comes from Bristol, England.

"The model is based on individual foxes setting up territories, finding mates, and then having young that disperse across the landscape. So, we can capture the impact of very localised fox control." One benefit, she adds, is that you soon learn what information is lacking.

The model can be customised to a specific location by pulling in geographic and land use data. Then, by overlaying information on the fox population and territories, the idea is to use it to test the likely impact of different levels and patterns of fire and of control, such as baiting. "I hope in the future it will assist landscape managers with decision-making and planning." **3010**

The research programs described in this article were supported by DELWP, Parks Victoria, the Holsworth Wildlife Research Endowment and the Australian Government's National Environmental Science Program.

MOVEMBER MAN ADAM GARONE

(MMktg 1999)

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 flowing 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 go, theirs was atypical, relying 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 for a few of their Whitefriars cohort. There had been suicides, for example, that were little understood. 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 of the Carmelites. "They were so dedicated to the church, and to education."

The military, too, was about service and dedication - first to the mission but, ultimately, to the nation. In Garone, it also fostered ambition - to graduate as an officer, then qualify for the commandos.

By the time he arrived at the University of Melbourne, he had a Bachelor of Science and Graduate Diploma from the University of NSW to go with his graduation from the Royal Military College, Duntroon. Initially, he had set his sights on a Master of Business Administration, but it was the marketing classes that gripped him.

"It opened up a different way of thinking for me," he says.

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

"It sparked this entrepreneurial fire in me to create something, which ultimately was Movember."

Garone graduated with a Master of Marketing, and started hunting for "a good corporate job". He was soon disillusioned.

"Coming from the military, there was what I thought was poor leadership," he says of his new white-collar world. "It felt really flat and an anti-climax. I thought I would like the corporate world and climbing the corporate ladder, but I wasn't fulfilled. I wasn't happy.

"We were all around 30, and wanting to do something for our community, and personally, I was a little bit lost."

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 ghastly indicator of an epidemic of despair - three-quarters of those who took their own lives were male. Men were more than twice as likely to die by their own hand as they were in a car accident.

Now, years later, with Movember gaining worldwide momentum,

Garone's contrary experiences as a soldier and as a leader in a different sort of campaign are striking. The commandos were stoic and self-reliant, trained never to reveal any weakness, physical or mental. The Movember mission sits at the opposite end to this definition of masculinity, teaching that trust, vulnerability and honesty, about every aspect of a person's life, is the new essential of '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."

Six years ago, when giving a TED Talk in Toronto, Garone introduced himself to audience laughter as "... essentially, a moustache farmer. And my season is November."

He believes that he and his mates have re-defined the notion of a charity. Established charities, he says, were too often tired and more focused on self-preservation. Their message was depressing.

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

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.

au.movember.com



FILMMAKER SAM VOUTAS

(BCA 2000, International House)



BY **ANDREW STEPHENS** (BFineArts 1994, PGDipArts(ArtHist&ClinSt) 2001)

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 focusses on the relationship between father and son and the idea that some people "make the wrong choices for the right reasons".

"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."

Voutas, who studied at the Victorian College of the Arts, has lived in Los Angeles for the past five years, but spent the eight previous years in China, where he also spent some of

his childhood. With all this experience he was well equipped to embark on the film, shot in a province near Beijing with access to towns and lesser-populated areas.

"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."

Voutas first envisaged his career as being in theatre. He loved the degree he did at the University's School of Studies in Creative Arts, as it was then known, taught in the building on the corner of Swanston and Grattan streets, and had "some inspiring lecturers" who opened up the world of film to him.

"It was an open sort of degree, and I didn't have to decide a direction. I did all sorts of subjects."

Film began to entrance him, though, especially when he began using an old Steenbeck video-editing machine. "I well remember splicing and taping and watching films in a tiny room in that building," he recalls.

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."

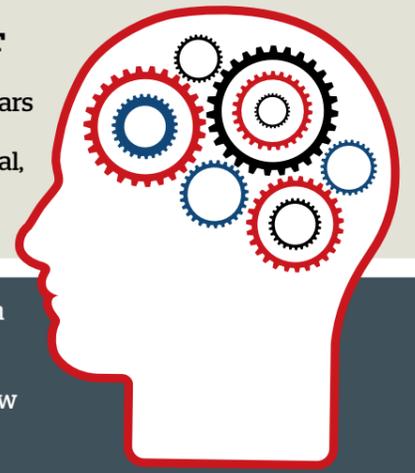
At the VCA, he made short films with friends, and then began entering them in festivals. "That gave me more confidence to keep going." Now, he has made it to MIFF and other major festivals. It has, he says, been well worth persisting.

"They even marketed it with stars who weren't in our movie."

PICTURE: DARREN JAMES

DID YOU KNOW?
University of Melbourne alumni get ...

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES through our mentoring programs, career webinars and other volunteer activities. Boost your leadership, interpersonal, management, communication or public-speaking skills



SAVINGS on further study through the Community Access Program (CAP). Enrol in single subjects to explore a new career path - or a new area, just for fun - and get 20% off

BRAIN FOOD
Via access to eJournals - academic resources from around the world for just \$20 a year



OPPORTUNITIES for expanding your professional network through the 360,000-plus global alumni community, via alumni groups, networking events and social media



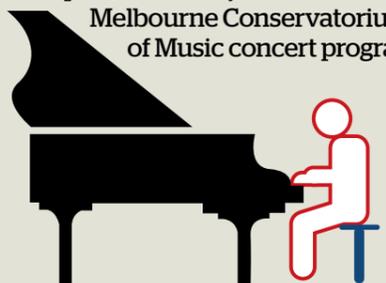
DISCOUNTED health services. Get money off dental, audiology, speech pathology and eye clinic services

ACCESS to exclusive alumni-only events, such as special screenings, exhibitions, seminars and lectures by industry leaders. Example: More than 1000 alumni a year have benefited from invitations to exclusive events as part of the NGV's Winter Masterpieces series



DISCOUNTED memberships for the NGV and Melbourne Recital Centre

CUT-PRICE memberships for MU sport, University House and the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music concert program



ONE-OFF SPECIAL offers, giveaways and competitions

If we have your current contact details we can let you know about giveaways or special events exclusively available to University of Melbourne alumni.

Visit alumni.unimelb.edu.au to update your details and learn more about what's on offer.

Seminars, Lectures and Exhibitions
bit.ly/uomevents

Benefits and Special Offers
bit.ly/uombenefits

Alumni Network
bit.ly/uomconnect

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

A total of 70 alumni, staff and former staff were honoured for their contribution to Australian society in the latest Queen's Birthday Honours, with three receiving the nation's top civilian honour – Companion in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AC). The three recipients are winemaker and author **Peter Gago** (BSc(Ed) 1978) (pictured), barrister **Julian McMahon** (BA(Hons) 1987, LLB 1990, Trinity College) and economist Professor **Ross Garnaut**, Professorial Fellow in the Faculty of Business and Economics.



APPOINTMENTS

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



Allan Myers AC QC (BA 1969, LLB(Hons) 1970, LLD 2012, Newman College) has been reappointed Chair of the Board of the Museum 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 Myer (MBA(Exec)II 2003) has been named Chair of the Arts Centre Melbourne Foundation. A well-known philanthropist, Mr Myer continues his family's long tradition of supporting the arts in Australia.



The Victorian branch of the Australian Dental Association has a new CEO. Dr Matthew Hopcraft (BDSc 1994, MDS 2000, PhD 2010) has worked in Aboriginal healthcare, and public and private practice in cities and rural communities. He is keen to help improve oral health care for all Victorians, as well as the professional lives of the Association's members.

Two alumni have been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Victorian Opera. Jane Harvey (BCom 1976, MBA 1982, Ormond College) has extensive experience in the business sector and on state government boards. Associate Professor Stephen McIntyre (BA 1968, Ormond College) has worked in music and education for more than 50 years, including for some of the country's biggest arts and music festivals.

A Melbourne couple have both been appointed Professors Emeritus. Noel Gough (BSc 1966, GDipEd 1967, BEd 1969, BA 1976, MEd 1976) was conferred as Emeritus Professor at LaTrobe University, while Annette Gough (BSc(Ed) 1973, MEd 1981) 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 (MFineArt 1991) 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 Hilda's College) (pictured) who will be based in the Melbourne Law School; and journalist Ali Moore (BA 1985) who will be based within Asialink.



AWARDS

Professor Tony Costello (MB BS 1972, MD 1999, Newman College) is the first Australian to receive the prestigious St Peter's Medal from the British Association of Urological Surgeons. Professor Costello's new technique aims to turn advanced prostate cancer from a killer disease to a chronic disease, extending the lives of men affected by it.

Dr Ian Young (BE(ElecEng) 1972, MEngSc 1973, Ormond College) has been awarded the prestigious 2018 Frederik Philips Award from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), the world's largest technical professional organisation for the advancement of technology. The award is given for outstanding accomplishments in the management of research and development that leads to effective innovation in the electrical and electronics industry.

Filmmaker Julietta Boscolo (MFTV(Narr) 2011) has won the Swinburne Award for Emerging Australian Filmmaker at the Melbourne International Film Festival. *Let's See How Fast This Baby Will Go* is about a 17-year-old country girl who goes into labour and has only one way of getting herself to the hospital on time.



Dr Kathleen McGuire (BMus 1986, GDipMus 1990) received the Vice-Chancellor's Alumni Achievement Award from the University of Surrey. She has worked with orchestras, choirs, ballets, opera and musical theatre across the world, including performances at the Sydney Opera House, Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center.



Three of State Library Victoria's 2017 Fellowship recipients are alumni of the University of Melbourne.

Dr Lili Wilkinson (BCA(Hons) 2002, PhD 2016) (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 (DipML(Ital) 2009, BA(Hons) 2011, GCertUniTeach 2014, PhD 2013) received the La Trobe Society Fellowship (\$15,000) to further her research on Victoria's colonial history, specifically looking at Lieutenant-Governor Charles La Trobe's vision for formal gardens in Melbourne.

And contemporary artist Catherine Evans (BFineArt(Hons) 2012) will use her \$10,000 from the Georges Mora Fellowship for a large installation and book that will look at the connection between historical documents and how place and history are remembered.

ARTS, BOOKS & ENTERTAINMENT



Director Gary Abrahams (PGDipPerfCreation 2007, MThtrPrac 2008) brought a dangerous French love affair to

Australia for a one-night stand. Mr Abrahams adapted the classic French novel *Therese Raquin* for the Australian stage at the Dirty Pretty Theatre in July.

A Bell Shakespeare contemporary production of *The Merchant of Venice*, directed by award-winning artist Associate Professor Anne-Louise M Sarks (BDramArt 2007), is touring Australia. It is Ms Sarks' directorial debut with Bell Shakespeare. It opened in Melbourne in July and is touring nationally, playing at 27 venues.

The MSO has a new assistant conductor. Tianyi Lu (MMus(MusPerf) 2013) began her role in June and will spend two years in an intensive residency under the Orchestra's Chief Conductor, Sir Andrew Davis. Ms Lu has worked with conductors in New Zealand, Europe and the UK.



Alice Foulcher's debut feature film *That's Not Me* was released at Palace Cinemas nationally in September. The comedy, which sees Foulcher (GDipTV (Narr) 2008, MFTV(Narr) 2010) play an aspiring but not so talented actor, was made with \$60,000 and "a lot of favours". It screened at film festivals in Santa Barbara, Palm Beach, Phoenix, Sydney, Brisbane and New Zealand.

Composer, arranger and performer Matan Franco (BMus(Hons) 2015) is one of four young composers chosen to attend the Australian Youth Orchestra National Music Summer camp. The Melbourne Conservatorium of Music graduate will also complete a Masters in film scoring in Ireland before taking up a one-month residency in Los Angeles.

Carlton's fabled La Mama Theatre hosted Cynthia Troup's (BA(Hons) 1992) latest play in June. *Undercoat: A Parafoxical Tale* was a supernatural tale located in the Australian wilderness.

Zoy Frangos' (BMusThtr 2012) first role in a major musical was as Judas. For two weeks, Mr Frangos played Judas in *Jesus Christ Superstar* at the Melbourne Arts Centre.



Award-winning artist **Zoe Croggon** (BFineArt(Hons) 2012) had exhibitions in three galleries during winter, including the NGV. Ms Croggon studied drawing at the VCA and is inspired by the human form. Collage is her speciality.

A commemoration of British atomic testing in the 1950s was awarded a High Commendation at the 2017 Museums and Galleries Australia national conference. *Black Mist Burnt Country* is curated by Jan Dirk Mittmann (GDipFTV(Documentary) 1999, GCertIndigArtsMgt 2010) and will tour Australia until 2019.



Actor Ronny Chieng (BCom 2009, LLB 2009) plays lead in the ABC comedy *International Student*. The role is fitting: Mr Chieng has first-hand experience being an international student, having attended Trinity College. The series was filmed on the Parkville campus.

Betty Feith (GDipEd, BA(Hons) 1951, Queen's College) and Ailsa Zainu'Ddin (BA(Hons) 1948, MA 1954, BEd 1965, Janet Clarke Hall, Queen's College) have recorded the history of the Volunteer Graduate Scheme for Indonesia – a 1950s international development program pioneered by the University. *Bridges of Friendship: Reflections on Indonesia's Early Independence and Australia's Volunteer Graduate Scheme* was launched in April 2017.

Author Melanie Cheng (MB BS(Hons) 2001, International House) has just had her debut book published. *Australia Day* is a collection of stories about migrants who search for ways to belong in Australia. In 2016, she won the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Unpublished Manuscript.



Actor Mark Winter (BDramArt 2005) has received a Sidney Myer Creative Fellowship, worth \$160,000 over two years. The Fellowship

recognises talent and exceptional courage in mid-career artists. Mr Winter was a founding member of The Hayloft and The Black Lung Theatre.

Psychologist Sharon Southwell (BA(Hons) 1992) wrote *The Life of Love: An Invitation – Fifty-two Reflections on Emotional and Spiritual Healing*. Ms Southwell's book addresses people interested in the meeting of spiritual, faith-based and psychological resources for healing and flourishing.

Melbourne poet and playwright Gaylene Carbis (MCRWrtg 2010, MWRPerf 2014) published her anthology, *Anecdotal Evidence*, in June. Ms Carbis' work has previously been nominated for literary awards in Canada and the Republic of Ireland.

Kylie Trounson (LLB 2004) has been appointed a writer-in-residence with the Melbourne Theatre Company. The MTC program, which offers residencies of up to three years, is designed to nurture talented writers and give them the freedom to explore and test their ideas.

Do you know any Melbourne alumni who should be recognised in a future edition? Email alumni-office@unimelb.edu.au with the subject line '3010 Milestones'.

2017 HELPMANN AWARDS

Four alumni have received Helpmann Awards for their outstanding work in theatre. **Leticia Caceres** (MDramArt (Direction) 2014) won Best Direction of a Play for Belvoir's *The Drover's Wife*; **Mark Coles Smith** (GCertIndigArtsMgt 2006) won Best Male Actor in a Play for *The Drover's Wife*; **Anna O'Byrne** (BMusPerf(Hons) 2008) (pictured) won Best Female Actor in a Musical for her role in *My Fair Lady*; and **Anna Cordingley** (BDramArt 2003, MArtCur 2013) won Best Scenic Design for the Melbourne Theatre Company's *Jasper Jones*.



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



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

PICTURE: KARIN McLEAN
INSET: EMILY FRIEDEL/
MURRUNDINDI GUIDE



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 fungus. 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.

Selling the 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.

WITH **KARIN McLEAN**

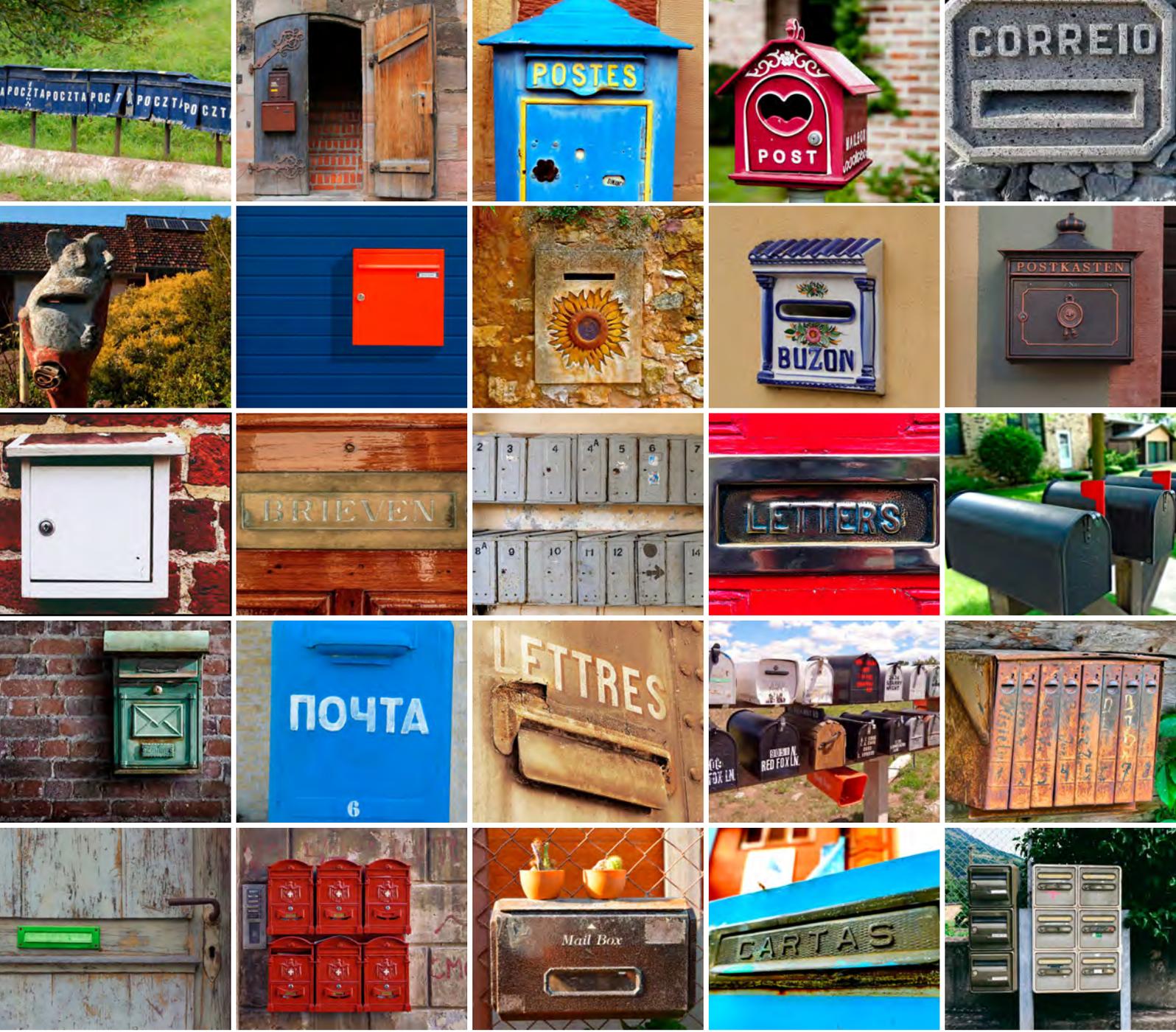
WITH YOUR HELP

OUR FUTURE CAN

BE HEALTHIER

By bringing together the greatest minds, researchers at the University of Melbourne have developed a blueprint for making our cities healthier. This plan could drastically reduce the rate of preventable illnesses and extend our lives.

This is just one of the many global challenges our researchers are working on. **Imagine** how many others we could overcome with your help. **Donate to research now:** alumni.unimelb.edu.au/give



ARE YOU LOOKING FOR US IN ALL THE WRONG PLACES?

(we're just a click — or two — away)

These days we send most of our alumni correspondence by email – apart from 3010.

You might be missing out on everything from professional development opportunities to class reunions and exclusive alumni events and offers.

We can't reach you if we don't have your email.

Across the road and across the globe your instant connection to all things Melbourne is a mere click of the mouse away.

(Well, almost. We'll need you to type in your email address too.)

Visit bit.ly/alumniemailme and never miss out again.

