We are delighted to advise of our researchers success in the ARC Linkage Project Funding for 2009, round 2. We submitted 6 applications and 3 were successful. At a 50% success rate, we are above the 45.6% national success rate.

Congratulations to all the research teams and support staff involved in the submissions. We look forward to working with all applicants to build on this success.

LP0990532  
A/Prof Mikel Duke (ISI); Dr Todor Vasiljevic (Biomed and Health Sci); Dr Peter Sanciolo (ISI); Dr E Ponnampalam (Dairy Innovation Australia Ltd)

Innovative zero-energy membrane technologies to reduce water consumption in the dairy

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APA(I) Award(s): 1

LP0990532  
Dr Sally A Weller (CSES); A/Prof WN Pritchard (University of Sydney); Prof M Alston (Monash University); Prof MJ Webber (University of Melbourne)

Rural adjustment or structural transformation? Discovering the destinations of exiting

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APA(I) Award(s): 1

LP0990532  
Dr Todor Vasiljevic (Biomed and Health Sci); Dr Osaana Donkor (Biomed and Health Sci); Dr Michael L Mathai (Biomed and Health Sci); Dr IA Knuckey (Geelong Food Co-Products Cluster); Mr WA Street (Geelong Food Co-Products Cluster)

The effect of dietary fish peptides on biomarkers of human health - the influence of processing conditions and the environment

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APA(I) Award(s): 1

ARC Linkage Projects funding outcomes:
**LAUNCH OF THE MEMBRANE SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIA**

The Membrane Society of Australasia (MSA) launch held on 5 May 2009 at VU Flinders Campus was a huge success with 55 attendees from the industry, research and academia sectors. The event was sponsored by Siemens Water Technologies.

The launch was facilitated by AiProf Mikel Duke (Chair of the Inaugural Board, Membrane Society of Australasia) followed by brief talks from the following distinguished MSA supporters:

- Bruce Biltoft (Managing Director)/Dr Andrew Groth (Director Chemistry and Membrane Development); Siemens Water Technologies.
- Professor Tony Fane, the patron of the MSA.

AiProf Mikel Duke and the team at the Institute for Sustainability and Innovation went on to ABC Radio National Current Affairs program AM on 5 May 2009 to promote the launch of the Membrane Society of Australasia. Click on link to read article.


Membrane technology is a vital part of water desalination's reverse osmosis process.

**AVATAR PROJECT WINS NATIONAL INNOVATION AWARD FOR COMMUNITY ICT**

The Avatar Project was awarded “Community ICT Innovator of the Year” at the 3rd Annual Australian Community ICT Awards in Sydney.

**PRESS RELEASE**

The Awards are designed to promote Australia's most innovative use of ICT by nonprofit organisations, government agencies and companies working with nonprofit organisations.

“"The Awards are designed to promote Australia's most innovative use of ICT by nonprofit organisations, government agencies and companies working with nonprofit organisations."""


**TOURISM, CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE PACIFIC ISLANDS – MAJOR AUSAID GRANT IS WON**

Professor Terry De Lacy of the Centre for Tourism and Services Research (CTSR) has attracted a major Ausaid grant (Australian Development Grant Award) worth $392,625 over three years. The successful grant application was developed in collaboration with colleagues from UNSW, University of the South Pacific, Pacific Asia Tourism, Foundation of Peoples of South Pacific and Tourism South Pacific. The title is a long one but says it all: 'Applying innovative sustainability science to develop effective climate change adaptation policies and strategies for the South Pacific Island tourism sector to protect and grow local livelihoods'.

The research is timely, given the importance of tourism to the economies of Pacific Island countries, the risks of climate change to their economies, and the particular vulnerability to climate change of the tourism sector. This research will investigate how climate change will impact on the tourism sector. It will examine existing policies for dealing with climate change and develop an innovative climate change adaptation framework based on a case study within one Pacific Island country, such as Vanuatu or Samoa. Victoria University has had a significant role in the Pacific through a number of development projects in East Timor and other places, and is active in the environmental research area (through water research, fire research, econometric models of climate change). This project will extend the University’s research into another, emerging and significant area: tourism and climate change.

The project also provides a foundation for growing the new strategic direction of the Centre for Tourism and Services Research, which is to expand into more international linkages and develop research programs in: tourism and climate change, tourism and events, tourism and wellbeing, and small business tourism. Professor De Lacy was appointed to the CTSR in 2008 and is already making his mark with a range of international linkages and projects, particularly around the concept of the Earth Lung and other climate change initiatives. The CTSR is a University Research Centre located in the Faculty of Business and Law, operating under the direction of Professor Leo Jago.

**COMMONWEALTH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGEING GRANT SUCCESS**

- ICEPA (H.Babacan) Promoting using ICT for Chronic Disease Self-Management by Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Communities ($220,000).
- ACCD (K. Bennett) Bilingual health educators – training and resourcing for working with immigrant and refugee women with or at risk of developing type 2 diabetes.($220,000).
- ACCD (K. Adams) Peer model for chronic disease prevention ($246,000).

**VICHEALTH RESEARCH PROJECT GRANTS SUCCESS**

- WERC (S.Schutt and J. Martino), Connected Lives: deploying virtual worlds, the Internet and free media software to enhance the social connectedness of young people isolated by disability, geography and socio-economic disadvantage. ($107,500).
- ACCD (K. Babacan), Healthy eating and food security issues with Victorian Aboriginal communities ($102,800).

**ETHICS & BIOSAFETY**

**TWO YEARS OF CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT!**

The Office for Research marks two years since the formation of the Ethics and Biosafety Administration Group in May 2007. During this...
time, a number of sweeping changes have been implemented aimed at significantly improving human research ethics, animal ethics and institutional biosafety on multiple levels at VU.

The most notable improvements augmented through the Ethics and Biosafety Administration Group include:

- Centralisation of ethics and biosafety administration within the Office for Research.
- Appointment of dedicated ethics staff.
- Promoting consistency of administrative and decision making processes throughout Committees.
- Launch of the Ethics and Biosafety website.
- Development and delivery of training and awareness programs throughout VU.

The formation of the Ethics and Biosafety Administration Group has resulted in significant improvements for researchers and members of Ethics and Biosafety Committees. Most notable amongst the achievements has been the central contact point based in the Office for Research for researchers to discuss and submit applications with trained and experienced staff. The Ethics and Biosafety Administration Group has diligently worked towards simplifying and improving processes for researchers and regularly conducting training. This has facilitated improved awareness of ethics and biosafety within VU and has contributed to improved standard of submissions by researchers.

Further benefits to researchers include reduced turnover time for application notifications and approvals, accurate and prompt response times to enquiries and comprehensive resources via the Ethics and Biosafety website and experienced staff.

This year, the Ethics and Biosafety Administration Group turns its attention to enhancing its capacity to monitor projects, improving protocols for annual and final reporting and facilitating policy development.

Staff at the Ethics and Biosafety Administration Group encourage all researchers to visit the Ethics and Biosafety website at: http://research.vu.edu.au/ethics0.php

FACULTY OF ARTS, EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT NEWS

NEW RESEARCH GRANT ON THE ROLE OF CREATIVE ARTS IN IMPROVING WELLBEING FOR REFUGEE YOUTH IN SCHOOLS AND THE COMMUNITY

Associate Professor Michele Grossman (Office of the Dean and School of Communication and the Arts) and Dr Christopher Sonn (School of Social Sciences and Psychology) have been awarded a $118,000 research grant from The Song Room, a national organisation that provides music and creative arts programs across the country to approximately 45,000 disadvantaged children and young people a year in 250 programs in partnership with specialist artists and schools and community organisations. The Song Room’s programs focus specifically on disadvantaged youth in the categories of low SES, remote area, disability, Indigenous, at-risk and new arrivals and refugees.

Michele and Chris’s research will examine the effectiveness and impact of The Song Room’s programs for approximately 300 refugee-background young people in a range of Victorian English-language schools and community programs, as well as consulting with parents, community leaders, teachers and artists. Using community-based participant research (CBPR) methods and frameworks, the study will have a specific focus on the nexus between involvement in school-based creative arts and cultural and community wellbeing, and will explore strategies and approaches that may be specific or unique to working with young people in these contexts.

The project will run from mid-2009 to December 2010 and will involve working with a larger consortium of researchers from other universities and organisations on The Song Room’s major capacity-building initiative. The overall research program is supported by the Macquarie Foundation.

RESEARCH REPORT ON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

The final report on a VU research project commissioned by Teaching Australia, ‘A study of effective and sustainable university school partnerships: Beyond determined efforts by inspired individuals’, was published in March 2009 by Teaching Australia. Chief investigators for this project were Tony Kruger, Anne Davies, Bill Eckersley (all School of Education), Frances Newell and Brenda Cherednichenko. Teaching Australia commissioned the VU research team to complete a research study into university-school partnerships in order to:

- identify examples of effective and sustainable university-school partnerships as part of pre-service teacher preparation programs, as well as research, induction and continuing professional learning for practising teachers; and
- analyse these programs to identify the characteristics of effectiveness and sustainability.

The project was funded at $140,000 for the duration of the study in 2007-8.

COMMONWEALTH RESEARCH GRANT SUCCESS

As part of a consortium with PivotWest Ltd, Dr Jocelyn Angus (School of Social Sciences and Psychology) has led a VU research team’s success in securing a major Commonwealth grant to work with aged care homes in the West of Melbourne in the area of infection control. The Australian Government has provided VU with $180,000 in research funding to implement Round 2 of the ‘Encouraging Best Practice in Residential Aged Care’ program (the EBPRAC-IC project). VU will lead and manage the evaluation of a two-year project titled: ‘Infection control in residential aged care facilities: Closing the gap between evidence and practice’. The School of Social Sciences and Psychology and the Faculty welcome Research Fellow Dr Julie Shaw, who will work with Jocelyn in the Aged Services Management Unit on the EBPRAC-IC project.

PRESTIGIOUS BOOK CONTRACT

Adrian Threlfall, a recent PhD graduate (October 2008) from the School of Social Sciences and Psychology in the Faculty of Arts, Education and Human Development who now lectures sessionally in the School, has won a prestigious book contract for a monograph based on his doctoral research. Titled Fighting the Jungle War, Adrian’s book traces the evolution of the combat arms of the Australian Army from 1941-75. It focuses upon the
development of jungle warfare from the early days against the Japanese in the South-West Pacific campaigns of WWII, onto the Malayan Emergency of the 1950s, the confrontation with Indonesia in Borneo (1963-66), and culminates with Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War. Fighting the Jungle War will be published by Allen & Unwin in June 2011. Adrian's PhD was supervised by Professor Phillip Deery.

**STANDPOINT RESEARCH PROJECT: ADDRESSING POVERTY ISSUES IN EDUCATION**

**BACKGROUND:**
As a collaborative inquiry, the Standpoint Research Project aims to redress the effects of poverty on the education of students in Melbourne’s West. Standpoint has been initiated by a committed team of people from Good Shepherd Youth and Family Services and Victoria University’s School of Education. They comprise of the following team members, Barry Pullen, Carmel Stafford and Marilyn Webster from Good Shepherd, and Associate Professor Tony Kruger, Dr Marcelle Cacciatolo, Dr Merryn Davies, Ligia Pelosi and Jo Williams from Victoria University.

Using funds provided by the Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Education, Standpoint currently supports teams of teachers and young learners in six schools in Melbourne’s Western Region. The project investigates ways in which schools can better support the learning of students from low-income families: the least advantaged.

**RESEARCH AIMS:**
The Standpoint Project plans to reflect on the issue of poverty and education by addressing the following questions:

- What are the practices and structures within schools that can best support and encourage the participation and successful engagement of low-income families?
- Are there practices and structures that might deter or exclude some children and young people from full participation in education?
- What amendments can be made to the Low-income Awareness Checklist that take into account additional support services and considerations of the needs of low-income families and students?
- What are the practices and structures within schools that can best support and encourage the participation and successful engagement of low-income families?
- Are there practices and structures that might deter or exclude some children and young people from full participation in education?
- What amendments can be made to the Low-income Awareness Checklist that take into account additional support services and considerations of the needs of low-income families and students?

Standpoint has aimed to facilitate school-based teams’ re-thinking of the ways and means by which schools plan and implement programs explicitly from the standpoint of low-income families and students. The research has sought to apply Collaborative Practitioner Research (CPR) practices, which place teachers at the centre of the data collection and analysis in the project and provide an explicit place for them in the theorising of research findings (Cherednichenko, Kruger et al. 2001).

A diverse set of data has been collected to date, including:

- Contextual data including demographic data and Education Maintenance Profile (EMA)
- Teachers’ planning, teaching and assessment records
- School policy and accountability documents
- Teachers’ records of student participation and learning
- Teachers’ narratives of practice (eg case writing) and reflective writing

From Standpoint’s work to date, it is clear that the tools by which a teacher might connect personal pedagogy, curriculum and assessment practices to the interests and experiences of students from low-income families are not readily available. Few references to it exist in the literature. But it would seem to have a practical intent. The Standpoint Research is committed to validating tools through which teachers can adopt an inclusive lens when working with students who are the least advantaged.

**REFERENCES**


**VU'S FIRST POSTGRADUATE RESEARCHER SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH COMMERCIALISATION TRAINING**

Building on the partnership that has been formed between Victoria University and the University of Melbourne to collaborate in various educational development initiatives, agreement was recently reached between the Office for Postgraduate Research and the Melbourne Business School that will enable selected VU Postgraduate researchers to undertake studies towards the MBS Graduate Certificate in Commercialisation of Research as an adjunct to their formal VU research degree studies. VU was successful in its bid for funding from the Australian government under the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science and Research through the Commercialisation Training Scheme to support Australian postgraduate researchers in receiving this specialist training. This is part of the government’s commitment to improving the capacity of researchers to develop the outcomes of their research into commercialisable products. The Graduate Certificate program offered by the Melbourne Business School is particularly attractive because of the broad range of unit options available for students, including those whose projects have commercialisation potential from disciplines ranging from the creative arts and humanities right through to business applications, the sciences and engineering.

The first round of placement under the scheme was announced recently and the first VU postgraduate researcher selected for the program, Mr Nipun Agarwal from the Faculty of Business and Law, commences in the May semester at MBS. Nipun is currently studying in the research phase of a Doctorate of Business Administration at VU and has an extensive professional background in the corporate sector, primarily in financial analysis as well as having a Masters degree in Applied Finance. He is planning to apply his training in research commercialisation to assist him in being able to commercialise the software application that he is developing as part of his doctoral research project.
Further places are available under the scheme and the next application round for the scheme will be announced in June.

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN FOR REALISE YOUR DREAM

The British Council is again in pursuit of Australia's most talented creatives to win one of five Realise Your Dream Awards in 2009.

Now in its seventh successful year, Realise Your Dream offers a unique opportunity for winners to expand their creative horizons through an individually tailored professional development programme in the UK's creative industries. By tapping an extensive network of the UK’s finest creatives, we help open the doors winners need most to further their career. Applicants must demonstrate excellence and innovation in their field and tell us how they'd benefit by connecting with Britain's best.

Each prize includes an $8,000 NAB Cash Passport and a return British Airways World Traveller airfare to London.

Realise Your Dream is open to Australians working or studying in the creative industries including visual arts, design, architecture, music, digital media and performing arts.

Entries are now open and close Friday 3 July 2009. Visit the Realise Your Dream website for details
http://www.realiseyourdream.org.au

THANK YOU to all who contributed to the content of the Research Matters bulletin. 😊