

Regional Community Report 2010



Multi campus, shared identity

La Trobe University is renowned as one of Australia's pioneering universities—providing higher education services for over 40 years to thousands of students in Melbourne and regional Victoria. Commencing in 1967 with 552 students, the University has grown to accommodate approximately 28,000 local and international students across its metropolitan and regional campuses in Victoria.

The University is characterised by its strong regional network of campuses, with each campus creating hundreds of local jobs and contributing millions of dollars to local communities.

Each campus is set in its own unique environment with a diverse and dynamic atmosphere.

Working together

While each regional campus has its own character, La Trobe University is proud of its reputation to deliver consistent, high quality tertiary education in Melbourne and across northern regional Victoria. The University is a multi-campus institution with a shared identity and is committed to providing enriching and relevant learning opportunities for students from all campuses.

Bendigo

Bendigo is La Trobe's largest regional campus and embodies the University's pioneering spirit. It was one of the first three institutions in Victoria to offer a course in IT and remains at the forefront of the University's regional activities. 2010 saw student numbers reach 4708 with international student numbers in particular increasing by over 40 per cent. All discipline areas are represented in Bendigo, as well as a number of niche offerings in health sciences, education and visual arts. Bendigo's 33-hectare bushland campus offers students a unique blend of rural atmosphere and sophisticated learning, teaching and research in a natural setting, while being located in a large, vibrant regional centre.

Albury-Wodonga

The Albury-Wodonga campus offers a wide range of courses, attracting over 950 students (and growing every year) that contribute to the local economy. Courses such as the Bachelor of Science in Environmental Management and Ecology are unique to the campus and students have access to diverse natural habitat to assist in their learning experiences. With personalised support and tuition from dedicated staff, Albury-Wodonga students enjoy specialised, hands-on learning in a relaxed environment.

Mildura

The Mildura campus provides a unique experience for its students, who come to see themselves as part of an extended family in this warm, friendly and multicultural city. Its courses focus on meeting industry needs at regional, national and global levels. Part of the family atmosphere at Mildura campus is its pride in strong, longstanding relationships with local businesses and the community. Mildura's lower cost of living makes it a wonderful place to live, study, work and play, attracting over 480 students in 2010, from all age groups with diverse educational and professional backgrounds.

Shepparton

La Trobe University's smallest campus has a big heart when it comes to community-based higher education. Student numbers have increased in 2010 to 429 students, who love its relaxed, friendly and caring environment, while gaining the benefits of a high quality education. In its brand new \$11 million building, students will benefit from smaller class sizes, personalised teaching and close connections with the entire regional community.



Mildura students during a tutorial



Bendigo Campus



Students enjoying Albury-Wodonga awards ceremony



Brand new Shepparton Campus

Front cover

Students outside the new Shepparton Campus

Indigenous Acknowledgement

La Trobe University acknowledges Aboriginal people's ongoing connection to the land upon which its campuses are located and values the contributions Indigenous Australians make to its activities. La Trobe University acknowledges the: Wurrundjeri (Melbourne campus) | Jaara Jaara (Bendigo campus) | Yorta Yorta and Bangerang (Shepparton campus) | Nyeri Nyeri and Barkindji (Mildura) | Dhudhuroa and WayWuru (Wodonga campus).

Cross campus collaboration

La Trobe University's regional campuses regularly collaborate on a range of activities, from research projects to study trips. The campuses work together to achieve excellence in tertiary education for all La Trobe students, regardless of where they choose to study.

SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise)

In 2010 the La Trobe SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise) Mildura team was complemented with students from the Albury-Wodonga and Bendigo campuses. The teams worked on community outreach projects in their local communities. These included the 'Let's Can Hunger' Project across all three campuses; Financial Literacy for Indigenous Youth (Project FLIY) at Coomealla High School, north of Mildura; and OZ.e Wildlife Project at Albury-Wodonga.

Students from the team attended the 2010 National Conference and Championships in Melbourne in July. As a part of the competition, the team presented their three projects to a table of 17 judges from national and multinational companies.

Study tour of China

The annual International Business Management and International Marketing Study Tour was held at the end of 2010. Students from Melbourne, Bendigo, Albury-Wodonga and Shepparton travelled to China for two weeks. The tour combines classroom work in a Chinese university with visits to local attractions and meetings with senior executives from global organisations.

An Australian first

In 2010 La Trobe University appointed Professor Carol Adams to the newly created position of Pro Vice-Chancellor (Sustainability), the first position of its kind in Australia. This unique role highlights the need for higher education institutions to incorporate sustainable practices into all aspects of university life: from operations and policy, to curriculum, teaching and learning.

Half a million global listeners and counting

Since becoming available on iTunes U in August 2009, a global audience of more than half-a-million people in over 100 countries have downloaded free educational content from La Trobe University on iTunes U.

With a wide range of material including lectures, interviews, and news videos, La Trobe University can reach hundreds of new listeners and prospective students on a daily basis. iTunes U has become an important tool for engaging current and prospective students. A number of podcasts from La Trobe have ranked in the 'Top 100' on iTunes U and nearly 400 unique files from the University are available free to download.

Search 'La Trobe University' on iTunes U to access our content.

La Trobe partners the Bendigo Spirit National Basketball Team



SIFE Team



Mildura Campus

In many ways 2010 was a landmark year for La Trobe University.

Record levels of student enrolments and the opening of a major new campus reinforced our commitment to economic and social prosperity in regional Victoria.

Supported by the Victorian and Australian governments, and designed to the highest environmental standards, the new state-of-the-art campus at Shepparton will provide education of the highest quality to one of Victoria's largest and fastest growing regional communities. The Shepparton campus expresses our commitment to the communities we serve, and reflects the principles of sustainability and quality which underpin the University's activities.

In 2010, the University also commenced construction of new student accommodation on the Bendigo campus, and the building of the clinical teaching and health sciences buildings in Bendigo are well under way. These projects will create in excess of 600 construction jobs in the Bendigo economy.

The University places a great deal of importance on understanding and supporting the communities in which we operate.

We continue to collaborate on a wide range of activities, including our joint research with the Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre, strengthening partnerships with regional schools and TAFEs, and working with local councils, the Smith Family, and other organisations to improve education pathways, particularly for under-represented students. Of course, as many of our communities face inundations, the University will support them just as we did during the bushfires of 2009, through targeted assistance for affected students and broader community-building activities.

We present this report as a snapshot of La Trobe University's activities with our communities in 2010. As we enter 2011, we have much to look forward to as we continue our efforts to provide relevant, high quality teaching, learning and research in regional Victoria.



Professor Paul Johnson
Vice-Chancellor and President

La Trobe University remains deeply committed to regional Victoria.

With over 5500 students on our regional campuses, La Trobe enrolls more regional students than any other Victorian University. We offer a wide range of courses in education, health sciences, law and management, science, technology and engineering, and humanities and social sciences. Our graduates form much of the professional regional workforce in these fields, and our staff are major contributors to research and innovation in northern Victoria.

At our largest regional campus in Bendigo, the number of commencing students rose by 20 per cent in 2010, with Mildura, Shepparton and Albury-Wodonga campuses also witnessing growth. All campuses are projected to expand further in 2011. Our new campus in the heart of Shepparton was opened by Senator Chris Evans on 6 December 2010 and will enable in excess of 600 students to study and work in the rapidly growing Goulburn region.

Catering for strong growth requires first class facilities and staff, and several new academic leaders were appointed to the regions in 2010, including four professors within the La Trobe Rural Health School alone. Shepparton, Mildura and Albury-Wodonga campuses were also strengthened with senior level corporate staff.

In addition to major infrastructure projects, facilities were upgraded on each campus and there was an expansion of flexible teaching and learning spaces to enable small group work and use of the latest innovations in technology.

La Trobe continued its regional engagement activities in 2010, including the internationally acclaimed Edge of the Outback program in Mildura; the Sir John Quick lecture in Bendigo, delivered by Professor Ross Garnaut; and the Jonathan Mann lecture in Albury-Wodonga, delivered by 2007 Australian of the Year, Professor Tim Flannery.

Each campus participated in and delivered a breadth of arts, sport, industry and educational partnerships. For example, the Bendigo campus signed a significant educational and sporting partnership with the Bendigo Spirit National Women's Basketball Team.

In 2011, we look forward to celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Albury-Wodonga campus and continuing our expansion of education provision across northern Victoria.



Hal Swerissen
Pro Vice-Chancellor, Regional



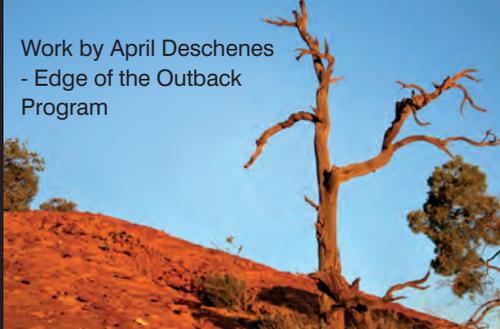
Mildura campus

La Trobe Mildura takes advantage of different methods of teaching and lecturing to integrate student connections with both local and University communities.



Students at Mildura Campus

Work by April Deschenes
- Edge of the Outback
Program



Jacara Egan (left) first
Indigenous social work graduate



MILDURA

Campus Profile

More than 480 local and international students currently study at La Trobe University's Mildura campus. The campus prides itself on the diversity of its student population and its close links with local business and the community with unique courses specifically designed to meet the needs of local and regional industry.

La Trobe Mildura students benefit from easy access to lecturers and campus facilities. Students are offered a comprehensive range of student support services including childcare, Indigenous student services, disability support, study skills and career planning assistance.

Campus Director

- ▶ Mr Neil Fettingling

Regional Advisory Board

Community members

- ▶ Mr Stefano de Pieri, (Chair)
Regional Advisory Board
and Foundation Board Member
- ▶ Dr John Cooke,
Manager, Department of Sustainability
& Environment
- ▶ Mr Brian Grogan OAM,
Consultant
- ▶ Mr Michael Keenan,
Horticulturalist
- ▶ Adjunct Professor Vernon Knight AM,
Executive Director, Mallee Family Care
- ▶ Mr Graeme Martin,
Project Consultant, Granga Consulting
- ▶ Mrs Sandra Stewart,
Manager Koori Programs,
Sunraysia Institute of TAFE
- ▶ Mr Mark Henderson,
CEO, Mildura Rural City Council
- ▶ Ms Anne Mansell,
CEO, Mildura Development Corporation
- ▶ Ms Sharyon Peart,
Mildura Business Owner
- ▶ Mr Craig Stanbridge,
CEO, Sunraysia Community Health Services

Ex officio

- ▶ Professor Hal Swerissen,
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Regional),
La Trobe University
- ▶ Mr Dennis Norton,
Principal, Mildura Senior College
- ▶ Mrs Winifred Scott,
CEO, Sunraysia Institute of TAFE
- ▶ Mr Neil Fettingling,
Director, La Trobe University, Mildura campus

Teaching and Learning

Edge of the Outback

This annual program takes international students on a photographic journey through outback Australia. Students develop skills in digital and analogue photography and learn about traditional Australian landscapes and culture. Participants present their work in a gallery exhibition at the end of the program.

In 2010 a Melbourne-based film crew produced a documentary about the course, which was published on YouTube. To complement the film's release, a commemorative book will be published in early 2011, profiling previous course participants and selected exhibition photographs.

To view the film, please visit:

- ▶ www.youtube.com/user/latrobemarketing

Indigenous Education

Mildura campus has introduced a third-year Indigenous Education subject in the Bachelor of Education course. The subject was developed in conjunction with the local Aboriginal Education Consultative Group and district representatives of Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Inc. The course has been promoted to Koorie Education Support Officers as a model of introducing Aboriginal cultural awareness training to teachers in the Loddon Mallee district.

La Trobe Award

The La Trobe Award debuted at the Mildura campus in 2010. More than 20 students participated as community volunteers in order to receive credit towards the Award. Students volunteered in organisations including Girl Guides, Mildura West Primary School Foster Care and The Art Vault.

Social work professional mentoring

First-year students participated in the new professional mentoring program designed to help students understand social work practice in a diverse community.

Students visited three agencies—Mallee Family Care, CentaCare and the Aboriginal Corporation—where they met staff and senior social workers.

Lecturer features in national photography book

The work of Mildura Visual Arts lecturer, Kristian Haggblom, has been included in the largest book ever published on Australian contemporary photography. *Contemporary Australian Photography since 1980* by Anne Marsh, showcases the work of 190 individual photographers and includes critical essays examining the issues that have shaped photography over the past 30 years.



International Nurses Day



Foundation Board Members

Limitless leadership

La Trobe University's Infinity Leadership Program commenced at the Mildura campus in 2010. As part of the program students were required to work on a community project. One student group developed an environmental program designed for Year 6 students at Mildura South Primary School.

The program received additional funding from the Mildura Rural City Council and resulted in an exhibition showcasing artworks, performances and literature. The works aimed to raise awareness of both local and global environmental concerns.

Research

First PhD student graduates from Mildura Campus

A highlight for Mildura's 2010 Graduation Ceremony was the graduation of Dr Kirsten Henderson. Kirsten completed her PhD thesis on *Rethinking the Politics of Water in Australia*. She is now working in Canberra for the Murray-Darling Basin Authority as a Senior Policy and Research Officer.

The Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre

La Trobe University partners in the joint-venture operation of The Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre along with CSIRO, the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and the Federal Government's Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, People and Community.

As part of the The Living Murray Condition Monitoring Program 2009/10, The Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre undertook condition monitoring at the Hattah Lakes Icon Site; a popular recreational area in Mildura with massive ecological and cultural heritage significance. The Ramsar-listed wetlands provides vital habitat for many plant and animal species.

River Red Gum, Black Box, wetland understory vegetation, terrestrial understory vegetation, Lignum, Cumbungi and fish were all assessed. The results were compared with previous years to establish trends in the health of the environment.

Sustainability

Sustainable Sunraysia Colloquium

Throughout 2010 the Mildura Regional School of Business developed the 'Sustainable Sunraysia Colloquium' which will be launched in early 2011. The colloquium is a forum for engagement between the University, industry and local community on issues of regional economic development and broad conceptions of sustainability. It is modelled on, and is partnering with, Portland State University's Social Sustainability Colloquium in the USA.

Sustainability Taskforce

As part of the Infinity Leadership Program, student Jay Smith developed the Sustainability Taskforce, a committee of staff and students designed to increase awareness of sustainability issues and to create actions to be implemented by the University. These include the introduction of public place recycling and the implementation of mobile phone and ink cartridge recycling on campus. The project has grown from a student assignment to a campus-wide initiative and is now being further developed by the Executive Officer of the Mildura campus.

Eco-garden launch

In March 2010 the Mildura campus celebrated the opening of its own Eco-Garden. The concept for the garden won a Greening La Trobe EnvironSMART Award and was designed by La Trobe's Manager of Creative Services, Marg Pittaway. The native garden promotes 'sustainable relationships' and features a sustainable lawn alternative.



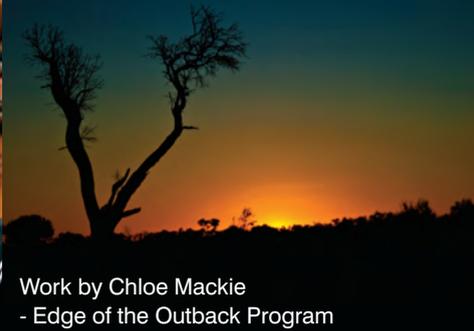
Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre undertaking field work at Hattah Lakes



Mildura Campus eco-garden



Photography students from the Edge of the Outback Program



Work by Chloe Mackie - Edge of the Outback Program

Visiting artists mix art and science

Renowned artists Ken and Julia Yonetani have spent three months in Mildura as part of Synapse, an Australian Network for Art and Technology program co-hosted by The Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre and Sunrise 21.

The product of their work is a stunning collection of sculptures made entirely of salt harvested from Morquong Lakes near Mildura. Commissioned by 'Palimpsest', Mildura's biennial visual arts exposition, the work references the balance of nature and man in our unique environment and will be unveiled in September 2011 at Rio Vista House, Mildura.

Community Activities

Mildura Eisteddfod Society

In 2010 the Mildura campus hosted Mildura Eisteddfod events on campus, while the Mildura Arts Centre was closed for major renovations. Over one week, more than 1000 school students performed to a total audience of 2500.

Foundation Board

La Trobe Mildura's Foundation Board manages philanthropic funds provided to the campus by individuals, corporations and community groups. These funds are used to support access to higher education at La Trobe University for students from Mildura and its surrounding areas in the form of grants, awards and scholarships.

During 2010 the Foundation Board worked towards securing funds for the improvement of University facilities and sourced funding for two ongoing scholarships worth between \$3000 and \$4000 for Mildura students.

2010 board members included:

- ▶ Mr Ross Lake, (Chair), Managing Director, Tasco Inland
- ▶ Mr Ross Lanyon, Managing Director, Elliott Newspaper Group
- ▶ Mr Neil Fettling, Campus Executive Director
- ▶ Mr Stefano de Pieri, Restaurateur and Chair, Regional Advisory Board
- ▶ Mr Don Carrazza, Managing Director, Mildura Theatre Brewery
- ▶ Ms Margot Mills

Community engagement

La Trobe Mildura is an enthusiastic supporter of the arts and sciences in regional Victoria. Campus staff and students contribute to educational programs and research, and La Trobe Mildura sponsors awards, events and exhibitions. Our strong community partnerships include:

- Artsmildura
- Mildura Rural City Council
- Murray Darling Freshwater Research Centre
- RiverLink
- Students in Free Enterprise La Trobe University
- Sunraysia Institute of TAFE

Clean-up aids flood appeal

Mildura's annual campus clean-up raised much needed funds for the local flood appeal. In preparation for the new year, the campus embarked on a clean-up of a number of unused items around the campus such as old office chairs, desks and drawers. Instead of simply throwing them away, the items were sold to staff members.

Public lectures

Master Class lectures are open to the public and feature guest lecturers from diverse backgrounds. Designed to provide students with a link between theory and real-world practice, the lectures provide an insight into the careers of industry and community leaders. 2010 presenters included Professor Carol Adams, Acting Dean, Faculty of Law and Management; Professor Neale O'Connor, the University of Hong Kong; and Pranay Lodhiya, Chief Financial Officer, La Trobe University.

Unlocking Sunraysia's potential

A forum addressing social disadvantage in young people in rural communities was conducted at the campus in July.

Unlocking Sunraysia's Potential: The Quest for Better Education Outcomes in the Mallee included contributions from local residents and diverse community sectors including health, education and the Department of Justice. Presentations were made by Regional Advisory Board members Stefano De Pieri, Cr Vernon Knight and Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Johnson. A subsequent 'Developing Ideas Workshop' was conducted and a taskforce established to complete a strategic plan and community 'compact' or agreement.



Scholarships

La Trobe Mildura student Lauren Gilson was awarded the *Catalysts' Society Centenary Bursary Scholarship* of \$1500 funded by the Australian Federation of University Women (AFUW) Victoria. Lauren is a mother of four and in her third year of the Bachelor of Education. As the only Indigenous student in the course, Lauren wants to encourage more Indigenous and disadvantaged students to enter tertiary education. The AFUW Victoria aims to empower women through education by awarding the *Catalysts' Centenary Bursary* to female Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander students.

Indigenous mature age student Lauren Gilson and family members



Rachel Richardson

Student Profile

Rachel Richardson

After separating from her husband, Rachel, a retail employee, wanted greater financial security for her children.

"I had a good think and realised that my best option was to go to university and complete my degree in Accounting. I had obtained my Associate Diploma in Business (Accounting) at the Sunraysia Institute of TAFE back in 1996 and had enjoyed the course immensely. I felt a career in accounting would give me the financial security I needed and also a better work/family balance than retail, especially as retail is a seven-day-a-week business in Mildura."

Rachel is the first to admit that if La Trobe did not have a campus in Mildura, she would not have returned to study.

"What do I like most about Mildura campus? Well, first the fact that it exists! After I finished high school, I started a Bachelor of Science at Flinders University and I remember going to my first lecture; it was overwhelming being in a room full of 300-plus students. It was difficult to follow the lecturer and after six months, I left. At the Mildura campus you get to know the lecturers and the other students. There is time for questions, and the lecturers can tell immediately when we are confused! The other bonus is that whilst the campus and class sizes are small, the lectures are still of the same or higher quality as any city campus."

Rachel has achieved great results in her first year, receiving the CPA Australia Award for a First Year Undergraduate student and already has her eyes set on an accounting career in Mildura.

"My big plan is to have a job I enjoy, put my boys through school and buy my own house."



Haydn Aarons

Staff Profile

Dr Haydn Aarons Lecturer in Sociology

Dr Haydn Aarons has been lecturing in Sociology at the Mildura campus for the past three years and recently returned from presenting at a conference in Florence, Italy. The conference was centred on the work of Sociologist Norbert Elias.

"Travelling to Florence was a great experience, it really opened my eyes to what's happening on the other side of the world. I hope my presentation, which looked at the role of religion in cultural consumption, gave the audience something to think about."

During his trip, Dr Aarons also visited the University of Manchester, UK, to take part in a research collaboration.

"The University of Manchester has a very strong reputation for its research methods and does a lot of research into my specialised area of cultural consumption."

"I was fortunate enough to actually undertake some research into questions of cultural participation and social capital while I was there."

During 2010, Dr Aarons investigated arts participation and library use in Mildura for the Mildura Rural City Council. His research will help local government to plan and allocate resources towards programs and services to better serve the community.

“ Having a La Trobe University campus here meant that I didn't have to pack up myself and my boys and move to a town where we knew no-one, leaving my family and friends. ”

Rachel Richardson

Shepparton campus

A 34 per cent increase in student first preferences to study at La Trobe Shepparton in 2011 shows the value the community places on the University and its important role in the region.



Inside the new Shepparton Campus



Chris Evans opens the new Shepparton campus



The official party cuts the ribbon

Campus Profile

The Shepparton campus offers students high-quality education in a relaxed, friendly and caring environment with a focus on enriching the regional community. The campus offers flexible learning, with daytime and evening subjects and the opportunity for students to study full or part-time.

Students enjoy a brand new state-of-the-art campus, smaller class sizes and more personalised teaching along with the services and facilities of the beautiful wider Goulburn Valley region.

Campus Director

- ▶ Ms Elizabeth Lavender

Regional Advisory Board

Community members

- ▶ Mr Adam Furphy, (Chair)
Managing Director, J Furphy & Sons
- ▶ Mr Will Adams,
Editor, Shepparton Advisor
- ▶ Mr David Faram,
Partner, Faram Ritchie Davies Lawyers
- ▶ Ms Wendy Lewis,
Chief Nursing Officer, Goulburn Valley Health
- ▶ Mr Phil Pearce,
CEO, Greater Shepparton City Council
- ▶ Mr Ian Nalder,
Partner, Stubbs, Wallace and Partners
- ▶ Mr John Sciacca,
Acting Principal, McGuire College
- ▶ Mr Paul Culpan,
CEO, Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE
- ▶ Mr Ben Snow,
Partner, Brown Baldwin Accountants

Ex officio

- ▶ Professor Hal Swerissen,
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Regional), La Trobe University
- ▶ Ms Elizabeth Lavender,
Director, La Trobe University, Shepparton campus
- ▶ Ms Rhonda King, Secretariat,
La Trobe University, Shepparton campus

New campus opens

La Trobe University officially opened its new \$11 million Shepparton campus, in Fryers Street, on 6 December 2010.

Opened by the Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Jobs and Workplace Relations, Senator Chris Evans, the two-storey building is one of the most modern University buildings in Australia.

Designed to meet environmental standards, the building features renewable materials in addition to high-efficiency light and water fittings, solar hot water and recycled rain water. The striking look of the building was inspired by the colours of the Shepparton landscape, Indigenous art, the feel of cool water and the wooden fruit boxes typical of this fruit-growing area.

New facilities include a state-of-the-art Clinical Learning Unit for nursing and allied health students as well as a range of flexible teaching, research and learning environments.

Students began using the new building in February 2011.

Teaching and Learning

Encountering Aboriginal Victoria

The Faculty of Humanities and Social Science introduced the subject Encountering Aboriginal Victoria at the Shepparton campus in 2010. It provided 45 students from Shepparton, Melbourne and Bendigo campuses with the opportunity to learn first-hand about the knowledge and culture of Indigenous people on their traditional lands. The first of its kind, the subject provides an opportunity to engage both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people around a common theme of learning and in particular the exploration of Aboriginal knowledge. This program received the prestigious Wurreker Award in 2010 for 'Outstanding University Programs'.

Integrated Management Practice

First offered in 2010, this industry-based subject allowed students to experience how management occurs within a workplace. Students worked in local businesses, where they received mentoring and participated in workshops, giving them an opportunity to apply theory to real-world management issues.

Educator of the Year

Dr Caroline Walta was named 'Teacher Educator of the Year' by the Australian Teacher Education Association, in recognition of her work in the Graduate Diploma of Education (Middle Years) program. Dr Walta developed the program to incorporate the iPod Touch as a new aid in digital learning. La Trobe provided \$55,000 to fund the initiative.

The Secondary Learning Club

During the six-week program, La Trobe students mentored Year 11 and 12 students at McGuire College, by providing extra support and guidance with students' school work and career pathways.

A combined initiative of La Trobe Shepparton, McGuire College Shepparton and The Smith Family, the Secondary Learning Club is a strategy designed to encourage secondary students to aspire to attend university.

Infinity Leadership Program

La Trobe University's Infinity Leadership Program was launched at the Shepparton campus in 2010. Ten students were accepted into the program, which aims to help students learn, develop and practise leadership skills in the local community.

Participants engaged with successful local people who inspired them to recognise their potential to build a successful career in the local area. They took part in projects such as volunteering for Plant-A-Tree Day and the Localities Embracing and Accepting Diversity Project.



Signing the Secondary Learning Club Memorandum of Understanding



Shepparton Campus opening featuring Damanmu Dancers

Research

Helping secondary students stay in school

In 2010 Beth Rankin from La Trobe's Equality and Diversity Centre investigated why middle-year secondary students in the greater Shepparton region disengaged from school. There are multiple factors contributing to disadvantage in this region and this valuable research aims to provide further insight and recommend additional strategies to help address this ongoing problem.

Overseas research and study

Elaine Plant, a marketing and economics lecturer at the Shepparton campus, travelled to Belgium in 2010 to research her Master of Commerce thesis: *Key Success Factors in Regional Trade Agreements*. The work conducted in Belgium will form a major part of Elaine's research and has initiated significant contacts for future research opportunities. The visit was funded by the Outside Studies Program by the Faculty of Law and Management.

Study of employment outcomes for migrants to the region

Local lecturers Dr Apollo Nsubuga-Kyobe, Dr Mary Jo Fortuna, Sue Nalder and Elaine Plant collaborated with Dr Marthin Nanere from the Bendigo campus to research the employment utilisation of skills of recently arrived migrants to the Goulburn Valley. Adopting a collaborative approach across faculties and campuses has enabled La Trobe to provide robust analysis of this ongoing question in Shepparton.

Community Activities

Teaching and learning contributing to community outcomes

The Dean of La Trobe's Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences invited members of the Shepparton community to discuss how the Faculty could contribute to the local community. The conversation ranged from ideas to ensure the Bachelor of Arts program was relevant to the region's diverse mix of students to the potential for the Faculty to engage in research of local importance. Areas of particular interest were Indigenous and refugee issues, along with environmental, social and economic sustainability.

Regional Careers website

With funding from the Higher Education Equity Scheme Program, La Trobe Shepparton established a Regional Careers website in 2010.

The website enables local employers to promote career paths for students who want to study, live and build a career in their local community. It also provides information about graduate programs, mentoring opportunities, work placement and ongoing employment opportunities.

Public lectures

The Shepparton campus presented numerous public lectures throughout 2010. These included:

Fairley Lecture

The inaugural Fairley Lecture was delivered by Rupert Myer AM, Chair of the National Gallery Australia.

The theme, *A fount of ideas: Regional Australia's turn*, reflected the strong historical roots that successful family businesses have in rural and regional Victoria.

John Furphy Memorial Lecture

The annual Furphy Lecture was presented by Peter Fitzgerald on *The Dethridge Wheel-100 years of faithful revolution*. Mr Fitzgerald, a local dairy farmer and irrigator, has represented irrigators on Goulburn-Murray Water's customer committees, and been a director of both Goulburn-Murray Water and the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority.

The John Furphy Memorial Lecture was established in memory of John Furphy (1842-1920) and continues to be sponsored by J. Furphy & Sons, Shepparton.

Academic Seminar Series

The Academic Seminar Series continued to be held throughout the academic year, with presenters and guests enjoying rigorous discussion about the subject at hand.

Guest presenters included:

- Dr Mary Jo Fortuna, Lecturer Shepparton campus and President of the Victorian Community Newspapers Association - *Words on Paper - Will they survive?*
- Elaine Plant, Lecturer Shepparton campus - *The social impact of regional trade agreements*.
- Paul Gialanze, from La Trobe University's Copyright Office - *Copyright, the University and staff*.
- Janet Congues, Honours student Shepparton campus - *Riding the Waves of Drought to Climate Change*.

Staff at the Shepparton campus engaged in a range of community events and meetings in 2010, with highlights including:

- Sorry Day Walk with the Shepparton Reconciliation Group.
- Cultural Celebration Jobs, Education and Careers Expo coordinated by the Goulburn Murray Local Learning and Education Network and the Indigenous Education Pathways Committee.
- Soroptimist International Women's Day Breakfast.
- Meeting with Aboriginal leaders at the Academy of Sport, Health and Education - *Creating and Expanding Opportunities for Indigenous Tertiary Students in Shepparton*.
- A VCE Parents' Information Evening was held for Year 11/12 students and parents, and focused on University courses, VTAC and scholarships.
- Presentation at 'Following new pathways' - an information evening for Muslim parents and young women funded by the Commonwealth Government through the Department of Immigration.
- Greater Shepparton City Council Community Development Framework Forum.
- Representation on the Department of Planning and Community Development's Rural Women Leading Change Forum in the Hume region.



Jenny Doyle

Staff Profile

Jenny Doyle Associate Lecturer of Nursing and Clinical Learning Unit Manager

Jenny Doyle was a perioperative (theatre) nurse for 20 years prior to joining La Trobe University six months ago. She enjoyed working in this specialised field where every day was different and no two operations were the same.

“There was an element of excitement to my job, each day was very different and the team of nurses, surgeons and anaesthetists worked so well together,” said Jenny.

Jenny is now an Associate Lecturer of Nursing, and in 2010 focused on second and third-year acute nursing and the perioperative online course. She is also the Clinical Learning Unit Manager in charge of running the revamped acute nursing subjects that use enquiry-based learning with simulation training programs.

“I’m very excited to be at the new campus and love the new Clinical Learning Unit, which I enjoyed setting up. I can’t wait to start the simulations with the students! Our new facilities will give students the opportunity to practise real-life scenarios in the simulation room.”

Sustainability

Visible/Invisible: Students’ perceptions of their lived environment

This project engaged Year 6 students from Wilmot Road Primary School in a creative learning project. Students were able to think about and interact with their environment using digital cameras to record their experience. They then developed their analytical skills by looking for themes that emerged from their collective work. The resulting photographic exhibition was shown at the new Shepparton campus and included portraits, black and white photos and the school garden. Abstract themes were accompanied by poetry-also created by the participating students.

The exhibition was made possible through a partnership between Schools Focused Youth Services, Uniting Care Cutting Edge, Wilmot Road Primary School and La Trobe University’s Equality and Diversity Centre and the Shepparton campus.



Rick Welsh

Student Profile

Rick Welsh

Former pastry chef and successful business owner, Richard (Rick) Welsh decided that he needed a career change. Selling his business in Yea, Rick took a year off and moved back to the family farm in Benalla. It was his accountant who suggested he try his hand at accounting.

That planted the seed for Rick and to date he has successfully completed his Diploma of Business, which will give him credit towards La Trobe’s Bachelor of Accounting.

As a mature-age student, Rick valued the opportunity to start his academic studies with the Diploma of Business.

“That gave me the chance to study knowing that-at the very least-I’d finish the year with a diploma. Now I’ve rolled that over into the Bachelor of Accounting because that will offer me more career choices.”

Michael Chisholm from Indigenous Services also played an integral role in helping Rick adjust to academic life.

“Michael was able to organise some tutoring and provided great advice and support along the way.

“Studying is certainly a challenge and a big change from my previous life. My children seem to show a bit of interest in my studies too.”

“ I’d like to think I’m setting a good example and making university more accessible for my children in the future. If Dad can do it, anyone can! ”

Rick Welsh

Albury-Wodonga campus

La Trobe's Albury-Wodonga campus, on the Murray River, provides this thriving region with a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate courses. The vital water research conducted through The Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre represents one area of speciality offered on this campus.





Albury-Wodonga Campus



New Dental Clinic



Future Leaders Club members

Campus Profile

Studying at the Albury-Wodonga campus offers the advantage of personalised support and tuition from dedicated staff, along with access to internationally acclaimed research expertise.

The campus offers a diverse range of specialist courses across each faculty area.

Campus Director

- ▶ Professor Lin Crase

Campus Operations Manager

- ▶ Mr Robert Woodward

Regional Advisory Board

Community members

- ▶ Dr Terry Hillman (Chair)
- ▶ Ms Diane Thomas, Deputy Editor, Border Mail
- ▶ Mr Leonard Peady, CEO, Gateway Community Health
- ▶ Mr Gavin Cator, CEO, City of Wodonga
- ▶ Dr Peter Vine, Campus Co-ordinator, Rural Clinical School, University of NSW
- ▶ Mr Robert Logan, Director, TAFE NSW Riverina Institute
- ▶ Mr Paul Joss, Director, Joss Group
- ▶ Ms Hayley Cail, Chairperson, Hume Region RDA

Ex officio

- ▶ Professor Hal Swerissen, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Regional), La Trobe University
- ▶ Professor Lin Crase, Director, La Trobe University, Albury-Wodonga campus
- ▶ Mr Peter Maclean, Representative, Principals Association
- ▶ Mr Michael O'Loughlin, CEO, Wodonga TAFE

Teaching and Learning

Course development

In 2010 the campus continued to expand its range of courses with the introduction of Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy and Paramedics.

The Master of Teaching (P-12) is also now fully operational. This is the first time any of La Trobe's pre-service teaching courses have included a dedicated research element and an intern component in the final six months.

Additional course development is occurring on several fronts with emphasis given to:

- Areas where there is defined unmet demand.
- Programs that will assist in meeting the targets set by government (e.g. Low socio-economic status).
- Courses where partnerships to share risk are in place.

The Sustainability major embodied in the Business degree continues to evolve with a range of new subjects including: Resource Economics, Environmental Law, Governance, and Environmental Marketing. These subjects are based on business practices but also include social and scientific issues.

Social Work Field Placement Expo

The Albury-Wodonga Social Work Field Placement Expo was held in April 2010. The event brings students, practitioners and agencies from the local area together to share knowledge of field education. The Expo was also a great opportunity to develop new networks and strengthen existing relationships prior to the course's 70-day work placements.

Library links to schools

The David Mann Library began offering access to local Year 12 students on a trial basis in 2010. Interested local students have been enrolled as special borrowers. It is hoped the service will forge closer links between the University and the school communities.

New dental clinic

The new public 10-chair dental clinic located at Gateway Community Health in High Street Wodonga is now fully operational.

The Clinic provides basic emergency, general and denture services and doubles as a training center for La Trobe's Rural Health School Dentistry program. The first two rotations of students to undertake clinical placements in the new clinic have been successfully completed.

Master of Teaching students flex muscles

A two-day Teaching and Learning Symposium, organised and delivered by Master of Teaching (P-12) students, took place in October. The free event, aimed at education professionals and parents, incorporated presentations on contemporary educational practice and the emerging National Curriculum, with a heavy focus on the middle years of schooling.

Students were responsible for all aspects of the Symposium including planning, organising, promoting and running the event.

Activities included online interaction with fellow student teachers from the University of North Carolina, USA, an exhibition of student artwork and performance pieces portraying students' educational journeys during their first year of study.

Students outside one of the state-of-the-art lecture theatres



Open day at the Albury-Wodonga Campus

Teaching and Learning Symposium Activities



Sustainability

Wodonga Sustainability Fair

The third annual Wodonga Sustainability Fair was successfully held in conjunction with the campus Open Day in August supported by Sustainability Victoria, City of Wodonga, North East Water, and Northeast Greenhouse Alliance. Attracting over 1000 attendees, 34 organisations showcased a variety of sustainable products and services with a focus on sustainable living.

Research

The John Richards Initiative

The John Richards Initiative was established in 2007 to lead research and innovation in rural aged care. The Initiative is a five-year, \$1.5 million venture, funded in equal parts by a private benefactor, La Trobe University and the Victorian Government.

During the year Rachel Winterton from the John Richards Initiative Research Office completed data collection for the first phase of the project *The meaning of place to older people in rural communities* focusing on rural disadvantage amongst older people in rural communities. This phase, and the second stage commencing in 2011, are funded by a La Trobe University Faculty of Health Sciences grant.

Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre

The Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre is a joint venture partnership between La Trobe University, CSIRO, the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and the Federal Government's Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts.

In line with the broader educational objectives at the Centre, Dr Sarah Ryan and Chris Kennedy have created two short films about the history of the Murray River that will be used in new exhibitions on water at Questacon and the CSIRO Discovery Centre in Canberra.

The Centre employs more than 50 researchers and has played a major part in providing scientific advice to inform the proposed Murray-Darling Basin Plan.

Community Activities

Public lectures

The campus hosted numerous public lectures during 2010 including;

The Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering Dean's Lecture was delivered on 8 April by Dr Mary White AM. Dr White, a South African born Botanist and full time author since retirement, presented *My 80-year journey through learning and life. Lessons for the Future of Australia's Natural World*. Dr White also gave an address at the 2010 graduation ceremony.

Tim Flannery presented the 2010 Jonathan Mann Lecture. The lecture drew upon Professor Flannery's most recent book, *Here on Earth*.

Celebrating Local Success: Inspirations from your community

A new community lecture series was launched in 2010: *Celebrating Local Success: Inspirations from your community*. The series will focus on local residents who have realised significant achievements. Andrew Croome delivered the first lecture. Dr Croome won the 2008 Australian/Vogel Literary Award, for his first novel *Document Z*. The Border Mail newspaper co-sponsored the series.

Future Leaders Club

The Future Leaders Club promotes the development of students' educational, social and leadership skills. The Club has been responsible for several activities on campus as well as charitable projects.

Club members Matt Grenfell, Cassie Bathes and Suthagar Karunanithi were joined by friends and family in April to raise money for new decking at OZ.e Wildlife's koala enclosure. The Future Leaders Club's 15 members raised funds to buy materials to construct a new boardwalk at the not-for-profit wildlife sanctuary in Albury.

The Club now plans to raise funds for an expanded shade sail for the sanctuary's penguin pool.

Members of the Club were recognised by the community at the Wodonga Council Red Carpet Awards 2010, reaching the semi-finals in the Rotary Club of Wodonga Group Helping Hand Award.

Annual International Evening

Two hundred people attended the 2010 Annual International Evening in October. Organised by La Trobe International, the event provided new local residents with a chance to meet new friends and learn about different cultures. Attendees included newcomers and international students from La Trobe University, Charles Sturt University, Riverina TAFE, Wodonga TAFE and Wodonga Senior Secondary College, and it was the first time Nepali and Arabic languages have been spoken on campus.

Aspirations and schools support

A 'Tutors in Schools' program commenced in 2010. This program involved 15 students selected on the basis of their academic record and their demonstrated enthusiasm and capability to be a school tutor at six local secondary schools. This included general homework support, small group tutorial for VCE students, one-on-one tutoring to develop understanding and skill, the development of mentor relationships to increase student aspirations, as well as facilitating La Trobe staff as guest speakers.



Verita Stewart

Student Profile

Verita Stewart

In 2010 Verita completed a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Management and Ecology Honours year based on her study of Murray Crayfish.

"I was always interested in the management side of my degree: it is typically very 'science'-based but I was more interested in looking at the real-world issues and pressures on Crayfish. My supervisor had an interest in Crayfish and I got along with her really well so I thought basing my Honours around them would be interesting.

"My research involved gathering samples of Murray Crays in the Ovens River, so basically me in a boat with a hoop net. I went out six times during the open season and didn't find many at all, which means there is likely to be some kind of pressure, whether it be fishing or environmental effects impacting the population."

Verita's research has been passed on to the Fisheries Board where she hopes her recommendations and findings will be of use.

"Honours can be very hard and stressful at times, but in the end it makes you feel so good about yourself and really helps when you are looking for a job or planning further study."

In between the completion of her Bachelor degree and Honours, Verita took a twelve-month position at the Benalla Rural City Council as an Environmental Officer and hopes to work in a similar field again.

The Environmental Management and Ecology degree is unique to the campus and many graduates are working in local and regional industries and agencies.



Christine Watson

Staff Profile

Christine Watson Student Engagement and Transition Officer

As a former La Trobe student, Albury-Wodonga's Student Engagement and Transition Officer, Christine Watson, knows how daunting starting University life can be.

"The first six weeks of university is a crucial time for new students. My job is to provide them with a well-rounded orientation program to help familiarise the students with their new environment and help them feel part of the wider La Trobe community".

Christine is regularly seen out and about in Albury-Wodonga, searching for information on activities and events that may be of interest to students. She is also involved with the Infinity Leadership Program and Student Career Mentoring Program. Both are designed to connect students with local community leaders, providing them with a sense of belonging to the University and the local community.

"Involvement with the community allows the University to ensure its teaching and research is relevant to the changing needs of society. My role is to connect our students with the local community through seminars and mentoring relationships. These connections allow students to learn from the experience of others, develop as a professional and enhance their learning."

“ I love the small, close-knit community at the Albury-Wodonga campus. As I work across all areas of the campus, I have the opportunity to learn from other staff and get to know many students on a one-on-one level. Watching them develop is a joy. ”

Christine Watson

Bendigo campus

**La Trobe Bendigo
is the University's
largest regional
campus, with more
than 4700 local
and international
students and over
900 staff working
full and part-time.**



Bendigo students on campus



Bendigo Spirit Basketball team members sign autographs for Darby House and Joseph Manton



Celebrating the 2009 Regional Community Report launch



La Trobe sponsors one of Bendigo's popular talking trams

Campus Profile

The campus offers a stimulating and secure teaching, learning and research environment, where students can study for degrees at undergraduate and postgraduate levels across all La Trobe's facilities.

The campus offers a number of exclusive courses; for example, in urban planning, IT, allied health, outdoor education, pharmacy, civil engineering and the visual arts.

During 2010 La Trobe Bendigo launched a new wet anatomy laboratory and in the coming years the Bendigo campus will confirm its position as regional Victoria's pre-eminent health educator, via the La Trobe Rural Health School. This will allow more than 750 new students to study health sciences in regional Victoria.

Campus Director

- ▶ Mr Andrew Skewes

Regional Advisory Board

Community members

- ▶ Mr Fabian Reid, (Chair)
Advisor to Steve Gibbons MP
- ▶ Ms Sue Clarke,
CEO, Bendigo Community Health
- ▶ Mr John Mulder,
CEO, Bendigo Health
- ▶ Mr Stan Liacos,
Director City Futures, City of Greater Bendigo
- ▶ Mr Darren McGregor,
Principal, Catholic College Bendigo
- ▶ Mr David Richardson,
CEO, Strategem Financial Group
- ▶ Hon. Anthony J Sheehan,
Director of Euro Pacific Strategies
- ▶ Cr Alec Sandner,
City of Greater Bendigo
- ▶ Mr Jim Dannock,
Manager Bendigo Region, Australian Industry Group

Ex officio

- ▶ Professor Hal Swerissen,
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Regional), La Trobe University
- ▶ Mr Andrew Skewes,
Director, La Trobe University, Bendigo campus
- ▶ Mr Dale Pearce,
Principal, Bendigo Senior Secondary College
- ▶ Dr Louise Harvey,
CEO, Bendigo TAFE

Teaching and Learning

Concepts of Communities

Concepts of Communities is a first year subject in the Bachelor of Education/Bachelor of Physical and Health Education. It focuses on enabling student teachers to understand the roles and relationships of community and community groups in their future profession.

Students undertaking *Concepts of Communities* during 2010 were required to produce multimedia presentations, showcasing their understanding of their communities. They also undertook a minimum of 20 hours community service in an organisation of their own choosing. Some popular choices for students have been:

- RSPCA, Righteous Pups, Lost Dog's Home.
- Retirement villages, aged nursing groups, respite care, Meals on Wheels, special needs and disability care.
- Sporting groups, arts and craft groups.
- After school care, homework hubs.
- Migrant services, Salvation Army, Uniting Care.

Many students maintain an ongoing commitment to their community group after the subject is completed.

Authentic Learning

During 2010, La Trobe's Faculty of Law and Management emphasised the role of 'Authentic Learning' as part of business students' overall learning experience.

'Authentic Learning' focuses on real-world problems and projects and includes work integrated learning, work experience, mentoring and shadowing, internships, simulations, guest lecturers and site visits.

Projects undertaken in 2010 included students Dannielle Downs and Justin McEwan completing a marketing project with the Good Loaf Sourdough Bakery. Their work involved preparing a total marketing package with customer surveys, cinema advertising and website development.

In another project, students Sian Hendry and Tom Lavey undertook a marketing survey for the Daylesford/Hepburn Swiss Italian Festival.

Participation in Diverse Communities through Service Learning

Second year occupational therapy students commenced service learning placements at two local secondary colleges as part of the subject *Participation in Diverse Communities through Service Learning*. La Trobe students assisted Bendigo Senior Secondary College students with their New Arrivals Program. Another group assisted Bendigo South East College students who have learning difficulties.



Community Planning and Development Bursary

Second-year Community Planning and Development students Grace Docker and Amy Lanfranchi were delighted to be each awarded \$2500 from the Richard and Claire Guy Regional Planning Bursary to assist them during their studies at La Trobe.

Established by Richard Guy, OAM, and his wife Claire, the Bursary is designed to support students from regional Victoria undertaking the Bachelor of Urban, Rural and Environmental Planning at La Trobe Bendigo. The course is the only accredited undergraduate planning degree offered in regional Victoria.

Planning overseas

Thirteen planning students undertook a five-week study program in Sri Lanka in January and February of 2010. Students attended planning program classes at the University of Moratuwa and helped prepare a regional plan for Uva Province as part of the ongoing work by the National Physical Planning Department in Sri Lanka and the Australian Planning Industry Association' post tsunami project.

New building plans unveiled

Designs for the new \$65.16 million La Trobe Rural Health School were unveiled in July. The Clinical Teaching and Health Science Buildings feature the latest in environmentally friendly materials and outstanding simulation amenities. The new school will enable La Trobe Bendigo to offer an extra 750 student places, training an additional 200 graduates each year to tackle critical healthcare worker shortages. Over 550 construction jobs will be created by the project, which is due for completion in 2013.

New anatomy lab

La Trobe Bendigo's new \$700,000 world-class wet anatomy laboratory officially opened in March. The facility enables dentistry, speech pathology, occupational therapy, physiotherapy and podiatry students to study anatomy in Bendigo, instead of travelling to the Melbourne campus. Funded by a Federal Education Investment Fund grant, the project engaged local architects and builders to complete the lab.

Sustainability

Sustainability through Outdoor Integrated Learning Program

Students from the Bachelor of Outdoor Education participated in the *Sustainability through Outdoor Integrated Learning (SOIL)* Program in 2010, at Boort Secondary College, Wedderburn College and Lauriston's Howqua Campus. The students used special team teaching practicum options all based around the theme of using outdoor education to teach secondary school students about sustainability.

National country towns conference

In 2010 La Trobe Bendigo's *Centre for Sustainable Regional Communities* held the third in its series of conferences with a focus on the sustainability of Australia's country towns. The conference examined various issues facing country towns:

from immediate concerns of environment, disasters of fire and flood to fundamental changes driven by long term climate change. The conference aimed to use different perspectives to show the choices communities have in working together and with governments to build a sustainable future.

School of Visual Arts provides flexible learning

The School of Visual Arts has been taking steps to reduce the requirement for students and lecturers to travel for education. Shared presentations via videoconference between the Bendigo and Mildura campuses including tutorials, workshops, group projects and collaborations have all been conducted successfully using this interactive mode.

Visual Arts has also developed a Photojournalism Online Program to allow the subject to be completed via distance education. Students across Australia including those in remote communities in South Australia, Northern Territory and far north Queensland have taken advantage of the flexible delivery of the subject.

Community Activities

Visual Arts Centre

Located in Bendigo's CBD, the La Trobe University Visual Arts Centre is a multi-purpose facility in the heart of Bendigo's arts and culture precinct and is the focus for the University's cultural activities in Bendigo. The Centre aims to engage with the community through exhibitions, a public lecture program, artist floor talks and an artist-in-residence program.

2010 saw a continued improvement in the number of visitors and quality of exhibitions. Attendance by the general public, secondary schools and corporate clients increased, with the number of functions growing dramatically as more organisations come to know about the unique attributes of the Visual Arts Centre and its central location.

Graphic design students win awards

Seven Graphic Design students received Southern Cross Packaging Awards in 2010, including 'Best of Show'. These awards lead the way in packaging design excellence, and are open to all Australian tertiary students studying graphic or industrial design.

In 2010 the awards received over 600 entries from around Australia. La Trobe Bendigo's Graphic Design students were by far the most successful, significantly outperforming much larger design programs in the major cities.

Winners included:

- Davina Howells - Gold, Commendation for Judges Rationale and 'Best of Show' (the most outstanding of all 600 entries).
- Jamie Lane - Gold.
- Steven Young - Silver.
- Alice Fraser - Bronze.
- Andrew Thomas, Samantha Westwood and Lucy Alexander all received a Commendation.



Students from the Community Planning and Development Program in a tea plantation in Sri Lanka



Campus Director Andrew Skewes and Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Johnson with the Southern University Games trophy

National Science Week: dare to be different

As part of National Science Week, La Trobe University and the Discovery Science and Technology Centre came together to provide regional Year 9-12 students with information about careers that can be achieved through study at La Trobe University. The event was designed to raise La Trobe's profile as a scientific centre of excellence in the region and to promote and strengthen the relationship between La Trobe University and the Discovery Centre.

WOTOPERA

Music Education lecturer Peter Butler was commissioned by Opera Australia to co-compose two short operas with Bendigo South East Secondary College and the Bendigo Disability Drama Group 'Creatability'.

The two 20-minute operas were performed with full professional Opera Australia production support, in the presence of their director Lyndon Terracini at the Capital Theatre Bendigo in April.

Student publication wins national award

UniNews, a collaboration between the Bendigo Student Association, the Bendigo campus and the Bendigo Advertiser is a weekly feature in the local newspaper and won the 2010 award for *Best Community Outreach Program* at the annual ACUMA conference held in Perth. ACUMA is the association representing higher education campus service providers in Australia and New Zealand. The awards recognise the efforts of student organisations across the country for their publications, promotional material, facilities, services and programs across a number of award categories.

Civil Engineering wins national award

The Department of Civil Engineering and Physical Sciences at La Trobe Bendigo has risen to the challenge of the national shortage in civil engineers; this is a particular problem in regional areas where organisations struggle to attract and retain metropolitan-based graduates. Since 2002, major emphasis has been placed on promoting the Bendigo civil engineering courses throughout regional Victoria.

Through sixteen partnerships with both private and public sector organisations, students have been provided with mentoring programs, guest lectures, site visits, paid work, integrated learning and scholarships.

The Department has linked the course to industry needs and produces civil engineers trained to meet demand in regional areas. In 2010 this long term, highly successful initiative was recognised by the Business Higher Education Round Table (BHERT) with a national award for *Best Higher Education and Training Collaboration* at their annual gala dinner in Melbourne.

Significant partnership between La Trobe and Bendigo Spirit National Women's Basketball team

In 2010, La Trobe University and the Bendigo Spirit National Women's Basketball team entered into a partnership agreement that sees both organisations benefitting. The Spirit is one of only two regionally based national teams in Australia and a partnership is a natural fit with La Trobe's strong regional presence.

The collaboration demonstrates La Trobe's commitment to regional Victoria including the attraction, development and education of elite athletes. The partnership is looking at work integrated learning opportunities for students; and La Trobe students and staff are always eager to attend home games in Bendigo. With more joint initiatives planned for 2011, the partnership is moving from strength to strength.

Southern University Games

In 2010 La Trobe Bendigo hosted the Southern University Games. Over 1000 university students from Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania competed in eleven sports during the four-day event in July.

The competition encompassed AFL, basketball, football, hockey, lawn bowls, netball, tenpin bowling, tennis, touch rugby, ultimate frisbee and volleyball.

2010 was also the first time a La Trobe team has won the Overall Champion University Trophy at the Games.

New accommodation for La Trobe Rural Health students

In November 2010, La Trobe appointed Hutchinson Builders to design and build new student accommodation at the Bendigo campus.

The \$16.5 million project will house up to 200 students as part of the \$65.16 million La Trobe Rural Health School. The new building will be located on an existing carpark and tennis court on the Edwards Road campus. Construction began early 2011, with completion expected in 2012.

Relay for Life

A team of 21 students and staff joined 73 other local teams walking almost 100km to raise money for cancer research in April.

The La Trobe University Bendigo Athletics Track became a sea of blue when the largest contingent of teams in the Bendigo Relay for Life's history made their way around the athletics track for 21 continuous hours. The La Trobe University Bendigo campus team raised just over \$1140.

ITBound! highlights IT careers

In recent years, the Bendigo branch of La Trobe's Department of Computer Science and Computer Engineering has run educational programs and created promotional materials to encourage students to consider Information and Communications Technology (ICT) as a course of study. ITBound! is the most recent of those efforts.

ITBound! was co-developed by final-year Bachelor of Information Technology (Professional) student, Daniel Kerr and Senior Lecturer Mary Martin. ITBound! seeks to increase the awareness of career opportunities for ICT graduates.

The program included a workshop activity, and tours of the University's ICT facilities, Bendigo Bank, Bendigo Community Telco and Integrating Technologies. The students were shown around the buildings, given demonstrations and advised on professional ICT roles. An IT Bound! calendar was created to remind students of their experience and to increase their association with ICT.



Bendigo Chinese Lion Dancing Team at Civic Welcome Ceremony

Industry gets involved in IT

La Trobe Bendigo has been a leader in IT education since 1964 when its class was one of only three on offer in Victoria. It continues innovating and has now developed a new Industry Integrated Bachelor of Information Technology. The course will focus on industry participation, featuring scholarships and a cadetship program to give students the opportunity to work with local businesses throughout their degree.

Sir John Quick Lecture

The 2010 Sir John Quick Lecture was presented by Professor Ross Garnaut, a Vice-Chancellors Fellow and Professorial Fellow of Economics at the University of Melbourne. Professor Garnaut's lecture was entitled *Australia's Contribution to Dangerous Climate Change and to Reducing its Risk*.

This lecture was part of a series of public lectures about Climate, Sustainability and Society which is a cross faculty first-year subject studied at the Bendigo, Albury-Wodonga and Melbourne campuses.

Alumni activities

A series of Alumni Downtown public lectures were held at the Visual Arts Centre in Bendigo's CBD. Each lecture featured issues relevant to the entire community and provided an ongoing link between the University, the Bendigo community and its many La Trobe graduates.

Lectures included:

- *De-mystifying Australia's broadband network*. Andrew Skewes, Campus Director, La Trobe University Bendigo.
- *The Murray-Darling Basin: A Federal Takeover?* Ian Tulloch, Coordinator of the Sociology and Politics Program, La Trobe University Bendigo.
- *Food - The Forgotten Item on the Urban Menu*. Trevor Budge, Senior Lecturer in Community Planning and Development, La Trobe University Bendigo.

Flood relief auction

To help raise funds for the Victorian flood relief effort, the Bendigo campus auctioned its Corporate Box for a Bendigo Spirit National Women's Basketball game. Michael McKern, Bendigo's Citizen of the Year 2010, was the winning bidder. Organised by Bendigo Community Health Services, the event raised \$10,000.

Research

Prestigious post for academic

In January 2010, La Trobe's Professor Jane Hamilton was appointed to the editorial board of the prestigious American journal *Issues in Accounting Education*. Appointments are made based on publications and international standing.

The recognition of Jane as a world-class academic in the field of accounting will promote the high calibre of academics working in higher education in regional Victoria to a worldwide audience.

Child friendly cities

Staff in the Community Planning and Development Program, City of Greater Bendigo and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development have joined forces to work on a major research project; *Everyday Urbanity* with Aalto University in Helsinki, Finland. The Aalto University research team have developed an interactive mapping-based software computer program that children access over the Internet.

Using real images, drawing features and pop-up survey questions, children can express their opinions and experiences about their urban spaces, health, mobility and activities. The data assists with urban design and planning. The City of Greater Bendigo, which is Australia's first recognised UNICEF Child Friendly City, will be the first partner to extend the Finnish-based project internationally.

Students studying in the Student Union, Bendigo Campus



Students learning about science at the Discovery Careers Day during National Science Week

Staff Profile

Tracy Quick Work Integrated Learning Coordinator

The Faculty of Law and Management's Tracy Quick took up her new role as one of three Work Integrated Learning Coordinators in May and is loving every minute of it.

"My role was created to address the concerns raised by the community, industry and government for the need to produce graduates who are ready to hit the ground running. To do this we need to incorporate a range of activities like work experience, integrated learning and guest lectures to create an authentic learning experience.

"We also create opportunities for all La Trobe enrolled students to engage in our Students in Free Enterprise Program, where the students use business and entrepreneurial concepts to empower people in need across our local community to improve their quality of life and standard of living.

"I work with the Regional School of Business at the Mildura, Shepparton, Albury-Wodonga and Bendigo campuses to build relationships with the community, working with staff in each area to establish networks and initial contacts with local businesses, councils and chambers of commerce. I am collaborating with the Bendigo Business Council and about to become a member of Woman-i.s.e. in Bendigo and have been to various events with their Albury-Wodonga equivalents 'Border Business Chicks'.

"All these groups are very keen on the idea of authentic learning and want to be involved with the University, which is really exciting."

As well as this new role, Tracy is currently completing her MBA in Bendigo and is the Assistant Secretary for the Epsom Soccer Club and a Referee with the Bendigo Region Referees Association, which Tracy admits, "is quite a challenging pastime but one I enjoy very much".

“ I keep saying I have the best job in the world! ”

Tracy Quick



Frida Schoo

Student Profile

Frida Schoo

As part of her Master of Visual Arts by Research (Graphic Design), Frida Schoo is developing a resource kit for University design students.

The kit will focus on sustainable graphic design and aims to provide tools, methods and inspiration to students. Samples such as different types of recycled paper will be included in the kit, allowing students to see and feel the different options available.

"I suppose students in general can be a bit sheltered in a uni environment, so I want to include samples of the different products and tools available to get them excited about trying new things," said Frida.

For the past two years Frida has been finding inspiration for her kit by learning about different tools and methods, conducting literature reviews and interviewing fellow students. Frida's research has been recognised by the peak organisation for sustainable packaging processes, the Australian Packaging Covenant, for its importance in encouraging change before professional designers enter the industry.

In her scarce "spare" time Frida has been working part-time at Green Graphics in Castlemaine, freelancing and starting her own design business 'Design is Ripe' with her brother and his wife.

Tracy Quick in discussion with Bendigo Business Council Executive Officer Kevin de Vries.

Regional Strategic Plan 2009-2012

In 2009, the University launched a four-year campaign to significantly advance higher education across northern Victoria, and continued to work towards these goals throughout 2010.

La Trobe University is committed to contributing to the development of vibrant and sustainable communities in regional Victoria through education, research, and community engagement.

The Regional Strategic Plan 2009-2012 expressed La Trobe's intentions and strategies aimed at: improving its engagement with the regional communities it serves; significantly increasing regional participation in higher education-including a substantial increase in international enrolments and greater participation by students from low socio-economic backgrounds; and significantly increasing its regional research capacity.

The University has made great strides toward these goals, with many objectives being driven through collaborative initiatives:

- The creation of a number of positions focussed on connecting the University with local government, industry and community, to explore collaborative teaching, learning and research opportunities.
- Regional course offerings and programs are being reviewed and strengthened through partnerships to meet regional needs.
- Pathways for lifelong learning are a focus; relationships between the University, vocational providers, secondary schools and the local learning networks are strengthening.
- Identification of research opportunities and partnerships for applied research to benefit our communities is an ongoing priority.

Regional Organisation and Governance

Established in 2009, La Trobe University's Regional Office is responsible for the delivery of the Regional Strategic Plan 2009-2012.

To view and download the plan, please visit:

▶ latrobe.edu.au/about/management/regional-office

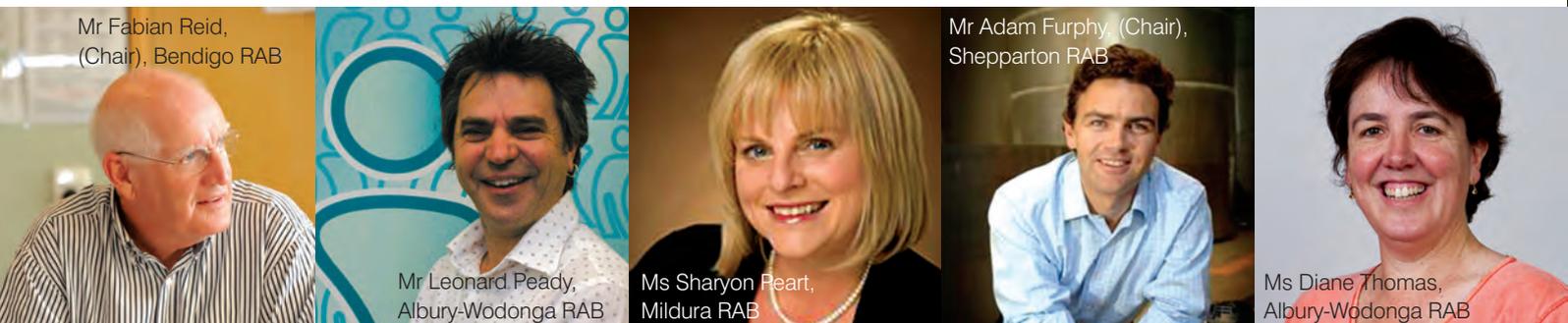
The regions are led by Professor Hal Swerissen, Pro Vice-Chancellor Regional. Professor Swerissen is supported by the Directors of each regional campus, the Regional Advisory Boards, and the Regional Office Team.

Campus Directors



Regional Advisory Boards

Each regional campus has a dedicated Regional Advisory Board to assist, advise and inform University policy. The Boards represent the interests of business, industry, local government and the local community. Some Regional Advisory Board (RAB) members are pictured below. Please see the relevant campus sections for a full list of Board members.



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Mildura students enjoying their time on campus

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 latrobe.edu.au/about/management/regional-office

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