



LA TROBE
UNIVERSITY

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UNIVERSITY
REGIONAL
COMMUNITY
REPORT



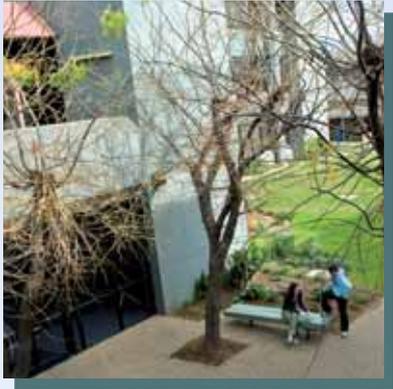
Bendigo campus
The University was awarded \$59.6 million by the Federal Government to establish the La Trobe Rural Health School in Bendigo. The School will create an additional 60 academic and administrative positions and significantly improve health education participation in northern Victoria.



Albury-Wodonga campus
Research has been significantly expanded to underpin the future of the regional communities. The Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre, John Richards Initiative and the Regional School of Business now employ more than 30 researchers conducting projects valued in excess of \$6 million.



Mildura campus
A historic building in the heart of the city, known as the George Chaffey Building, was gifted to the University. The million dollar donation is one of the largest single philanthropic gifts received by the University. Renamed as the Carrazza Building, it provides a new learning hub for La Trobe University in Mildura's CBD.



Shepparton campus
The University commenced construction of a new \$9 million, five 'Green Star' rated campus. Due to open late 2010 the building is set to be La Trobe's most innovative regional learning space and will significantly upgrade learning, research and engagement in the community.



Beechworth campus
This multi-purpose historic venue regularly hosts premier events. With accommodation up to 200 guests, Beechworth hosts the highly successful *Opera in the Alps*, the *2009 Kerferd Oration* (featuring the Reverend Tim Costello, CEO, World Vision Australia), and many professional development conferences and events.

LA TROBE UNIVERSITY Regional Campus Highlights 2009



Regional Snapshot

The year was an exciting one for La Trobe University.

Our strength as an institution is directly linked to the sustainability and success of our local communities; we are strongly committed to engaging with you in mutually supportive endeavours.

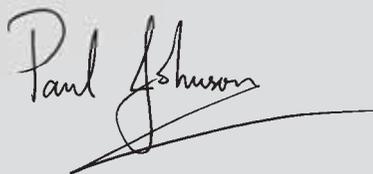
In May 2009, the University was awarded \$123.7 million by the Federal Government toward the \$186.8 million development of the La Trobe Rural Health School to be based in Bendigo and the La Trobe Institute for Molecular Science.

The Rural Health School is positioned to address major health workforce shortages across regional Victoria and the Institute for Molecular Science will establish La Trobe as a research leader in the areas of molecular science, biotechnology and nanotechnology.

La Trobe's regional campuses now employ more than 1300 staff and over 5500 students. Collectively these campuses contribute in excess of \$280 million to the gross regional product of the communities in which we operate.

Approximately 70% of La Trobe's regional graduates continue to live and work in the local communities, further contributing to regional innovation, productivity and diversity.

We present in this report examples of the University's extensive reach in to the communities we serve, as a demonstration of our continued intentions, progress and achievements.



Professor Paul Johnson
Vice-Chancellor and President



In 2009 La Trobe University unveiled its Regional Strategic Plan 2009–2012.

This document outlines our commitment to the economic, social and cultural development of regional Victoria.

A great deal has already been achieved.

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 (Bundoora and City campuses) | Jaara Jaara (Bendigo campus) | Yorta Yorta, Bangerang (Shepparton campus) | Nyeri Nyeri and Barkindji (Mildura) | Dhudhuroa and WayWurru (Wodonga campus) | Boonerwung (City campus) | Dhudhuroa and Bangerang (Beechworth campus)



Guiding the regional campuses

"I am thrilled to be guiding the University's regional campuses in the implementation of a plan that will give more regional Victorians the chance to participate in higher education, and significantly increase our regional research capacity.

"We had quite a year in 2009; in June, we launched our *Regional Strategic Plan* mapping out our aspiration to further improve our contribution to our local communities."

By 2012, we aim to increase student enrolments at our regional campuses by 20% while increasing research grants and contracts at these campuses by 50%. We will do this by first listening to our local communities; we will consult extensively to better understand local needs and aspirations, to then develop and offer courses of most local relevance, and conduct research of most local benefit.

We have already made significant inroads. Our regional campuses have experienced significant increases in first year intake; the Bendigo Campus recorded an increase of 30%, Albury-Wodonga 27%, Mildura 30%, and Shepparton 37%.



Professor Hal Swerissen
Pro Vice-Chancellor [Regional]



 The Alexandra Fountain, Pall Mall, Bendigo

Regional Strategic Plan 2010-2012

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

In 2009, the University launched a four-year campaign to significantly advance higher education across northern Victoria.

The Regional Strategic Plan 2009–2012 articulates 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.

During the four-year planning period the University will:

- ▶ consult with its communities to identify regional needs and aspirations, especially through Community/Regional Advisory Boards
- ▶ identify courses that are sustainable and relevant, meeting community workforce, social and/or cultural needs
- ▶ use its research strengths to contribute to the knowledge and understanding of environmental, economic and social transformations occurring in regional Australia
- ▶ create educational pathways for life-long learning in its communities through enabling programs, regional bonuses and enhanced relationships with local secondary and TAFE providers
- ▶ strengthen the organisational structure linking all campuses to build a strong sense of shared identity within the University.

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/downloads/regional-strategic-plan-final-10June09.pdf

The Regional Office is led by Pro Vice-Chancellor [Regional], Professor Hal Swerissen, who is supported by the Executive Directors of each campus, Regional Advisory Boards and the Regional Office team.

Campus Executive Directors



▶ **Professor Lin Crase**
Albury-Wodonga



▶ **Mr Brian Millar**
Beechworth



▶ **Mr Andrew Skewes**
Bendigo



▶ **Mr Kent Farrell**
Mildura



▶ **Ms Elizabeth Lavender**
Shepparton

Regional Advisory Boards

Regional Advisory Boards have been established on each of the University's regional campuses. The Boards represent the interests of business, industry, local government and the local community and advise and inform University policy.

Please see relevant campus sections for full lists of Board members.

Regional Office team

- ▶ **Dr Andrew Harvey**
Director of Regional Operations
- ▶ **Ms Lisa Farrar**
Executive Officer Regional Coordination
- ▶ **Ms Meg Lithgow**
Executive Assistant



▶ *Bendigo Post Office and Shamrock Hotel at night*

Bendigo Campus



Campus introduction

La Trobe Bendigo is the University's second largest campus with more than 4,100 local and international students and over 350 full-time staff.

Situated just three kilometres from the city centre on 33 hectares of natural Australian bushland, the campus offers a stimulating and secure learning, teaching and research environment, excellent facilities, a vibrant and supportive community and a variety of accommodation options.

Campus leadership

- ▶ Mr Andrew Skewes, Executive Director

Regional Advisory Board

- ▶ Mr Fabian Reid [Chair], Adviser to Steve Gibbons MP

Ex-Officio

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

Community members

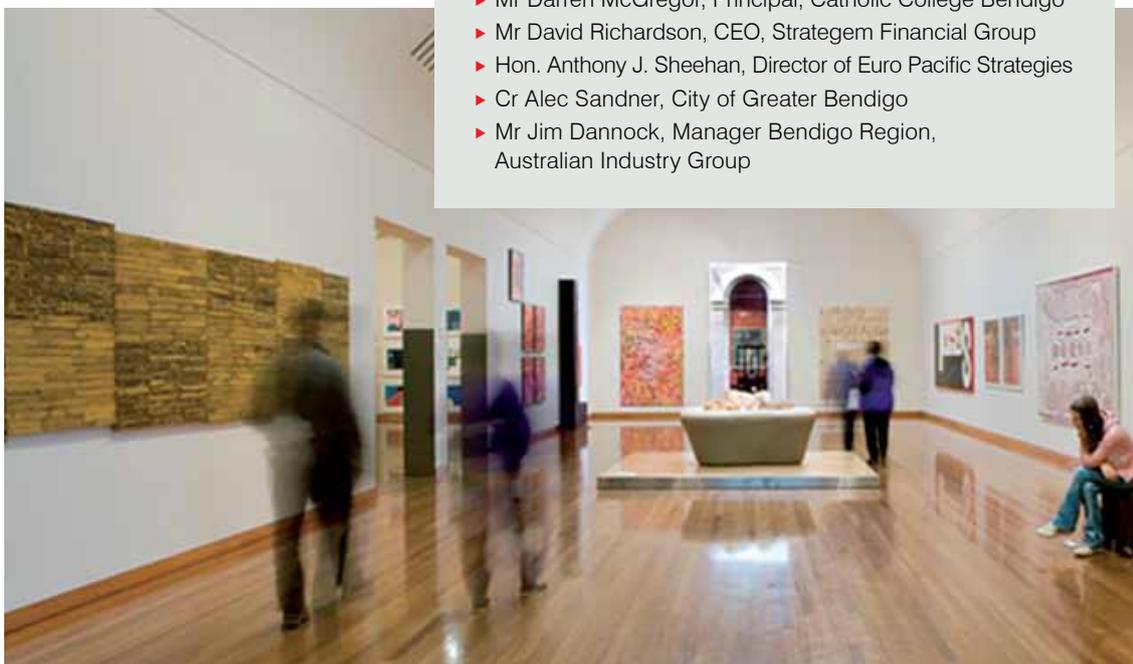
- ▶ Ms Sue Clarke, CEO, Bendigo Community Health
- ▶ Mr John Mulder, CEO, Bendigo Health
- ▶ Mr Stan Liacos, Director City Futures, City of Greater Bendigo
- ▶ Mr Darren McGregor, Principal, Catholic College Bendigo
- ▶ Mr David Richardson, CEO, Strategem Financial Group
- ▶ Hon. Anthony J. Sheehan,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

La Trobe University's Bendigo Campus contributes \$201.4 million per year to the city's Gross Regional Product, and supports 2099 jobs in the local economy [Compelling Economics, La Trobe University: Regional Campuses Economic Impact Analysis, November 2009]

▲ La Trobe University, Bendigo Campus

▲ The Capital, Bendigo's Performing Arts Centre

▼ Bendigo Art Gallery



Nursing at La Trobe Bendigo



▲
Athol Hann
Bachelor of Nursing

When Athol Hann applied to study Nursing at La Trobe Bendigo, he wasn't sure it was for him. As a keen sportsman, Athol always thought he would have a career related to sport. Now he is sure he made the right decision.

"The ability to be a Nurse is either something you have or you don't. I really love learning about the aspects of nursing that can help to save lives. La Trobe has helped to equip me with the right skills to be a Division 1 Nurse, and I feel completely ready," he said.

"I grew up on my family's dairy farm and I feel really strongly about the country lifestyle. I want to remain in small communities where everyone is familiar with each other."



▲
The International Criterium, part of the Bendigo International Madison
An annual international cycling event, arguably the biggest in Australia and attracting some of the world's best cyclists



▲
Tom Flood Sports Centre

▲
Students training in the new dental labs opened by Hon. Daniel Andrews, MP, Victorian Minister for Health



Teaching

La Trobe Bendigo offers undergraduate and postgraduate courses from the University's five faculties, including high profile niche courses in law, dentistry, outdoor and environmental education, visual arts and design, civil engineering, urban, rural and environmental planning, and pharmacy.

The campus enjoyed an exceptional year in 2009 – student numbers rose substantially; the Regional School of Business was established to provide a strong regional focus for programs within the Faculty of Law and Management; and the University secured \$64.1 million toward the development of the \$97.9 million La Trobe Institute of Molecular Science which is set to considerably strengthen programs within the campus' Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering.

The University also secured \$59.6 million in Federal Government funding towards establishing the \$88.9 million La Trobe Rural Health School [LRHS] in Bendigo. The LRHS will significantly boost rural participation rates in health education and is set to address major health workforce shortages across northern Victoria.



▲
Dentistry opening
[LtoR] Professor Peter Wilson, Head of School, Dentistry and Oral Health and Hon. Daniel Andrews MP, Victorian Minister for Health

Welcoming international students

Each year, La Trobe Bendigo hosts students from around the world. In 2009, the campus welcomed students from Botswana, Italy, Hong Kong, India, Denmark, the United States, Canada, China, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Malaysia, Norway, the United Kingdom, Finland, Singapore, Vietnam and South Africa.

The University and the City of Greater Bendigo hold an International Student Welcome Reception every year, where the Mayor and dignitaries meet and welcome students to the local community.

New program for international nurses

In 2009, La Trobe Bendigo launched the Initial Registration for Overseas Nurses [IRON] program. Successful completion of the program will qualify internationally registered nurses for registration and employment in Australia as Division 1 Nurses.

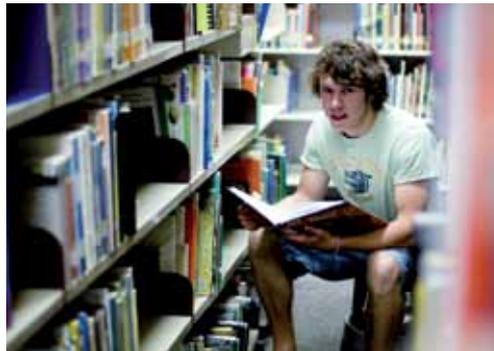


▲
Mayor Cr. Kevin Gibbons with La Trobe Bendigo students at the 2009 International Student Civic Welcome reception



The Heyward Library

La Trobe Bendigo's Heyward Library boasts an extensive collection of over 155,000 print volumes. Members of the community can obtain membership for a small annual fee.



Heyward Library, La Trobe University Bendigo

Research

La Trobe Bendigo is committed to serving its local community by conducting high quality, locally relevant research. The campus hosts a number of research institutes and centres, including:

The Biotechnology Research Centre

The Biotechnology Research Centre conducts research into environmental microbiology and offers numerous services to the wastewater industry. The Centre has an international reputation and an enviable track record in cutting-edge research and industry application of wastewater management and control strategies.

In 2009, researchers at the Centre were awarded an Australian Research Council linkage grant and a Victorian Government Smartwater research grant, worth in excess of \$400,000.

For more information about the Centre, please visit:

latrobe.edu.au/brc

The Centre for Sustainable Regional Communities

The Centre for Sustainable Regional Communities brings the University and regional communities together for a common purpose – to better understand the factors that create sustainable communities.

The Centre recently sponsored a highly successful conference in Bendigo on Energy Futures in Regional Australia, attended by more than 200 people from Australia and around the world.

La Trobe University Bendigo
Visual Arts Centre

From Vietnam to Bendigo



Bao Nam Dinh
Bachelor of Civil Engineering

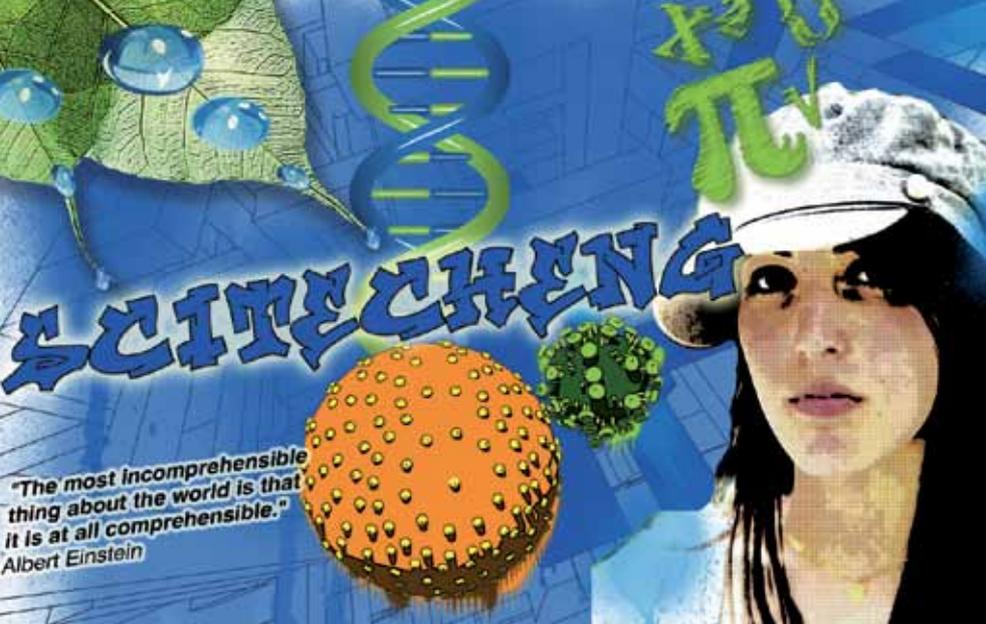
Bao Nam Dinh is a scholarship student completing a Bachelor of Civil Engineering at La Trobe University's Bendigo Campus. A previous winner of the National Mathematics Competition in Vietnam, Nam enjoys the challenges of his course at La Trobe and the opportunities it offers to improve his skills.

"One thing that I've really enjoyed about studying in Australia is the level of interaction in the classroom – it has allowed me to develop my communication skills. I feel that I am now better able to have discussions with my classmates and my confidence is increasing all the time," he said.

Grateful for the University's support, Nam's father recently crafted and donated a painting to La Trobe University's Bendigo Campus.



The annual Civic Welcome, February 2009



▲
[Left] La Trobe Science and Engineering,
Making the right moves

[Middle] Banner by graphic design student Liam Pilcher
as part of the On the Brink graduate exhibition, 2009

[Right] Banner by graphic design student Stacey Rumbold
as part of the On the Brink graduate exhibition, 2009

Community Engagement

Annual Civic Welcome to Students

Each year, La Trobe University and the City of Greater Bendigo work together to welcome new students to the city. The event exemplifies the close relationship between the University and the City; evidences the commitment of both to a common vision for Bendigo as the Thinking City; and encourages commencing students to participate in the community and remain in the region following graduation.

Bendigo's historic town hall was filled to capacity when the City of Greater Bendigo and La Trobe University welcomed 969 new students to the City, in February 2009.

Visual Arts Centre

The La Trobe University Visual Arts Centre is a multi-purpose contemporary visual arts facility located in the heart of Bendigo's arts precinct. It features two galleries, two sculpture courtyards, an auditorium and an artist in residence apartment and studio.

The Centre features regular exhibitions and aims to engage with the community through a public lecture program, artist floor talks, and residencies featuring local, national and international artists.

For the exhibition and event calendar, please visit:

📍 latrobe.edu.au/vacentre

Examples of student exhibitions in 2009 include:

On the Brink

On the Brink 2009 showcased works by graduating Visual Arts and Graphic Design students. The graduates organised, curated, raised sponsorships, and chose the title for the exhibition, aimed at evoking notions of risk and courage and raising questions about where students go after they complete their studies.

Honours09 Exhibition

The Honours09 Exhibition featured works by 18 honours students from La Trobe's Bendigo and Mildura Campuses. The exhibition was hailed by La Trobe's Managing Curator Vince Alessi as the best honours exhibition he has seen.

Infinity Leadership Program

Thirty students from La Trobe's Bendigo and Bundoora Campuses are taking part in the pilot Infinity Leadership Program. Designed for aspiring leaders, the program aims to equip students with the skills and knowledge needed to take on leadership roles within La Trobe and the wider community.

Emphasis is placed not only on the theory involved in leadership, but also on experiential learning, with the program incorporating a community project element in second semester.

Scholarships

Infinity Awards

The Bendigo Campus has sponsorship arrangements with nine local schools to encourage tertiary aspirations and reward high achieving students in Year 9 and above.

The Bendigo Tertiary Education Anniversary Foundation [BTEAF]

The BTEAF is a collaboration between La Trobe University, Bendigo TAFE and the City of Greater Bendigo to encourage philanthropic contributions to support scholarships and awards for tertiary study at La Trobe's Bendigo Campus. BTEAF scholarships and awards are presented annually at the Campus Prizes and Awards Ceremony at the Capital Theatre.

For more information about the BTEAF, please visit:

📍 latrobe.edu.au/bteaf

Reaching out to schools

- ▶ The two-day National Science and Engineering Grand Challenge was held at La Trobe's Bendigo Campus in 2009. Students from 16 Australian schools experienced the practical side of science and engineering as they competed in a number of events including Eco Habitech [building an eco-friendly house] and Hover Frenzy [building a hovercraft].
- ▶ The School of Social Sciences' Planning Department is working with local secondary school teachers to provide VCE geography students the opportunity to spend a day at the Bendigo Campus alongside La Trobe planning students.

Community Participation

- ▶ Faculty of Law and Management students have been working at Bendigo and Maryborough courts, assisting Loddon Campaspe community solicitors with family violence matters.
- ▶ Third year Urban, Rural and Planning students undertake 60 days paid work experience as an accredited part of their course. Students work in councils, private sector and government departments.



Supporting disadvantaged students



▲
Abdihakim Sharif
Bachelor of Oral Health

Abdihakim Sharif arrived from Somalia as a refugee in 2001; since then he has finished his VCE and is now completing a Bachelor of Oral Health at La Trobe Bendigo.

Abdi was recently awarded a full residential scholarship covering the cost of his on campus accommodation.

Offered by the University's Equality and Diversity Centre, the scholarship is designed to encourage and support high achieving students from disadvantaged backgrounds, into and through higher education.

"I used to struggle with buying text books for university, and not being able to afford transport to go back to Melbourne. The scholarship is making my education, this year, a lot smoother," said Abdi.



Public Lectures

Each year the Bendigo Campus hosts a series of lectures on topics of interest to the academic and general community. Lectures are open to the public and provide an opportunity for the community to participate in discussions with academics and industry professionals.

The annual Sir John Quick Lecture

La Trobe Bendigo's flagship public lecture most recently featured 2009 Australian of the Year, Professor Mick Dodson. Professor Dodson spoke on the need to address educational disadvantage, particularly through constitutional reform.

Worner Research Lecture

Professor Jane Hamilton from the University's Regional School of Business delivered the 2009 lecture: 'From Bean Counting to Sustainability Reporting: A New Role for Accountants'.

Dean's Lecture

The 2009 lecture was presented by La Trobe's Pro Vice-Chancellor [Regional], Professor Hal Swerissen, who offered an in-depth look at 'The Future of Regional Higher Education in Australia'.

The G.S. Watson Annual Lecture

Dr Rebecca Kippen from the Australian Demographic and Social Research Institute presented research about the preferences of parents when it comes to the gender of their children.

Faculty of Arts and Planning Forums

Recognised experts from the community presented lectures on subjects such as water security, local government and sustainable housing.

The Bendigo Alumni Lecture Series

Guest lecturers discussed matters such as the politics of water, and the future of Bendigo in a post-fossil fuel world, at the University's Visual Arts Centre.

▲
[Top left and right] Ian Tulloch presenting The Politics of Water in Victoria, part of the Bendigo Alumni 2009 Lecture Series at the La Trobe Visual Arts Centre. This event attracted an impressive attendance



▲
Professor Mick Dodson
2009 Australian of the Year, delivering the annual Sir John Quick lecture at the Bendigo Town Hall

Albury-Wodonga Campus



Campus introduction

Established in 1991, La Trobe University's Albury-Wodonga Campus is located on an attractive 26 hectare site in the City of Wodonga in north-east Victoria between the cities of Melbourne, Canberra and Sydney.

The Albury-Wodonga Campus is one of La Trobe's major regional campuses and boasts a range of facilities including the David Mann Library with its extensive collection of over 90,000 print volumes, on-campus student accommodation, a new gymnasium and ready access to University-wide resources.

The campus hosts over 950 students including students from Bhutan, the Congo, Sudan, China, India and Canada; and is home to significant research expertise in areas such as freshwater ecology, resource management, and ageing in rural communities.

Campus leadership

Professor Lin Crase, Executive Director, La Trobe University

Regional Advisory Board

- ▶ Professor Terry Hillman [Chair],
Regional Advisory Board, La Trobe University

Ex-Officio

- ▶ Professor Hal Swerissen, Pro-Vice Chancellor [Regional],
La Trobe University
- ▶ Professor Lin Crase, Executive Director Albury-Wodonga
- ▶ Mr Peter Maclean, Principal,
Wodonga Senior Secondary College
- ▶ Mr Michael O'Loughlin, CEO, Wodonga TAFE

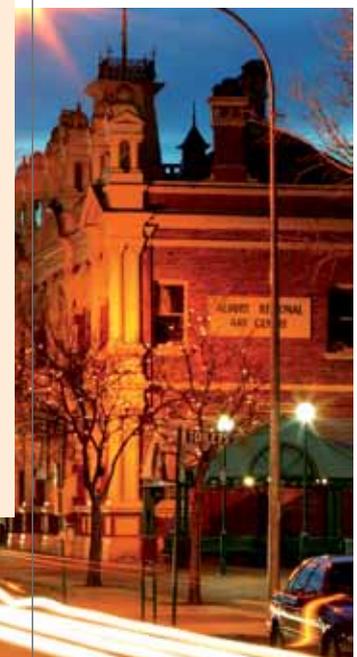
Community members

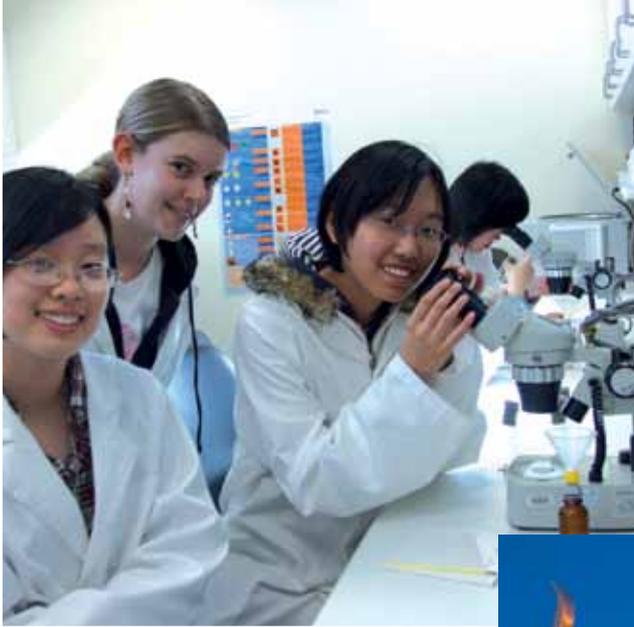
- ▶ Ms Dianne Thomas, Deputy Editor, Border Mail
- ▶ Mr Leonard Peady, Chief Executive Officer,
Upper Hume Community Health
- ▶ Mr Gavin Cator, CEO, City of Wodonga
- ▶ Dr Peter Vine, Campus Co-ordinator, Rural Clinical School
- ▶ Mr Robert Logan, Director, Riverina Institute of TAFE
- ▶ Mr Paul Joss, Director, Joss Group
- ▶ Ms Lisbeth Long, Granite Range Estate
- ▶ Dr David Mann, Honory Life Member
- ▶ Mr Paul Sutcliffe, Attending for CEO,
Wodonga Institute of TAFE

La Trobe University's Albury-Wodonga Campus contributes \$50.3 million per year to the city's Gross Regional Product, and supports 515 jobs in the local economy [Compelling Economics, La Trobe University: Regional Campuses Economic Impact Analysis, November 2009]



- ▶ La Trobe University Albury-Wodonga Campus
- ▶ Wonga Wetlands
- ▶ Penn Street, Central Albury





◀
Weihai students in science labs

▼
Visiting tour group from Weihai Middle School, Shandong Province



Teaching

La Trobe University Albury-Wodonga offers a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate courses, with some courses being unique to the campus.

Early Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre [VTAC] 2009 preference data released in late 2009 revealed that the Albury-Wodonga campus received an impressive 42% increase in its share of first preferences and a 65% increase in preferences one to four.

Meeting community needs

La Trobe University is committed to developing and providing courses of most relevance to its local communities.

New courses and subjects were introduced in 2009 that were designed to meet community needs and aspirations. These included:

Bachelor of Business

[Sustainable Resource Management]

Offered by La Trobe's Regional School of Business, Sustainable Resource Management is a new seven-subject major, available as part of the Bachelor of Business. The Albury-Wodonga Campus is uniquely positioned to deliver this major because of its significant research strengths in environmental management.

Climate, Sustainability and Society

A first-year subject that introduces students to economic, scientific and sociological approaches to climate change and environmental sustainability. This is a cross-disciplinary, cross-campus subject offered for the first time in semester 2, 2009.



▲
Woodland Grove, Wodonga

Improving access to life-long learning

La Trobe's unique University Bridging Program [UBP] is a return-to-study program for mature-age prospective students. Developed and delivered by staff at the Albury-Wodonga Campus since 1990, the Program has provided hundreds of mature-age students from regional communities the opportunity to explore their readiness for higher education.

The UBP recently won a national award when it was 'Highly Commended' in the higher education category of the inaugural Pathways Awards at the 9th Post Secondary Education for People with Disabilities – Pathways Conference.



▶
Fishing, Murray River

Environmental Management and Ecology at La Trobe Albury-Wodonga



▲
Stephanie Suter
Bachelor of Environmental Management and Ecology

Albury-Wodonga graduate Stephanie Suter has always loved being outdoors, and has always shared a common passion for science with her father. Stephanie was able to combine both her interests by studying Environmental Management and Ecology at La Trobe's Albury-Wodonga Campus.

"My aim is to get people in the community excited about science and the environment so we can share a greater understanding of our ecosystems. I hope that understanding will encourage people to think and act sustainably."

Stephanie says knowing her lecturers well at the Albury-Wodonga Campus made studying much easier. "They became more like friends and mentors. My lecturers were always supportive and happy to help any time I needed it."

Every drop counts



Research

La Trobe University's five faculties are represented at the Albury-Wodonga Campus, including a total of eight schools or departments. The campus is home to the Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre [MDFRC] and the John Richards Initiative [JRI].

Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre

The MDFRC 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.

Established in 1986, the core business of the Centre is the generation of scientific advice – fundamental freshwater knowledge – to support the effective sustainable management of the ecology of the Murray-Darling Basin.

The joint venture has enabled significant collaboration between La Trobe researchers and students and its joint venture partners in areas including environmental flows, nutrient cycles, algal, fish and invertebrate ecology, macro- and micro-invertebrate taxonomy, and water quality assessment.

John Richards Initiative

The John Richards Initiative [JRI] 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.

In consultation with older Victorians and key stakeholders – including policy makers and those employed in the aged care and health sectors – the initiative conducts research to address Victoria's ageing rural population. It is estimated that by 2021 one in three rural Victorians will be aged 60 years or over.

Research conducted at the JRI will:

- ▶ inform rural ageing policy
- ▶ explore models of service provision for older people in rural communities that enhance their capacity to be resilient and self-determining
- ▶ develop and test effective rural workforce planning strategies, and inform education.

Albury-Wodonga students assist with wetlands research

A group of second year students from La Trobe University Albury-Wodonga's Department of Environmental Management and Ecology recently participated in an Australian-first project to trial management treatments for acidified wetlands.

The students assisted researchers from the Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre [MDFRC] by setting up 120 trial plots at Bottle Bend Lagoon on the Murray River, treating each plot with one of five management strategies.

"Acidification has become a serious problem during the drought. The water in Bottle Bend has become a lot more acidic than it was in 2002 – it now has a pH value similar to lemon juice, leading to wetlands that are almost lifeless," said MDFRC project leader, Dr Mark Fraser.

La Trobe Student, Todd Hunter was shocked by the level of degradation and pleased to be helping with the inaugural trial.

"It was a great learning experience to be out in the field, and I now have a much deeper understanding of the chemistry involved in these processes," said Todd.





▲ Spring Reception 2009

Community engagement

In 2009, La Trobe University's Albury-Wodonga Campus continued to forge strong links and partnerships with regional businesses and organisations, providing its students with a variety of industry placement and employment options upon graduation.

The campus also developed a range of local activities and initiatives; continued its support for cultural activities; held public lectures; and built links with research and industry partners.

Wodonga Sustainability Fair

The Albury-Wodonga Campus successfully hosted the second annual Wodonga Sustainability Fair in August 2009. Co-hosted by Wodonga TAFE, the Fair coincided with the campus' Open Day and focussed on sustainable living, the preservation of resources, and minimising negative impact on the environment with a wide range of stalls and activities for both adults and children.

The campus also facilitates the annual Sustainable Victorian Communities Competition to raise sustainability awareness among young adults.

Spring Reception Fundraiser

Held in October 2009, the Spring Reception successfully raised additional funds to support Albury-Wodonga Campus students through the Community Scholarship Program.

Over 50 local and regional sponsors generously supported the Reception with direct donations and over 80 guests enjoyed sampling some of the region's best food and wine.

The keynote speaker was Mr Stan Alves, former AFL coach, media personality, motivational speaker and entrepreneur.

Albury-Wodonga Scholarships

The University offers a range of scholarships to assist students who might otherwise have found it difficult to access higher education opportunities and as incentives for participation in courses of most benefit to the local community.

The Albury-Wodonga Community Scholarship was established to support regional students and assist them in meeting their educational goals. Funded by sponsorships from local businesses, community groups, individuals and La Trobe staff, the scholarships are awarded to talented students based on the Albury-Wodonga Campus who may otherwise face difficulties in pursuing a higher education.

AlburyCity Student Scholarships are offered by the School of Social Work and Policy, the Regional School of Business and the Department of Environmental Management to final year students who have demonstrated their commitment to the future of their profession within the local community.

For more information please visit:

● latrobe.edu.au/scholarships



▲ Wodonga Sustainability Fair 2009



▲ Lecture Theatre, La Trobe University Albury-Wodonga Campus



▲ Reflective Garden, La Trobe University Albury-Wodonga Campus

▶ [LtoR] Mr Joe Ross, Chairperson of the Indigenous Water Policy Group, Member of the Bunuba people in the Kimberley region of WA and Chair of the Northern Water Taskforce and Professor Lin Crase, Executive Director, La Trobe University Albury-Wodonga Campus

▼ Hartung Lecture, Science Week 2009 "Chemistry with a Bang" Dr John Reid, Thales Australia



Future Leaders' Club

The Future Leaders' Club promotes the development of educational, social and leadership skills of students on the Albury-Wodonga Campus.

In 2009, the Club held a successful fundraiser in support of breast cancer research. Organised and promoted by the Club's student members the event included the inaugural 'Breast Cancer Awareness Concert', featuring a host of local bands. All proceeds were donated to the National Breast Cancer Foundation.

In2science

In2science is a science-based peer mentoring program involving universities and secondary schools across Victoria. Since 2004, Albury-Wodonga students have volunteered their time in local schools partnering with science and mathematics teachers to develop science related projects and activities and working with students as role models.

In July 2009, La Trobe University lecturer and In2science Program Manager, Mr John McDonald was awarded an Australian Teaching and Learning Council Citation for his Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning.

Public Lectures

The Albury-Wodonga Campus hosted numerous public lectures during 2009, including:

- ▶ **The 2009 Department of Environmental Management Science Week Hartung Lecture** – the Lecture was attended by 450 regional secondary school students who enjoyed informative lectures on the science of explosions – 'Chemistry with a Bang!'
- ▶ **Jonathon Mann Memorial Lecture** – presented by the Albury-Wodonga Campus to give appropriate expression to the unique historical, cultural and lifestyle influences that characterise the people of the Border Region. The 2009 lecture was presented by Mr Joe Ross, Chairperson of the Indigenous Water Policy Group, Member of the Bunuba people in the Kimberley region of WA and Chair of the Northern Water Taskforce.

Albury-Wodonga, a great place to live and study



▲ Sarah Stenquist
Bachelor of Business [Honours]

Swedish student Sarah Stenquist recently completed a Bachelor of Business [Honours] at La Trobe's Albury-Wodonga Campus.

What Sarah liked most about the campus was the learning experience she gained as a result of the smaller size of the campus and the lifestyle afforded by its location.

"What definitely made my experience better was the advantage of studying in a smaller campus; smaller classes allowed lecturers to really get to know their students and have active class discussions.

The campus is also quite close to Melbourne, Sydney and Canberra, and there is plenty to do here with the wine region and mountains close by," she said.

Sarah is now working for the Wodonga Institute of TAFE, specialising in market research.

Shepparton Campus



Campus introduction

Located 180 kilometres from Melbourne, La Trobe University's Shepparton Campus offers its students a quality education. The environment is relaxed, friendly and caring – in the heart of the Goulburn Valley.

Students studying at the campus enjoy small class sizes and a personalised approach to teaching, along with the facilities and attractions of the scenic Goulburn Valley region.

In May 2009, construction commenced of La Trobe's new \$9 million Shepparton Campus. The five 'Green Star' rated building is scheduled for completion in 2010.

Campus leadership

- ▶ Ms Elizabeth Lavender, Executive Director, La Trobe University

Regional Advisory Board

- ▶ Mr Adam Furphy [Chair], Managing Director, J Furphy & Sons

Ex-Officio

- ▶ Professor Hal Swerissen, Pro-Vice Chancellor [Regional], La Trobe University
- ▶ Mr John Sciacca, Acting Principal, McGuire College
- ▶ Mr Paul Culpan, Chief Executive Officer, Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE

Community members

- ▶ Mr Will Adams, Editor, Shepparton Adviser
- ▶ Mr Ian Nalder, Partner, Stubbs Wallace and Partners
- ▶ Ms Wendy Lewis, Chief Nursing Officer, Goulburn Valley Health, Clinical Services Administration
- ▶ Mr Ben Snow, Partner, Brown Baldwin Accountants
- ▶ Mr Phil Pearce, Chief Executive Officer, City of Greater Shepparton
- ▶ Mr David Faram, Partner, Faram, Ritchie, Davies Solicitors

La Trobe University's Shepparton Campus contributes \$12.5 million per year to the city's Gross Regional Product, and supports 130 jobs in the local economy [Compelling Economics, La Trobe University: Regional Campuses Economic Impact Analysis, November 2009]

▲ La Trobe University, Shepparton Campus

◀ Orchards in blossom

▼ The Goulburn River





▲ Construction in progress,
La Trobe University Shepparton Campus

▶ Construction in progress,
La Trobe University Shepparton Campus



The new Shepparton Campus

La Trobe University has commenced construction of its new \$9 million Shepparton Campus – a 2,000 square metre, two storey building that is set to become one of the city's signature buildings.

The sustainable 'Green Star' initiatives include:

- ▶ Cooling mass concrete slabs
- ▶ Controlled daylight penetration and sun screening / shading
- ▶ Controlled air circulation and natural ventilation
- ▶ Thermal comfort and air change effectiveness [Energy Efficient Air Conditioning]
- ▶ Internal / external noise minimisation
- ▶ Cyclist facilities
- ▶ EnhaRecycling waste storage
- ▶ Ecologically sustainable materials, furniture and joinery
- ▶ Enhanced external views through transparency
- ▶ Solar hot water systems

The new facility will feature flexible teaching and collaborative learning spaces, a café / bookshop, and a nursing laboratory.

The building is designed to achieve a five 'Green Star' energy rating, incorporating high efficiency light and water fittings, an active mass cooling system, on-site recycling of rainwater, and the use of renewable materials throughout.

"The staff and students at La Trobe are thrilled at the prospect of working and studying in this wonderful new building, which gives a 21st century identity and feel to higher education study in Shepparton," said Ms Elizabeth Lavender, Executive Director.

Teaching

La Trobe University Shepparton hosts more than 350 local and international students and offers undergraduate and postgraduate courses in arts, business, commerce, education and nursing.

Shepparton students have the option of full-time, part-time and single subject courses, and access to the campus library, computing resources and the University's full range of support services.

Support for mature-age students



▲ **Cathy McKenna**
*Bachelor of Business in
Human Resource Management*

Cathy McKenna is a master of organisation – she works three days a week, is completing a Bachelor of Business in Human Resource Management at La Trobe Shepparton and she is a single mother of three.

"I decided to go to university because I wanted to have the right qualifications to apply for jobs that appealed to me," she said, adding that the location of the campus had a lot to do with her decision.

"I probably would never have gone to university if I had to travel. It would have been impossible with my young children."

Cathy enjoys the group of friends she has made at the campus, "we give each other a lot of support. Often we'll go to someone's house and study for exams or assignments," she said.

▼ Construction in progress,
La Trobe University Shepparton Campus





▲ Encouraging indigenous youth

◀ New subjects in 2010 will explore the regions Indigenous heritage

The campus recently introduced a number of new courses and subjects aimed at meeting regional needs and aspirations.

These included:

- ▶ **Encountering Aboriginal Victoria** – this course will introduce students to a wide range of Aboriginal topics that relate to Shepparton and its surrounds. Leading La Trobe academics will provide students with an insight into Aboriginal history, society and culture. The teaching component of the course will be complemented with a two-day trip to the Barmah Forest, where students will meet and hear from representatives of the local Aboriginal community and participate in locally-run cultural programs.
- ▶ **Integrated Management Practice** – offered by the Regional School of Business, this new subject is designed to provide students with on-the-job experience and the conceptual frameworks that inform good management practice. The industry based learning experience will provide real-life encounters with management issues including, management ethics, decision-making processes, problem solving, goal achievement, and conflict management, among others.

Blended learning

La Trobe University uses learning technologies to enhance student opportunities and provide learning flexibility. The University employs blended approaches to learning, combining face-to-face course delivery with technology supported learning.

The Faculty of Education employs blended learning to deliver the Graduate Diploma in Education [Middle Years] to students throughout Victoria and interstate. This approach requires students to attend three intensive blocks in Shepparton [five weeks in total], whilst their practicum placements are completed in their own community.

Students access the University's Learning Management System for course work which includes theoretical studies in teaching, learning and classroom management focusing on the middle years of schooling – Years 5-10.

In 2010 all students in the Graduate Diploma in Education [Middle Years] will be allocated an Apple iPod Touch for the year. Some lectures will be delivered as podcasts and students will be encouraged to use the iPods to see how handheld technology can enhance teaching and learning.



▲ [Top] Support for students before exams

[Bottom] Staff at Campus Open Day



▲ The ideal location: close to Shepparton CBD, La Trobe University Shepparton Campus

▼ Space to relax and contemplate, La Trobe University Shepparton Campus



▼ Aquamoves Splash Park



▼ New two-storey campus 'signature' building, North Street, Shepparton, Five Star Green Energy rating



Research

Researchers at La Trobe University's Shepparton Campus are working on a number of projects that focus primarily on issues that affect the Goulburn Valley region. These include:

Employment utilisation of expert knowledge of recently arrived skilled migrants in the Goulburn Valley

This cross-faculty research project is being conducted by staff from three campuses. The pilot study is to be the initial phase of a broader research project to inform the implementation of effective 'jobs and opportunities' audits to precede regional migration drives.

The project will significantly improve outcomes for skilled migrants and host communities involved in regional migration programs.



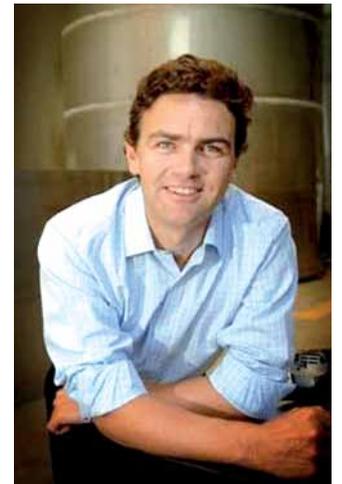
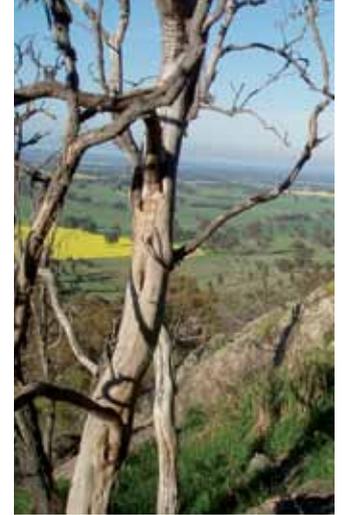
Young Muslim women in regional Victoria – strengthening education and employment pathways

La Trobe Shepparton's Dr Mary-Jo Fortuna is working with GOTAFE and Goulburn Valley Ethnic Council on a research project examining the key issues for young Muslim women in regional Victoria in accessing higher education and employment opportunities.

Investigating interventions and programs to engage middle year school students in the Greater Shepparton Region

La Trobe Shepparton and the University's Equality and Diversity Centre have embarked on a collaborative research project aimed at identifying and designing effective intervention programs to support students in their middle years of schooling (Years five to ten).

This is a key part of the social inclusion agenda for the region and a way to help increase the number of students from disadvantaged backgrounds in higher education – a key priority of La Trobe's Regional Strategic Plan 2009–2012.



Community Engagement

Staff at the La Trobe University's Shepparton Campus have developed strong links with communities and businesses in the Greater Shepparton region.

La Trobe Shepparton is committed to a range of local activities and initiatives, including supporting cultural activities, delivering public lectures, and providing community access to campus facilities.

The lunchtime seminar series

La Trobe Shepparton presents a series of lunchtime seminars throughout the year covering a wide variety of topics and consistently attracting large audiences, including members of the local University of the Third Age. Highlights in 2009 included:

- ▶ *The impact of globalisation on the internationalisation of higher education:* the experiences of one school – Elizabeth Lavender, Executive Director of the Shepparton Campus
- ▶ *Digital preservation:* preserving cultural and intellectual capital – La Trobe Shepparton Librarian, Iris Perkins

- ▶ *A robo sapiens manifesto:* technoscience in the agricultural actor network – Dr Ian Coldwell, Research Fellow, Faculty of Law and Management
- ▶ *South Africa: country of contrasts – society and health care:* Professor Elma Kortenaar from the University of Western Cape's School of Nursing in South Africa
- ▶ *Steve Fielding has a learning disability: that doesn't mean he is stupid, lazy or unteachable!* Beth Rankin from La Trobe's Equality and Diversity Centre.

Public lectures

The annual John Furphy Memorial Lecture

The annual John Furphy Memorial Lecture is sponsored by the Furphy Family and La Trobe University. The 2009 lecture entitled, *The Survival of Journalism in Regional Australia in the face of Corporate Media Organisations*, was delivered by ABC reporter Heather Ewart. Heather discussed the future of regional newspapers and the newspaper industry, the changing nature of media reporting, and considered whether political spin has taken over and sanitised what we read and see.

- ▲ [Top left] Murchison River and cows
- [Top middle and left hand page] Moove ® – an initiative of Greater Shepparton City Council and many local health promotion organisations
- [Top right] Dookie Hills
- [Bottom left] Golf regional style
- [Bottom right] Adam Furphy, Chair, Regional Advisory Board [RAB]



▲ Participants at the La Trobe industry networking evening

▶ Dookie Hills



Faculty of Education Dean's Lecture

Entitled Aussie Muslims: Facts and Challenges, the 2009 Faculty of Education Dean's Lecture was presented by Dr Salih Yucel, lecturer at the Monash University Centre for Studies in Religion and Theology. Dr Yucel discussed the challenges facing Australian born Muslims and addressed some of the misconceptions about Islam in the community.

PIT Stop – Laugh It Up – Tune It Up

Second year nursing students from La Trobe Shepparton participated in the Pit Stop – Tune It Up – Laugh It Up event at Numurkah [near Shepparton] as part of Men's Health Night. Guest speakers Dr. Phil Seager and Merv Hughes addressed 300 men who then participated in a wide range of health checks with around 50 health practitioners, ably assisted by the student nurses.

Industry Networking Evening

Held in May 2009, La Trobe Shepparton's well-attended Industry Networking Evening showcased Shepparton graduates to local industry and business representatives, highlighting the potential and significant mutual benefits of strengthening links between students, staff, industry and business.

Three Shepparton graduates spoke of their experiences at La Trobe, focussing on how the University had equipped them for the workplace. Anne Stansfield, La Trobe Shepparton's Director of Careers and Employment, and Regional Student Engagement Officer, Jon Neal, addressed the gathering and advised on engagement opportunities including work placements, mentoring programs and voluntary work.

Inclusive Teaching Practice program

Sponsored by La Trobe University, the Federal Government's National Disability Coordination Officer [NDCO] Program, and the Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE, the Inclusive Teaching Practice program was held in September 2009 at the Harder Auditorium in Shepparton.

The program successfully attracted educators from primary and secondary schools, as well as from the TAFE and tertiary education sectors. Sessions included mental health issues, inclusive education strategies and adaptive technologies.

La Trobe academic honoured for community contribution



▲ Dr Apollo Nsubuga-Kyobe

La Trobe Shepparton academic, Dr Apollo Nsubuga-Kyobe received the 'Academic Contribution to Community Award' as part of Australia Day celebrations in the Goulburn Valley.

The award was in recognition of Dr Nsubuga-Kyobe's involvement in academic research, community education and advocacy for marginalised communities.

"My main goal is to facilitate integration," he said; he has been instrumental in establishing many of the African-Australian community groups and refugee settlement projects including the Melbourne-based African Holistic Settlement Services project and the Goulburn Valley Ethnic Professionals Association.

"I am overwhelmed by the honour of being chosen, but the glory must go to La Trobe Shepparton, because that is where most of the activities were held," he said.

In 2008, Dr Nsubuga-Kyobe received a certificate of appreciation from the Australian Government for his contribution to the settlement of families in Shepparton.



▲ La Trobe Shepparton nursing students with Merv Hughes at Pit Stop-Laugh it up-Tune it up as part of Men's Health Week.

▼ Goulburn River



Mildura Campus



Campus introduction

More than 400 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 campus community.

Being a smaller campus, all La Trobe Mildura students benefit from greater one-on-one contact with their lecturers and easy access to all campus facilities. The campus offers on-campus accommodation and a comprehensive range of student support services including childcare, Indigenous student services, disability support, study skills and career planning assistance.

Campus leadership

- ▶ Mr Kent Farrell, Executive Director, La Trobe University, Mildura Campus

Regional Advisory Board

- ▶ Mr Stefano de Pieri [Chair], Regional Advisory Board Chairman and Foundation Board Member

Ex-Officio

- ▶ Professor Hal Swerissen, Pro-Vice Chancellor [Regional], La Trobe University
- ▶ Mr Kent Farrell, Executive Director, La Trobe University, Mildura Campus
- ▶ Mr Dennis Norton, Principal, Mildura Senior College
- ▶ Mrs Winifred Scott, CEO, Sunraysia Institute of TAFE

Community members

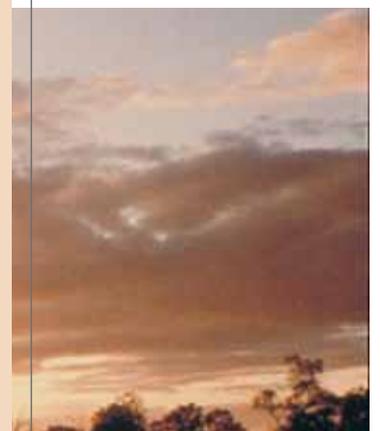
- ▶ Dr John Cooke, Manager, Sunraysia Northern Irrigation Region
- ▶ Mr Brian Grogan OAM, Consultant, Former CEO Lower Murray Water
- ▶ Mr Michael Keenan, Horticulturalist
- ▶ Adj. Prof. Vernon Knight AM, Executive Director, Mallee Family Care
- ▶ Mr Graeme Martin, Project Consultant, Neqtar Group
- ▶ 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
- ▶ Adj. Prof Rob Walker, Research Manager, CSIRO Merbein Laboratory

La Trobe University's Mildura campus contributes \$18.5 million per year to the city's Gross Regional Product, and supports 195 jobs in the local economy [Compelling Economics, La Trobe University: Regional Campuses Economic Impact Analysis, November 2009]

▲ *The Brian Grogan Lecture Theatre, La Trobe University Mildura Campus*

◀ *Mungo National Park*

▼ *The Murray River*





▲ Mungo National Park

Teaching

Four of the University's five faculties are represented at the Mildura Campus, offering courses in accounting, arts, business, education, graphic design, nursing, social work and visual arts.

The University has strong relationships with local businesses and industry, and the campus' courses are mostly designed to meet the employment needs of the region.

A Taste of Tertiary

In 2009, La Trobe University initiated *A Taste of Tertiary* – a program that takes higher education opportunities to those in regional Victoria who may never otherwise have had the chance to study.

The program comprises two introductory subjects in sociology and history. Upon successful completion eligible students are guaranteed admission into a Bachelor of Arts degree at any one of La Trobe's regional campuses.

Short courses

In addition to its regular course offerings, the Mildura Campus offers short courses throughout the year. Courses can be customised for individuals and organisations from the study areas available at the campus.

Stepping Back into Education

Designed to equip mature-aged students with the necessary skills and knowledge to succeed at university, this short course has been tremendously successful. To date, the course has been instrumental in preparing many mature-aged students for higher education in Mildura.

▼ The Mildura Campus promotional ute and trailer on the road



▲ The 'Music Under the Stars' event, held at the Perry Sandhills as part of the Mildura Wentworth Arts Festival

Edge of the Outback

La Trobe University Mildura's annual Edge of the Outback program takes students on a photographic journey through outback Australia.

Students from all over the world 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 three-week program.

Master Classes

Master Classes at La Trobe's Mildura Campus are open to the public and feature guest lecturers from diverse backgrounds with considerable business experience. Past Master Class speakers include:

- ▶ Rod Trowbridge, Chief Executive Officer [CEO], Mildura Tourism
- ▶ Judith Damiani, CEO, Citrus Australia
- ▶ Damian Wells, CEO, North Central Catchment Management Authority
- ▶ Ross Lake, Managing Director, Tasco Inland Australia
- ▶ Vernon Knight, Executive Director, Mallee Family Care and MRCC Councillor

Making a difference



▲ **Seher Ozonal**
Bachelor of Social Work with Honours

Seher Ozonal migrated from Turkey with her family, as a baby. Now, at 21, Seher has won two awards and recently completed a Bachelor of Social Work with Honours at La Trobe Mildura.

In 2008, Ms Ozonal was awarded the inaugural David Jolley Leadership Award for her excellent academic results and for taking a leadership role among her peers; in 2009, she was awarded the Pauline Toner Award by La Trobe University for her hard work and determination in the field of social work.

Seher believes that studying in Mildura helped her get a "foot in many doors".

"My lecturers at La Trobe Mildura were really encouraging. They really made me feel like I could achieve anything I set my mind to," she said.

Seher now works at Sunraysia Community Welfare Services and is assisting the Mildura Rural City Council in delivering a cultural awareness project. In 2010, she will speak about her research and work at a national conference.



▲ *Participants from the Riverlink Research Forum using the campus 'Zing' system*

Research

La Trobe University Mildura is home to the Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre [MDFRC] and the Riverlink Postgraduate Research Network.

Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre

The Centre is based on La Trobe University's Mildura and Albury-Wodonga Campuses. The MDFRC is a joint venture partnership between the University, CSIRO, the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and the Federal Government's Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts.

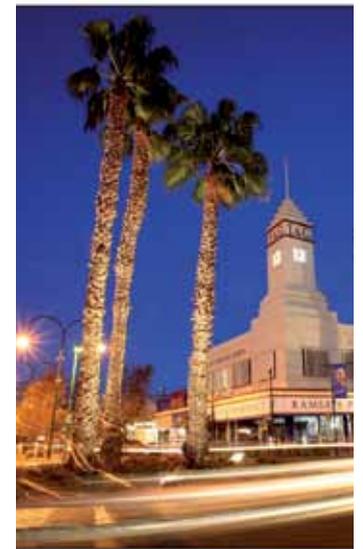
Research conducted at the Centre focuses on developing an understanding of freshwater ecosystems to support the effective and sustainable management of the changing and dispersed systems of the Murray-Darling Basin.

The MDFRC employs 54 staff – research, technical and administrative – in Wodonga and Mildura, and supervises eight PhD candidates and three BSc Honours students.

Riverlink Postgraduate Research Network

The Riverlink Postgraduate Research Network is a joint initiative between La Trobe University and Riverlink – a network of five Federal and State Government horticultural research agencies.

The Network's purpose is to encourage and seek funding for postgraduate students to conduct research in the Sunraysia-Riverland region. La Trobe students are given the opportunity to work on industry relevant research projects and gain valuable experience in the horticultural industries in the region.



▲ *Mildura by night*



◀ Vice-Chancellor Paul Johnson with Don Carrazza and his family at the launch of the Foundation

▼ Executive Director Kent Farrell [right] with Don Carrazza and Chancellor Sylvia Walton at the launch of the Foundation



Supporting Art and Science in Mildura

La Trobe Mildura is a great supporter of the arts and sciences in regional Victoria. In addition to its sponsorship of awards, events and exhibitions La Trobe Mildura contributes extensively to educational programs and research.

The Mildura Campus has strong partnerships with Arts Mildura, Mildura City Council, Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre, Riverlink, SIFE Mildura and the Sunraysia Institute of TAFE.

The campus is Arts Mildura's key educational partner, and through this sponsorship maintains strong links with Arts Mildura's five major festivals – the Murray River International Music Festival, Mildura Wentworth Arts Festival, Mildura Writers' Festival, Murray Darling Palimpsest, and the Mildura Jazz, Food and Wine Festival.

▼ Murray Darling Freshwater Research



Mildura Eisteddfod Society

La Trobe Mildura is a supporting partner of the Mildura Eisteddfod Society. The society holds annual competitions in performance arts including pianoforte, jazz, dance and tap, classical ballet, brass, speech and drama, vocal, choral and instrumental ensembles among others.

The Mildura Campus will host numerous competitions in 2010. For more information, please visit:

www.milduraeisteddfod.org

Students in Free Enterprise [SIFE]

SIFE brings together students, academic staff, professionals and industry leaders in numerous projects to benefit the local community. In 2009, La Trobe Mildura's SIFE team worked on numerous projects including:

- ▶ **HSBC Financial Literacy program** – SIFE team members worked in partnership with staff from Coomealla High School to raise the financial literacy skills of the school's Aboriginal students. Students were given a hands-on experience of starting and running a small business; they were required to develop a product fit for sale, cost expenses, decide on pricing, create a marketing plan and sell the product.

▼ The William and George Chaffey Building, 29 Deakin Avenue, Mildura



Community engagement

A gift of learning

In March 2009, successful entrepreneur and Mildura businessman, Don Carrazza presented La Trobe University with one of the largest single donations in the University's history, "for the future education of many young people in the region".

Located in the heart of the business district of Mildura, the 120 year-old William and George Chaffey Building at 29 Deakin Avenue is estimated to be worth close to \$1 million.

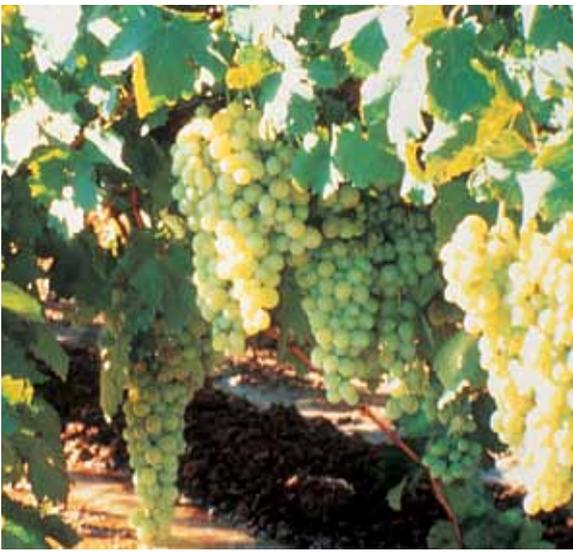
"For me this is a very special event. To come to this country with nothing and now being able to contribute to La Trobe University with this unique building makes me feel very proud," said Mr Carrazza.

"While I may not have been able to achieve a full education for myself, I hope this means that La Trobe can give many young people the opportunity that I never had," he said.

The building will be a new learning hub in Mildura's CBD and play a significant role in improving higher education participation in the region.

La Trobe Mildura's Foundation Board is working to secure funding to help local students study at the campus. For more information about the fundraising activities of the Board or to make a donation, please visit:

📍 latrobe.edu.au/foundation



▶ **LIFE [Literacy Is For Everyone]** – initiated in 2008, the LIFE project aimed to improve literacy in the region. In 2009, libraries in Mildura, Irymple, Merbein, Red Cliffs, and the mobile library, were equipped with computers dedicated to literacy tools and packages, and publications to assist patrons of all ages and literacy levels.

▶ **RED [Reducing Environmental Damage]** – in partnership with the Mildura City Council, Mildura Regional Waste Management Group and Mildura City Heart, La Trobe Mildura's SIFE team conducted a campaign aimed at promoting recycling in the local community. The team encouraged the use of eco-friendly shopping bags and the proper disposal of approved recyclable materials, and discouraged retailers from using plastic bags.



▲ [Top left] *Grapes On The Vine*

[Top right] *Music in the Ampleton Gardens, an event held as part of the Murray River International Music Festival*

Visual Arts Research Studio

The Mildura Arts Research Studio serves as a workspace for honours and masters students. The space is open to the community and regularly exhibits postgraduate work. In 2009 works on display included:

- ▶ Is this OK, Hetty? by Ricky Palmer
- ▶ Heat by Helen Turner
- ▶ If the sky was yellow by Alessandra Pedulla

Refugee Realities Program

In December 2009, La Trobe Mildura students helped organise Refugee Realities – a program aimed at providing local school students with an insight into the plight of refugees.

The program took 320 Mildura school children through an exhibition and interactive simulation to help them understand the realities of life as a refugee.

The program concluded with a de-briefing session and discussion about universal human rights and the rights of refugees in particular.

▼ The launch of Denise James's installation called 'The Dance' held at the Merbein salt lakes as part of Murray Darling Palimpsest in April 2009



▼ Mr Stefano de Pieri, celebrity chef





◀ Perry Sandhills



▲ [Left] Edge of the outback Mildura, Volkswagen; Photographer, Elizabeth Blaue

[Right] Professor Ronald Sharp delivered the public lecture on Mateship Friendship and National Identity



◀ Clayton Sharp at the Menindee Lakes
Photo by Oliver Scholz

Public Lectures

The Mildura Campus presents numerous public lectures every year; highlights from 2009 include:

Lateral Violence: What is it?

From a Koori Perspective – Rudolph Kirby, Deputy Director of the Koori Justice Unit for the Department of Justice, provided an in-depth look at lateral violence [violence directed against peers] in the Koori community.

Mateship, Friendship and National Identity

Presented as part of the Mildura Writers Festival, highly regarded US author Professor Ronald Sharp examined the relationship between mateship and friendship and explored Australia's cultural discourse with regard to national identity.

Global Culture and Migration:

A Personal Story

Adjunct Professor in Social Sciences at La Trobe University and author of ten books, Alastair Davidson, explored globalisation and the changing face of migration.



◀ Murray Darling Freshwater Research

▼ Old Station, Murray Sunset National Park



Beechworth Campus



Campus introduction

Located in north-east Victoria and set in 11 acres of heritage listed gardens, La Trobe at Beechworth is a premier multi-purpose function centre.

This unique facility hosts conferences, seminars, executive and professional development programs and special events including concerts, live theatre, and weddings, throughout the year.

La Trobe at Beechworth offers a wide variety of accommodation options for up to 200 guests, ranging from self-catering lodges to deluxe hotel-style rooms and luxury spa suites.

All accommodation options have been refurbished and carefully appointed to complement the architectural heritage of the buildings. Facilities available to guests include a cricket oval, gymnasium, luxury day spa, pavilion, sauna, swimming pool, and a tennis court.

Venues available for functions include the:

- ▶ Historic Bijou Theatre [circa 1867] with seating for 80 to 100 guests.
- ▶ Art deco Pines Conference Centre with two large function rooms – each seating up to 200 guests.
- ▶ George Briscoe Kerferd Conference Centre with seating for up to 400.

Campus leadership

- ▶ Mr Brian Millar, Director

Community Engagement

La Trobe University is committed to the ongoing development and sustainability of its communities. The Beechworth Campus plays host to numerous public events every year; offers scholarships, and avails its facilities for use by local sporting clubs.

The campus has a close relationship with the Beechworth Arts Council which also enjoys use of the campus' many facilities.

La Trobe University's Beechworth campus contributes \$2 million+ into the regional economy supporting up to 50 local jobs based on actual spend and total numbers employed on campus at the busiest times of the year



▲ Avenue of Oaks, part of the heritage listed Beechworth Campus gardens

◀ Beechworth Bakery

▼ Craig's Hut





▲ Eucalypt in the Bogong High Plains

▶ Birches Building, La Trobe University
Beechworth Campus



George Briscoe Kerferd Oration

The 2009 George Briscoe Kerferd Oration featured the Reverend Tim Costello, Chief Executive Officer, World Vision Australia.

Entitled *Community Values for a World in Need*, the oration focused on values of compassion and the practice of looking beyond immediate personal needs and desires to the richness of seeing others prosper and grow.

Rev. Costello suggested that developing such qualities could form a significant part of the solution to some of the most intractable problems facing the global community, including poverty and climate change.

The 2009 Kerferd Oration is available to download from La Trobe on iTunes U at:

📍 latrobe.edu.au/news

Opera in the Alps

Each year, La Trobe at Beechworth hosts Opera in the Alps – an evening featuring some of Australia’s best operatic talents. In 2009, 4,000 people enjoyed fine wine, food, and a list of classical favourites performed by mezzo-soprano Roxane Hislop, tenor James Egglestone and guitarist Slava Grigoryan.

The event is fast becoming one of the hallmark events for the North East Victorian Region.

La Trobe at Beechworth offers annual funding to assist the Young Scholars Program which attracts up to 30 developing opera singers between the ages of 16 and 25. Students undertake an intensive week-long program to develop their voices and performance skills as part of the scholarship.

The Beechworth Arts Council

The Beechworth Arts Council has access to a number of buildings on the Beechworth Campus to conduct a range of activities including regional art exhibitions and an artist in residence program which offers local artists a venue to develop their skills.



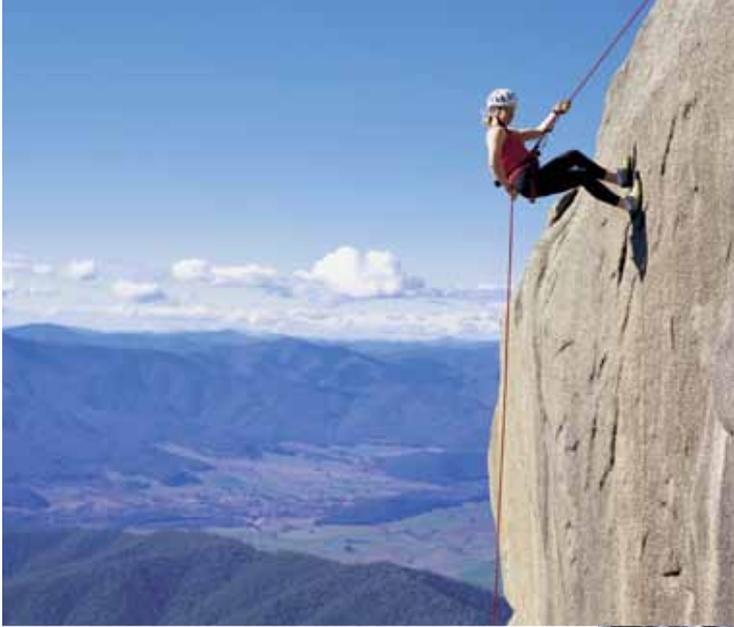
▲ Daffodils in garden, La Trobe University
Beechworth Campus



▼ Ballooning, Mansfield

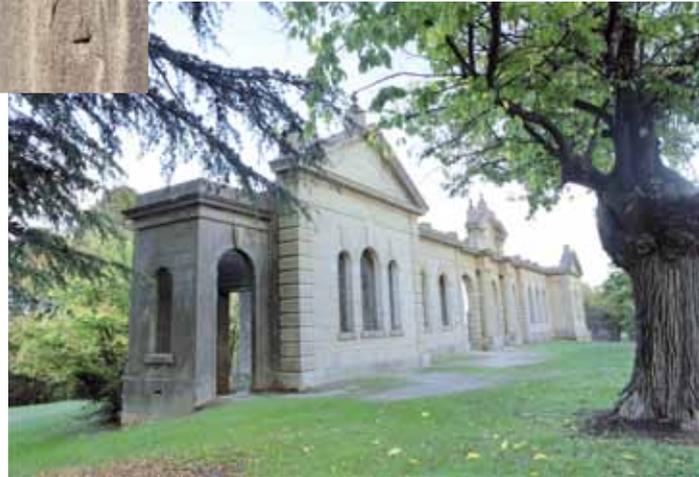


▼ Smiths Vineyards



◀ Mt Buffalo

▼ Oak Avenue, La Trobe University Beechworth Campus



The North East Boxing Gym

La Trobe at Beechworth is home to the North East Boxing Gym. Opened in 2005 and run by boxer John McCubbin, the gym aims to promote responsibility and discipline through sports training.

Mr McCubbin works closely with the local Police to offer training to disadvantaged youth in the area, as an alternative to the court system. The Gym has produced a number of local title holders; one of the Gym's current members holds the regional, state and national titles and is currently in the qualifying rounds for the Commonwealth games to be held in India in October 2010.

Beechworth hockey, cricket and football clubs

The Beechworth hockey, cricket and football clubs have access to the campus' sports oval for training and competition matches throughout the year. Many local athletes can be seen training and competing on campus every day of the week.

▲ Old hospital ruins, Beechworth

▼ Boyntons Feathertop Winery



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La Trobe University Regional Operations

PO Box 199
Bendigo Victoria 3552
Australia

T +61 3 5444 7744
E regional@latrobe.edu.au

Bendigo Campus

Edwards Road
PO Box 199
Bendigo Victoria 3552
Australia

T +61 3 5444 7222
F +61 3 5444 7777
E director.bendigo@latrobe.edu.au

Albury-Wodonga Campus

University Drive
PO Box 821
Wodonga Victoria 3689
Australia

T +61 2 6024 9700
F +61 2 6024 9797
E oed.aw@latrobe.edu.au



Mildura Campus

471 Benetook Avenue
PO Box 4095
Mildura Victoria 3502
Australia

T +61 3 5051 4000
F +61 3 5022 0043
E mildura@latrobe.edu.au

Shepparton Campus

127 Welsford Street
PO Box 6044
Shepparton Victoria 3632
Australia

T +61 3 5821 8450
F +61 3 5821 8176
E shepparton@latrobe.edu.au

[This page] Horse riding and hiking, High Country



Beechworth Campus

La Trobe University
Beechworth Campus
Albert Road
Beechworth Victoria 3747
Australia

La Trobe University at Beechworth Campus

T +61 3 5720 8000
F +61 3 5720 8001

La Trobe at Beechworth

T +61 3 5720 8050
F +61 3 5720 8051
E ihs@latrobe.edu.au



**La Trobe University,
ranked top in Victoria
for student satisfaction**

[Sweeney Uni Student Report, 2009]





LA TROBE
UNIVERSITY



Infinite Possibilities™

Regional Office
La Trobe University
Edwards Road
Bendigo Victoria 3552
Australia

T +61 3 5444 7744

F +61 3 5444 7526

▶ latrobe.edu.au/regional-office

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