

LA TROBE UNIVERSITY

Bulletin

MAY 2003

**La Trobe
& Essendon
alliance**

**What LURKS
in our
rain forests?**

**SOLE METHOD OF
CATCHING CROOKS**

SEX: Having it
younger and
more often

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Business education alliance

LA TROBE AND ESSENDON

IN A NEW APPROACH to business education, La Trobe University and Essendon Football Club have formed an alliance to provide certificate courses specifically designed to meet the needs of management professionals in business, government and sporting communities.

The landmark educational alliance brings together the knowledge community at La Trobe University and the business and sporting community at Essendon Football Club.

At the launch of the alliance, La Trobe Professor of Management David Brown said that the courses in business education have been developed in response to the demands placed on businesses and sporting clubs to implement industry relevant best practice in the areas of management, marketing, accounting and business law.

'The alliance will provide management education and professional development opportunities for organisations and community groups. All modules will be written and facilitated by lecturers from La Trobe University's Faculty of Law and Management,' Professor Brown said.

The courses can be implemented as part of a training series within organisations, or for self development. The generic course program will offer assessment options that provide course credit towards future university study.

'Learning processes will include face-to-face learning, the use of self-directed learning materials and internet-directed learning activities. Study venues will include La Trobe University's City Campus, Essendon Football Club and students' own workplaces. Through the provision of a flexible learning environment, candidates may self-pace their learning, have the option of diverse study environments and have control over their learning style.'

The evolution of elite sport into a fully professional activity has brought many challenges, according to Phil Cleary, who helped to develop the alliance.

'The administrators of Australian Rules Football, the AFL Players' Association, the clubs and players now realise that players need appropriate education and training to help them manage the pressures of the game, to become better citizens and to develop fulfilling professional lives after football,' Mr Cleary said.

He said that the development of certificate courses, partly in flexible mode, would address what has been a major obstacle for elite athletes, the opportunity to efficiently mix study with sport.

The alliance will also facilitate research into areas of relevance to members of Essendon Football Club, its staff and sponsors, and the broader community.



La Trobe's Professor Greg O'Brien and Essendon's Tim Watson at the launch

The alliance will be 'kicked-off' with a leadership seminar in June featuring a line-up of prominent industry, business and sporting leaders including John Fletcher (Managing Director, Coles Myer), Graeme Samuel (AFL Commissioner), Kevin Sheedy (Essendon Coach), Professor David Brown (Faculty of Law and Management), Peter Jackson, (CEO, Essendon), James Hird (Captain, Essendon) and Alan Veal (Director, Integro Interpersonal Growth Systems).

INNOVATIVE RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES

La Trobe University has joined Flinders, Griffith, Macquarie, Murdoch and Newcastle universities to form Innovative Research Universities — Australia (IRU-A), launched in March.

La Trobe University Vice-Chancellor Professor Michael Osborne gained the support of the Council of the University for participation as a member of IRU-A at the Council's 3 March meeting.

Professor Osborne noted that 'each of the members of the group was founded in the 1960s and 1970s and all shared a number of important characteristics'.

'All six were established as research-based universities with comprehensive disciplinary coverage and a strong interdisciplinary focus,' Professor Osborne said.

'Located in capital cities (or, in one case, in a major regional city) and on single campus sites in outer suburban areas, each was from the start placed into a competitive environment with one or more universities already operating in the same city or State that had accumulated substantial resources, business and community networks, and reputations.

'...research-based universities with comprehensive disciplinary coverage and a strong interdisciplinary focus'

'The six have deliberately developed ways of making themselves distinctive by adopting alternative organisational structures and innovative approaches to teaching, research and community engagement, and actively recruiting students from more diverse backgrounds than are typically found in the longer-established universities.

'Building on this basis, IRU-A will use the resources of the six to increase and extend the activities of the member universities in research, teaching and learning, international programs, commercial enterprises, regional initiatives and engagement with business, professions and communities.

'All six stress the importance of a strongly student-focused learning environment, with schemes to promote access, equity and diversity, and place emphasis on multiple modes of delivery, integrating the new educational technologies into high quality face-to-face teaching.

'Research performance and innovation are key characteristics of the six and will feature prominently in the joint projects that are being planned.'

La Trobe Open Days in 2003
Open Days will be held on La Trobe University campuses throughout Victoria on the following dates:
Sunday 3 August – Bendigo
Sunday 10 August – Shepparton & Mildura
Sunday 17 August – Albury-Wodonga & Mt Buller
Sunday 24 August – Melbourne (Bundoora)
Information about courses and studying at La Trobe from 1300 135 045 or CourseFinder at www.latrobe.edu.au

TRAINING TERTIARY TEACHERS FOR VIETNAM

La Trobe University's program to train Vietnamese tertiary level teachers — sponsored by the Asian Development Bank — received another boost in March.

A high-level delegation from the Vietnamese Government Ministry of Education and Training held discussions at La Trobe's Melbourne (Bundoora) campus on ways to develop the program.

Nine Vietnamese postgraduate students are already enrolled in a La Trobe Master of Science and Technology Education program in which they undertake study units in both the University's Institute for Education and the Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering.

The Asian Development Bank program is in two parts — sending Vietnamese overseas to undertake Master's degrees and delivering in-country Master's programs in Vietnam.

As well as being the sole university in Victoria to provide training under the program, La Trobe has also been short-listed as one of a number of partners to provide training in Vietnam. The visit of the 14-member delegation was part of the assessment process of the Vietnamese Government.



L to R: Pro Vice-Chancellor (International), Dr David Stockley talks to Dr Nguyen Thi Tinh (University of Education) and delegation leader Dr Vu Van Tuong, Deputy Head, Vietnam Department of Postgraduate Education

Cover Photo: Essendon's captain James Hird
See story this page.
Photograph: Ryan Piense

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Faster, better dispute resolution

PLEASE, TALK TO ME ABOUT MY DISPUTE



More than one quarter of a million people each year in Australia use some form of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) process to deal with a dispute — more than 130,000 of them within the financial sector.

Many consumers have a similar criticism because of the way their dispute was handled — nobody wanted to listen to them and understand their problem.

Most consumers feel that if only they could talk to a conciliator, and the other party — either face-to-face or by telephone — they would have a good chance of resolving their problem and thus of avoiding the effort of going through an ADR process or the expense of going to court.

This is one of the major findings from a review by La Trobe University of the disputes handling procedures of the Financial Industry Complaints Scheme (FICS) which was published in March.

Professor Tania Sourdin of La Trobe's Faculty of Law and Management, and Ms Jane Elix of the organisation, Community Solutions, reviewed dispute procedures in



superannuation, insurance, stockbroking, financial planning, funds management and other parts of the financial services sector.

Their brief was to examine both ADR processes and internal dispute resolution processes which governments, private organisations and individuals have

'Industry-based schemes play an important role in dealing with complex disputes and offer a free service to consumers. They can also highlight where internal complaints and dispute handling procedures are not working well'

developed to encourage the early and effective resolution of disputes outside the ADR system and the court.

An expert on dispute resolution, Professor Sourdin is a key author of the Australian Standard on Dispute Resolution and recently published a book *Alternative Dispute Resolution*.

FICS was established in 1999 to handle disputes about the financial sector and this was the first review of its procedures. Professor Sourdin and Ms Elix compiled their report following extensive processes of consultation through surveys, face-to-face interviews, phone interviews and conducting forums and workshops with complainants and industry representatives.

Professor Sourdin said that the existence of external mechanisms such as FICS — and many others like the banking industry and telecommunications ombudsmen set up over the past 15 years — means there is much less reliance on courts and tribunals to settle disputes.

'Industry-based schemes play an important role in dealing with complex disputes and offer a free service to consumers. They can also highlight where internal complaints and dispute handling procedures are not working well,' she said.

'There can be issues about how well external schemes handle disputes. A common practice in some schemes is for the organisation against which a complaint has been lodged to write an "Advisory Letter" to consumers — effectively advising the consumers on the merits of their dispute.'

Professor Sourdin and Ms Elix made many recommendations. These included a review of the Advisory Letter process, that organisations should seek opportunities for more face-to-face or telephone hearings, that information about FICS and its services be provided to organisations dealing with low income groups, that a circuit system be trialled in all States as FICS was based in Melbourne; and that in some circumstances complainants whose complaint were proved justified should be compensated for delays or lack of cooperation.

Many consumers thought that this process was costly and took a great deal of time — as extensive documents often needed to be exchanged. They wanted more opportunity to clarify the issues and to talk about the dispute with the other party with the assistance of an independent conciliator.



PIONEERING APPOINTMENT STRENGTHENS INDIA CONNECTION

ACADEMIC LINKS between La Trobe University and India have been strengthened with a novel and pioneering appointment — an Academic Liaison Officer in the Indian capital, Delhi.

Dr Ira Raja, who graduated PhD at a La Trobe graduation ceremony at the Melbourne (Bundoora) campus in March, will take up the role in May.

The appointment aims to generate and foster strong academic links in humanities and social sciences between La Trobe and Indian universities, particularly Delhi University.

La Trobe's Chisholm College plays a leading role in the project. The College Head, Mr Terry Collits, who also teaches in the School of Communications, Arts and Critical Theory, says possible areas for collaboration include:

- encouraging Indian students in humanities and social sciences to

consider postgraduate courses at La Trobe University

- ensuring accurate academic advice to such students and providing personal academic support particularly in the early stages of their degrees
- raising the awareness of academic teachers at La Trobe of problems of adjustment that may be encountered by students coming from the Indian system
- fostering links between academics at the two institutions across the range of disciplinary areas in humanities and social sciences, through short or longer term exchange programs, joint conferences, research-sharing and publications.
- making academics in India aware of academic possibilities available to them in Australia

The new project stems from a seven-year highly successful graduate exchange

program between Chisholm College and the prestigious Lady Shri Ram College of Delhi University, during which six Indian graduate or postgraduate students have studied for diplomas at La Trobe while residing at Chisholm. Professor Robin Jeffrey of La Trobe's Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, inaugurated the program.

'We believe it is now time to extend our academic links in humanities and social sciences with Delhi University at every level,' Mr Collits said.

'By fostering close academic relationships with colleges at Delhi, in the first instance, Chisholm will work to raise awareness of what is available at La Trobe and provide first hand academic advice about courses and how to proceed.

'Indian students deciding to study at La Trobe will be given full access to Chisholm College's individually-based Academic Assistance Program,' Mr Collits added

Dr Raja is currently an academic editor with Macmillan India in Delhi, and is working on a number of publications with La Trobe academics.

Mr Collits and Dr Leela Gandhi of La Trobe's English Program supervised her PhD thesis on the subject of representations of ageing in post-Independence Indian short fiction.

Further information available at India Focus Group www.latrobe.edu.au/india/main.htm



L to R: Mr Terry Collits, Dr Ira Raja and Professor Robin Jeffrey

RENEWED LINK WITH ROME INSTITUTE

After completing her two-year postdoctoral fellowship in La Trobe's Art History Program, Dr Susan Russell leaves in September to take up a three-year appointment as Assistant Director (Humanities) of the British School at Rome.

Dr Russell's appointment to the prestigious post continues La Trobe's association with the School.

The late Professor Dale Trendall — after whom the Trendall Centre and Trendall Walk at La Trobe's Melbourne (Bundoora) campus are named — was the Assistant Director between 1936-37, and also functioned as the School's librarian. Professor Trendall was closely associated with La Trobe's Art History Program, the then Art History Department.

The British School at Rome, which celebrated its hundredth anniversary in 2001, is a research institute providing

accommodation and study facilities for researchers in the humanities, predominantly archaeology, classics, history and art history.

There are also studios accommodating holders of fine arts' fellowships. Institutions in the UK provide most of its funding, but the Australia Council has recently taken one of the studios, placing four Australian artists there per year.

Dr Russell is a specialist in 17th century Roman art and architecture. Her PhD was awarded at the University of Melbourne, but she completed her BA (Hons) and MA degrees at La Trobe and taught for six years in the Art History Program before taking up the postdoctoral fellowship. She will be responsible, among many other tasks, for initiating a public lecture program mainly in art history.

THE HILLS ARE ALIVE WITH IDEAS

Tips on sustainable land management from the Himalayas

There's a huge gulf in culture and agricultural practices between farmers in India's Himalayan foothills, and those in Victoria's northeast.

Yet some farmers within sight of our own modest mountains are about to be exposed to some novel concepts in participatory natural resource management from northern India.

A La Trobe sociologist Dr Brian Furze is assisting research scientist Mr Michael Reid to investigate sustainable land

management for small and lifestyle farmers in north-eastern Victoria. The research is looking at information pathways to natural resources management and improved delivery mechanisms.

Dr Furze, an expert in the sociology of the environment, rural society and sustainability, hopes the project may up-end conventional approaches to land management. A veteran of a dozen trips to northern India in the last 14 years, he believes Indian innovations, which have successfully given local communities control over previously State-managed forest reserves, may have lessons for the sustainability of our small farming enterprises.

These include changed perceptions of the traditional 'top down' extension officer structure for passing government information and research to farmers. 'We need locals to see agricultural advisors as their resources, not just visiting experts,' he says.

As a humanities and social science lecturer at La Trobe's Albury-Wodonga campus, and with 14 years experience in university service in rural communities in two States, Dr Furze has seen the 'big is better' push to larger farms, and the emergence of significant numbers of small farms and 'lifestyle' rural enterprises.

'In north-eastern Victoria, small and lifestyle farms are the dominant land use, with less than 10 percent of farm land managed by farmers with a gross income

and lifestyle farmers in better land management techniques.

'We will welcome overseas precedents for this, especially programs driven by community involvement rather than economics. There have been various participatory natural resources planning experiments in India, Africa and South America over the last 15 years,' Dr Furze says.

'The northern Indian experience is especially encouraging, having

successfully given local communities control over previously State-managed forest reserves, which were becoming degraded. Since 1990 many local communities, entirely dependent on forest areas for food and fuel and sometimes their only income, have come to feel that they have ownership of forest areas, and strong incentive to protect them. Large areas of forest are now managed by local communities

which use some of the money generated for forest development and infrastructure.'

He said that while the specifics of Indian forestry have few parallels here, the concept of participatory natural resource planning was compelling.

Mr Reid's first move is to research sustainability issues across the great rural diversity of the northeast. The second aim is to get a feel for sustainability issues among small farmers, initially through field day consultations and workshops starting later this year, before working out how to generate awareness and sustainability and feedback options.



L to R: Dr T.P. Singh (Energy Research Institute New Delhi), Dr Brian Furze and Mr Michael Reid 'on location' in north-east Victoria.

greater than \$300,000. Small rural enterprises range from small conventional farms for grazing or cropping to other specialised rural industries including olives, berries, nuts, green tea, and alpacas,' he says. 'To protect our land, we must go beyond our long-term emphasis on sustainability of broad-acre farming to support the diversity of small operations.'

The Rutherglen Project, funded by the Ecological Sustainable Agricultural Initiative and the Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation, aims to find new ways of involving small

OUT OF AMAZONIA

Parallels in multilingualism...

What is the common ground between many Australians and the peoples of the upper Amazon?

It is their experiences — both parallels and also startling divergences — in multilingualism and multiculturalism.

Professor Alexandra Aikhenvald of La Trobe University's Research Centre for Linguistic Typology has spent more than a decade studying endangered languages of the Arawak tribes in northeast Brazil.

In particular, she has been prominent in supporting regional efforts to keep alive the Tariana language spoken only by 100 people.

Her linguistic crusade, outlined in *Language Contact in Amazonia* (Oxford University Press, 2002), demands field trips that include four-day journeys in open canoes, sharing tribal accommodation, suffering boils, and avoiding threatening individuals and wildlife. 'The arduous field trips are worth it for the treasures we find, the insights into how others see the world, and the chance to conserve a fragment of human culture on the edge of extinction,' she says.

Professor Aikhenvald, born and educated in Russia, moved to a Professorship in Brazil, and then to Australia in 1994. She has spent a total of around a year living with communities with a rich multilingualism in the Vaupes River basin in northwest Amazonia. 'Tariana is used in a fascinating region where language is seen as the basis of identity, in what is perhaps the most multilingual area in the world,' she says. 'These people practice exogamy — you can only marry someone who speaks a different language and belongs to a different tribe.'

'Everybody grows up in a rich multicultural and multilingual environment while maintaining their own ethnic and linguistic identity. In traditional

times each person knew the languages of their father (the language they identify with), their mother, their spouse, and other relatives and members of the community. As things change under the impact of the world beyond, including the drive towards a national language, the Indians keep complaining about their multilingual paradise lost.'

Professor Aikhenvald did something about this. In the case of the Tariana language, based on the villages of Lauarete, Santa Rosa and Periquitos, she discovered that many of the 1500 people who identified as Tariana wanted to reclaim their language. 'They see it as a shameful thing to speak a "borrowed" language, instead of that of one's ancestors.'



Professor Aikhenvald with Amazonians

She was the driving force behind the teaching of a three-week literacy course on Tariana in June 2000.

'It was a startling success — we had 350 students aged from nine to 90. With their extended families, it ran to 1000 participants. Everyone was enthusiastic, including the Catholic priests and nuns whose teaching a century ago had helped destroy the multilingual culture, but who are now eager to restore the language and start teaching it at school.'

Her massive documentation of the endangered language started with a school-level grammar and collection of local stories, and now includes a 3000-word dictionary in Portuguese and a 720-page

grammar in English which will be published by Cambridge University Press in August 2003. *Language Contact in Amazonia* investigates the contact between the Arawak and Tucanoan languages, where language mixing is resisted. While the grammars converge, people strongly resist borrowing words. The study also examines the impact of European languages and culture.

'The Tariana and Tucano people have an "evidentiality" approach, known in many cultures, which demands an awesome precision of speech — every statement must specify the evidence on which it is based: whether the speaker saw it, heard it, inferred it, or learned it from somebody else. Perhaps our politicians should talk with such accuracy!'

She sees many parallels in language confusion between the Amazonian experience and non-English speaking emigrants adjusting to Australian life.

'Newcomers to Australia sometimes resist using "foreign" words — and this can lead to cultural confusion and clashes. For instance, a foreign usage where the routine phrase "open the door" is not accompanied in translation by the local commonplace "please", can be seen as rude or arrogant. In our language teaching, we need to alert teachers to convey such sensitivities to the newcomers — and also educate Australians to such cultural differences.'

SEX

HAVING IT YOUNGER AND MORE OFTEN

Australians are having sex at a younger age and with more partners than their parents did.

This is a major finding of the Australian Study of Health and Relationships — Australia's first large-scale national survey of sexual behaviour and attitudes in which La Trobe University played a key role.

Researchers from La Trobe University's Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society (ARCSHS) combined with colleagues from The University of Sydney and the University of New South Wales to conduct telephone interviews with 19,307

service delivery and sex education programs in schools,' Dr Smith said.

The study found that 87% of people interviewed are in a regular heterosexual relationship, with the majority having lived with their current partner for 12 months or more. Only 5% of men and 3% of women in regular relationship have had sex with someone other than their regular partner in the last year.

While those who had been in a heterosexual relationship for at least twelve months had sex on average 1.84 times a week, most people wanted more

doing something sexually that they did not want to do,' Dr Smith said.

'Also, nearly one in five Australians have had a sexually transmissible infection at some time in their lives, with approximately 2% having done so in the last year,' he said.

Despite the large numbers of those who reported that their identity was heterosexual (98%), same sex attraction and behaviour was reported more commonly (8.6% of men and 15.1% of women) than the relatively few people who report a homosexual or bisexual



people aged 16 to 59 in households around Australia.

Interviewees were questioned about their relationships and families, sexual experiences, use of condoms and contraception, sexual satisfaction and difficulties, sexual attitudes and knowledge of sexually transmissible infections.

'Over three quarters of people agreed that pre-marital sex is now acceptable,' said principal researcher, Dr Anthony Smith, an associate professor at ARCSHS.

'Perhaps related to this belief, we found that the age of first intercourse was declining from 18 for men and 19 for women who are now in their fifties, to 16 for both men and women who are now under 21. This finding has significant implications for policy pertaining to health

sex. While 85% said they would like sex at least twice a week, only 27% actually had sex this often. Nevertheless most people found their relationships physically pleasurable and emotionally satisfying.

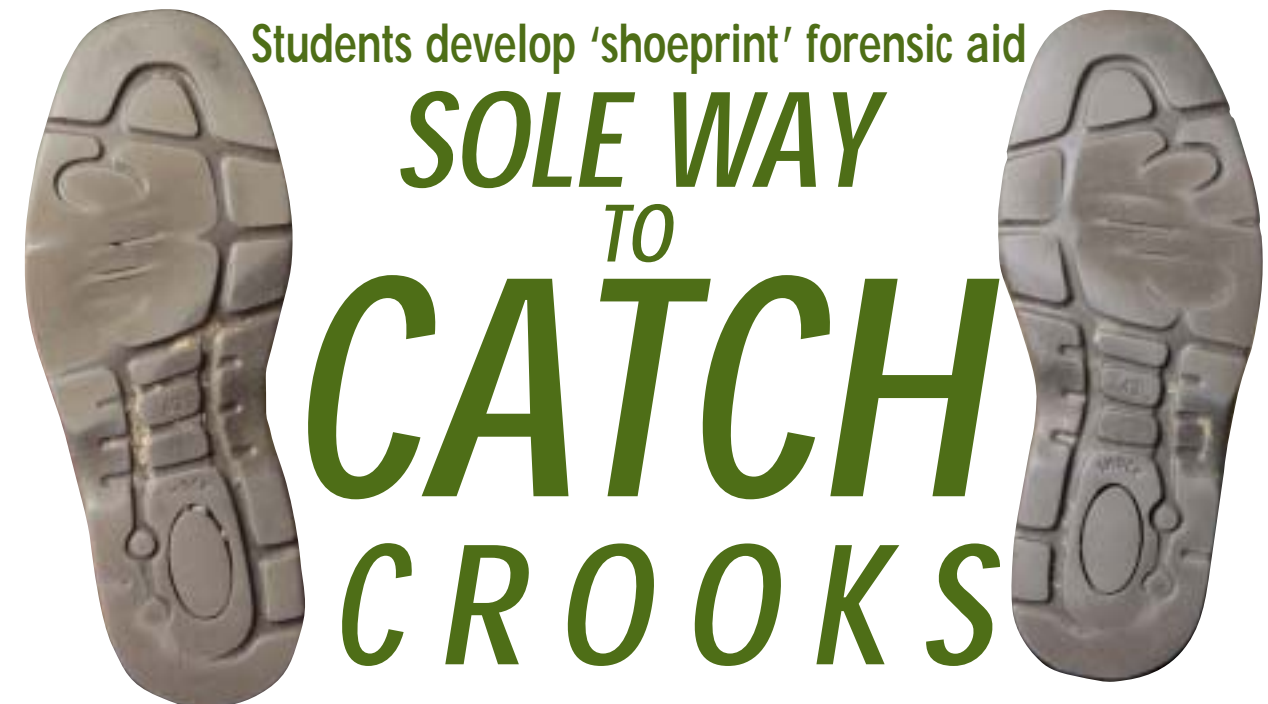
'Vaginal intercourse was by far the most common sexual practice,' said Dr Smith, 'and most (95% men and 79% women) had an orgasm last time they had sex. Nevertheless it was interesting to find that the majority of those with sexual partners (48% men, 72% women) had experienced some sort of sexual difficulty in the last year lasting for at least a month. These difficulties ranged from lack of interest in sex, difficulty with erection, pain during intercourse, or difficulty reaching orgasm.'

'A worrying finding was that 5% of men and 21% of women reported that they had at some time been forced or frightened into

identity would indicate. 'This is in line with other similar surveys conducted in Europe, UK and USA,' Dr Smith said, 'and indicates that we live in a society which contains more sexual diversity than is clearly visible.'

The results of the survey are published in the April edition of the *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health* and will help policy makers and service managers to plan sexual health strategies and programs in light of the realities of Australian sexual cultures as well as being of assistance to practitioners in many fields.

Ms Dianne Gibson, National Director of Relationships Australia and Chair of the Australian Institute of Family Studies, launched the findings at a function at La Trobe University's Melbourne (City) Campus.



La Trobe University computer science students have made a major contribution to an improved forensic device to catch criminals.

It is literally a 'shoe print' — or more exactly about 6000 of them — stored in a database at the Victoria Police's Victoria Forensic Science Centre in Macleod.

Third year Software Engineering Project students in La Trobe's Department of Computer Science and Computer Engineering developed a prototype of the device — the only one of its kind with Australian data — during 2002. It is expected to be operational later in 2003.

The database houses electronically the patterns or design of about 6000 individual items of footwear manufactured or imported into Australia. A shoe impression left at a crime scene can be digitally photographed and the image conveyed electronically to the Centre where chances are it will be instantly matched against the database and recognised.

Dr Steve Gutowski, R&D Manager of the Victoria Police Crime Scene Division, says the forensic evidence the database will produce would be added to other evidence against a suspect.

For instance, if a suspect were found to possess footwear with an imprint matching one found at the crime scene, it would not normally automatically prove his or her presence as scores if not hundreds of shoes with similar footprints exist. However, it

would be combined with other evidence to make a convincing case to outline to a jury or help detectives link different cases or narrow down their lines of inquiry.

'On occasions though, shoe impressions can be as individual as fingerprints and then the evidence has tremendous value,' Dr Gutowski said.

While fingerprints have been around as a forensic tool for a century, shoe impressions are much more recent. The Forensic Science Centre established a card-based impression database in 1984 and has since computerised it.

However it was inadequate technically and in late 2001 Senior Constable Steve Lake, Sergeant Trevor Evans and Dr Gutowski joined with La Trobe University to develop a completely new system.

'...shoe impressions can be as individual as fingerprints...'

During 2002, 36 students working on their third year Software Engineering Project for their Bachelor of Computer Engineering course, designed and built the system supervised by their lecturer, Mr Torab Torabi.

They were divided into six different development teams and worked on two major components of the system, the 'back-end' for managing the complex

database and the 'front-end' to provide unique presentation, and also a uniform user-friendly interface to the database and other external applications.

'By year's end the project teams had developed a prototype system that included the required features and functionality, incorporating the latest development technology that impressed the clients in Crime Scene Division,' Mr Torabi said.

Dr Gutowski said the prototype, called the Imprint Classification and Matching System, was a vast improvement on the old system.

'It is the best system in Australia and there may be possibilities for marketing it nationally,' he said. Discussions for further development of the system are under way between La Trobe University and the Victoria Forensic Science Centre.

Professor Tharam Dillon, Head of Department of Computer Science and Computer Engineering said: 'Development of this upgraded forensic tool illustrates the close collaboration between the Victoria Forensic Science Centre and La Trobe University.'

'Since the development of the subject, Software Engineering Project, this department has collaborated with more than 20 companies and organisations to develop different systems from e-Commerce to Production Control and Rostering Systems.'

TRAITORS OF ONE AGE: PATRIOTS OF ANOTHER

Few give more than a passing glance to the public monuments and statuary that our cities erected in the 19C and 20C.

Often the people and events they commemorate are forgotten or misunderstood. How many Melburnians, for example, know who General Gordon was and why his statue dominates one of the prime sites in their city?

Until recently, historians in English-speaking countries have shown little interest in the public monuments of the last two centuries.

Now, however, they contribute to a relatively new field of study that bears names such as 'public memory' and 'the historical geography of ideas'.

Mr Alex Tyrrell, a reader in the History Program at La Trobe University, is a contributor to this new form of historical enquiry, with fellow historian, Dr Paul Pickering, who gained both his BA and PhD under Mr Tyrrell's supervision at La Trobe, leading to his present position as Queen Elizabeth Research Fellow in the Humanities Research Centre at ANU.

Their work, *Monuments of Radicalism*, will follow the lead of French scholars whose writings offer many examples of cities as places where urban elites and opposition groups have devised forms of civic architecture, statuary and street naming which manipulate public memory and commemorate ideological values.

Mr Tyrrell says the heyday of this phenomenon was the 19C when, to use the term devised by historian Maurice Agulhon, a veritable 'statuemanía' broke out in many French cities.

Agulhon's research is confined to France, but Dr Pickering and Mr Tyrrell have brought together a team of Australian and British scholars each of whom is contributing a study of memorials and



General Gordon monument, Melbourne.

public icons created in Britain to honour 19C political and social radicals.

The studies include monuments honouring Thomas Paine, early 19C London ultra-radicals, teetotallers, and anti-slavery abolitionists.

Dr Pickering is contributing a chapter entitled 'The Chartist Rites of Passage' in which he examines the place of monuments in the political culture of the Chartist movement.

Mr Tyrrell's chapters include one about a monument that links his native city, Edinburgh, with the early history of Australia.

In 1793 and 1794, at the time of the French Revolution and the outbreak of war between France and Britain, five men whose names are commemorated on the monument were convicted in Edinburgh of sedition and transported to Botany Bay.

Their crime was to demand the extension of the parliamentary franchise to all men.

They were not forgotten. In 1844 a 90-foot high obelisk was erected to honour them on the slopes of Calton Hill, one of the commanding heights overlooking Edinburgh.

Mr Tyrrell tells how the building of this monument was resisted for seven years by a Tory elite that had been using the civic architecture and statuary of Edinburgh to proclaim the virtues of the conservative polity that had transported the Political Martyrs to New South Wales.

He shows how, to this day, the townscape of Edinburgh is still dominated by this war of monuments.

In 1981, a biographer of one of the Martyrs doubted that 'many people today know or care whom the monument commemorates'. But times have changed and a row is currently in progress over the rejection of a proposed site near the new Scottish Parliament.

Monuments of Radicalism is published by Ashgate Press this year.

THE PROS AND CONS OF GLOBALISATION

Globalisation has great potential — but it is frustrated by global inequalities and environmental dangers.

In addition, the failure of old forms of identity to accommodate the human diversity that globalisation promotes limits its benefits.

These views are among many espoused in a new book, *The Three Waves of Globalisation: A History of a Developing Global Consciousness*, by Dr Robbie Robertson, an associate professor at La Trobe University Bendigo.

It is the latest of a number of books from Dr Robertson who teaches history and development studies the University's Faculty for Regional Development.

Dr Robertson says globalisation necessitates a new reading of the human story. He argues that its origins lie in human interconnections that have existed since the earliest times and which assumed global proportions 500 years ago.

Since then, three consecutive waves of globalisation have radically transformed human societies. Managing this revolutionary change has proved difficult.

Dr Robertson says that for the last 200 years we have been told that capitalism

drives the world and more recently that globalisation itself is no more than its most recent manifestation.

'But that perspective is flawed,' Dr Robertson maintains. 'It is neither capitalism nor culture that has transformed the world, but human interconnections. These interconnections became global 500 years ago in the first of three waves of globalisation that would profoundly transform human dynamics and make possible the new forms of empowerment that today most define modernity.'

He said global human interconnections utterly transformed the contexts in which people lived their lives. By the time of the very industrial second wave of globalisation in the 19th century, it affected all but a few people.

The unfamiliar had to be engaged; insularity existed only for the nostalgic. Yet the powerful took comfort from the idea of a dichotomy between civilization and barbarism or modernity and tradition.

But such ideas bore little relationship with globalisation's real revolution — the creation of mass civil societies built on the empowerment of individuals. Through the provision of health, social and economic services, societies constructed increasingly

democratic environments that incorporated everything from the family to the state.

The world has come a long way since the first wave of globalisation, but its potential remains frustrated by global inequalities.

Dr Robertson maintains that globalisation is destabilising. The first wave after 1500 destroyed most of America's indigenous peoples, contributed to war in Europe, and generated an industrial revolution.

'Both the first wave — and the second in the 19th century — collapsed into depression and war, and the same fate could face our third wave if we ignore the social and historical lessons.

'We are at the crossroads once more. A globalised humanity has to develop a new consciousness to avoid the global-scale destabilization of ethnic and national tensions, environmental catastrophes, and a new democratic divide.'

The Three Waves of Globalisation: A History of a Developing Global Consciousness, is published by Zed Books in London & New York and by Fernwood in Nova Scotia.

DOING WELL BY DOING GOOD

Good business practices help cancer patients

LA TROBE University School of Tourism and Hospitality students have initiated a novel way to raise money for cancer research — and to gain skills in their chosen profession at the same time.

Their innovative efforts have led the Cancer Council of Victoria to inaugurate the annual La Trobe University School of Tourism and Hospitality Research Award.

Inaugurated in 2002, the award, financed by the students, provides funds for researchers from the Royal Children's Hospital Department of Haematology and Oncology for their ongoing project entitled The Victoria Paediatric Cancer Family Study.

Eighty students in the third and final year of two undergraduate degree courses,

Bachelor of Business (Tourism and Hospitality) and Bachelor of Business (Tourism Management) formed groups of four to six individuals to devise and run profitable events in the tourism and hospitality fields.

In the first year of the Award in 2002, the students raised nearly \$15,000. Combined with earlier results the Cancer Council has received \$21,000 in donations.

The student 'business ventures' are part of a subject called Tourism Venture Planning, designed to enable students to work on real-life business propositions. Working for profits — and the incentive that the profits go to important research — helped students to gain such skills as developing sound planning practices,

teamwork negotiation skills and correct reporting procedures

The profits will help Professors John Hopper and Keith Waters and Drs Elizabeth Smibert and Anne Mitchell at the RCH in a study to ascertain whether relatives of children with cancer are at increased risk.

The researchers will use the La Trobe University funds to finance a series of interviews with parents of children with cancer. They will compare cancer family histories with those of families where no children have cancer to estimate cancer risks for families with cancer in children. It is hoped the research will help to find causes of childhood cancers and possibly help to identify new cancer genes.

Un buon servizio per gli anziani Italiani IMPROVING AWARENESS AMONG ELDERLY ITALIAN AUSTRALIANS

LA TROBE UNIVERSITY research into use of health and community services by older Italians has identified shortcomings that would presumably affect similar groups from other nationalities.

Dr Walter Petralia, Dr Yvonne Wells and Associate Professor Peter Foreman of the Lincoln Gerontology Centre, followed focus group discussions with an Italian-language survey of 163 older Italians. The project was jointly funded by the La Trobe University — Industry Collaborative Grants program and the industry partner, the Italian community welfare group Co.As.It.

The questions addressed how affordable, available, accessible and acceptable were

both mainstream and culture-specific services to older Italian-Australians. What new directions for service development would be acceptable to older Italians and to service providers?

'It's long been part of the community services' ethos that services should be culturally responsive — this is the first evidence of the satisfaction levels from a particular group,' Dr Wells said.

'We found that while usage of community services was high — more than half had used at least one community service in the preceding year — participants generally had relatively poor awareness of services.

'While participants were generally satisfied with services, satisfaction was higher for those spoken to in Italian. Some cited problems such as lack of respect, inability to communicate in English, having no interpreter, and short-staffing.

'Women had significantly higher awareness of community services than men, and respondents tended to have high awareness if they spoke English well, were younger rather than older, and if their need for health services was high.

'This is a small study into a big problem. It's tip of the iceberg stuff — the identified shortcomings would probably also be seen in other groups with English as a second language.'



La Trobe University had a special role in the inaugural Melbourne Oxfam Trailwalker — a massive fundraising event organised by Oxfam Community Aid Abroad, which supports disadvantaged communities in 30 overseas countries and indigenous Australia.

Eighteen undergraduate podiatry students, five podiatrists and Podiatry associate lecturer, Mr George Murley, volunteered to treat participants as part of the medical team.

The event involved teams of four people walking 100 km from Ferny Creek to Marysville. It attracted more than 250 teams with the winning team completing the gruelling event in 11.5 hours.

The La Trobe podiatry students and podiatrists were located at a series of checkpoints along the trail to diagnose and treat the various foot problems encountered by the walkers.

Common problems included blisters of many shapes and sizes, nail trauma, and various musculoskeletal pathologies including tendinopathy, joint inflammation and some likely stress fractures.

TOP AUSTRALIAN POST IN JAPAN

Professor Allan Kellehear, Director of the Palliative Care Unit in La Trobe University's School of Public Health, has been appointed to the Visiting Professorship of Australian Studies at the Centre for Pacific and American Studies, University of Tokyo.

Professor Kellehear, who is also a member of La Trobe's recently established Centre for Professional Development, will occupy the post from October this year until August 2004.

The post is one of three major chairs of Australian Studies at leading international universities. The others, both in the USA, are at Georgetown and Harvard.

Founded in 1874 the University of Tokyo is the oldest university in Japan and one of

the most prestigious. The Australia-Japan Foundation, part of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, partially funds the chair.

His appointment is notable because usually recipients of Visiting Professorships in Australian Studies hold chairs in one of the humanities or social sciences while Professor Kellehear's chair is in palliative care.

Professor Kellehear, whose mother is Japanese, said it was unusual for a Japanese university to appoint an authority on palliative care to such a post because death and dying were topics of some ambivalence in Japanese society.

'I shall be teaching a course in "Death and Loss in Australian Society" to an



Professor Allan Kellehear

undergraduate program as well as a reading course to postgraduate students,' Professor Kellehear said.

He will continue his on-going research and writing commitments while in Japan.

THE PRICE OF REINVENTING OURSELVES

In the era of privatisation and globalisation we are often forced to reinvent our visions of ourselves.

But at what price?

That is a key issue being addressed by a La Trobe Distinguished Visiting Fellow, Professor Anthony Elliott, the author of more than a dozen books on the changing relationship between self and society.

In a new five-year collaboration with American social theorist Charles Lemert of Wesleyan University, Connecticut, he is attempting to put a human face on the 'torrent of theory and complex research into identity and selfhood' that has exercised the minds of academic sociologists for a decade.

'Our book, *The New Individualism*, will aim to offer readable stories for general audiences, tracking people's experiences of self in a globalised world,' he says.

'From our work to date, we are beginning to see a push for people to experience themselves first and foremost as privatised selves. For better or worse, we are becoming architects of our own lifestyles — which, in political terms, creates both significant gains and losses.'

Professors Elliott and Lemert have started years of in-depth psychoanalytic interviews of around a dozen people in Britain and the US, focusing on those who live the intense, round-the-clock ('the 24/7 society') pace of a globalised world.

'...the psychological cost includes... a dramatic rise in narcissistic personality disorder'

'These are people such as corporate traders, those in the money market and also innovators in high technology. We particularly want to see how they care for themselves.'

One US interviewee, a high-tech guru, is being tracked through three years of intense therapy. 'On the face of it, he has everything; yet inside he feels dislocated and emotionally isolated,' Professor Elliott says.

In Britain, their subjects include a 'near celebrity' — somebody who came close to fame but fell off the celebrity radar. Most interesting of all, he suspects, will be the cultural data from a young American girl and her British counterpart, currently aged around four. 'We'll be mapping their emerging sense of self in an ever-changing world.'

Professor Elliott, Geelong-born, is Director of the Centre for Critical Theory at the University of West England at Bristol. A graduate of Melbourne

people, especially those in the worlds of high technology and finance, had better be prepared to reinvent themselves year-in, year-out as they try and cope with the never-ending changes of corporate life.

'What might be the psychological cost of having to re-invent your vision of yourself?

'Our findings to date suggest the psychological cost includes a sense of psychic dislocation and fragmentation. Clinically, we note something that has become a bit of a cliché since the mid 1980s, a dramatic rise in narcissistic personality disorder.

'On the other hand — notwithstanding much cultural criticism of globalisation and its pressures on individuals — we stress that there are gains. There can be

'In a globalised world... skilled people, especially those in the worlds of high technology and finance, had better be prepared to reinvent themselves year-in, year-out as they try and cope with the never-ending changes of corporate life.'

University and Cambridge, he was an Australian Research Council Fellow from 1992-2000.

In addition to his research in critical social theory, he is known for his work on media culture, celebrity and fame. He wrote *The Mourning of John Lennon* (1999) which was welcomed in the US and Britain as a fresh approach to popular culture and the sociological analysis of fame.

He is currently writing a social history of fame and is also general author of a series on celebrities by British publisher, Polity Press.

While at La Trobe he worked with academic staff in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences on contemporary social, cultural, political and psychoanalytical theories of identity and subjectivity.

'In a globalised world, with the drive to "commodify" everything, the market can grab images of identity to be fashioned and continually re-invented. Today, skilled

significant increases in levels of personal autonomy, and an enhanced sense of freedom.'



Professor Anthony Elliott

La Trobe expert advises governments BETTER HEALTH AND WELFARE

Associate Professor Hal Swerissen, Director of the Australian Institute of Primary Care (AIPC), has completed two major reports — one of the Victorian Government and the other for Federal Government.

FUNDS FALL FOR RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE

Federal funding for residential aged care has not kept pace with cost increases because the Government uses inappropriate criteria to determine costs. Payment levels relating to practical considerations like degrees of dependency and care factors could solve the problem.

The Director of La Trobe University's Australian Institute for Primary Care, Associate Professor Hal Swerissen, reached these conclusions in a comprehensive report on residential aged care funding.

His report updating two previous reports written since 1997 — when Federal Government restructured the aged care sector — was conducted for the National

Aged Care Alliance, a representative body of 19 peak national organisations in aged care, including consumer groups, providers, unions, and health professionals.

Associate Professor Swerissen's update examined in detail cost aspects of the Government's reforms of the sector which included uniting nursing homes and hostels into one system, placing greater reliance on resident contributions, and new standards and accreditation for accommodation.

He pinpointed the key issue — the extent to which the total level of the Federal Government residential aged care subsidiary adequately addressed changes in the cost of providing the services.



He examined two alternative indexation methods for capturing increased wage costs and determined that the level of under-funding over the five years since the changes were introduced, compared with the Government's indexation method, was between \$226.8 million and \$393.5 million.

This was because the Government indexation method made assumptions about productivity gain offsets that did not hold in the residential aged care sector.

Associate Professor Swerissen also concluded that 'current Commonwealth funding arrangements lack transparency'.

HEALTH MANAGEMENT TO FIT PATIENT NEEDS

How can Victorian hospitals — and hospitals worldwide — slow the ever-increasing demand for treatment in their in-patient and emergency departments?

According to La Trobe University health care experts, the key lies in stronger partnerships between hospital and community based health services to promote prevention, early intervention and diversion to more appropriate services.

The La Trobe report to the Victorian Department of Human Services asserts that, with better links between hospital and community based health services, even people with serious illnesses who receive appropriate proactive health management would have less need for hospital in-patient or emergency services.

In May 2001, the Victorian Government inaugurated the Hospital Demand Management (HDM) strategy, a new approach to create additional capacity and

meet demand pressures through better patient management, new acute services and other appropriate initiatives within the State's public health system.

Under a section of this strategy entitled the Hospital Admission Risk Program (HARP), the Government established seven working groups to examine different aspects.

For one area entitled Community-Hospital Interface, it commissioned a research team led by Associate Professor Hal Swerissen, Director of the Australian Institute for Primary Care at La Trobe University, to investigate ways whereby community activity might reduce the increase in demand for hospital inpatient and emergency services — currently at about eight per cent per annum.

The increase is caused by an ageing population, new treatment options through advances in medical technology, fewer home visits by GPs, shortage of residential aged care beds, shortages of trained

medical staff — particularly nurses — and reduced 'informal' carer networks.

In his report, Associate Professor Swerissen says there is good evidence that a significant number of hospitalisations can be prevented by better management in primary care and community support services. These include diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma, coronary heart disease. Frail older people, those with a mental illness and people with complex social and medical conditions can also benefit from these initiatives.

He says the emphasis should be on more integrated and continuous support to manage illness and disability at home and within the community rather than reactively responding to acute exacerbations to these conditions.

By strengthening this continuum of care through a more integrated and cooperative service system patients will be cared for more effectively.

HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD LAW INSTITUTE HONOURS DR ZIFCAK

La Trobe University associate professor of Law and Legal Studies, Dr Spencer Zifcak, has received the Paul Baker Memorial Prize—the Victorian legal profession's most prestigious human rights award.

Dr Zifcak received the award at a Law Institute of Victoria luncheon to honour the contribution of leading members of the profession during 2002.

In his citation for the award, the President of the Law Institute, Mr David Faram, commended Dr Zifcak for his contribution to administrative law and human rights in the past decade.

He cited Dr Zifcak's advice to the Institute through many human rights related committees and projects, his work as Australian Vice-President of the International Commission of Jurists, his extensive writing on law, government and human rights, his human rights missions to many countries and regions including the Philippines, Indonesia, Aceh and East Timor; and, more recently, his contribution to the development of the constitution of East Timor.

The award is named after Paul Baker, a distinguished solicitor and human rights activist who died several years ago.

'It is a singular honour to receive this award,' Dr Zifcak said. 'This is especially because it is conferred by my peers in the legal profession. I knew Paul Baker well and am privileged to have been given the prize conferred in his name.'



L to R: Barrister Warwick Walsh-Buckley and Professor Spencer Zifcak
Photo courtesy: Law Institute Journal

Dr Zifcak's fields of research include Public International Law, Comparative Constitutional Law, Human Rights Law, Administrative Law and Public Administration and Management.

He holds a number of Australian and international appointments including Legal Member on both the Mental Health Review Board of Victoria and the Psychosurgery Review Board of Victoria and has been a Visiting Fellow at the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies at Oxford and a Visiting Professor at the UNESCO Centre for Human Rights at Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia and the Austrian Federal Academy of Public Administration.

One of his major current projects involves the incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights into British domestic law.

At last... A PHARMACOLOGY TEXT FOR HEALTH STUDENTS

La Trobe University pharmacologist, Dr Bronwen Bryant, has made a major contribution to resolving a textbook dilemma faced by Australian and New Zealand health science students and their teachers.

Until recently the main text books on pharmacology — chemistry or biochemistry-based and designed for medical, pharmacy or science students — were unsuitable for nursing, physiotherapy, podiatry and other health sciences students.

A senior lecturer in La Trobe's School of Human Biosciences, Dr Bryant is co-author of a new 'middle-of-the-road' textbook entitled *Pharmacology for Health Professionals*, written specifically for health sciences students.

Dr Bryant and co-author, Dr Kathleen Knights of Flinders University, started out

in 2000 to adapt for Australian health sciences students an American textbook, *Pharmacology for Health Professionals* by Professor Evelyn Salerno.

However, by the time they had finished, less than one third of the American content remained.

'Pharmacological practice is very regional. Drug names — both generic and commercial — epidemiology, recommended first choice drugs, formulations, clinical trial data, drug availability and much general content and spelling in the original text, had to be eliminated or changed, so much so that the original work is barely recognisable,' Dr Bryant said.

'While the book fulfils the publisher's requirement for something "middle-of-the-road" for health sciences students, it contains enough detail for use by medical and pharmacy students.'

Part of the Australian content is in a series of 'Clinical Interest Boxes' — summaries of local aspects of pharmacology such as Australian sources of drugs, legal and ethical matters, government regulations, scheduling procedures, indigenous and complementary remedies, and many other areas of technical and general knowledge interest.

Professor Judith Kinnear, formerly Head of the School of Human Biosciences at La Trobe University, and now Vice-Chancellor of Massey University, New Zealand, officiated at one of the book's three launches in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide.

Elsevier Science publishes the 900 page book that has sold 3200 copies in its first three months on the shelves.

Documenting Australia's biodiversity

WHAT'S LURKING**IN OUR RAIN FORESTS?**

What tall trees, vines, shrubs and other plant species lurk in Australia's tropical rain forests?

Thanks to decades of work by La Trobe University taxonomist, Dr Trevor Whiffin and colleagues at CSIRO, most of this information is now available.

Earlier this year the fifth edition — and the third computer-based edition — of *Australian Tropical Rain Forest Plants — Trees, Shrubs and Vines*, was published.

Dr Whiffin, who has worked for the last 20 years on the 40-year-old-project, would love to be able to say that the project was now complete — but that is not so.

The final edition, which will add herbs, orchids and ferns to the current edition, is expected to be completed in about three years.

The first two print based editions of the work were published in 1971 and 1982, the 1982 edition containing 799 species of trees. The 2003 computer-based edition contains 2154 species of trees, shrubs and vines — reflecting the work done by Dr Whiffin and his recently retired colleague from CSIRO Plant Industry, Dr Bernie Hyland.

'Text and over 9000 images fill two CDs — and constitute a major project of my professional career,' says Dr Whiffin who journeys regularly to north-east

Queensland where a large number of the species described in the work are to be found.

Included are descriptions of about 1100 trees, 500 shrubs and 500 vines — vines being included for the first time in the latest electronic edition. This now constitutes a comprehensive information system for each species including common name, scientific name plus nomenclatural synonyms, geographic and ecological information, distinguishing features and natural history notes.



Most species have high-quality colour images, leaf X-ray images and a map showing natural distribution

'Even when we finish the next edition including the herbs, orchids and ferns, our work will not be complete,' says Dr Whiffin.

'In the next edition we will have described most known species in our rainforests, but there are well over 10 per cent of rain forest plant species still to be described. New species come to light at

frequent intervals and these will be included in future editions.'

One comparatively recently discovered species is *Stockwellia*, a huge 20 metre high tree discovered through aerial photography growing in a small area of the Atherton Tablelands. Described only last year, it is believed to represent the ancestor of all Eucalypts. Another species, growing in a nearby area and known colloquially as Idiot Fruit or the Green Dinosaur, was first discovered in the late 1800s. It was believed to be extinct until it was re-discovered recently because its large fruits were poisoning cattle.

The two CD-ROMs are expected to be invaluable for a wide range of researchers, palaeobotanists, foresters, educators, students, land managers, conservationists, tourists and naturalists interested in the biological diversity of the rain forest flora.

Dr Whiffin says the work is the first ever on tropical rain forests and serves as a model for similar work on rainforests in other parts of the world.

Others involved in the project over the years included the Centre for Plant Biodiversity (at the Australian National Herbarium, CSIRO) and the University of Adelaide.

CSIRO Publishing publishes the two CD-ROMs.

