

# Research Bulletin

## Research Director's Report

The news for June is all good for researchers working in the Faculty of Education. Firstly, with the appointment of Jan Lovett to the position of administrative support for the Research Director and research activities in the Faculty, we welcome a very experienced and much awaited addition to our ranks. Welcome Jan! If you see changes to the look of this edition of the Bulletin then you see evidence of the beginnings of what we hope to achieve over the coming months. In brief, part of our 'mission' is to continue to upgrade the web site (it's worth checking to see what's happening) and work towards building our research strengths.

### Hail the ERA and please read on....

Research strengths are the 'hot' issue of the moment. The EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH FOR AUSTRALIA (ERA) INITIATIVE has replaced the RQF and is running a rapid course within the research community. La Trobe University has contributed to the consultation paper and included comments from our research community related to issues of professional impact and internationalisation of programs for higher degree students, in particular. We have also reviewed the first issue of the journal ranking paper from the ARC and are reasonably comfortable with the outcomes – to date!

Regarding journal ranking we still have time to comment – please see the ARC's ERA website <http://www.arc.gov.au/era/indicators.htm>. Comments will be collated by Jan Lovett – email [j.lovett@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:j.lovett@latrobe.edu.au). Feedback needs to be submitted in time for the next meeting of the **Research & Higher Degrees Committee on Thursday, July 10<sup>th</sup>**.

The coming weeks provide important opportunities for us to comment on the ARC's proposals and changes within the Research structures of La Trobe University. I urge all research active staff to keep a watchful eye on the relevant documents circulated and pass on concerns to me or a member of the Research and Higher Degrees Committee.

Regards,



**Research Director**

## Scholarly visit of Professor John Lee

Professor Lee is Dean of Education at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. His visit gained wide media coverage in Bendigo, during which time he was keynote speaker at the mini-conference hosted by Professor Noel Gough and the team from the Centre for Excellence in Outdoor and Environmental Education. Below is the excerpt from the ABC interview.

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"Professor John Chi-Kin Lee is a consultant for UNESCO on environmental education in China, and he was the guest speaker at a conference on environmental education at La Trobe University in Bendigo.

Although China is not renowned for environmental protection, Dr Lee says preparations for the Olympic Games have led to a greater focus on the environment, and people at all levels of Chinese society are becoming more aware of sustainability issues.

'This issue of environmental education is becoming more important because China has a rapidly growing economy, and there is an increasing trend of environmental deterioration,' he says. 'So we need to serve the environment, and do things at a government level to serve the environment.'

Professor Lee will share his experiences promoting environmental management at schools in Japan, China and Hong Kong.

He says the environment is becoming a focus in news reporting across the world, and this means that more students are becoming interested in sustainability issues.

'I think environmental improvement is an increasing agenda in the media, not only in Australia but in many parts of the world. So every day when we come across news in the media the children become more concerned and interested,' he explains.

Professor Noel Gough of the Outdoor and Environmental Education Department at La Trobe

University says he has known Professor Lee for 15 years, and the University was excited to bring him to Bendigo.

Professor Gough is the Director of the Centre for Excellence in Outdoor and Environmental Education at La Trobe, and he hopes Professor Lee's visit will help the University to forge links with other educational institutions in Asia.

'I know him as an excellent scholar in the fields of environmental education and curriculum studies,' he says. 'His work is not only of interest to our Centre, but also to some of the University's interests more broadly especially in terms of international programs. We have interests in markets such as China, including Hong Kong and Taiwan, and other places that John is very familiar with.'

There are currently around 300 students studying Outdoor and Environmental Education courses at La Trobe University, and Professor Gough says new courses are being developed in this field."

## What else is happening?

### Events for July

#### Research Development Seminar Series

These seminars are presented by our professors, who will report on their current research projects and lead open forum discussions. There no seminars scheduled for July. However details on the August seminars are:

**Bendigo Campus - Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> August**

**Bundoora Campus - Friday 15<sup>th</sup> August**

**Presenter:** Professor Lorraine Ling

**Topic:** Generation Y: A challenge for teacher educators

**Venue Bendigo:** Education Staff Room

**Time:** 4.00 – 5.00 pm

**Venue Bundoora:** Education Meeting Room

**Time:** 11.30 – 1.00 pm

#### RGSO Seminar Series

None scheduled for July. However please check <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/rgso/assets/downloads/Seminars%20Semester%202%2008.doc> for events later in Semester 2.

#### 2008 International RISE Symposium

**Conference:** Re-imagining special education through arts education and arts therapy

**Details:** Presented by Port Phillip Specialist School

**Date:** 26<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> July 2008

**Location:** Melbourne Convention Centre

**More details:**

<http://symposium.portphillip.vic.edu.au/Home/>

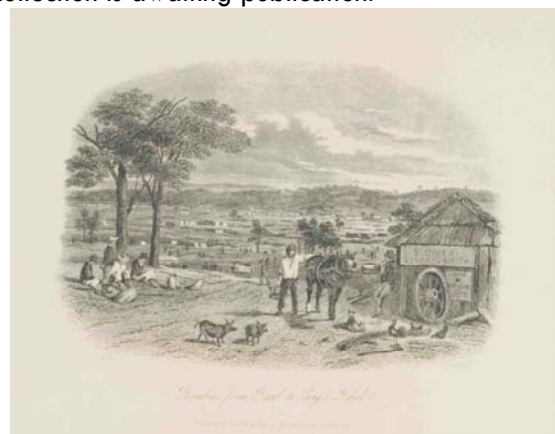
#### Exhibition

##### Landmarks and Milestones: The Fiftieth Anniversary of the FM Courtis Collection

5<sup>th</sup> July – 10<sup>th</sup> August at Bendigo Art Gallery

This exhibition is the culmination of eight years of research by Dr Penelope Collet. Curated in partnership with the Bendigo Art Gallery, it celebrates 50 years of art collecting by Art Education and Education in Bendigo. In 1958 FM (Fred) Courtis (Head of Art Education) acquired the first art works which were to be the start of this valuable teaching resource at the Bendigo Teachers' College. The first two works purchased were Arthur Boyd's *Grampians Landscape* and Len Annois' *Templestowe Landscape*. These were excellent examples of the landscape genre in two different media, oil and watercolour, as this was envisioned as a teaching collection. Now known as the FM Courtis Collection, the 350 plus art works are displayed primarily in the Education Building at La Trobe Bendigo. It is an important resource for Bendigo as it has provided, along with the Bendigo Art Gallery, the opportunity for rural students to have close and continued contact with quality art works, thus creating an enriched environment for their learning as teachers and for their broader personal development.

A catalogue, *Landmarks and Milestones: The Fiftieth Anniversary of the FM Courtis Collection*, has been produced and is available from Bendigo Art Gallery. A manuscript on the history of the art collection is awaiting publication.



## Looking Ahead

### Grants

**IMPORTANT** - 2009 Faculty Research Grants DRAFT submission is due to Assoc Dean Research for review on **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> August**.

Check the calendar for other important research dates, at <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/education/downloads/research/FRGS-calendar-2008.pdf>.

### Publications

- Athena Vongalis-Macrow (2008) *Deployed to deliver: The displaced agency of teachers in globalised education systems*. SensePublishers. 168 pages.

See Amazon.com for purchase details (Aust\$99 approx):

[http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb\\_ss\\_b?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=deployed+to+deliver&x=10&y=14](http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_ss_b?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=deployed+to+deliver&x=10&y=14).

Education is a vital institution for balancing the excesses of globalisation and changing understandings of civic and global responsibility. However, education policy often bows to promoting education that dovetails with a global economy increasingly predicated on consumption and competition. What can teachers do? Under these circumstances, is policy for education really about education? “Deployed to deliver: The displaced agency of teachers in globalised education systems” investigates these and other questions and the dilemmas they pose for national, international and supranational educational policy makers, educators, social theorists and practitioners. It works from the premise that education policy for a knowledge society necessitates a critical analysis of global agencies and how they reconstruct education for a global economy. If we are to understand that education has its negative and positive manifestations and possibilities, we need to go beyond the simplistic agendas of global agencies and problematise the view of the future. This book will particularly appeal to a readership in education, sociology, policy studies, international studies, work related studies and cultural studies, at graduate and postgraduate level. It offers an accessible introduction to globalisation, educational change and the work of teachers in globalised education systems.

- The *Australian Journal of Outdoor Education* (AJOE) is currently listed as an A journal in the ARC’s ranking for the ERA. This is a fantastic outcome for La Trobe. I [Glynn Thomas] am currently the editor and our centre is easily the largest contributor to this journal. {Editor’s note: Well done Glynn and colleagues}
- David Beagley (lecturer in Children’s Literature and Literacy, Bendigo) edits “The Looking Glass: new perspectives on children’s literature”, an international online journal for the critical analysis of children’s and young adult literature.

First published in 1997 at the University of Toronto, it is one of the earliest open access, peer reviewed journals. In 2007 David took over as editor and the journal is now housed in the La Trobe institutional repository, running on an open access (and freely available) journal program developed at Simon Fraser University, Canada.

The Looking Glass has several columns. “Alice’s Academy” is peer-reviewed, with an international reviewing panel from the USA, Canada and Australia. “Jabberwocky” is editorially reviewed, or invited, and offers a looser forum for discussion and expression of ideas.

A key column is “Emerging Voices” which is only for new researchers, such as post-graduate students, to present their work for publication under full editorial/peer review but without having to compete with the “big names” in the field.

The latest issue has just been published and is themed around censorship of children’s literature and is available at <http://www.the-looking-glass.net>.

### Academic Life Post Retirement

Deirdre Slattery, who retired from the staff of the Centre for Excellence in Outdoor and Environmental Education last October, was successful in winning a Manning Clark House Fellowship for 2008; one of three awarded. This entitles her to six weeks’ accommodation at the former home of the Clark family in Canberra, which is a centre for cultural and scholarly interaction. She is able to work in the historian’s famous study and use his personal collection of over 10,000 books, as well as accessing resources in the National Library of Australia, National Archives of Australia, the CSIRO library and the Basser Library (Australian Academy of Science). She is researching aspects of the environmental history of Kosciusko National Park.