

## Acting Executive Director's Message



*Dr Andrew Harvey*

It has been an eventful few weeks at the Bendigo Campus. The recent federal budget allocated \$123 million to La Trobe for two important initiatives.

The establishment of the La Trobe Rural Health School (LRHS) alone will lead to nearly 800 additional students enrolling in health sciences programs across our regional campuses. Centred in Bendigo, the LRHS will involve the development of two major new buildings and associated infrastructure, and a range of additional programs being delivered on our Campus. More information on the bid follows. Congratulations to A/Prof Mandy Kenny and all other Bendigo staff involved in the successful application.

The other major project awarded to La Trobe in the budget was the Institute for Molecular Sciences (LIMS). LIMS will be centred in Bundoora, but Bendigo will also benefit substantially from the Institute's establishment. Pharmacy is already located within the School of Molecular Sciences, and LIMS will facilitate cross-campus research and give all students in the science disciplines access to world class expertise and resources. LIMS will complement the Biosciences Research Centre and reflects the University's strength in the science fields. In 2008, La Trobe University was ranked 11th in Australia for competitive National Health and Medical Research Council grants, ahead of all universities without a medical school. Congratulations to the Bendigo staff involved in the successful application.

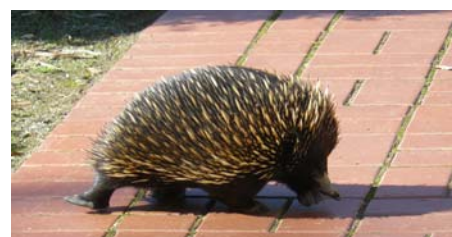
Aside from these specific projects, the budget will have a substantial impact on the University and Higher Education more broadly. Most notably, substantial funding indexation has been developed, student support payments have been improved, research funding has increased, and the move towards a student-

driven system has been confirmed. I have attached a separate summary of the budget decisions for information.

### Departures

Kevin Brown recently left the University after 34 years of service. During his service at La Trobe, Kevin: led the design and implementation of policies in human resource management; drove the development and implementation of the Bendigo Campus Emergency Management Plan, now adopted across the University; led the Bendigo campus on matters of occupational health and safety; managed and mentored staff both within and outside the human relations unit; regularly assisted staff and students, including international students, in his capacity as a Justice of the Peace; advised Pro Vice-Chancellors and Directors (Bendigo) on a wide range of campus policies and strategies. In each of these tasks Kevin displayed the highest level of commitment, professionalism, integrity, loyalty, and respect for staff and students. It is fitting that Kevin was awarded both the Campus Medal for Outstanding Service, and the Chancellor's Medal.

We also say goodbye to Helen Wood and David Melhuish from the People and Culture unit.



*New Arrival: We wondered if the new Director had arrived when this fellow strolled up the cottage path*

Helen was a committed and highly professional member of the Human Resources team for over a decade, and her knowledge and dedication will be greatly missed. David served as OHS officer for many years and was a valuable contributor to the development of the Campus Emergency Management Plan and many other initiatives to improve health and safety across the Campus. We wish them both well.

## Graduations

Graduation ceremonies were held in early May at the Schweppes Centre. More than 600 students were able to celebrate their achievements when the Chancellor conferred their awards at the ceremonies. As we know, these students now join the ranks of graduates whose chances of health, wealth and happiness are greatly improved. Amongst other things, recent research by Bruce Chapman at ANU estimates that an average graduate earns approx. \$1.5mn more over the course of a lifetime than someone with a year 12 qualification alone.

Amongst this year's graduates were seven PhD students in the Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering along with staff members: Raymond Nichol in the Faculty of Education; Joel Sing in the Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering; and Gary Hill in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, who were awarded PhD degrees. Staff member Anne Southby from the Faculty of Health Sciences also graduated with a Bachelor of Business.

The occasional addresses were delivered by distinguished alumna Penny Davies, FLM lecturer Professor Jane Hamilton, and HS Bendigo Director A/Prof Amanda Kenny. All three spoke movingly of the importance of higher education to their personal and professional lives, and of the opportunities which would be afforded to the graduands.

## Lectures

Prof. Hal Swerissen delivered the Dean's lecture for 2009, on the future of regional higher education. His presentation anticipated some of the decisions made in the federal budget, and gave community members an opportunity to understand some of the most pressing issues in contemporary higher education. Professor Jane Hamilton will present the annual Worner Lecture on 27 May, and Professor Mick Dodson has been invited to present the annual Sir John Quick lecture later in the year. A number of successful Faculty and alumni public lectures have also been held

at the Visual Arts Centre downtown, and it is pleasing to see the Campus contributing strongly to the University's mission of knowledge transfer.

## Social Function

In recognition of the efforts of all staff at Bendigo, a Staff Social gathering was arranged for the afternoon of 26 March. A second event was held on 14 May. It was great to see staff take the opportunity to get together over a drink or two and it is anticipated that there will be future opportunities. We look forward to seeing staff from all Faculties and units taking advantage of these opportunities to mix socially and discuss ideas.

## Budget joy: \$123.7m to transform science and health

La Trobe University welcomed the Federal Government's announcement that it will provide \$123.7 million of funds to spearhead science and regional health efforts.

The funds will go towards establishing the \$97.9 million La Trobe Institute for Molecular Sciences (LIMS) in north Melbourne and the \$88.9 million La Trobe Rural Health School (LRHS) in Bendigo. \$64.1 million has been allocated by the Government in LIMS and \$59.6 million allocated for LRHS.

## La Trobe Rural Health School (LRHS)

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paul Johnson, said that the LRHS project will transform health care in regional Victoria.

'The La Trobe University Rural Health School will bring significant benefits to regional communities and students' said Professor Johnson.

'The school will create an additional 60 academic and administrative positions and improve rural participation rates in health education with 781 additional student places. It will generate an additional 211 graduates each year and this will go a long way to

addressing the critical shortage of health professionals in the region’.

‘In addition, according to National Economics research, the school will increase applied health research, improve health practice and service delivery and provide over 550 new construction jobs.’

[http://www.latrobe.edu.au/news/articles/2009/article/\\$123.7m-to-transform-science-and-health](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/news/articles/2009/article/$123.7m-to-transform-science-and-health)

*\*Research from National Economics*

### **AT A GLANCE - The La Trobe Rural Health School**

A radical and original model for health professional education and research across northern Victoria that will:

- Transform regional health care outcomes and service delivery in northern Victoria
- Increase higher education participation rates for rural Victoria.
- Improve the educational experience for health science students and attract health experts from across the nation.
- Encourage and strengthen the integration of higher education in northern Victoria.
- Address major health workforce shortages across northern Victoria.



*Vice Chancellor Professor Paul Johnson & Associate Professor Amanda Kenny survey an artists impression of the proposed buildings.*

### **La Trobe Institute for Molecular Sciences (LIMS)**

Professor Johnson said he believed the new La Trobe Institute for Molecular Sciences would dramatically elevate the University’s ability to earn research income and contribute to key molecular science research. The Institute would also have a key role in developing a strong science precinct in the north and develop a range of career opportunities in Melbourne’s north.

‘Through this interdisciplinary approach, we expect the University to earn an extra \$10m each year in research income, contributing to our already outstanding reputation for grant and research income.’

In 2008, La Trobe University was ranked 11th in Australia for competitive National Health and Medical Research Council grants, ahead of all universities without a medical school.

‘This project, along with the additional development of a \$230m Biosciences Research Centre, will significantly increase La Trobe’s leadership in science research,’ said Professor Johnson.

The total commitment to investment in sciences at La Trobe in the last two years is approximately \$350m.

International links too will be strengthened with the focus of the new Institute being to work on liver cancer collaboratively with the Mochtar Riady Institute for Nanotechnology in Indonesia.

### **Faculty of Health Sciences**

#### **Graduation Ceremony on 7 May**

With significant development within the Faculty at Bendigo, this year’s graduation ceremony featured an increased number of Masters and Doctoral students. Five students were conferred their Master of Health Science degree while two students were awarded Doctor of Philosophy degrees. This highlights the growth in postgraduate enrolments and research activity at the Health Sciences Faculty

at Bendigo, in addition to the growth in undergraduate courses such as dentistry, occupational therapy and physiotherapy.

Doctoral graduate Stephen Gill, a physiotherapist graduate, undertook research into exercise-based interventions for people awaiting joint replacement surgery for hips and knees. Stephen's research has already been published in peer-reviewed international journals. Professor Helen McBurney was Stephen's supervisor.

Another doctoral graduate, Geraldene Mackay, investigated the physical space in which social workers practice. As a result of her research, the methodology developed has subsequently been published in an international journal. Geraldene was supervised by Professor Jan Fook and Fiona Gardiner.

The graduation ceremony also saw a high number of graduates receive postgraduate diplomas in midwifery science, postgraduate diplomas of nursing science in child, family and community, while eight students received postgraduate diplomas of nursing science in mental health.

Special congratulations go to Dr Carol McKinstry, Senior Lecturer in Occupational Therapy, who was awarded her Doctor of Philosophy.

#### **Other news**

A consortium established to set up the Primary Care Clinic (GP Superclinic) was successful in gaining an additional \$3.4M from the State budget for the development of the facility. The clinic is to be built between Arnold and Mercy Streets and is an integrated model of practice with La Trobe as a partner. The education and service model being assembled around the clinic is really exciting in its approach to chronic disease management.

The Faculty has recently been promoting careers in health in a variety of settings. Staff attended the CVGT Career Expo which involved local and regional secondary schools, particularly year 9 and 10 students. Apart from giving out course information, we ran a

competition for students to test their lung capacity, with five students with the best lung capacity receiving prizes.

Together with the Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering, we hosted the Career Teachers Network Meeting, giving them a tour of our new dental laboratories and promoting our existing and new courses.

We have also been working closely with Jenni Bryan from Bendigo South East College to promote health careers to their year 10 students.

Over one hundred Year 10 students visited the Faculty, participating in an experiential session using the simulation laboratories and McKay Lecture Theatre. Sessions for year 10 students are also being planned with other local schools to increase awareness of LTU health courses in the lead up to Experience La Trobe Day.

#### **Dentistry & Oral Health**

Two additional laboratories on level 3 of the Health Sciences building were recently refurbished and the Minister for Health (Victoria), Daniel Andrews, opened the facilities on 20 March. Excellent media coverage was received.

The first cohort of Bachelor of Oral Health Science students graduated at the May ceremony.

#### **Nursing & Midwifery**

Congratulations to Adele Callaghan-Williams who has been appointed to a Level B position within the School. A further two Level a positions have been recently advertised.

#### **Bendigo Human Bioscience Unit**

A fulltime level C academic is in the process of being appointed in Bendigo – an offer has been made.

The development of an anatomy lab is underway which will improve access by students to anatomy teaching.

#### **Social Work**

A very successful 2009 Field Education and Placement EXPO was held on Friday 27 March. Staff from regional agencies and organisations

who attended, along with LTU students and staff, were pleased with the outcomes of the day.

Mr Robert Townsend is conducting a peer mentoring program and has had in-principle approval for his HEESP funding application for expansion of the program.

#### **Public Health**

Provisional accreditation has been received from the Australian Institute for Environmental Health for the Graduate Diploma in Environmental Health.

#### **Occupational Therapy**

The School is currently developing a new unit and undertaking a publicity campaign

#### **Podiatry**

Mr Byron Perron has commenced a .4 position at the Bendigo campus to explore opportunities for development of the Podiatry course.

#### **Paramedics**

A 4 year Paramedic Bachelor/Master course has been approved and will commence in 2010.

### **Humanities and Social Sciences**

#### **Forums at the VAC:**

#### **“Walking and Cycling – the Health, Social and Community Benefits of Cities Embracing a Comprehensive Strategy”**

On 28 May 2009 the popular Forums at the VAC will continue with Todd Harper, CEO VicHealth the key speaker.

The Bendigo City Council has been debating the controversial ‘Bendigo Walks’ initiative. Our latest forum takes a wider view of the issues and explores the potential for seeing walking and cycling as activities and realistic transport modes that can deliver multiple benefits for their residents and communities.

Prior to his appointment as the VicHealth CEO in April 2007 Todd was the Director of both Quit Victoria and the VicHealth Centre for Tobacco Control. Mr Harper rides his bicycle to work each day and is passionate about

improving the health of all Victorians through disease prevention.

The forum will commence at 6pm on 28 May but attendees are advised to seated by 5.50pm to enable a 6.00pm start.

### **Alumni News**

#### **Downtown Lecture Series:**

#### **“Tell ‘em they’re dreaming”: Is the Great Australian Dream still relevant?”**



Following the incredibly successful first Downtown Lecture presented by Ian Tulloch the Second Downtown Lecture will be held on 3 June. This thought provoking presentation will be from Mr Ken Marchingo – CEO of Loddon Mallee Housing Services (LMHS). The Lecture will commence at 6.00pm on Wednesday 3 June 2009, at the La Trobe University Visual Arts Centre, 121 View St. Bendigo.

Mr Marchingo will present: “Tell ‘em, they’re dreaming”: Is the Great Australian Dream still relevant? - an exploration of the current Federal Government’s approach to housing policy as enunciated by the Federal Minister for Housing - Tanya Plibersek recently at the Sydney Institute. Ken will then critically contrast this with the way Victoria and other states are approaching the current policy challenges and the legacy of past policies. The impact of the current economic stimulus packages will undoubtedly dramatically contribute to a brave new way forward, or, depending on policy settings of the states, perhaps “backwards”, for the wider affordable housing sector. Ken will identify why we have a significant affordable housing problem, and what the initiatives might mean.

LMHS is Victoria’s first registered affordable housing association and covers over a third of the state providing housing solutions to the homeless in regional and rural Victoria; with an annual budget of \$24 Million. Ken has been

with LMHS since 1994 and has served on many boards and committees, and is currently a board member of the Bendigo Health Care Group.

This important and topical lecture is a must for those interested in the impact of housing policy on Australians. The lecture will commence at 6.00pm and will be followed by light refreshments. Attendees are advised to be seated by 5.50pm for a 6.00pm start. RSVP by Monday 1 June to Alumni Relations. For further information and RSVPs, please contact the La Trobe Alumni Relations Office, on: (Toll-free) 1300 737 133 or 03 9479 2011 or email: alumni@latrobe

This free public lecture is sponsored by the Bendigo Chapter of La Trobe University Alumni Association. Donations to the Alumni Scholarship Fund will be appreciated. All are welcome!

## Visual Arts Centre

Exhibitions:

13 May – 14 June Towards a Quinta Essentia, Lyn Plummer. Exhibition opening 16 May

**Gallery hours: Wed to Sunday 10am - 5pm**

## La Trobe graduates' celebration

### Faculty of Education graduands

#### Jo Richards, Bachelor of Education (Primary)

Jo Richards always wanted to be a teacher but thought it impossible because Jo is Deaf. A qualified gardener, Jo chose to return to study in 2003 at the age of 30. Jo came to this decision after working in education support at Kennington Primary School for a year. 'After working at Kennington Primary School, I knew I wanted to work with Deaf children in the Deaf Facility,' said Jo.

Jo encourages Deaf people to study. 'As Deaf individuals, we can do anything and achieve anything. There is great support from the La Trobe University student services that organise Auslan interpreters and note takers and

support Deaf students. We need more Deaf teachers in the school that Deaf students attend to keep our language, Auslan, strong and to provide them with the education in their first language.'

As well as completing a BA Education at La Trobe University in Bendigo, Jo has also completed a BA Education LOTE (Auslan) at the University's Bundoora campus.

#### Kerri Douglas, Bachelor of Education



Kerri Douglas works as a part-time specialist teacher who teaches both maths and LOTE - or more specifically, Auslan - at a primary school in Bendigo. In 2006, Kerri was the first recipient of the Australian Federation of University Women's Indigenous Award for outstanding

achievements. Kerri said she always appreciated the diverse nature of La Trobe University's Bendigo campus. 'All the students were there with one goal in mind. We came from diverse backgrounds but we all had common interests- we wanted to get a degree.'

For Kerri, choosing to undertake a Bachelor of Education was a bold move, but one that has paid off. 'It was a natural progression from helping in the classroom; teaching was something I wanted to do more of.'

Kerri said without the support of her family and friends, she would not be graduating on Thursday. 'If higher education is something you desire, then just go for it. It will be hard sometimes but you're going to have tough times anyway,' said Kerri. 'Being a mum it really made me appreciate things, I recommend anyone giving mature age study a go.'

## Faculty of Health Sciences

### **Karen Marshall, Bachelor of Public Health, Honours**

Karen Marshall arrived in Australia from New Zealand 13 years ago and met her husband-to-be, Steve, three weeks later. Karen and Steve have been married for 10 years and moved to Bendigo due to his work connections. On her arrival, Karen was a newly-wed, working as a chef. Eight years later, she is a mother of three who has successfully completed a Bachelor of Public Health Honours degree. Karen says the most challenging aspect of her study was that, while she was bright enough, she had not completed senior high school. Her determination led Karen to a bridging course, which enabled her to undertake a degree.

While Karen took time out for the births of her three children, she said she could not have pursued her studies without the support and understanding of La Trobe University lecturers and staff. Her husband's connections with La Trobe University (he had studied at the Bendigo College of Advanced Education) led her to study here, and Karen said having a local campus was going to suit her way of life. As a casual tutor at the University, Karen now enjoys a work/life balance that allows her to both keep her brain ticking and spend time with her children.

### **John Sawtell, Master of Health Science**

John Sawtell's Master's Thesis was based on research he conducted on the 'Friends and Tutors of the Sudanese and Burundi' volunteers working with more than 100 Sudanese and Burundi refugees who relocated to Castlemaine.

John says he chose to study in the field for purely practical purposes. He says that factors such as the ageing population have resulted in growth in the health field. 'Health is not just about quitting smoking or getting a broken leg fixed. It is a field that is broadening all the time and it's a really fascinating area to work in.'

Working in public health leads to better outcomes for the community.'

### **Diana Antoniazzi, Master of Health Science**

Diana Antoniazzi completed her undergraduate studies at La Trobe University and chose to return here for her Master's degree. Diana's thesis examined the teacher's perception of oral language skills in primary school children from her research with volunteers from Catholic schools.

It is 10 years since Diana last studied and the change in technology in that time soon became evident. 'There's a lot about technology that I didn't know and had to catch up on so that I could find information I needed to write up my thesis. I would encourage others to consider a Master's degree because it's very worthwhile in the end. It's a great learning opportunity and quite different to undergraduate studies.'

### **Brad Allan, Bachelor of Nursing**

When Brad Allan chose to pursue a new career he enrolled in nursing as a mature age student because of his interest in human anatomy.

As a mature age student with a family, Brad found himself balancing finances and family life with clinical placements.

Brad now works in the graduate nurse program at Bendigo Health and says that studying at



La Trobe has given him a greater appreciation of university life and honed his time management skills. 'University life is not as easy as it is sometimes portrayed. As a result of studying, I no longer waste time in front of the TV.'

Brad says his choice has opened up opportunities. 'Nursing is a great. Career opportunities are endless and there is great diversity in the work that nurses do.'

## Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

### Lorraine McMahon, BA Honours

Lorraine McMahon is expecting four generations of the family to be present when she graduates. A great grandmother - whose children include four daughters who are either studying at La Trobe University or have studied here - Lorraine never imagined that the now retired farmer's daughter and farmer's wife would be awarded a BA Honours.

'Studying at La Trobe University gave me confidence that I do have some academic ability. I've also gained some good friends that I keep in touch with. There's always that connection with fellow students.'

### Gary Hill, PhD

The major focus Gary Hill's research is an investigation into ceramics produced at Sukhothai in north central Thailand in the 13th to 16th centuries. He is applying first hand knowledge of working with clay, making glazes and firing wood kilns - together with his knowledge of scientific analysis - to understanding the modes of production and the use of local materials.

"This type of multidisciplinary research could only have been carried out at the Bendigo campus. I had access to staff and techniques from the areas of material, visual arts, and archaeology so it allowed me to explore my natural interest in these areas," said Gary. He also excavated and investigated the only Chinese brick kiln known in Australia, which is now heritage listed and being displayed at the National Gallery in Canberra.

This approach to the study of both historical and contemporary ceramics has led to collaborative research on a number of ceramic related issues resulting in a range of outcomes including the production of articles in refereed journals.

### Amy Stratton, Bachelor of Commerce



Amy Stratton's proudest achievement during her academic studies is winning the CPA award three years running. Whilst studying full time, Amy initially worked 12 hours a week before taking on a job

with local firm, Evolve Accounting Solutions, for one day a week.

A former Weeroona College and Bendigo Senior Secondary College student, Amy chose to study at La Trobe University because 'it was fantastic to be able to stay home and study.' Amy is quite happy living and working in Bendigo. She recommends studying locally to other students and hopes to be still working with Evolve Accounting Solutions five years from now. 'La Trobe University has fantastic lecturers who are really knowledgeable and who want to help everyone understand everything before they go into the real work and put it into practice.'

## Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering

### David Lehane, Bachelor of Civil Engineering/ Bachelor of Business

As the recipient of a scholarship that led to engineering work with Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water, David Lehane encourages prospective students to apply for a scholarship.



'Apply for as many scholarships as you can. I was awarded the Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water scholarship. It helped me financially while studying, gave me on the job experience, and I really enjoy working there now.'

David is working on the Wimmera Mallee pipeline project which is due to complete at the end of this year and says he is looking forward to working in the project delivery department next year. His University project, 'Low Head – High Flow Hydro Power on the Coleambally Irrigation Area' has been nominated for an award from the Association of Consulting Engineers Australia (ACEA) with the result due in December. David recommends the engineering course at La Trobe University. 'I don't know anyone who hasn't got a job from that degree, which is a sign that the course is respected.'

### Australia's Biggest Morning Tea

La Trobe University Bendigo will host its Biggest Morning Tea at 10.30am in the Phyllis Palmer Gallery.

This event is one of one of the Cancer Council's leading fundraising events and the largest, most successful event of its kind in Australia. Over \$60 million has been raised since it first began in 1994.

All Staff of La Trobe University Bendigo campus are invited to attend this event

If you are talented in the kitchen, please feel free to bring along a plate of your own creations... of course you can always head straight to the nearest bakery to make a contribution. So please get behind it and join with the rest of the Bendigo campus in our effort to raise as much money as possible for this wonderful cause.

You can make a donation at our Morning Tea or via the following link:

<http://vic.cancercouncilfundraising.org.au/personalPage.aspx?registrationID=97666>

Food for Thought are generously donating tea, coffee and condiments for this event.

See you at morning tea on 28 May.

### WATCH THIS SPACE:

#### Dates to remember:

27 May	Worner Lecture presented by Jane Hamilton
28 May	Australia's Biggest Morning Tea
28 May	2009 Forum Series – Walking and Cycling embracing a comprehensive strategy
31 May	Flu Vaccinations no longer available
3 June	Downtown Lecture No 2 – "Tell 'em they're Dreaming"
12 June – 2 July	Semester 1 Exams

If you would like to contribute to the Bendigo Campus newsletter, please forward submissions to: [director.bendigo@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:director.bendigo@latrobe.edu.au)