

Edition 1 | April 2009

## Welcome to the La Trobe Student News

La Trobe University offers students more than just textbooks and lectures, and this newsletter is an opportunity to keep you up to date with events, activities and stories about you, for you and *by you!*

The Student News has been designed to cover the necessary news, important announcements and opportunities on campus relevant to you. The team also aims to ensure that students from *all* campuses are represented.

We welcome student contributions, and suggestions or tips for articles can be sent to:

[studentengagement@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:studentengagement@latrobe.edu.au)

## Have your say about Revitalising the Curriculum

La Trobe University's Curriculum Taskforce has been hard at work identifying areas to review, renew and improve our curriculum, ensuring we continue to deliver high quality education. Under the guidance of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Belinda Probert, and Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Tom Angelo, the taskforce has included members were selected for their interest and expertise in curricula and teaching matters. They represent the spread of disciplines across all campuses, as well as both experienced senior staff and younger academics.

Following a series of planning sessions from August 2008, a Green Paper outlining a new direction for La

Trobe's teaching was launched in December, and feedback from students and staff is welcomed. The strategies focus on areas such as defining graduate capabilities, first year course structures that provide earlier assessment of students' academic progress, and capstone experiences for students in their final year, to consolidate and enhance their learning over the length of their degree.

Read about these recommendations in the Green Paper [www.latrobe.edu.au/teaching/dvca/reports.html](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/teaching/dvca/reports.html) and share your thoughts and comments with the Deputy Vice Chancellor: [dvcac@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:dvcac@latrobe.edu.au)

## Young Alumni Group



Linking current students, young graduates and the La Trobe University community through career and social networking opportunities

YAG membership is FREE for all La Trobe University students and those who have graduated in the last 10 years. As a YAG member you receive:

- a personal Alumni card giving you full access to the Alumni Lifestyle Benefits Program
- priority access and discount entry to the YAG 2009 calendar of events
- loads of career and social networking opportunities

Sign-up online now for your FREE YAG membership [www.latrobe.edu.au/alumni/chapters/yag](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/alumni/chapters/yag)

## La Trobe University student awarded 'Most Outstanding Delegate' at the 2009 Harvard University Model United Nations Conference

La Trobe student Leigh Howard has been recognised as the 'Most Outstanding Delegate' at the 2009 Harvard University National Model United Nations. Leigh, representing Malaysia in the 2008 World Summit for Sustainable Development, received this award for the solutions he presented, his negotiation skills and his debating abilities he displayed during the 4 day conference.

Receiving the 'Most Outstanding Delegate' award ranked him 2nd among almost 400 students, who represented the 192 countries that make up UN membership. Victory was made sweeter by the fact that Leigh was the sole delegate for Malaysia, while each other country was represented with 2 delegates. Despite these adverse circumstances Leigh defeated students hailing from all over the world, including students from Ivy League schools such as Yale, University of Pennsylvania and the University of Chicago.

Leigh joined 15 other Australians that made up the very first contingent ever sent to HUMUN. The international conference, which each year draws over 2,600 students and faculty members from universities in 50 different countries, is an opportunity for students to get together and debate today's global issues in a mock United Nations setting. It is the most prestigious conference of its kind, one of the most significant gatherings of young people globally and one of the largest International Youth Conference's held anywhere in the world.

During his time in the United States, Leigh, alongside the rest of the Australian delegation, had the

opportunity to meet with the Australian mission to the United Nations, the Australian embassy in Washington, US Senator Sam Brownback, many NGOs such as Human Rights Watch, and universities such as Georgetown University and the University of Pennsylvania. Similar arrangements are being made to send another delegation to Harvard in 2010.



For more information, contact:

Leigh Howard e: [lr2howard@students.latrobe.edu.au](mailto:lr2howard@students.latrobe.edu.au)

### Need your Travel Concession application signed?

WHERE: STUDENT ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

Please ensure you have attached 2 passport sized photos to your application form.

### Forgotten your username and password?

Please call 133 786 535 (free call)

### Student ID card renewal

Please check the back of your card for expiry date  
All of the newer student ID cards have a 3 year expiry date – therefore, student do not need to renew the card each year.

## Staff Profile- Dr Kerry Ferguson



In 1997 I was appointed to the position of Dean (Equity and Access), at La Trobe University, and in 1999 appointed Pro Vice-Chancellor (Equity and Access). In 2005 my role expanded and I was appointed to the position of Pro Vice-Chancellor (Equity and Student Services).

My previous experience has spanned 20 years with the Faculty of Health Sciences at La Trobe University. I have held a variety of academic positions after my previous career as an occupational therapist with psychiatric services. I have been the Head of the School of Occupational Therapy, Deputy Dean and Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences at La Trobe University.

My commitment, over more than 30 years, has been to services in health and education, redressing disadvantage and attempting to mediate differences when relationships are at stake. I continue to be a Clinical Family Therapist, this training being invaluable in all the work I do.

The Division of Equity and Student Services is a very broad portfolio and includes Counselling, Careers and Employment, Equality and Diversity, Indigenous Education, Chaplains, Sports Centre, Children's Services, Campus Life, Legal Service for students, funding and arrangements for student associations, Student Theatre and commercial areas e.g. the Eagle Bar and Image La Trobe. These services are to varying

degrees across all campuses. Believe it or not, this is the 'short' version!

And last but not least is the area of Student Engagement. This is a major focus for the University and is related to not only the service areas listed above but works hand in glove with the academic programs of the University. New leadership initiatives have already begun with much more in store to be announced.

We hope to build on the great student experience activities already in place and be able to provide every student with opportunities to develop as citizens, enjoy their time at University, enhance their studies and be in a strong position when seeking employment.

I have a passion for social justice, equity issues and student engagement. The higher education equity agenda for seventeen years has been "a fair chance for all". Participation data reveals little if any change over the last fifteen years.

Ethics, social responsibility and increased diversity are long held values of Universities. Whilst we espouse these views acting on these values and ensuring they become a reality requires serious commitment from every single person. It is imperative that leadership and accountability for this agenda is writ large.

I have a lifetime of experience at La Trobe University and am excited at what is yet to come. La Trobe University makes a difference, it has to me and to my family and I know it will for you.

I am happy to talk to students and can be contacted by email on [pvcass@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:pvcass@latrobe.edu.au)

## Need IT Training?

**Online self-paced computer training** is available to using the web-based learning management system '**Element K**'. Element K provides valuable computer skill development for students. A broad range of Element K computer training courses are available, including Adobe programs as well as Office 2003 and Office 2007 programs.

All students are automatically given access to the online learning system for all seven courses in the International Computers Drivers License.

Students who wish to register for courses other than ICDL should go to the registration page:  
[www.latrobe.edu.au/training/register/index](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/training/register/index)

## Infinity Leadership Program off to a promising start at La Trobe



La Trobe's new and exciting **Infinity Leadership Program** is underway with 30 keen and eager Bendigo and Bundoora students taking part in the pilot program, developed by the Student Engagement department in partnership with the Alumni Relations Office.

The program, designed for future and aspiring leaders, aims to empower La Trobe students with the skills and knowledge needed to take on leadership roles within La Trobe and the wider community. Emphasis is placed not only on the theory involved in leadership, but also on experiential learning, with the program incorporating a community project element in second semester.

The program kicked off with a full-day retreat with students engaging in a variety of leadership scenarios and discussions, whilst networking and enjoying great food!

A number of high profile La Trobe University staff members and alumni make up the guest speakers throughout program including the Vice-Chancellor, Distinguished Alumni Award recipient Dr Annabelle Duncan, from the Biosciences Research Centre, Bernadette McMenamin AO, Chief Executive Officer of Child Wise™ Limited, and Dave Sweeney, environmental campaigner for the Australian Conservation Foundation to name a few.

The initial success of the Infinity Leadership Program paves the way for an exciting and valuable experience for those undertaking the program throughout the rest of 2009, with the organisers now working on rolling it out to all campuses for 2010.

More details can be found online at  
[www.latrobe.edu.au/students/leadership](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/students/leadership)

### Ask Arnold:

Arnold is your campus oracle, possessing the knowledge and wisdom needed to answer all your questions about university life.



Whether it is finding out how to start your own student group, how to get the most out of lectures, or where to get the best coffee on campus, Arnold is the man... err... bird!

Email Arnold at [studentengagement@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:studentengagement@latrobe.edu.au) and your answer will appear in the next edition of Student News. (*Arnold is an actual student!*)

## Eco Update

La Trobe University is committed to environmental sustainability and improving the University's impact on the environment through initiatives led by the **EnviroSMART** team ([www.latrobe.edu.au/envirosmart](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/envirosmart)).

If you would like to volunteer to help with these programs, have a chat with the team or email [envirosmart@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:envirosmart@latrobe.edu.au). In the email, include what you are studying, if you need volunteer hours for their course, your interests, and availability.

### Other ways you can make a difference:

- Ride to Uni Day/Macleod Bike Path Launch on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April free breakfast for cyclists (talk to George- ext: 1079)
- The La Trobe Community Garden, behind the Bundoora library, contact [efconnors@students.latrobe.edu.au](mailto:efconnors@students.latrobe.edu.au) for more information
- SmartBus Route 903 (Red Orbital) will commence on 20 April and you can travel for free for the first two weeks of its operation
- Sustainable Study Guides are available from our office in Peribolos East, Bundoora

### Get involved with other students:

- Equality, Sustainability and Peace [www.espace.org](http://www.espace.org)
- La Trobe Environmental Action Group - to get involved, contact the SRC Environment Officer ([enviro@srclatrobe.org](mailto:enviro@srclatrobe.org)),
- The Naturalist Society [www.myspace.com/naturalist\\_society](http://www.myspace.com/naturalist_society)
- LEAF- La Trobe Environmental Forum, Bendigo: [LEAF](#)

## GRADUATE RECRUITMENT– What it is and strategies for success

“Graduate recruitment” is a process used by major employers to hire final year students for graduate training programs that start after you complete your degree. (This is not the only way to get a job when you graduate, by the way, but if these programs interest you, you need to move fast - applications are already open for vacancies in 2010!)

Particularly if you're studying at one of our other campuses, the [Virtual Careers Fair](#) is also a great place to get information, to “chat” to employers and to get advice from careers consultants. Many of the organisations that run graduate programs are listed in publications that are available at our Expo and from our offices or online. (For example, have a look at [www.graduateopportunities.com](http://www.graduateopportunities.com).)

And of course, we're here to help you through the application process. More details of how we can help are on our website. Good luck!

The [Careers and Employment](#) team–  
*helping you achieve your goals*

### Name the News....

Have you got a suggestion for the name of this newsletter?  
Write in and share your ideas.

The best name will receive a \$30 JB HI FI Voucher!

Email your suggestions to  
[studentengagement@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:studentengagement@latrobe.edu.au)

## Library Opening Hours– Easter and ANZAC day weekend

### Easter weekend

**Thursday 9 April** – Libraries close at normal Friday closing times

- Albury-Wodonga – closes 5 pm
- Bendigo – closes 6 pm
- Bundoora – closes 6 pm

### Good Friday 10 April to Easter Monday 13 April

- Albury-Wodonga - closed
- Bendigo - closed
- Bundoora – closed
- **Shepparton**– closed
- Mildura- closed

### Easter Tuesday 14 April

- Albury-Wodonga - closed
- Bendigo - closed
- Bundoora - OPEN 1:00-5:00pm\*
- Shepparton- OPEN
- Mildura- OPEN

*\*Reserve items borrowed from Bundoora at close of business Thursday 9 April will need to be returned on Tuesday 14 April.*

### ANZAC day weekend

Friday 24 April (University holiday in lieu)

- Albury-Wodonga - closed
- Bendigo - closed
- Bundoora - OPEN 1:00–5:00pm
- Shepparton- OPEN
- Mildura- OPEN

Saturday 25 April (ANZAC Day public holiday)

- Albury-Wodonga - closed
- Bendigo - closed
- Bundoora - OPEN 1:00–5:00pm

The Library service at the Shepparton (shared with Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE) will be closed Monday 27 April due to a holiday declared in lieu of the ANZAC day public holiday by the TAFE Institute. Go to [www.lib.latrobe.edu.au/hours.php](http://www.lib.latrobe.edu.au/hours.php) for a calendar of Library opening hours at all campuses.

## Albury-Wodonga News and Events

### Albury Wodonga's Rural Health Club

AWAIRH is La Trobe Albury Wodonga's Rural Health Club. It is for health students (anyone studying Social work, Nursing, or Psychology) with an interest in rural health. Students of other courses interested in rural health can join as associate members, although they cannot fully participate in all activities. Some of the benefits of joining include access to scholarships and funding to attend national health conferences, access to social events run by our club and others, professional development opportunities, and much, much more.

Currently we are planning a multi-disciplinary hospital tour, with talks from professionals in the field and a meal. We would also like suggestions from club members regarding what you would like us to run, and we are looking for people interested in getting involved in the Exec and organising committee, as well as general members. There is the opportunity for 6 club members to be funded to attend the NURHC conference this year so keep an eye out for some more information soon!

Membership fees for 2009 are \$7 for non student association members, and \$2 for association members. All monies raised by fees for first semester will be donated to the Red Cross Bushfire Appeal. We also have merchandise available, including drink bottles, pedometers, bags, and shirts. We are funded by the Department of Health and Aging, through the National Rural Health Students Network (NRHSN). More information can be found on the website [www.nrhsn.org.au](http://www.nrhsn.org.au) and we can be contacted on [awairh@nrhsn.org.au](mailto:awairh@nrhsn.org.au)

## Bendigo News and Events

### Swimming with Dolphins and Seals



*Port Phillip Bay - Saturday 7 March*

The Bendigo Student Association Trips & Tours program 2009 kicked off with a trip to Port Phillip Bay and the fantastic opportunity to get up and close to the local population of Bottled Nose Dolphins and Australian Fur Seals.

Sixteen students braved the cool temperature of 19 degrees and squeezed into a wetsuit, thick enough to keep cosy and warm. The boat left Queenscliff boat harbour to stop at Popes Eye, a popular snorkelling site in the Marine National Park. There participants encountered their first lazy seals, which were enjoying the sun unworried by the group of people snorkelling around them. The next stop was Chinaman's Hat seals platform, home to a large group of bachelor fur seals of which some jumped into the water diving and playing around our group of snorkelers clearly enjoying the company.

The trip continued towards the Marine National Park near the tip of the Mornington Peninsula where several dolphins swam alongside the boat and underneath some of the lucky students that were in the water at the time.

### 2009 Deans Lecture

Professor Hal Swerissen, Pro-Vice Chancellor (Regional) and Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences, will present "The Future of Regional Higher Education in Australia" discussing the Government's response to the Bradley Review.

Tuesday 28 April

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Circular Lecture Theatre, Bendigo Campus

### Surviving First Year at Bendigo

Are you a first year student who feels overwhelmed by Uni?

Do you feel like you need a bit of advice on how to get your studies back on track? Then come along to a free seminar on:

***"Surviving First Year at Bendigo"***

**Tuesday 28 April at 3:00pm in ARTS 303**

The seminar will cover:

- Time management
- Study hints and strategies
- Support services available
- Common first year experiences

This seminar will also provide a forum for participating students to talk about their concerns. For further information please contact Leon Moulden, Campus Transition Co-ordinator on: (03) 5444 7963, or [l.moulden@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:l.moulden@latrobe.edu.au)

## Bendigo Graduation Ball 2009

Graduation is one of the most satisfying and proud moments for any scholar. But while the ceremony acknowledges the academic accomplishments, the Graduation Ball celebrates the friendship and support of other students. It is an appropriate conclusion to the university experience, a perfect opportunity to farewell the people who shared a special time in your life.

The BSA Graduation Ball 2009 will be held at:

**Thursday 7th May: 7:00pm - Midnight**

The Conservatory, Quality Resort All Seasons Bendigo  
171 - 183 Mclvor Rd

\$65 per head (which includes 3 course meal,  
entertainment and shuttle bus to after party. Drinks at  
bar prices 18+ event ID required

Tickets on sale until 24th April 2009.

Numbers are limited so RSVP as quickly as possible to  
Lauren on [l.grange@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:l.grange@latrobe.edu.au) secure your table.

## Bundoora News and Events

### COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERING– Do yourself and others a favour

There are lots of good reasons to get involved in the Community Volunteering Program organised by Careers and Employment. Of course you will get the satisfaction of helping others who may be less fortunate than yourself, but did you know that it may also help you get a job when you graduate? The opportunities that we have developed for you with our partners, Volunteers of Banyule, are all designed to enhance the generic skills that employers most value such as

communication, teamwork and leadership. You will also increase your network of contacts and it's well known that the majority of jobs are found through people you know (or who know of you).

The opportunities that are available include training seniors in basic computer skills, helping school students from Somalia with their homework, taking young people with disabilities away on weekend excursions, helping seniors write their stories and playing games with primary school students to help develop their communication and team skills. To find out more about the programs and to apply, go to [www.latrobe.edu.au/careers](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/careers) and click on the link to "Our Community" Volunteer Program.

### Do you need help with your study skills?

The LAS(ESL) Unit at the Bundoora campus works with international and local students who use English as another language. Workshops for undergraduates are held at lunch time - no need to book just turn up. There are also workshops for postgraduate research students.

To find out about these workshops and the other services offered by LAS(ESL) please go to [www.latrobe.edu.au/lasesl/](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/lasesl/)

### Health Science students

The Study Skills Scheme in the Faculty of Health Sciences offers a series of lunchtime seminars on different topics related to studying at university. Details of the seminar programme for Semester 1 are available at [www.latrobe.edu.au/ss](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/ss) (Click on 'Seminars')

## Humanities and Social Sciences students

Find out how to do well in your course before you write your first big essay!

"WRITING BETTER ESSAYS"

Each lecture is repeated the same week (note different rooms!) so you can attend on either Tuesdays or Wednesdays; no need to enroll, just come on the day: [www.latrobe.edu.au/humanities/supportunits/hasu](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/humanities/supportunits/hasu) for details.

## Are you a new postgraduate research student?

Have a look at the LASESL website and familiarize yourselves with the support services that are offered to international postgraduate students. There is also a useful checklist for PhD students.

[www.latrobe.edu.au/lasesl/pg-study.html](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/lasesl/pg-study.html)

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Dr Judith Booth 9479 2788

## Pipers & Drummers wanted

### La Trobe University Pipe Band

#### Learn- Play- Fun

Rehearsals – Union Bld., Function Room 3  
Mondays – 4.00pm to 7.00pm

**Contact- Ian Stewart**

Email: [ozyvan@netbay.com.au](mailto:ozyvan@netbay.com.au)  
Telephone No. 9850 5506  
Mob. 0432 246 130

## Mildura News and Events

### Relay For Life 2009

Mildura's annual Relay for Life was held this year on Saturday and Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of March, 2009. Held at the Ornamental Lakes, it is an event run by the Cancer Council of Victoria to raise money for research and awareness for cancer prevention, treatment and support services.

This year in Mildura there were over fifty teams involved, with over one thousand walkers. La Trobe University entered for the second year in a row, with a team of twenty. Organised by the Mildura Students Association, and captained by their president Alison McGann, the team included students, academic staff and administrative staff, as well as their families and friends. The team kept the University's baton moving for the whole 18 hours, from 3pm on Saturday afternoon until 9am on Sunday morning, with some dedicated students staying awake for the whole night.

Fundraising events run by the Mildura Students Association before the Relay for Life helped the La Trobe University team raise over \$500. The whole Mildura event raised over \$100,000 for cancer research and support services for survivors and carers. The Mildura Students Association would like to thank everyone who supported this year's Relay for Life team, either by helping with fundraising, or by being a walker on the team, and hopes that La Trobe University will be involved in the Relay for Life again in 2010.

## Murray Darling Palimpsest

3<sup>rd</sup> April- 15<sup>th</sup> April

An Australian contemporary visual arts event remarkable for its locations in distinctly regional places rather than capital cities and significant for its direct engagement with issues of environmental and social sustainability

Land and water use are no longer background concerns, they are firmly on the front page and will increasingly affect all of us and the ways we live in this country.

Supported by La Trobe University, Mildura, and featuring the works of our academics and graduates, you can see the works displayed at the Brian Grogan Building, Benetook Ave campus and the Visual Arts Research Studio, Chaffey Ave as well as various locations throughout Mildura.

WEB: [www.artsmildura.com.au](http://www.artsmildura.com.au)

## Shepparton News and Events

### Message from the SSA President

Welcome first years, previous students, lecturers, facilitators and all the administration staff. The year 2009 so far has kicked off to a great start with the welcoming of new students and staff members.

The first years were welcomed and introduced to uni life during o-week where they had an opening night that was filled with a range of speakers and introductions, and a special welcoming dance. They were shown how to make the most of the facilities Shepparton has to offer and many handy academic tips.

Wednesday night was a trivia night at the GV with the Dip-Ed students taking the ultimate trivia trophy. To end O-week a night of relaxed drinks at the Liars bar was in order; with a good turn out the night was a success.

Last Thursday night a mini-bus full of students hit the nightlife of Bendigo, with the bus trip leaving at 7:30 sharp we thought we would hit the town nice and early. But with the first pit stop in Mooroopna we should have known it would be a long trip, 5 toilet stops and 3 hours later we finally made it! The trip was fantastic, with plenty of funny stories to share the next day. A good time was had by all, well worth it for those early classes on Friday morning.

The new Shepparton campus area is now surrounded with safety barriers so we know the building must have commenced! The new building has been much anticipated and will be up before we know it.

Students keep your eyes out on your emails and the pin boards outside the computer room for upcoming events you may be interested in because remember getting involved makes uni life that much better for you. The sporting teams are well underway with both a mixed netball and a women's netball team ready to take the court so look out for the La Trobe colours.

Further in the future this semester there will be a cocktail night and another bus trip. So pencil all these things into your diary and I hope to see many of you there.

Good Luck with getting back into the swing of study mode everyone and I'll see you all around.

Bye for now!

Jessica Walters, SSA President.

### Submit an article

Students and staff are welcome to submit articles.

Next cut off date is: Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April

Email: [studentengagement@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:studentengagement@latrobe.edu.au)