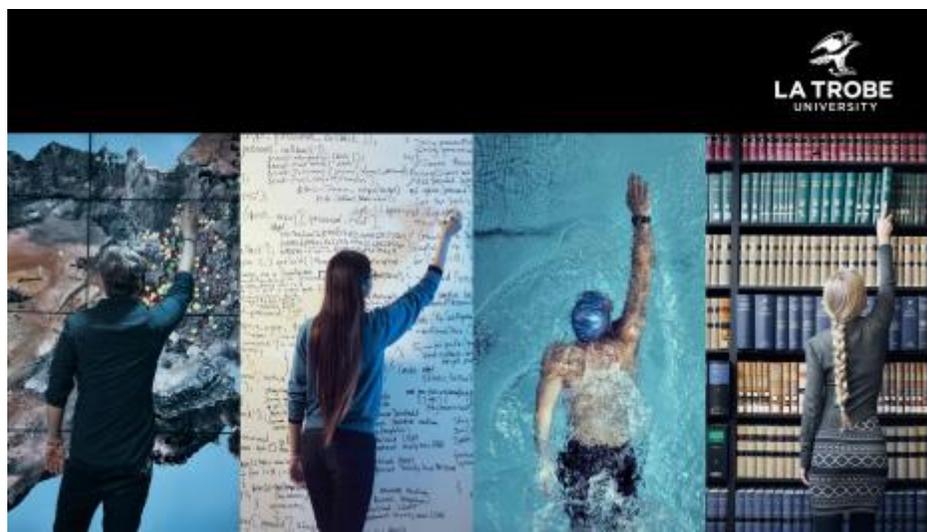




## Research Bulletin: July 2020



### Bringing research and industry engagement news to you

Dear colleagues

Welcome to the July issue of the Research Bulletin. I feel like 2020 is flying by, despite all the changes and disruptions we are constantly adapting to.

I'd like to thank everyone who took the time to review and provide feedback on the University Reset Strategy recently. The feedback closed last week. The Research and Industry Engagement Workstream of the University Transformation Program is continuing to meet fortnightly to achieve the aims of defining our areas of research focus, developing a model to optimise research performance, reviewing the allocation of internal research funding and confirming the design and business case for Research 2030. In this month's Research Bulletin you can read an update on Research 2030, including the consultation on our research themes which is currently taking place.

Also in the Research Bulletin this month you can read about the enhancements and fixes in PRIME Phase 2, learn more about our Social Research Assistance Platform and get the latest news and updates from the Grants team. I appreciate there is a lot of information being shared at the moment, please take some time out of your day to read these updates.

Please also remember that our [Advice for researchers](#) (or FAQs) are continually updated with high level guidelines for researchers with regards to the COVID-19 restrictions, including the new regulations around wearing face masks.

Please stay safe and look after each other.

All the best

Sue

**Professor Susan Dodds**

**Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Industry Engagement)**



## In this issue

### In this month's edition:

- Latest news on Research 2030: developing our research themes
- PRIME enhancements and fixes
- New Research & Innovation Precinct Website
- Defence research funding increase
- Our research
- Events and opportunities
- Researcher support
- From the Grants team

- Research in a minute

## Latest news

### Latest news on Research 2030: developing our research themes

Our academic consultancy group (Outside Opinion) are currently conducting consultation sessions with researchers and research leaders to inform our Research 2030 strategy. Feedback from researchers in these consultation meetings will be used to inform the development of La Trobe's new – and yet to be identified – problem-focused themes.

Researchers were purposefully selected and invited to take part in the consultation to ensure we gather feedback from researchers from a range of disciplines and who will bring different experience, expertise and perspectives to the discussion. Thank you to everyone who has, or will be, attending these sessions; your time, feedback and opinions are greatly appreciated.

There will be further consultation stages in the near future, giving other researchers the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft themes.

If you would like to receive regular email updates on Research 2030, you can sign up to our [email updates here](#). There is also more information on Research 2030 on our [intranet site](#), or you can get in touch with the team at [Research Strategy](#) if you have any questions.



### PRIME enhancements and fixes

We are continuously improving PRIME in response to feedback from Researcher Portal users; enhancements and fixes to issues are now available as part of PRIME Phase 2 releases.

The following are the highlights of the current release:

Enhancements:

- Creation of a HELP tile to enable easy access to support
- For clarity, instructions have been added for the use of the forms 'Starting a Project Proposal without a Funding Opportunity' and 'New Agreement or Variation Requests'
- Link to Figshare, the University's research data repository is now available
- Unique identifier for Project Proposals for tracking and ease of reference
- Finding a project team member on the Budget Salary tab by showing the contact's department or external organisation
- Ease of visibility of WBS number

Fixes to issues:

- Global Search functionality
- Historical Project Team Member data is changing if a researcher moves departments or becomes external

For the extensive list and access to other support resources, go to [Prime Help and Support](#). For other queries please contact [PRIME Support](#).

### **Defence Innovation, Science and Technology research funding increase**

On 1 July the Prime Minister announced the Defence Strategic Update 2020 which sets out the Government's response to the changing strategic environment. The update took the Commonwealth's investment in Defence capability up to 2029-30 to \$270 billion, an increase of over \$70 billion on the 2016 Defence Whitepaper investment.

Included in the announcement was the 2020 Force Structure Plan that delivered increased funding to innovation and capability acceleration programs. The Government has committed around \$3 billion of capability investment across Defence innovation, science and technology over the next decade.

The Next Generation Technologies Fund, managed by Defence Science Technology Group (DSTG), will make investments worth approximately \$1.2 billion over the next decade. These investments will fund eight new STaR Shot Defence research programs that will deliver new capabilities to the Australian Defence Force by the end of the decade and are a key feature of the new Defence Science & Technology Strategy 2030 – 'More, Together'.

La Trobe is a co-signatory to the Defence Science Partnerships program with DSTG. This will ensure the university will be in a position to contribute its world class capabilities from across the SHE and ASSC colleges towards the development of a national sovereign Defence capability, designed to maintain Australia as a safe, secure and sustainable society.

For more information please contact DSTG Relationship Manager, [Mark Raphael](#).



### **New Research & Innovation Precinct Website**

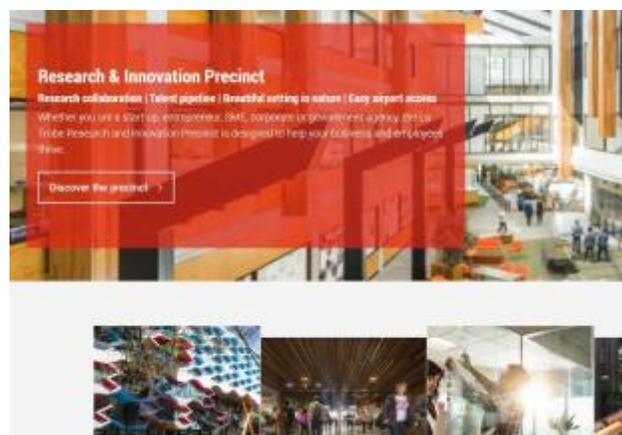
Supporting our goal to be industry's Partner of Choice, we have recently launched a new [Research & Innovation Precinct website](#) to showcase a range of industry engagement activity. This industry focussed

website provides key information for external parties seeking to co-locate at La Trobe, develop partnerships with our researchers and access students for their emerging workforce.

Did you know that 20 organisations are already co-located at Bundoora providing employment for hundreds of people and engaging in significant research programs? Discover some of the amazing stories behind our Precinct Partners in our Spotlight series and learn more about our extensive capability in our key domain areas of: Agriculture, Food & Environment; Health & Wellbeing and Digital Transformation.

The Partnerships & Precinct team welcomes feedback on the new website and encourages you to read how our [researchers](#) are brokering successful relationships between industry, government, students, entrepreneurs and community in the R&I Precinct.

For more information contact one of our team: [Alison Angleton](#), [Darren Coomber](#) or [Mark Raphael](#).



## Our research

### Monitoring COVID-19

Australia is experiencing the force of COVID-19's second wave. Now more than ever, contact tracing is critical in the fight against COVID-19. Identifying and managing those who have been exposed to the disease helps to prevent onward transmission.

A researcher from the [College of Science, Health and Engineering](#) has developed a COVID-19 app that allows people to record their contacts and symptoms. [Read about it here](#).

### Real world impact of our Research Platforms: Preservation of rare languages

Associate Professor Stephen Morey, in the Department of Linguistics, has been translating, archiving and studying the Tai, Singpho and Tangsa language groups in the Assam and Arunachal Pradesh States, India, and its bordering areas in Myanmar since 1996. He is a prominent researcher in this area and his research encompasses both spoken and song languages. These languages have few speakers, many are unwritten and most are not yet adequately recorded. During his fieldwork, you can find Stephen living in someone's home in a village, having a chat with people in the community, trying to learn as much as he can about their languages. He has published many papers and books and presented his research at

various international conferences and even created fonts for those languages so that have their own scripts.

In 2016 and 2017, Stephen was successful in receiving support from the [Social Research Assistance Platform](#) to complete the archiving of the Tangsa language materials collected from his fieldwork on endangered languages in North East India. By having them in specialist linguistic archives such as The Language Archive, these important recordings of endangered languages will be preserved and accessible by members of the language community and linguistic researchers. He has also set up several YouTube Channels to make these materials accessible to community members, one of which is on the Tangshang – Tangsa Naga Culture. The results of Stephen’s linguistic work, together with that of Emeritus Professor David Bradley, have been presented as an Impact and Engagement Case Study by the University.

This is one example of the outcome from the support offered by the Social Research Assistance Platform. To date, the platform has assisted over 150 researchers across different disciplines with specific research assistance to facilitate the effective completion of research outputs. For further information, visit the [www.latrobe.edu/srap](http://www.latrobe.edu/srap)



*1 - Associate Professor Stephen Morey in the field.*

### **Research with Untapped and Harvard University**

Working in partnership with La Trobe partner Untapped and Harvard University, La Trobe Innovation and Entrepreneurship are working on a project which seeks to document and articulate the gaps that exist in the innovation, entrepreneurship and intrapreneurship career pathways for neurotypical university students and graduating alumni. The research project seeks to better understand the correlation between neurotypicals and their high-performance career pathways, and how these talents can be more readily accessed and fostered by the wider graduate employer community.

### **Conserving Victoria’s unique alpine stoneflies**

La Trobe researchers have received funding to research conservation of Victoria’s unique alpine stonefly following last summer’s devastating bushfires.

Congratulations to Dr Julia Mynott, Dr Nick Murphy and Professor Nick Bond from the Centre for Freshwater Ecosystems and the Department of Environment, Ecology and Evolution, who secured grant funding from the Australian Government’s Wildlife and Habitat Bushfire Recovery program. Their project focusses on the impact of the summer bushfires on the stonefly, *Thaumatoperla*.

These stoneflies are a unique part of Victoria's fauna but information on them is limited. This project aims to determine the impacts fires have on the species and their current distribution throughout the alpine areas to better protect them from future bushfires. This funding is a fantastic opportunity to map these species and provide important information for land managers to identify key areas for their conservation.

This project will collaborate with a number of organisations including Parks Victoria, Falls Creek Resort Management and Mt Buller Mt Stirling Resort Management.

## Events and opportunities

### **Breakfast at Noon with Joanna Yan, Entrepreneur, Venture Capitalist and Investment Analyst**

*Breakfast at Noon: conversations on innovation and change* is a webinar series on how businesses can push through unprecedented times. The next event will be 11 August at noon, with Joanna Yan, who has featured on SBS's *Myth or Medicine?* Register for our upcoming sessions [here](#).

Sessions are recorded so if you missed out, please get in touch with [Lauren Giusti](#).

### **Semester 2 Supervisor Development Program**

The RED Supervisor Development Program is a semester-long series of four interactive, online workshops that aim to provide graduate research supervisors with knowledge and resources that will enhance their supervision practice. Offered at monthly intervals, these workshops help supervisors to build shared understandings of supervision, with areas of focus derived from supervisor feedback as follows:

- Workshop 1 (29 Jul): Pedagogies and philosophies of supervision
- Workshop 2 (19 Aug): Effective communication
- Workshop 3 (16 Sep): Working with student writers and giving feedback
- Workshop 4 (14 Oct): Problem solving and managing change

These workshops are complemented by other RED development workshops for supervisors and progress committee members, including *Managing Expectations in Graduate Research Supervision* and *Chairing Progress Committees*. All bookings via the [RED workshop Schedule](#)

**Want to stay connected while apart?** RED offers a broad range of workshops and sessions focused on communicating your research and developing your online reputation. At a time when we are restricted in more traditional networking activities, staying connected and building our social networks online can be very rewarding.

### **Researchers and social media series:**

1. Tues 11 Aug, 10am-12pm - [Getting started](#)
2. Tues 1 Sept, 10am-12pm - [Building profile](#)
3. Tues 13 Oct, 10am-12pm - [Tweeting up](#)

**Communicating your research intensive: 30 September (save the date!):** This day of sessions focused on audio/visual modes of communicating research includes sessions about media interviews, podcasts, vlogging (video blogging), and more.

## Researcher support



### **Social Research Assistance Platform: applications open until 21 August**

The [Social Research Assistance Platform](#) is accepting applications for specialised research support for non-intellectual research activities to enable and accelerate effective completion of research outcomes. This is for individual researchers and teams who are **close to completing their research projects**, such as finalising scholarly book, chapter or journal publications, non-traditional research outputs, or ensuring that the research has a broader engagement and impact in the community.

The [Platform](#) also assists researchers who have existing grant funding to recruit the right research support staff (usually current casuals and/or students in the University) for their research projects. Let us know your requirements and we can help match you with the right person to support your research. Most staff on our register have current research skills and have worked previously on other research projects. This service is available throughout the year.

The application and further details are available on our [website](#). For further information please contact Amy Kong on 9479 1935.

### **Stuck in lockdown and need a health dataset for a research project?**

In the current situation where the collection of patient data for research projects is extremely difficult, we have a solution that provides access to deidentified human health datasets and would be ideal for student projects.

La Trobe researchers now have access to the BioGrid federated national data linkage platform and databases to enable the sharing of real-time hospital and clinic-based health and medical data for research. La Trobe has signed a non-member Data and Research Collaboration Agreement for a subscription to [BioGrid Australia Limited](#), which provides access to de-identified health data from a broad range of studies. There is also a tool that allows you to identify which databases have individuals in common. Further information on how to access BioGrid data, visit the [Digital research website](#), or contact [Manager, Research Infrastructure](#).

### **Managing data capture and surveys in REDCap Workshop: 7 August**

Would you like to enable secure and reliable data collection forms and manage online surveys? Would your study benefit from web-based data entry? Research Electronic Data Capture (REDCap) might be for you.

This course will introduce you to REDCap, a rapidly evolving web tool developed by researchers for researchers. REDCap features a high level of security, customizability for your forms and advanced user access control. It also features free, unlimited survey distribution functionality and a sophisticated export module with support for all standard statistical programs. For further information and booking visit the [Digital Research Training program](#).

### **Submitting an external grant application? Check your statistics.**

Did you know that the [Statistics Consultancy Platform](#) provides statistical advice about research methods, experimental design and data analysis for a range of projects? The subsidised service is open to all staff and students within the university, including administrative areas, as well as external organisations. Applicants of external grant funding and Higher Degree by Research students receive 5 hours of **free** support. For further information, visit [our website](#).

## **From the Grants team**

### **Grants Team outreach**

We are happy to come along to Centre, Department or discipline meetings to speak about the services and support the Grants Team offers our researchers. Please [contact us](#) to organise a time if you are interested.

### **Major Grants Development Support Program**

The Notice of Intent (NOI) stage of the **Major Grants Development Support Program** has now closed for the ARC Discovery Projects and Discovery Indigenous schemes. The Grants Team is now meeting with researchers to discuss their proposals and the support program. The Team is also working with School Research Directors to plan pitching sessions that will take place in September.

Researchers who are planning on submitting a new application to the ARC Discovery Projects or Discovery Indigenous schemes but did not submit an NOI are encouraged to contact the [Grants Team](#).

NOIs for NHMRC Ideas grants will open later in the year and will close on **1 September**. The timing for NHMRC Clinical Trials and Cohort Studies Grants is to be confirmed, pending the NHMRC's announcement for the 2021 round. Further information on these schemes will be circulated in the coming months.

### **ARC Linkage Grants**

The Grants Team is currently compliance checking Linkage Project applications for submission in Round 2. Thank you to those applicants who have already submitted their applications for a check. For those yet to have a compliance check completed on their applications, please complete all sections of your application in RMS and let us know by email that your application is ready for compliance checking. The deadline for this was Mon 13 July so researchers are asked to complete their applications as soon as possible and by **9am 27 July** at the latest. A reminder that we are submitting applications to the ARC on Monday 10 August. Any queries regarding Linkage Grants should be addressed to [Catherine Hayden](#).

### **Fellowship Support Program**

Nominations for the 2020 Fellowship Support Program have now closed. Heads of School and Directors of Research have selected their researchers who will be supported through the program this year. Anyone who hasn't nominated for the program and intends to submit an ARC DECRA, Future Fellowship or NHMRC Investigator Grant this year should contact the Grants Team as soon as possible.

We have already had our first workshops for fellowship applicants with presentations on the DECRA and Future Fellowship schemes from the ARC's Prof Joanne Tompkins and Dr Mary Kelly. Details of upcoming workshops and information sessions will be circulated to participants soon. Any queries regarding the Fellowship Support Program should be addressed to [Catherine Hayden](#) or [Sonja Tesanovic](#).

### **Grants recently submitted**

School/Centre	Funder & Scheme	Total Funding applied
<b>College of Science, Health, and Engineering</b>		
La Trobe Rural Health School	Cancer Council Victoria – Grants-in-Aid Expression of Interest	1 EDI
	MRFF – Consumable Research Response – Communication Strategies and Approaches During Outbreaks	\$472,800
School of Allied Health, Human & Sport	Arthritis Australia – Project Grants	\$149,508
	Arthritis Australia – Grant-in-Aid	\$44,718
	US Department of Defense – Orthotics and Prosthetics Outcomes Research Program	3 Pre-applications
	MRFF – Consumable Research Response – 2020 COVID-19 Mental Health Research	\$636,678
School of Cancer Medicine	Cancer Council Victoria – Grants-in-Aid Expression of Interest	16 EDIs
	Cancer Council New South Wales – Project Grants	\$1,292,528
School of Engineering and Mathematical Science	-	-
School of Life Sciences	Orionfestal Australia	\$85,947
	Peter Rankin Trust Fund for Hepatology	\$1,000
	Victorian Government Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions	\$128,614
School of Molecular Sciences	Cancer Council Victoria – Grants-in-Aid Expression of Interest	10 EDIs
	Cancer Council New South Wales – Project Grants	\$486,625
	US Department of Defense – Multiple Sclerosis Research Program	1 Pre-application
	Cancer Council Victoria – Grants-in-Aid Expression of Interest	3 EDIs
School of Psychology and Public Health	Cancer Council New South Wales – Project Grants	\$149,516
	nib Foundation	\$77,581
	Collier Charitable Fund	\$76,380
	MRFF – Consumable Research Response – Digital Health Research Infrastructure	\$1,348,055
	Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation	\$89,414
School of Flooring and Millinery	-	-
<b>College of Arts, Social Science and Governance</b>		
School of Humanities and Social Sciences	Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation	\$111,900
La Trobe Business School	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources – National Careers Institute Partnership Grant	\$453,880
La Trobe Law School	-	-

Upcoming funding opportunities can now be found in PRIME. [Guidelines](#) for searching and saving searches are now available. Please Start a Proposal to notify the Research Office of your interest, or contact us at [researchgrants@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:researchgrants@latrobe.edu.au)

## Research in a minute

What to know more but have limited time? Check out these **Research in a minute** videos from the SHE college.

[Susan McLeod](#): What is the connection between nutrition and mental health?

[Monika Doblin](#): Why are plant cell walls important?

[Kim Johnson](#): How do plants feel?

And if you have a bit longer than a minute, check out our series of **Connected** interviews with researchers:

[Professor Miranda Rose](#): The Aphasia CRE: Transforming the health and wellbeing of people with aphasia and their families.

[Dr Jillian Garvey](#): Unearthing the archaeology of Aboriginal Victoria.

[Dr Dana Wong](#): Towards a meaningful life after acquired brain injury.

[Dr Marc Trabsky](#): Researching end of life in the Centre for Health, Law and Society.

[Professor Michael Clarke](#): Managing bushfires for people and wildlife is not rocket science - it's much more complex than that!

[Dr Sallie Yea](#): Research in the time of COVID: collaborating internationally and locally.

[About the event](#) - watch Dr Wade Kelly's introduction.