



DEAKIN

GIVING TO DEAKIN NEWSLETTER



Welcome to the final edition for 2009 of the *Giving to Deakin Newsletter*.

In the past 12 months, Deakin has welcomed many new partners and we have deepened our relationships with our existing partners.

Your generosity continues to make a significant difference to the lives of our students and to the work of our researchers.

A number of groups are significantly under-represented in higher education – students from remote parts of Australia, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and students from low socio economic backgrounds. The higher education participation rate of 18–20 year olds in metropolitan Melbourne is approximately 37 per cent. Outside metropolitan Melbourne it is 18.5 per cent. Deakin University wishes to address these inequities. Your gifts have enabled us to award 70 scholarships to capable students who may otherwise have struggled to go to university or not attended at all.

Deakin University also wishes to undertake research that makes a difference by solving real problems that affect our communities. The launch of the National Centre for Farmer Health, which was made possible by a gift from the Helen and Geoff Handbury Trust, is an example of what we can achieve in partnership with our communities.

The establishment of the Deakin Foundation is an important milestone. Over the next year, the Deakin Foundation, which is chaired by the Hon Steve Bracks, will pursue funding for a number of important projects including several regarding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education, health and well-being.

As the year draws to a close, I look towards 2010 with a genuine sense of optimism about what Deakin's students and researchers can achieve. Thank you for your help.

I hope that you will continue to work in partnership with Deakin to make a difference to Australia's future.

Professor Sally Walker
Vice-Chancellor

Scholarship allows first generation university student to excel in his studies

Nick Walters, 2008 George Alexander Foundation Scholarship at Deakin University recipient, shares his experiences:

'Winning the George Alexander Foundation scholarship has meant a significant decrease in the financial burden associated with furthering my studies. As a high achieving student, it has always been my personal endeavour to overcome financial hardship in order to attain the best academic results possible.'



Nick Walters

Receipt of a scholarship has enabled me to remain focussed on my study without having to worry about financial security. The George Alexander Foundation Scholarship has given me all of the necessities to flourish in the tertiary environment such as books and equipment, which can be of substantial cost. Nonetheless, I have continued to work part time as I feel it provides me with valuable life experience and allows me to remain independent while staying part of the community.

Being just the second member of my extended family to continue to higher education, there is a pressure to succeed and make my family proud. The George Alexander Foundation Scholarship has given me a strong foundation, upon which I can build myself into a successful professional, and a means to ensure that my future is financially secure.

The George Alexander Foundation recognises that students come from all socio-economic backgrounds and enables everyone the opportunity to make the most of what the education system has to offer.

I feel extremely privileged to be a George Alexander Foundation scholar and hope to one day be able to help other students in my situation, the same way that the George Alexander Foundation has helped me and my family.'

Deakin Foundation update



As the Deakin Foundation's first year draws to a close, I am pleased to report that our efforts to raise money for priority projects at Deakin are progressing as planned.

These projects include funding for Aboriginal students at Deakin's Institute of Koorie Education and health and medical projects in the Faculty of Health, Medicine, Nursing and Behavioural Sciences.

The campaign to raise funds for the vital refurbishment and extension of the Institute of Koorie Education's building at the Geelong Campus at Waurn Ponds is well under way.

It is expected that the project will begin in 2010 if sufficient funds are committed by external sources. This project is a major investment in Aboriginal education and a highly tangible representation of the commitment of Deakin and its partners to work with Aboriginal communities to improve educational opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

Likewise, the campaign to raise funds to establish the Research and Training Centre in Rural and Regional Cancer Care and the Centre for Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention is gaining strength.

Once established, these Centres will provide vital leadership in research and medical education for Victoria and Australia.

We will continue to focus our efforts on these important projects over the next 18 months.

I look forward to keeping you updated on the Foundation's activities in 2010.

**The Hon Steve Bracks
Chair, Deakin Foundation**



INVESTING IN EDUCATION AND INNOVATION
DEAKIN FOUNDATION

Endowment to increase the capacity of rural and regional journalism

Deakin's School of Communication and Creative Arts has been awarded \$120 000 over three years from the May and Romeo Schiavon Endowment, managed by ANZ Trustees, to establish a scholarship program in rural and regional journalism.

The May and Romeo Schiavon Scholarships in Rural and Regional Journalism will provide internships in rural and regional settings for undergraduate journalism students and provide honours and higher degree research scholarships for students to undertake projects with a focus on rural and regional journalism.

Deakin University is committed to rural and regional engagement and these scholarships will assist the School to promote rural and regional journalism as an attractive career choice and research topic. Findings of the research projects will also inform teaching practice within the journalism course.

The May and Romeo Schiavon Scholarships in Rural and Regional Journalism further bolsters the School of Communication and Creative Arts' rural and regional journalism program and will complement programs such as the Edward Wilson Fellowship in Journalism, a professional development program for young journalists from publications in rural and regional areas funded by the Estate of the Late Edward Wilson.

Geelong families to benefit from Trust's support

A program that gives children from low socio economic backgrounds access to sporting clubs will benefit from \$21 800 awarded to Deakin by the Fred P Archer Charitable Trust, managed by the Trust Company Limited.

Operating in Geelong's northern suburbs, the Sportsaccess program is run by Leisure Networks and provides primary and secondary school aged children from low socio economic areas the opportunity to join a sporting club of their choice.

Recognising that cost is the most significant barrier to sport participation amongst low income earners, the program identifies young people who are interested in sport but cannot participate in a sporting club because of financial considerations. The program provides funding to their families to cover the costs associated with participating in the sporting club of up to \$250 per child.

Associate Professor Chris Hickey of Deakin's School of Education will use the grant to evaluate the effectiveness of the program. The research will provide the necessary evidence base to drive Sportsaccess' future and to engage government and business with respect to ongoing funding.

Giving to Deakin

Giving to Deakin is your opportunity to make a significant contribution to the lives of our students and to the important and relevant work of our researchers.

There are several ways you can partner with Deakin to invest in Australia's future including:

- » funding scholarships and student prizes
- » funding research activities
- » funding for Aboriginal students studying at the Institute of Koorie Education
- » funding buildings and equipment
- » sponsorship of activities
- » volunteering at Deakin.

For more information, please contact University Development on 03 9244 6072 or donate online now at www.deakin.edu.au/giving/donate-now.

Deakin wins \$1.2 million under the NHMRC's new Partnership for Better Health grants scheme

Professor James Dunbar, of the Deakin Medical School, and his research team have been awarded \$1.2 million under the National Health and Medical Research Council's (NHMRC) new Partnership for Better Health grants scheme.

The world-first project, titled 'Preventing diabetes in pregnancy from progressing to Type 2 Diabetes: macro-level system change in South Australia and Victoria', is one of only six grants awarding over \$1 million in funding and the largest allocation in Victoria.

The project will introduce systems designed to reduce the risk of women developing diabetes later in life. These will include the creation of a register of women who have developed diabetes during pregnancy and adoption of a recall system for them to be tested every two years by their general practitioner for diabetes or the risk factors of the disease.

More than 10 per cent of women develop diabetes during their pregnancy and at least half of them will go on to develop Type 2 diabetes within the next 10 years.

Professor Dunbar says it is a unique project as it involves funding from the Federal Government, Department of Human Services Victoria, South Australia Health, Diabetes Australia Victoria and Diabetes Australia South Australia, General Practice Victoria and General Practice South Australia to build an improved policy for prevention of diabetes in this high risk group.

'The project is significant as it marks the first time intervention programs have been designed specifically for this high risk group,' says Professor Dunbar.

'This is a world first and will be a real coup in terms of diabetes prevention worldwide if we're able to make a significant breakthrough.'

Research will be carried out at the Royal Women's Hospital and Western Health in Melbourne and Lyell McEwin Hospital in Adelaide.

Deakin's Indigenous community celebrates student graduations

Deakin's Institute of Koorie Education held its community graduation celebration at the Aborigines Advancement League on 23 October.

Forty-one students graduated in 2009 from a range of disciplines including early childhood education, public health, nursing, law, and natural and cultural resources management, in front of community Elders, family and friends.

The 2009 graduating class is the largest in Institute's history and is a testament to the hard-work and dedication of the students, their families and the staff of the Institute of Koorie Education, led by its Director, Professor Wendy Brabham.

The Institute of Koorie Education was the 2009 Wurreker Awards winner in the category of 'University Pathways'. The Wurreker Strategy was developed by the Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Incorporated (VAEAI) in partnership with the Victorian State Government.



Institute of Koorie Education graduates.

The Institute won its award for the Bachelor of Early Childhood Education degree and its success in offering a pathway from the TAFE Diploma of Children's Services into a university degree. Seven of the 41 students graduated from this program in 2009.

The Institute was selected as a finalist for the Public Sector Employer Award alongside Aboriginal Affairs Victoria and the Department of Justice Wulgunjgo Ngalu.

The Institute of Koorie Education has the highest number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student enrolments of any university in Victoria and the third highest nationally.

\$5 million upgrade for Geelong student facilities

Deakin has received \$5 million from the Federal Government's Capital Development Pool program to revitalise student facilities at the Geelong Campus at Waurn Ponds.

Deakin's Chief Operating Officer, Mr Graeme Dennehy, welcomes the support.

'This funding will be used to transform the student services in the central precinct of the Geelong Campus at Waurn Ponds and provide a contemporary environment for our growing student population,' he says.

'The needs of today's students are quite different from those of students when Deakin started teaching at the Campus in 1977.

'We recognise that the student experience encompasses more than just the classroom. Our plans therefore focus on modern, well equipped student amenities to provide opportunities for social interaction, recreational activities and informal learning.'

It is anticipated that work will begin on the project in 2010.

New PhD scholarships for the Deakin Medical School

Deakin's Medical School has received a \$100 000 gift from Bellberry Limited to establish the Bellberry PhD Scholarships.

The scholarships, which will help the Medical School attract high achieving PhD candidates, will be awarded to higher degree research students to undertake research projects in five areas including:

- » oncology
- » infectious diseases
- » nutrition and metabolism
- » public health
- » medical education.

The Deakin Medical School opened in 2008 and is Victoria's first rural and regional medical school.

Bellberry Limited's gift is further recognition of the strength of the Medical School's reputation for high quality research and its wonderful achievements in just two short years.

More students put Deakin first

Increasing numbers of Victorian students are putting Deakin first, according to the 2010 Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) Timely Preference data.

The number of first preferences increased by a staggering 16 per cent from 8605 in 2009 to 9978 in 2010.

'This is an excellent result for Deakin which continues our growth in previous years,' says Deakin's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sally Walker.

'Deakin offers relevant, contemporary and flexible courses; our success is reflected in this result.

'We are proud that an increasing number of Victorians are taking the opportunity to participate in higher education at Deakin.'

Deakin's Teaching (Primary) and Nursing courses were in the state's top 10 courses in terms of first preferences.

First to fourth and total preferences increased across all Deakin's campuses in Burwood, Geelong Waterfront, Waurin Ponds and Warrnambool.

Deakin wins Governor of Victoria export award

Deakin has won the 2009 Governor of Victoria Export Award for Education and Training.

The award, which recognised the University's 'innovation in and commitment to advancing education, training and research in international markets,' was bestowed at a ceremony held at Government House on 21 October.

Deakin's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International and Development), Ms Robin Buckham, says she is delighted that Deakin has won this award for the second year in a row.

'The award confirms that we are continuing to build a strong reputation for delivering effective teaching and for our research partnerships overseas,' Ms Buckham says.

Young tall poppy award for Deakin marine scientist

Deakin marine scientist Dr Daniel Ierodiaconou has been included this year's Young Tall Poppy Science Awards for his research into the hidden treasures that lie on Victoria's seafloor.

Dr Ierodiaconou leads a research team that is using sonar and laser technologies and remotely operated video systems to map 520 000 hectares of the state's coastal waters. The findings will redefine conservation planning and improve fisheries management and infrastructure planning to limit impacts on the environment.

The research has revealed the first detailed images of the MV City of Rayville, the first US vessel sunk during World War II, as well as previously unknown 'gardens' of magnificently coloured sponges, seaweed forests and seagrass meadows, and submerged river systems that would have supported Aboriginal communities over 10 000 years ago.

'The significance of this work is immense. For some areas, this is the first information that has been obtained since Matthew Flinders took depth readings from his boat, the Investigator, in 1803,' says Dr Ierodiaconou.

'It is really exciting to be involved in a project that not only reveals historic treasures such as the City of Rayville, but also provides important information to inform how we manage our marine environments for future generations to enjoy.'

The Young Tall Poppy Awards were created in 1998 by the Australian Institute of Policy and Science to recognise scientific achievers who are in the early stage of their careers and who have already made discoveries and have demonstrated their leadership in communicating science and engaging the public.

Deakin lecturers scoop national teaching honours

Two Deakin lecturers have taken out national honours for their teaching at the 2009 Australian Learning and Teaching Council Awards for University Teaching.

Claire Macken, from the Law School received the Early Career Award while Abdel-Hakeem Kasem, from the School of International and Political Studies, received the Humanities and the Arts Award.

The awards recognise the nation's top university teachers and the most outstanding programs and services aimed at improving the quality of student learning.

Ms Macken received the national award for her research-led engagement strategy for the purpose of developing both generic and professional skills, high quality learning and to create an overall positive student experience.

Mr Kasem received his award for pioneering Australian in-country internship programs in the field of Arabic language and cultural studies. He also developed Deakin's progressive online Arabic program which has led to new approaches to tertiary level language teaching nationally.

Deakin's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor Philip Clarke says receiving these awards is a tremendous achievement and 'reflects the high quality of teaching and learning occurring at Deakin'.

'Deakin aims to provide national leadership in teaching and these two staff members personify that goal,' he says.

'We are delighted with their success.'

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