

d Kin

Deakin Alumni Magazine

Issue 7 2020 > Evolution



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It is with pleasure that I introduce the latest issue of dKin magazine, my first as Vice-Chancellor.

This magazine gives us an opportunity to celebrate our wonderful alumni and also provide a snapshot of Deakin University's cutting-edge research.

In just 45 years, Deakin has evolved from Victoria's first regional university specialising in distance education to one of Australia's largest universities, with over 61,000 students and more than 250,000 graduates living and working around the world. The University is now internationally recognised for the excellence of our research and teaching.

Deakin has taken education to new levels, adopting new technology to provide an outstanding experience for students both on campus and in the Cloud Campus. The alumni profiled in this issue demonstrate the success of this approach; whether they have lived on campus or studied exclusively in the Cloud Campus, they have gone on to achieve success in their careers and make significant contributions to society. Our cover features Janet Dore, one of the first MBA graduates at Deakin, who served the Victorian community in senior government roles, notably as

CEO of the Traffic Accident Commission, and is now taking on numerous high profile board appointments in regional Victoria. Also in this issue are Glen Robinson, who founded a UK-based €100 million investment fund that specialises in saving struggling businesses; Rozaine Cooray, who is transforming workplaces in Sri Lanka with her holistic approach to business psychology; and Gagan Arora, who has pioneered e-commerce in India.

Deakin's research excellence is recognised by strong growth in research funding, an expansion

A message from our

VICE-CHANCELLOR

Professor Iain Martin

in local and international research collaborations and a steady rise in the global university rankings that now place Deakin in the top 10 universities in Australia and top 300 in the world.

This edition of dKin offers just a glimpse at the innovative work being undertaken by Deakin researchers, from protecting endangered species to improving care for people with dementia. Associate Professor Euan Ritchie is proposing the reintroduction of dingos to save native mammals from extinction; Dr Julie Sharp has

uncovered the potential of platypus milk to treat bacterial infections that have become resistant to existing medications; Dr Andrew Groves is exploring the use of pill testing as a way to stop overdoses and deaths at clubs and music festivals; and Professor Kon Mouzakis and his team are using virtual reality to improve dementia care at home and in aged care facilities.

Deakin's ambition and courage to forge a new path is exciting and I look forward to being part of the next stage of the University's development. I encourage all of

you to stay connected with Deakin as we look to the opportunities we have to grow as a university and work to prepare a new generation for the opportunities and challenges that await us in the decades ahead.

Professor Iain Martin
Vice-Chancellor and President

Photography:
Sean Fennessy

Location:
Geelong Waterfront Campus

Alumni

We celebrate the lives and journeys of our alumni. In this edition, we are delighted to share some of these stories from our global community.



To find out more visit
deakin.edu.au/alumni



United Kingdom

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Bachelor of Arts
Class of 2005

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Glen Robinson
Master of
Commercial Law

Class of 2014

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Stay Connected

Keep in touch with the Alumni Community and your Alumni Chapter by updating your contact details online at engage.deakin.edu.au.





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Master of Commerce
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Bachelor of Applied
Science (Psychology)
Class of 2004

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Boo Boon Khoo

Bachelor of Business,
Business and Computing
Warrnambool Campus
Class of 1994

During his more than 25-year career in international banking, Boo Boon Khoo has been at the forefront of digital transformation in the financial services industry. Boo Boon is currently the Head of Innovation & Digital Transformation at Mashreq Bank. Throughout his career, he has shown extraordinary passion for the banking industry through numerous volunteering engagements. Here he talks about his pride at being a Deakin graduate, the challenges of keeping up-to-date in a constantly changing industry and his original career choice – fighter pilot.

Can you tell us about your time at Deakin?

My time at Warrnambool was an inclusive and enriching experience. It was a way to learn about Australian culture and a great part of the world to explore. There was a lot of support at Deakin. When I arrived in Warrnambool, I already had a part-time job lined up for me in a Malaysian restaurant.

Why did you decide to study at Deakin?

After graduating high school, I decided to start work in a bank and play badminton full-time. I soon realised that I needed to continue my tertiary education if I wanted to improve my future prospects. I found Disted College in Malaysia was offering a degree program in partnership with Deakin and so I started part-time study whilst working full-time. I completed the final two years of my degree at Deakin's Warrnambool Campus.

How has your Deakin degree assisted you in your career?

A degree in business computing was a very valuable asset in the 1990s. Back then there was great demand for computing graduates and I immediately received three job offers upon my return to Malaysia. After completing the graduate trainee program in the bank, I started as Senior Analyst Programmer in the Information Technology Department, which further enhanced my career path.

Is there anything you especially remember about that time?

I played in the weekly badminton league and travelled with the Warrnambool team to play badminton competitions in other parts of Victoria. I represented Deakin in the Australian Universities Summer Games, reaching the semi-finals, and was part of the Warrnambool Team that won the Victorian State-wide Grade B Badminton Team Championships in 1993. I won the Best Information System Project awarded by KPMG Australia in 1993 and was honoured to speak on behalf of the 1994 graduates at the Deakin graduation ceremony held in Malaysia and attended by the Governor of Penang.

What has been the highlight of your career?

It was an honour to be awarded the Australia China Alumni Association's 2018 Banking and Finance Award under the banner of Deakin University. Other highlights include being admitted as a member of the Hong Kong Computer Society and the Malaysian Institute of Management.

Can you outline your career path?

During my career I have gained experience in wholesale banking, digital banking and technology. I started in Malaysia in a domestic bank and then expanded to overseas markets. I have been based in Hong Kong for the past 15 years. My passion for the banking industry has been demonstrated through numerous volunteering engagements. I served as Board Director at Hong Kong Foreign Financial Institutions from 2014 to 2017, and in 2017 I was nominated to Co-Chair the Digital Banking Group at Fintech Association of Hong Kong, a position I still hold.

If you could only use a few words, how would you describe Deakin University?

I would describe Deakin as 'timeless' – the memories, values, friendships and knowledge that I gained from Deakin are timeless.

My favourite things...

- » **Holiday**
My hometown – Penang, Malaysia
- » **Gadget**
A GPS tracking device – I carry it 24/7 for navigation
- » **Object**
I collect old bank notes
- » **Online resource**
LinkedIn is a great way to connect with other professionals and keep up-to-date with commercial news

A photograph of Damien Ong-Yeoh, a man with glasses and a white shirt, sitting on a wooden crate in a busy street at night. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is filled with people walking, streetlights, and buildings, including one with a 'PAVILION' sign. The scene is illuminated by the warm glow of streetlights and the cool blue tones of the twilight sky.

Damien Ong-Yeoh

Bachelor of Arts
Rusden Campus
Class of 1997

Since completing his Deakin degree Damien Ong-Yeoh has followed an eclectic path that has included careers as an advertising copywriter, entrepreneur and lecturer. Here he talks about his exposure to different cultures at Deakin and the lifelong friendships he made during his studies.

Why did you decide to study at Deakin?

I had already started work in an advertising agency in Malaysia but I wanted to advance in my career so I decided I needed a degree. At the time, Deakin offered the most practical courses for filmmaking compared to other universities.

Can you tell us about your time at Deakin?

I was on a tight budget so I spent a lot of time on campus taking advantage of the air conditioning and heating in the computer lab and editing suite. In fact, I spent so much time on campus that I became friends with the security guards. I joined the local and international student board because they provided a meal after every meeting and I made friends with the cafeteria lady who would save sandwiches for me. I had a fantastic time and completed my degree with high distinctions!

Is there anything you especially remember about that time?

My work as a reception officer for the Deakin International Office exposed me to students from all over the world. I was often their first contact with Deakin as I would pick them up from the airport. One girl brought her skis in the middle of summer because it was snowing where she came from. We had to explain that the weather in Australia is the other way around!

What do you believe Deakin University has shown you as a person?

Deakin showed me multiculturalism at its finest. The Rusden Campus was an amazing mix of students from different faculties and different cultures. This gave me the confidence to deal with people from anywhere in the world without feeling intimidated.

How has it assisted you in your career?

The film education I received at Deakin has helped me immensely in my advertising career. I am able to understand what goes into the production of a television commercial shoot. The hands-on audio sessions also helped me understand the medium to the extent that I set up Asia's first internet radio talk show station.

What is your favourite aspect of your current role?

I love that I am able to create and bring life to an idea that will have an impact on people.

What has been the highlight of your career?

The highlight for me has been seeing my advertisements when I visit small towns in Malaysia. It is wonderful to see people react to something that I created in an office in Kuala Lumpur.

What advice would you give graduates wanting to pursue a similar profession?

Be open to new concepts, new tools and new ways of communicating and persuading. Also, be prepared to get your ego trampled but never stop dreaming, creating or reaching for the stars.

How would someone describe you?

Adventurous.

What are your passions outside your work?

Food, scuba diving and traveling.

If you could only use one word, how would you describe Deakin University?

Eclectic – especially on the old Rusden campus.

My favourite things...

- » **Holiday**
I like to holiday at the beach or in the jungle, although I am happiest when I am near the sea
- » **Gadget**
I love cars and own three, one of them is a car I coveted since I was a child – a 1993 two-door BMW
- » **Online resource**
Because I work in advertising, I have to be aware of all social media and content trends
- » **Artist**
Keith Haring, Van Gogh
- » **Cartoon**
I have a figurine of Courage the Cowardly Dog on my car dashboard

Rozaine Cooray

Bachelor of Applied Science (Psychology)
Melbourne Burwood Campus
Class of 2004

Rozaine Cooray is a trailblazer in the field of organisational psychology in Sri Lanka. Her psychology practice, Forté Consultancy, takes a holistic approach to workplace issues and her popular monthly newspaper articles have helped thousands of people discover practical solutions to workplace problems. Rozaine spoke with Deakin about her struggles during her first year at Deakin and her unique approach to life coaching.

Can you tell us about your time at Deakin?

It was my first time away from home and I was the only overseas student doing psychology. It was a challenge to stay focused but I felt free to approach the lecturers and talk about what I was going through. They directed me to the counsellors who connected me with the appropriate services. That made a big difference to my experience at Deakin.

What do you believe Deakin University has given you as a person?

Psychologists draw some of their fundamentals from their undergraduate years and I still vividly remember some of the lectures that I attended at Deakin. Although I have specialised in business and organisational psychology I am still able to draw from so many theories that were covered during my bachelor's degree. Deakin gave me the edge that has been central to my success.

Was there anyone you met at Deakin who has had an impact on you?

Professor Tess Knight was a lecturer in counselling and health psychology from my first year. She was incredibly supportive at the time and has remained a friend.

What has been your journey since finishing your course?

After studying at Deakin, I did my Master's and completed my training in the UK. I started work in human resources in a large apparel company in Sri Lanka, but I quickly realised that I would be bogged down in administration and unable to do what I was trained to do. I decided to start my own business, Forté Consultancy, a boutique business psychology consultancy. Almost 10 years down the track I have worked with over 65 companies and more than 10,000 individuals. Our model looks at internal and external factors that can affect performance and people. We look at personality, temperament, energy levels and, if our clients are open to it, we include biometrics with the aim to showing the connection between mental, emotional and physical aspects of organisational performance. Forté Consultancy



has branched out to include the *RockStars* program, a concept geared at transformation – transforming people, organisations, and communities. Along with launching my own business, I have lectured locally and internationally and published three books: *Colours of the Sun*, *From Crisis to Character*, and *Rockstars*.

What has been the highlight of your career?

Publishing my second book, *From Crisis to Character*, was a highlight. It is a compilation of articles I wrote for *The Sunday Times* in Sri Lanka from 2010 to 2014. I used anecdotes to demonstrate how to overcome challenges encountered in the workplace. People would read them on Sunday and put them on the notice board at work on Monday. The articles increased my profile and helped my business grow. They also established business psychology as a field in Sri Lanka.

What is your favourite aspect of your current role?

I love working with clients one-on-one or in small groups. I have been able to make a difference in people's lives and it is very satisfying.

What advice would you give graduates wanting to pursue a similar profession?

If you have the privilege to choose, think about what lifestyle you want rather than the title or the prestige that comes with the career.

What are your passions outside your work?

I love to travel. My work can be emotionally draining so a change of scenery replenishes my resources.

How would you describe Deakin University in a few words?

Personalised, modern, relevant.

My favourite things...

- » **Music**
Smooth jazz and pop
- » **Holiday**
Melbourne is the perfect holiday destination because it is my home away from home, but I also love Europe and its history
- » **Author**
Paulo Coelho – he taught me to write simple stories
- » **Coffee destination in Melbourne**
Lygon Street

Trevor Dean

Bachelor of Arts
Geelong Wairn Ponds Campus
Class of 2005

Trevor Dean's connection with Deakin has spanned nearly half his life – as a student, an employee and now as an alumnus. During his time working at Deakin, Trevor was responsible for some of the most high-profile events hosted by the University, dealing with prime ministers and world-renowned academics. Trevor spoke with us about the amazing experiences he had as a Deakin student and employee and how he still maintains his connection with the University from his new home in the UK.

Can you tell us about your time at Deakin?

I had some phenomenal experiences during my course. Deakin offered many different opportunities such as work experience, internships and international study. We filmed, edited and presented a pilot news program that was broadcast on Channel 31. We covered events in Geelong and interviewed celebrities.

What has been your journey since finishing your course?

When I came back from Denmark I had missed the journalism internship application dates so I applied for an events job at Deakin. I got the job and six months became 12 months and then ultimately 11 years working across every campus. I eventually moved to Melbourne and led major events and external relations campaigns for the University such as Open Day, public lectures, corporate events and political visits.

After eight years in events I was given the opportunity to take on Deakin's Melbourne community engagement portfolio. My scope was to engage, connect and build partnerships between the community and Deakin, which included showcasing the work of Deakin academics. One memorable project was a performance at Federation Square during White Night by our motion capture studio and dance academics.

In late 2016 I moved to London and I am now working as a Business Manager for the Institute of Chartered Accountants England and Wales (ICAEW). It is a global professional body with more than 160,000 members. We train and develop accountants, have regulatory functions, and share our knowledge with governments and regulators globally, helping maintain international standards and public trust in business. I lead a diverse team focusing on everything from global outreach, international business development, to modernising our business and ways of working through change management and digital transformation.





Is there anything you especially remember about that time?

I was offered the opportunity to undertake the study abroad program. I chose Denmark, got the placement, was awarded two scholarships, and within a couple of weeks I was over there. That experience was life changing. I was 20 with very little preparation, figuring out a new place and a new language. I met my partner Richard in Denmark and 15 years and a few countries later we are still happily together.

Is there any advice you would give to a person who is starting out in your career?

You have to know your strengths and weaknesses. Play to your strengths but also challenge your weaknesses. Failure is scary but once you've done it, you realise it really isn't the end of the world.

What has been the highlight of your career?

There were many highlights during my time at Deakin. One example was when I was asked by an academic to organise a lecture for his friend who was visiting from the United States. He said that we might need the largest venue in Melbourne. I was quite sceptical until he mentioned that his friend was Noam Chomsky. My team and I organised a free public lecture at the Melbourne Convention Centre. More than 5000 tickets were snapped up within hours of being made available.

What are your passions outside your work?

My family and friends are very important to me and also travel. I travel every spare moment.

Use one word to describe Deakin University.

Brave.

My favourite things...

- » **Music**
Jazz, opera and classical
- » **Holiday**
Ilha Grande, off the coast of Brazil
- » **Books**
Travel guides
- » **City**
Paris
- » **Gadget**
My phone
- » **Online resource**
News sites – The Guardian, BBC, The Age
- » **Artists**
Gilbert & George
Jeff Koons
Jackson Pollock

Photography:
Dan Ross: dan-ross.com
Raccoon London:
raccoonlondon.com

Location:
Potter's Field Park,
London

Gagan Arora

Master of Commerce
Melbourne Burwood Campus
Class of 2008

Gagan Arora is an entrepreneur who has pioneered e-commerce in India and is now expanding his business to the USA. At the same time he is helping to build the Deakin Alumni Chapter in India. Here he talks about the importance of a Deakin degree, how to succeed in online selling and the best way to start the day.

Why did you decide to study at Deakin?

After I finished my undergraduate degree I started working at IBM, but after two years I was keen to get some international exposure and enhance my skills. While I was doing my research I came across the Deakin course which was exactly what I was looking for – a dual specialisation in accounting and finance.

Can you tell us about your time at Deakin?

Deakin was a great choice for me because it instantly felt like home. The Burwood Campus was amazing. I really enjoyed the group assignments where we would interact with people from different countries and cultures.

Is there anything you especially remember about that time?

It was my first time living away from home. The transition was easy, thanks to the support I received from lecturers and fellow students, but there was still some culture shock.

What do you believe Deakin University has given you as a person?

The master's degree was a good combination of practice and theory that I still find useful in running my business today. The most valuable thing I learnt from my studies at Deakin was that you never stop learning. It is a continuous process.

What has been your journey since finishing your course?

I spent five years at Turner International and then the entrepreneurial bug bit me. I started my own online business selling products on eBay. I have been doing this for seven years now and have a product catalogue of over 150,000 items. Products range from home decor and kitchenware to mobile accessories and modems. I had sold a few products on eBay while I was studying in Australia in 2007 so as soon as eBay was available in India I knew I wanted to be in that space. The business has grown exponentially. Right now I am diversifying by running seminars and private coaching sessions to educate others on how to make money out of e-commerce.



Why are you involved in the Deakin India Alumni Chapter?

Deakin has given me so much that it was time for me to give something back. The Deakin India Office has connected me with other alumni of the University and we are now building up a network here that can provide strong support for Deakin alumni throughout the country.

What has been the highlight of your career?

There have been many highlights over the years. I started my business as a one-man show in one room of my house and now I have three warehouses. Hiring my first employee was a huge highlight and retaining him to this day is a good sign that I am doing something right! I am in the process of expanding to the United States which is another highlight.

Have you always wanted to pursue the kind of career you have embarked on? When and how did you realise this?

I always wanted to be a businessman. My father was an entrepreneur himself. He had the flexibility to be there for his children and that is what I want to give to my children.

Is there any advice you would give to a person who is interested in becoming a seller on eBay?

Innovate and stay ahead of the competition. Online selling is a huge space where you are not competing with your next-door neighbour but with someone sitting in a different part of the world.

How would someone describe you?

I am an easy-going person who takes joy in the simple things in life.

If you could only use a few words how would you describe Deakin University?

Multicultural and welcoming.

My favourite things...

- » **Music**
Punjabi
- » **Holiday**
Gold Coast, Australia
- » **City**
Melbourne
- » **Café**
Starbucks
- » **Gadget**
Apple Watch
- » **Online resource**
Amazon
- » **Artist**
Diljit Dosanjh

Amel Tresnjic

Bachelor of Contemporary Arts
Melbourne Burwood Campus
Class of 2008

Amel Tresnjic always knew he wanted to be a filmmaker and, with three award-winning documentaries under his belt, his dream has become a reality. He spoke with Deakin about the role the University has played in his success, his independent film company Brave Archer Films and his favourite movie.

Photography:
Craig Newell

Location:
Mt Burnett Observatory, Victoria

Can you tell us about your time at Deakin?

I really enjoyed my film and television major. I picked an animation elective out of curiosity and developed another passion that led me to pursue a double major. My teachers were fantastic; I especially remember Kevin Anderson and Nadia Tass. It was a privilege to learn from real industry professionals.

How has your degree assisted you in your career?

Deakin gave me the skills I needed to become an all-around filmmaker and animator. In 2012, I made the feature-length documentary film *2012 Crossing Over: A New Beginning*. In addition to writing, directing and producing, I filmed, sound recorded and completely post-produced the entire film on my own. This award-winning 93-minute feature went viral on YouTube on the day of its release. It has now been seen by over 4 million people on YouTube alone and has been translated into nine languages.

Was there anyone you met at Deakin who has had an impact on you?

My film lecturer Kevin Anderson inspired the documentarian within me. I initially wanted to be a narrative film director but Kevin inspired my passion for documentaries and non-fiction storytelling.

Have you always wanted to pursue the kind of career you have embarked on?

I was inspired the moment I saw how movies could transform an audience – to make them laugh or cry. I initially identified with the heroes, but when I was nine I realised that the real heroes are behind the scenes making the films and so I began to dream about becoming a filmmaker.

What has been your journey since finishing your course?

I started by working in the television and film industry on projects such as the SBS TV drama *Carla Cametti*. I then began Brave Archer Films and used the income to fund my own independent films. I enjoy complete creative freedom as I am able to tell the stories I am passionate about not only in my own projects but also for my clients. I had that freedom when I was creating my last two educational documentary films, *SingFest: The Literacy of Music* and *The Reading Factory: A Life Changing Literacy Support Program*.

What are you working on at the moment?

I am producing a new documentary film *Spiritual Awakening: Journey to the Inner Self* – a film that takes us on the journey to find the meaning of life. I am also working on *Talk for Life*, an educational documentary on the importance of language and communication; *The Temple of Life*, a film that embarks on a mission to find the ultimate diet for humankind; and a documentary about dreams. I am also in the process of writing a screenplay for a spiritual sci-fi film with the current working title *Planet G.O.D.*

What are your passions outside your work?

I love movies, stargazing, photography and reading.

What has been the highlight of your career?

The international success of *2012 Crossing Over: A New Beginning* and the impact it had in inspiring positive change was a highlight. Another highlight has been the success of *SingFest: The Literacy of Music*. This film has received 17 awards from renowned international film festivals, including Best Documentary Film at the 2019 Calcutta International Film Festival.

What advice would you give graduates wanting to pursue a similar profession?

Study and pursue your passions all the way. Make YouTube your best friend and a tool to showcase your art. Stay independent, this is the only way you can have creative freedom. Also, remember that it is about the story and not always how technically polished your film looks! Use your skills to help inspire a better world.

How would someone describe you?

Inspiring, passionate, mentor, humanitarian, agent for positive change in the world.

What is your favourite film?

Cloud Atlas has become one of my favourite films of all time. It shows us that with each crime or act of kindness we shape our future.

How do you think Deakin has changed since you studied there?

Deakin is continuing to grow and provide students with the best learning experience.

If you could only use one word, how would you describe Deakin University?

Inspiring.

My favourite things...

- » **Holiday**
Europe
- » **Gadget**
My DSLR Sony Alpha A7Riii – I always take it with me when going on adventures as it captures beautiful photographs and video
- » **Website**
IMDB – Internet Movie Database
- » **Artist**
Writer, Director and Producer M. Night Shyamalan
- » **Film**
Cloud Atlas, 2012 by Lana and Lilly Wachowski

Stephanie Gould-Hardwick

Bachelor of Engineering
Geelong Waterfront and
Wairn Ponds Campuses
Class of 2014

Stephanie Gould-Hardwick is an engineer working on some of Australia's favourite cars – the Ford Everest and the Ranger. Stephanie spoke with us about the importance of Deakin University Student Association (DUSA) and encouraging women to become engineers.

Why did you decide to study at Deakin?

I was attracted to Deakin's Geelong Waterfront Campus during an Open Day visit. It gave me the impression that Deakin valued design and creativity. Geelong was also the right place for me coming from Mount Beauty, which is a small town in north-eastern Victoria.

How do you think Deakin has changed since you studied there?

Deakin has really focused on staying up to date with science and technology facilities and as a result, have increased their engagement with industry which is really important for engineering students.

Was there anyone you met at Deakin who has had an impact on you?

I met a lot of fantastic people through DUSA but it was my final year project supervisor, Dr Tim De Souza, who had the biggest impact on me. Through that project he helped me see a wider range of skills in the engineering world, which enabled me to think about where my own unique skillset could be used. He also showed me the importance of communicating complex and scientific information in a simple form that others can understand.





Is there anything you especially remember about that time?

Moving to Geelong was a very big step for me but I got involved with DUSA and very soon began to feel part of the University. I ended up working for DUSA as a student board member and campus coordinator for two years.

What advice do you have for women interested in doing engineering?

Deakin provides a lot of support for women interested in engineering. Make use of the networking opportunities where students can meet women in the industry and see the types of careers that are possible. Some people still perceive engineering as a traditional hard hat, work boot profession but that is not the case. There is so much variety in engineering and I think that women can bring a lot to the industry.

What has been your journey since finishing your course?

I started my career at Davies Craig, a small automotive company where I had done my internship. After a few years, I moved to Ford Motor Company where I currently work in research and development. For three and a half years I worked with the chassis team on the Ford Everest and Ranger programs, planning the efficient and effective verification of product design. I have recently changed roles, and am now working in the business office, where I analyse data and provide technical input to resource planning.

If you could only use one word, how would you describe Deakin University?

Evolved.

How would someone describe you?

Positive, diplomatic, enthusiastic and very tolerant.

My favourite things...

- » **Music**
Anything that influences my mood positively
- » **Holiday**
Spain for the architecture
- » **City**
Barcelona and Sydney – I am always blown away by the Opera House
- » **Gadget**
My Fitbit
- » **Online resource**
I enjoy listening to TED talks
- » **Artist**
My sister, Georgina Gould-Hardwick, her love for the environment is reflected in her work; Salvador Dali

Photography:
Craig Newell

Location:
Cunningham Pier, Geelong, Victoria

Vehicle Provided By Ford Motor Company, Australia

Glen Robinson

Master of Commercial Law
Cloud Campus
Class of 2014

Glen Robinson is a founding partner of Valtegra, one of the leading special situations private equity funds in Europe with €100 million in committed capital. You could say that he has come a long way from country NSW to high finance in London, except for the amazing discovery about his family history that has now brought him full circle. We spoke with Glen about how he came to start his own fund, why he tailored his education, and his passion for triathlons.

Can you tell us about your time at Deakin?

Deakin was higher on the innovation curve for online learning compared to the other courses I had tried. They made the student the centre of the learning process. The lecturers would acknowledge the students who were listening on the other side of the world and respond to their comments during lectures. This demonstrated the mindset of the people running the course. It was engaging and motivating, and I felt included in the learning process.

Is there any advice you would give to a person who is starting out in your career?

Build friendships for their own sake. Have genuine relationships with people not just as networking objects. Also, don't discount people based on where they went to school or their social status. Most of us have similar aspirations, interests and problems no matter where we are on the social spectrum.

Briefly outline your career path.

Out of university, I went to Macquarie Bank and from there moved to TNT Express, working my way up to run the mergers and acquisitions program within Asia then globally in the Netherlands. When I was 31 I decided to become a consultant for private equity firms and in 2011 I began my own fund – Valtegra. My partners and I raised €100 million and we haven't looked back. We buy businesses that we can improve and sell them for a profit. In our niche, which is turning companies around, we are number two in Europe. We consolidate investors from all around the world and we place their money within assets that we manage. Among our assets are the power transformer manufacturer in Israel and the bus network in Frankfurt.

What is your favourite aspect of your current role? What are the challenges?

I have two partners. We each have different responsibilities that correlate to what we like doing most. I find the companies, negotiate with the seller and formalise the legal aspects. The challenge for me is finding the right business and convincing the owners to sell at the right price.

Have you always wanted to pursue the kind of career you have embarked on?

I have made decisions about what made me happy but also skilled myself so that I would be able to take opportunities that arose. I tailored my education to my career.

Tell us something that not many people know about you?

I grew up in country NSW in a family of very modest means and it was a struggle not to feel out of place among people who had had more privileged upbringings. When we moved to London my wife decided to research our family history. It turned out that I am descended from an extremely wealthy English family. One of my direct paternal ancestors, George Albert Robinson, was an MP in the British parliament and went on to become chairman of Lloyds of London in 1828. His portrait is in the National Portrait Gallery. Another ancestor donated £18 million to the University of Cambridge to establish the Robinson School of Engineering. It was surprising and not a little ironic to find myself making my way as an unknown in a place where my ancestors had been esteemed members of the establishment.

What are your passions outside your work?

I compete in Ironman triathlons. I have completed the Ironman Maastricht-Limburg and Ironman Wales in Tenby, Wales and I regularly compete in half Ironman competitions around the world.

In a few words how would you describe Deakin University?

Academically rigorous, innovative, flexible.

My favourite things...

- » **Books**
Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind by Yuval Noah Harari
- » **City**
New York and London for work and Sydney for family
- » **Airplane**
The Dreamliner and A380 have the best air, it makes a big difference if you fly a lot
- » **Gadget**
My iPhone is bolted to my hand

Photography:
Dan Ross:
dan-ross.com
Raccoon London:
raccoonlondon.com

Location:
Lloyds of London,
London

Deakin Research



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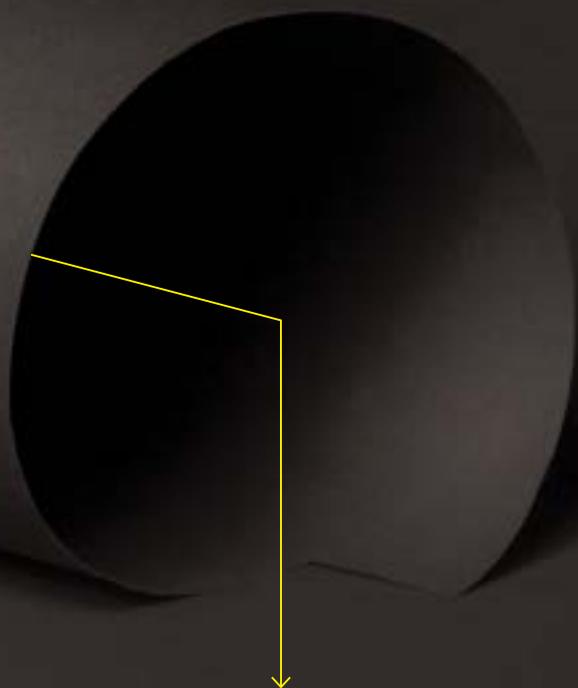
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Shaping tomorrow



To learn more about Deakin's groundbreaking research or help advance the work, contact Jonathan Cosgrove, Director of Development on **+61 3 9244 5024** or via email at **dkinmagazine@deakin.edu.au**



Associate Professor
**Patrick
Stokes**

DIGITAL

LIFE *OR* DEATH?

Is a Facebook profile or Instagram post the same as a photograph, item of clothing, book or other object left behind when someone dies?

The answer to this question is becoming increasingly important as people's physical and digital lives merge. It is a question that Dr Patrick Stokes, Associate Professor of Philosophy in the Faculty of Arts and Education, addressed in his recent submission to the New South Wales Law Reform Commission review of access to digital assets upon death or incapacity.

Yesterday, 11:59 pm



Some relationships are conducted primarily online and our profiles have become an important part of our identity. ❤️➡️📱

They are someone's phenomenal presence in the world and we have to make decisions about what we are going to do with them. 🤔

Seen

'Social media has impacted many aspects of our lives in a short space of time. Our social media profiles have become one of the main ways we interact with each other on a day-to-day basis. Some relationships are conducted primarily online and our profiles have become an important part of our identity. What happens to all of our posts, images and conversations when we die? Should they be deleted or memorialised?' asks Stokes.

'The items people traditionally leave behind when they die are considered a type of property that they can bequeath. Their online presence is different; it is like an extension of their face. It makes more sense to think of an online presence as digital remains rather than digital property.

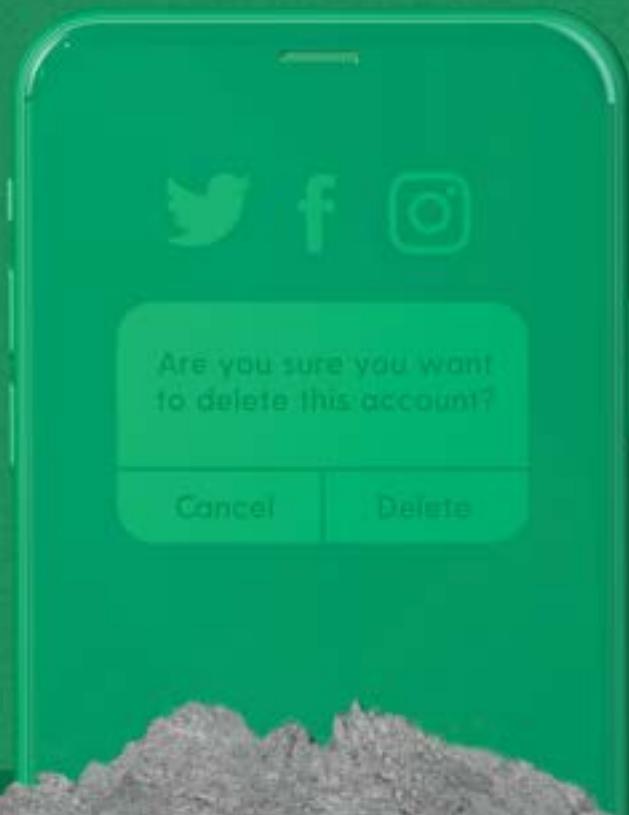
'We don't inherit a corpse; we have a right of disposal over a body. Something similar should happen to online remains, they are someone's phenomenal presence in the world and we have to make decisions about what we are going to do with them.

'Governments need to recognise that there are serious legal and cultural implications that we need to agree on as a community in regard to preserving digital remains.'

From a legal perspective, there are questions about who should have the authority to make decisions about a person's digital remains. Do they belong to the individual and their family or to the organisation that owns the website and is storing the files? If the companies are the custodians of people's digital remains does that mean that they should be legally obliged to maintain them and for how long?

'At present, whether a deceased user's social media profile is deleted, left unaltered, or placed into a "memorialised" state – where certain functions are no longer available and phrases are added to the user's name to make it clear they have died – is entirely a function of service provider policy and how bereaved families interact with these,' says Stokes.





‘

Technology is also changing our relationship to the dead and our attitudes to death and bereavement.

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Over the years, individuals and their families have sought more control over what happens to their online presence when they die. This has prompted the need for clear policies or regulations around the preservation of digital remains. Should there be a default presumption against deletion and what types of restrictions should be placed on their deletion or reuse? What weight will be given to the wishes of the deceased themselves in this process, and how will this be determined?

‘In some ways, it is easier now to keep digital remains because the cost of storage is getting cheaper, but that might not always be the case. It is important to consider that in keeping digital remains we may be signing ourselves up for infinite costs,’ says Stokes.

‘Technology is also changing our relationship to the dead and our attitudes to death and bereavement.’

Sociologists tell us that cultures around death fall into either ‘transition’, where there is a break between the living and the dead, or ‘continuing bonds’, where the dead are always present. New technologies may force societies that have embraced social media into a ‘continuing bonds’ culture.

‘One of the big challenges is that technology is also offering new ways to blur the boundaries between life and death. Chatbots can use machine learning and artificial intelligence to depict a person saying things or performing actions that never occurred in reality,’ says Stokes.

‘If we replicate the dead like that, is it a way to remember them or is it simply replacing them? And if we are replacing them, are we saying that the people we love can be reduced to the roles they play in our lives?’



PILL TESTING

Doctor
**Andrew
Groves**

Pill testing is one of a range of harm reduction strategies that will help stop overdoses and deaths at clubs and music festivals.

Dr Andrew Groves, lecturer in Criminology in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, specialises in research on alcohol and other drug use, as well as related drug policies. In a recent publication in *Harm Reduction Journal*, he recommended the inclusion of pill testing into Australia's harm minimisation strategy.

SAVES LIVES

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The reality is that drug use occurs at music festivals regardless of the risks and it's important to use the practices we know work to ensure that young people do not come to harm as a result of this risky behaviour.

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‘The reality is that drug use occurs at music festivals regardless of the risks and it's important to use the practices we know work to ensure that young people do not come to harm as a result of this risky behaviour,’ says Groves.

The link between drugs and music festivals is well established, with several recent overdoses in Australia underlining this as a social and political issue. A feature of the pill testing debate relates to what is known about these dangerous

substances and how we can learn more. Australia's first pill testing trial at Canberra's 2018 Groovin the Moo festival found that people discarded pills that contained lethal additives. Pills were found to contain ingredients such as rat poison, paint and N-Ethylpentylone, a lethal drug that has caused overdoses globally.

Knowledge of these ‘adulterants’ is valuable for users in terms of consumption practices, but also for healthcare and support workers, hospitals, law enforcement agencies





and policymakers. Pill testing informs police about what is on the market, distribution networks, and precursor chemicals coming into Australia. Hospitals can similarly be prepared for overdoses and illnesses if they know the levels and types of drugs that are in the community, while empirical data can improve academic research and drug prevention planning.

'Pill testing should be part of a broad harm reduction strategy at festivals, one that includes medical assistance,

chill-out tents, and free water. These are all intended to ensure the safety of young people, knowing that they will take drugs at these events regardless of law enforcement efforts to stop them,' says Groves.

However, given the legacy of punitive policymaking and zero tolerance policing in Australia, combined with the moral subtexts of the (failed) 'war on drugs', demonisation of users and substantial misinformation about pill testing, the way forward is complicated.

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Testing analyses pill contents so the potential user can make an informed decision about consuming the drug.

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‘One of the criticisms of pill testing is that it encourages young people to use drugs, or that it is seen as a "green light" regarding the safety of the pills. That is not the case. Testing analyses pill contents so the potential user can make an informed decision about consuming the drug. Drug use is inherently social and cultural, so tackling drug use from a purely criminal justice and closing down festivals won't stop young people from taking drugs, but will push drug use into areas where it is more difficult to monitor,’ says Groves.

‘Data from Denmark and Switzerland show us that pill testing does work to minimise harm. When given feedback that pills contained unexpected ingredients, around two-thirds of people said they would not take the substance.’

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When given feedback that pills contained unexpected ingredients, around two-thirds of people said they would not take the substance.

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This parallels recent behaviour at Australia's Groovin the Moo festival.

Pill testing also allows health and support workers to establish contact and provide advice to young people, who generally don't seek support from other services. Unlike stereotypical depictions of people who use drugs at festivals, these are otherwise balanced, reasonable and intelligent members of the community.

‘These young people may be risk-taking, but they are also rational so it is important to start a conversation with them about staying safe and reducing harm when they are making decisions about drugs. The pill testing tent is a place where these conversations can happen without fear of the criminal justice system,’ says Groves.

‘We need to rethink the responses to illicit drugs and what "harm" is in the contexts of music festivals.’

‘We know that pill testing works to reduce harm – even a few pills thrown away is a positive result – but we need more evidence to encourage policy reform so that pill testing becomes an accepted tool in the harm reduction toolkit. In the present environment, trying to survey young people at a festival would be met with fear or reluctance,’ says Groves.

Pill testing is not a ‘silver bullet’ – it is not intended to be – but it can save lives.

MIRACLE MILK

Doctor
**Julie
Sharp**

Platypus milk has the potential to offer new treatments for bacterial infections that have become resistant to existing medications.

Dr Julie Sharp, Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Frontier Materials (IFM), has been researching the milk of monotremes – platypus and echidna – for the past 10 years.







Monotremes are unusual mammals because they lay eggs and do not have teats. The young are very underdeveloped and lack an immune system when they hatch, relying on their mother's milk for all aspects of development. They also use the most primitive form of lactation that is still in existence – the young lick the milk directly from the mother's belly where it is excreted like sweat.

'I decided to look at the milk of platypus because not much is known about it and I was curious to see what was in the milk that allowed this animal to survive despite its messy way of reproducing and feeding its young,' says Sharp.

'The young are exposed to a lot of microorganisms and the milk is their only source of nutrition and immune protection.'

Dr Sharp and her team looked at the top 20 proteins found in the milk and discovered five that had never been identified in any other milk, nor were they even similar to any known milk proteins.

'We tested one of the most highly expressed unknown proteins and found that it had antimicrobial properties. It acted to kill two

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I decided to look at the milk of platypus because not much is known about it and I was curious to see what was in the milk that allowed this animal to survive despite its messy way of reproducing and feeding its young.

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common bacteria – *staphylococcus aureus*, which causes golden staph infections; and *enterococcus faecalis*, found in faecal matter.

'We then looked at the structure of the protein to see if there was something about its shape that gave it its unique properties,' says Sharp.

Researchers at the CSIRO used a synchrotron to characterise the protein and found an unusual three-dimensional fold that they dubbed the 'Shirley Temple fold' due to its ringlet shape.

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We have only scratched the surface when it comes to the potential of platypus milk. We know there is another protein in the milk that also exhibits antimicrobial properties and acts on different microorganisms and we have not even tested the three other unknown proteins.

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‘The next step was to discover the mechanism by which the protein works and the role of the Shirley Temple fold. This may help us understand how this protein can be used as an antimicrobial in humans,’ says Sharp.

‘Proteins are very unstable and break down quickly when exposed to the body or during transport. In order for a protein to work as an antimicrobial, it needs to reach the site of infection intact. Until recently we had no way to achieve this.’

It was when Dr Sharp started working at Deakin’s Institute for Frontier Materials (IFM) on other projects that she found the solution to the protein delivery problem.

‘The researchers at IFM have developed short polymer fibres that can be used to stabilise proteins. The fibres surround the protein and protect it from breaking down. These fibres could allow the protein to be delivered via an injection, or

put into a cream, before breaking down themselves so that the protein can act at the site of infection.’

Infectious diseases are a leading cause of death worldwide and many bacteria that were once considered to be under control are developing resistance to existing drug treatments. Although there has been progress in recent years in the development of new drugs, most of these have been modifications of existing antibiotics rather than new chemical classes. The platypus protein is a completely new antimicrobial class.

‘We have only scratched the surface when it comes to the potential of platypus milk. We know there is another protein in the milk that also exhibits antimicrobial properties and acts on different microorganisms and we have not even tested the three other unknown proteins,’ says Sharp.

‘In the next five to 10 years there could be a platypus-derived antimicrobial cream on the market. That would be fantastic!’



DINGOES

COULD HELP

FIGHT EXTINCTION

Since Europeans arrived in Australia, at least 34 native mammal species have become extinct. That is more than in any other country in the world during the same time period and it is continuing unabated.



Associate
Professor
**Euan
Ritchie**

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We need an integrated approach that takes into consideration all the potential interactions between species and how that works at an ecosystem level.

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‘Most of Australia’s mammals are unique. They are an integral part of our identity as a nation and critically important ecologically. If they become extinct they are lost to humanity forever,’ says Dr Euan Ritchie, Associate Professor of Wildlife Ecology, School of Life and Environmental Sciences.

‘There are a number of reasons native mammals are becoming extinct. These include habitat destruction and modification, invasive species such as foxes and feral cats, and changing fire regimes.

‘To date, a lot of conservation and pest species management has been targeted at a single threat and doesn’t look at the big picture. We have relied on poisoning and shooting to control pest species, such as foxes, but it is clear that this has not always been very effective. We need an integrated approach that takes into consideration all the potential interactions between species and how that works at an ecosystem level.’

Dr Ritchie has been working with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, and Parks

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We have relied on poisoning and shooting to control pest species, such as foxes, but it is clear that this has not always been very effective.

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Victoria to help inform management of pest species, particularly feral cats and foxes. He and his fellow collaborators have proposed a novel idea based on the strategic use of fire regimes and dingoes to save our small native mammals from extinction.

‘Ecological systems are complex and we are now using sophisticated statistical modeling to determine how they operate and examine the consequences of particular management actions. It is challenging because it requires a lot of data on all the individual species and other

factors (e.g. fire) within a system, but once you have this information you can model different scenarios related to conservation and management goals.’

Dr Ritchie and his team, including former honours and now PhD student Billy Geary, and Associate Professor Dale Nimmo at Charles Sturt University, looked at the distribution of dingoes and foxes and two species of native rodents using camera traps in 21 different landscapes of the Big Desert-Wyperfeld region of Victoria.

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A native hopping mouse or a bandicoot might manage to survive a fire but then has fewer places to hide from hungry cats and foxes.

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They were able to create statistical models of the environmental factors that influence foxes and dingoes and look at potential interactions.

‘Fire management is critical because fire promotes grass growth, which attracts some native mammals such as kangaroos, but also potentially exposes others to higher predation risk because there’s less cover. A native hopping mouse or a bandicoot might manage to survive a fire but then has fewer places to hide from hungry cats and foxes. Our modeling shows that the presence of a larger predator, such as the dingo, in a recently burnt area in the Mallee might make foxes more cautious because they are also at risk while out in the open,’ says Ritchie.

Aside from humans, the dingo is the largest, land-based predator in Australia and before Europeans arrived dingoes occupied the whole of the mainland. Within Victoria, they are now largely restricted to the Alpine, Gippsland and Mallee regions because of habitat loss and, predominantly, direct lethal control to protect livestock. Dingoes are the main predator of grey kangaroos and feral goats in Victoria, which are now overabundant in many regions, and can cause severe overgrazing of native vegetation.

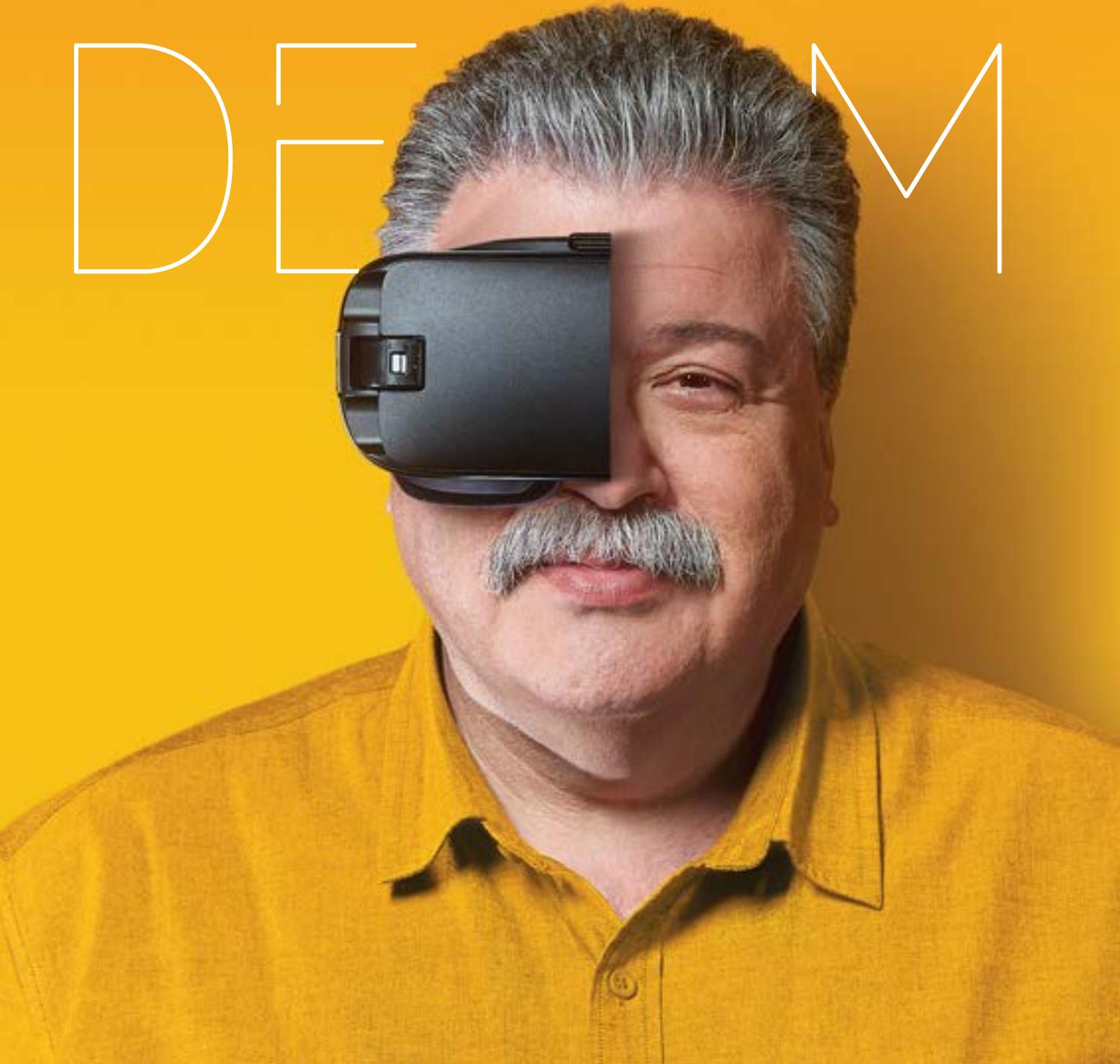
Dr Ritchie’s models suggest that recently burnt areas are preferentially used by dingoes, probably to hunt kangaroos that are attracted by the new plant growth, and the presence of the dingoes could deter foxes from entering the area and in turn hunting smaller native animals.

‘The next, crucial step is to test our model with an experiment. We could burn areas where dingoes are present or nearby, and in areas where they are absent, and see the impact on foxes and native wildlife,’ says Ritchie.

‘Once the experiment is completed, and if we determine our model is correct, we would also need to work with farmers to ensure that they are able to protect their livestock from dingoes in ways that are not lethal, for example, using guardian dogs and fencing.

‘Bringing dingoes back into some Victorian landscapes to help control foxes, kangaroos, feral goats, and potentially feral cats, pigs and deer, is certainly a bold and challenging idea, but it just might work!’

VIRT DEMM



UAL ENTIA

Professor

**Kon
Mouzakis**

**Professor Kon Mouzakis, CoDirector,
Applied Artificial Intelligence
Institute (A²I²), and his team are using
technology to transform dementia
care at home and in aged care facilities.**

Dementia currently affects 50 million people worldwide and is predicted to increase to over 130 million people by 2050. In Australia, it's estimated to affect more than 447,000 people. Almost 1.5 million people are involved in the care of people living with dementia in Australia and the cost to our economy in 2019 is estimated to be more than A\$15 billion.

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The app is an interactive experience that allows you to move through the rooms of a typical home and immediately see the elements that need to be changed to transform the house into a better place for a person with dementia.

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‘We have been working with Dementia Australia to improve the quality of life of people living with dementia by increasing the understanding of those who care for them,’ says Mouzakis.

‘Dementia Australia originally came to us with a problem. They knew that people with dementia could be supported to stay at home longer if a few adjustments were made to accommodate their symptoms. They had a website about how to create a dementia-friendly home, but it had a lot of information and not enough practical examples. We took the information from that website and created The *Dementia-Friendly Home* app.

‘The app is an interactive experience that allows you to move through the rooms of a typical home and

immediately see the elements that need to be changed to transform the house into a better place for a person with dementia. In the kitchen, you can look at the stove, cupboards or floor and see hotspots and make simple changes such as adding labels and pictures to cupboards or changing solid cabinet doors to glass.

‘The aim was to make it possible for people with dementia to stay in their own homes for as long as possible,’ says Mouzakis.

Following the success of this application, Dementia Australia asked A²I² to explore how technology could be used to train carers in aged care facilities. The aged care sector has expanded dramatically in recent years and one of the biggest issues is training people who care for the elderly.





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Using various lighting, sound, and other special effects, the application highlights how dementia can complicate a person's perception.

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'Dementia Australia and A²I² came up with EDIE (Educational Dementia Immersive Experience), a virtual reality application that puts the user in the shoes of a person living with dementia,' says Professor Mouzakis.

'EDIE aims to build empathy and raise awareness of the issues faced by those living with dementia by helping the user understand why someone with dementia might behave the way they do in certain situations.

'The view of EDIE's world came from people living in the early stages of dementia who were able to articulate what they were seeing and feeling. For example, when they looked at carpets with patterns they saw bugs moving across the floor.'

When the user puts on the VR goggles they step into the shoes of EDIE, a person with dementia, as he navigates to the bathroom during the night, trying his best to avoid disrupting his partner. The curtains aren't drawn, there is a storm outside and shadows appear in the room. Initially, EDIE forgets which door is

the bathroom door and goes into the wardrobe. When he manages to find the bathroom he won't go in because he thinks there is a hole where the mat is. Using various lighting, sound, and other special effects, the application highlights how dementia can complicate a person's perception. A second scenario demonstrates the simple changes that can be made to improve EDIE's quality of life.

EDIE has proved to be a cost-effective way to educate large numbers of people and has been picked up by dementia organisations in Canada, Singapore and the Czech Republic, and translated into Czech.

'At A²I² we have a unique group of individuals, including software engineers and games developers, and access to facilities such as the Deakin Motion Capture Lab, that allow us to create world-class applications from the initial concept through to the final product,' says Mouzakis.

'Our aim is to use technology to give our community something of value that will have a positive impact on their lives.'



Professor
**Kate
Buchanan**



Bird Song

Signals
Past Life
Conditions



Songbirds and humans have something in common that could help us better understand the impact of stress on speech and language development in childhood.

‘Birds and humans are the only two groups of animals that are known to have dedicated centres in the brain associated with vocal learning,’ says Professor Kate Buchanan, an avian behavioural ecologist at Deakin University’s Centre for Integrative Ecology. She has been working with zebra finches, an Australian native bird, to figure out how early life stress affects the way that birds learn and remember the songs they need to be successful adults.



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Birds and humans are the only two groups of animals that are known to have dedicated centres in the brain associated with vocal learning,

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Scientists rely on animal models to gain insight into many aspects of human development. Birds are a particularly good model for vocal development because their brains are wired in a similar way to those of humans.

‘Asking questions about whether an early life trauma affects the way the brain is wired is interesting both for understanding human speech development and also for predicting the impact of stressful conditions such as climate change on the survival of birds,’ says Buchanan.

Professor Buchanan and her team stressed young birds during the nesting period by reducing food intake or food predictability. They found that stressed birds were not as good at producing or learning their songs as birds that were not stressed in the nest.

‘Birds sing to defend their territory and to attract a mate. They learn their song from their father while they are in the nest. Stressed birds don’t show as strong a response to their father’s song, which means they don’t recognise it as well as non-stressed birds.



‘Stress appears to affect how neural connections form, and when and how auditory memories are created. We can look at the development of the brain of young birds to understand how early life trauma affects that process. It is not unreasonable to expect that the areas associated with speech and language development in humans may also be affected by stress,’ says Buchanan.

There is some research that shows that the language skills of children who have experienced abuse or

neglect are delayed, compared to children who have not experienced the same treatment.

In the bird world, adult females prefer males that have a complicated song because these males tend to be older, have a better immune system, better territory and can provide a high standard of care for offspring. Their offspring should have a greater chance of survival. But as the world warms under climate change, how and when birds learn their songs is likely to be affected.





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The field of epigenetics has taught us that populations can exhibit rapid evolutionary alteration in response to changes in their environment that affect how genes are expressed.

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‘As climate becomes more unpredictable there will be longer periods when it is not suitable for birds to breed. Birds need to be able to adapt to these rapidly changing conditions and song learning will be vital to coordinate breeding,’ says Professor Buchanan. ‘Environmental conditions will not always be optimal for a growing brain,’ she says.

Professor Buchanan and her team are also looking at whether the effects of early life stress are passed across generations. The team have bred a generation of birds that experienced stress to see if this affects the way their offspring sing or how well they remember their song. They are also assessing how the brains of the offspring respond to playback of song, in order to assess how well the birds have learnt.

‘The field of epigenetics has taught us that populations can exhibit rapid evolutionary alteration in response to changes in their environment that affect how genes are expressed. This is in contrast to changes to the genetic code which occur through selection. We hope to use vocal learning and stress to understand how bird populations respond to stress. The greater understanding we have of how stress affects generations of birds, the better our ability to ensure their survival.’



DEAKIN ADVANCEMENT

**A message from
Jimmy Buck**

Chief Advancement Officer

This is my first edition of dKin Magazine, and I am delighted and excited to share it with you.

I started at Deakin in early 2019 and I was immediately impressed by the calibre of researchers and alumni in our community. In each edition of dKin, we highlight alumni from our global network and share their stories and life since graduation. Deakin alumni have taken so many varied paths, it is important that this diversity and depth is both promoted and celebrated.

The importance of shared experience cannot be underestimated. It is the personal stories that inspire, make us reflect and even change our life attitudes and direction. I continue to look forward to meeting as many of you as I can.

I arrived at Deakin after roles in Boston, and Sydney, and I look forward to providing opportunities for our community to make an impact on the things that matter most to them through philanthropy and our alumni program.

The values of Deakin have really stood out to me, especially the emphasis placed on sustainability, both in looking after the environment and ensuring the future of education. I hope that during my time at Deakin I can strengthen our culture of giving and connection to the communities we serve. If you see me around campus or at an event, I encourage you to introduce yourself!

Photography:
Simon Fox

Location:
Melbourne Burwood Campus

CHANGE THE FUTURE.

‘

We believe that while you may not change the whole world, you can make a difference to someone's world in a very small way.

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Lifetime educators Professor Lawrence and Dr Pamela St. Leger's passion for education has created extraordinary gifts.

Education has provided more than just careers for long-time teachers and dynamic husband and wife duo Professor Lawrence (Lawry) St. Leger and Pamela (Pam) St. Leger.

It has also provided them with a lifelong passion and belief that education provides a way forward for making the world a better place where people are more thoughtful, critical and reflective.

This passion has led Lawry and Pam to confirm a gift in their wills that will fund the **Lawrence and Pamela St. Leger PhD Scholarship** in Deakin's Faculty of Health.

Following this important decision, Lawry and Pam got thinking about the impact of their gift and realised they would love the opportunity to see their gift in action. And so an additional living gift was born.

'We believe that while you may not change the whole world, you can make a difference to someone's world in a very small way,' Pam explained.

'We've seen how life can easily catch up with postgraduate students – whether it's kids or ageing parents or not having an income.

'If you can just free up some of those stressors for people – by helping them pay rent, or childcare, or whatever it may be – you're giving them every chance to complete their PhD.'

While Pam's expertise as a qualitative evaluator led her from a career in fashion design

to teaching in secondary schools to teacher education and later as a Senior Lecturer in Program Evaluation at The University of Melbourne, Lawry's journey from school teacher to Deakin University was less straightforward.

Lawry's expertise as a health promotion educator, researcher and consultant led to leadership roles in the Ministries of Education and Health before he arrived at Deakin University in 1988.

Lawry speaks fondly of his time at Deakin, particularly his role as Dean of the Faculty of Health, Medicine and Behavioural Sciences from 1995 to 2002 where he was a driving force behind the development of Deakin's Faculty of Health.

'I had a lot of trust placed in me by the then Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellor and I had a lot of freedom, which I really valued, and good people around me who I trusted,' Lawry said.

After lots of conversation and research, Pam and Lawry believe they have chosen the right place for their gift.

'We also know that what sets Deakin apart from a number of other universities – and Deakin isn't down the novice end of the pack, Deakin is moving rapidly up and with its size – is that it's incredibly innovative.

'The place is good and the research is exciting and we can definitely see how that gives the opportunity for the gift in our will to be used very wisely and with

a lot of opportunities for growth that wouldn't have happened without it.'

Pam and Lawry believe that conversations are key when it comes to planning for the future.

'A number of people have said to me, "Oh, can you send me the information about that? I must get onto that" because they can see the value in making a decision now rather than leaving it to somebody else.

'Having conversations with people opens up different ideas, different ways of thinking about what you might do and then you go away, and you think about it. I think that would be a really good first step – to just find out what excites you, what you're interested in, and what might be possible.'

At Deakin, we believe that leaving a gift in your will is an investment in the future of your community that affects far-reaching change for generations to come.



If you can just free up some of those stressors for people – by helping them pay rent, or childcare, or whatever it may be – you're giving them every chance to complete their PhD.



How can your Will power the next generation?

GIFTS IN WILLS



Your legacy will drive Deakin's future.



For more information
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