INTRODUCTION

The Helen & Geoff Handbury Fellowship Program is a community-university fellowship program that provides financial support to the Western Victoria region community members in partnership with RMIT University staff or students to undertake projects that provide a direct and tangible benefit towards the sustainability of the Western Victoria region and surrounds. The term “community” is not defined exclusively by geographic region, but also includes communities of interest, occupation, history, language, and others.

A number of fellowships are made each year available for both community and/or university members. A Helen and Geoff Handbury Fellowship will provide financial support and research partnerships for person(s) to conduct projects with outcomes that will contribute to the sustainable development of the Western Victoria region, and its communities in partnership with RMIT University. Sustainable development may include any one or a combination of economic, social, cultural, educational or environmental benefits. Projects that develop an ongoing
**SELECTION CRITERIA**

Applications will be accepted from individuals or a team. Applications that involve a research and/or educational partnership between RMIT University staff/student(s) and a community member(s) are particularly encouraged.

**General**

The proposed project will have the potential to provide outcomes that will contribute to the economic and/or environmental and/or social and cultural and/or physical sustainability of the Western Victoria region and its communities.

Clear evidence must be provided to indicate that the proposed fellow(s) have the necessary skills, experience and networks to undertake the project, or have access to such advice and links through community mentors and/or research supervisors and/or partners.

**Specific**

The Project will have the potential to:

- Engage local community support and participation.
- Strengthen effective linkages to particular areas of local expertise and/or research capacity, which can make a substantial contribution to regional development.
- Increase the provision of education and training in the region.

**Principles**

The following three principles should be addressed in all funding submissions:

1. An understanding that the focus of the project emerges from the community and therefore, the results of the project must flow back to the community and hence also improve the sustainability of the RMIT University-Western Victoria community partnership.
2. That any community-university partnership project should explain how it will undertake the project and who will be involved.
3. That the partners in such projects are involved in all stages of project development, implementation and evaluation. The degree of involvement may vary depending on community and university expertise and interest.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

- The Fellowship may support:
  - Time release for people from their normal employment or a stipend for individuals without a regular salary.
  - Travel and or research expenses associated with the project (conference travel will not normally be supported unless a special case is made).
  - Accommodation expenses associated with the project.
  - Materials and resources for research.

- The Fellowship will not support the purchase of capital equipment.

- The Fellowship program is not intended to provide supplementary support for ongoing Masters or Ph D candidates.

- Projects will normally be expected to be undertaken over a period of up to twelve months and may be undertaken either part-time or full-time. Projects that are linked to established community-university research, education and training themes and/or priorities in the region will be particularly encouraged.

- The amount of funding available for any one Fellowship will vary according to the need and scope of the project but is expected to be in the range of $10,000 to $40,000. A detailed budget is required as
part of the application and the Selection Committee reserves the right to modify budgets when considering the applications.

- Computing facilities will be available at RMIT Hamilton if required.

- Applications may have implications in respect of RMIT University’s Code of Ethics. Applications that are within this category will be sent to the Ethics Committee for clearance prior to consideration by the selection panel (for example, if they include interviews, taking photographs).

- RMIT University reserves the right to use the award winners names, project photographs, illustrations and reports in published materials and advertising connected to the University.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Successful fellows will be required to:

- Provide a written report on the project outcomes within one month of the agreed completion date.
- Provide a progress report midway through the proposed time frame and a final written report within one month of the agreed completion date, if the project is greater than six months duration.
- Present their findings at an appropriate public forum at an agreed date following the submission of the final report.
- Sign an appropriate funding agreement as negotiated for each project schedule/outcome

FUNDING AGREEMENT

Successful fellows will be required to enter into a funding agreement with RMIT with terms to be negotiated with each project.

APPLICATIONS

Applications (2 copies) marked Handbury Fellowship Application, should be sent to the:

Dr. Yaso Nadarajah
Senior Research Fellow
Globalism Research Centre
School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning
RMIT University

Building 37, Level 5, Room 28
411 Swanston Street
MELBOURNE VIC 33001

* By close of business Thursday 10 March 2011
Applications will only be returned if requested.
Potential applicants may seek further advice from:

**Dr. Yaso Nadarajah**  
Senior Research Fellow  
Globalism Research Centre  
School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning  
RMIT University  
Building 37, Level 5, Room 28  
411 Swanston Street,  
MELBOURNE VIC 3001  
Phone: (03) 9925 3542  
Fax: (03) 9925 3049  
Mobile: 0418 332 368  
Email: yaso.nadarajah@rmit.edu.au