Message from the Director

2008 was a year of expansion and development for RMIT. The launch of our new brand helped redefine RMIT, while the AU$500 million capital works program continued to provide our students and staff with world-class, state-of-the-art facilities.

From an international perspective RMIT’s world ranking, for producing work-ready graduates, gained greater recognition. This resulted from a survey of global employers conducted by the Times Higher Education Supplement.

Last but not least, record funding was achieved for our research, thanks in part to the launch of four new research institutes.

We recognise that these achievements were not made in isolation and that they were the result of RMIT’s community at large, of which you are a part. So thank you for your continued support throughout 2008. We look forward to working with you in 2009.

Michelle Hoodbhoy
Director, International Services
International and Development Portfolio

New sponsor joins RMIT

Welcome to Ms Maria Wally and her sponsor, The Government of Jayapura Regency Papua. This new sponsorship commenced in February 2008 to assist with local planning and development.

Mr Michael Wutoy, Head of Education and Training, explained ‘there are no restrictions on the areas of study available to students. Students select their study choice at interview and the government assesses this choice against the requirements of the local Papuan people.’

Maria is one of the first sponsorship recipients to commence her studies and the government clearly sees a future in her choice.

‘I love fixing computers and one day would like to become a computer programmer for a bank,’ Maria said.

‘RMIT has everything I need. I will study the associate degree for two years, then I will articulate into the Bachelor of Applied Science (Application Programming), and only have one year to study,’ Maria said.

We wish Maria well in her studies and look forward to working with The Government of Jayapura Regency Papua.

Welcome booth at the International Arrival Terminal at Melbourne Airport

During the week of 16–20 February at the International Arrival Terminal at Melbourne Airport the City of Melbourne will have a welcome booth for newly arrived international students, whereupon students will be provided with a Welcome Pack. The Welcome Pack has been designed to provide students with information they will need immediately upon arrival in Australia, to help them settle into Melbourne prior to enrolling and attending orientation. This information is intended to not duplicate the university orientation packs but rather enhance the students’ journey.

**Tips for sponsored international students**

Where to find help at RMIT…
Sponsored international students have access to a wide range of services at RMIT.

The International Student Service Centre assists current international students with complex enquiries such as student visa compliance issues and program changes. The Scholarships and Sponsorships Team is available to discuss specific issues relating to sponsorship. The team can advise students about documentation needed to accept their offer, change their program or extend their program. They can also provide information to the sponsor in regards to the students’ enrolment, fees and academic progress. Please contact us to make an appointment.

International Student Information and Support (ISIS) have a Sponsored Student Liaison Officer (SSLO) whose role is to support specific sponsored government students. Sponsored students should contact ISIS for personal and academic issues.

**New scholarship web site**
The International Scholarships and Sponsorships Team have a new web site with information on scholarships offered to international students and services provided for scholarship and sponsored students.

If an organisation wishes to add details of any scholarships they provide please contact us.

**Pathways take flight**
At RMIT, students not only benefit from a wide variety of study options and levels, but can also take advantage of the pathway opportunities available. Students can commence their studies at TAFE, obtain credit for the work completed, before moving on to higher education. Singapore’s Mohamed Riyaz explains his study experience as follows.

‘After I completed my three-year Diploma of Aerospace Technology at Singapore’s Ngee Ann Polytechnic, my intention was always to apply for a degree in aerospace engineering. Unfortunately, Singapore does not offer such a degree. I chose RMIT because it is internationally recognised and Australia was not as expensive as the UK and USA.

‘Because I had already completed my Diploma in Singapore, I was able to apply for exemptions in RMIT’s Bachelor of Engineering (Aerospace Engineering). So far the course is great and I am learning a lot about aircraft design and accident investigations. The lecturers and tutors are also very experienced, having worked for the Australian Defence Force, Boeing, Qantas and Malaysian Airlines.’

**RMIT collaborates with Design Victoria**
RMIT University is proud to announce that it has been selected to deliver three major components of the AUS$15 million Design Victoria Strategy, including the Business Ready Eco-design seminar and workshop series.

RMIT’s Centre for Design is considered a leader in eco design research, a process that examines a product’s life-cycle in terms of sustainability. Today’s designers are encouraged to employ a range of eco-design strategies that promote sustainability and environmentally friendly practices. The recent Urban Liveability Collective Exhibition is one example of RMIT’s involvement in sustainable design practices.

**Urban Liveability Collective Exhibition**
In conjunction with the RMIT Design Research Institute, Urban Liveability Program, Ella Aminaldin and her class participated in the Urban Liveability Collective Exhibition. This exhibition included work from ten design studios across RMIT’s architecture, landscape architecture and industrial design programs. Exhibitors were required to produce a design that was not only in line with their client’s specifications, but also worked towards improving environmental and social sustainability, while at the same time taking into consideration climate change and population growth.

‘My partner and I designed a small environmentally friendly retirement village of 15 units. While designing the village we worked towards a brief concerning sculpture in nature. The landscape was quite hilly and we were careful to ensure our design did not disturb the trees or require much excavation. We considered all the natural elements such as sun, wind and air circulation, and tried to keep the site as natural as possible,’ Ella said.

‘Showcasing my work in the Urban Liveability Collective Exhibition was definitely a highlight of my time at RMIT. It was great fun working with real clients on a real site.’

The Urban Liveability Collective Exhibition was open to the public in late 2008 and was held at Melbourne’s Yarra Sculpture Gallery.

**No change to selection criteria — Foundation Studies to Business programs**
Please be advised that, contrary to previous advice, students commencing a Foundation Studies pathway into a Business degree at RMIT will need an average of 65% (not 70%) from their best four academic subjects, including English, for guaranteed entry. Please disregard all previous communications received on this matter. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

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Closed programs
As programs reach capacity and we are no longer able to accept
students for the Semester 1 2009 intake, details will be posted on
the closed programs web site.

Offer letter changes — expiry dates and deposits
As per previous communications, all offers issued by the University
will now be made subject to program availability.
Previously, applicants were required to advise RMIT University of
their intention to study at RMIT by a nominated offer expiry date.
Now, prospective students will need to accept their offer and pay the
required deposit, not by the offer expiry date, but prior to the
program filling. Once a program has reached capacity, and therefore
closed, the offer letter issued to the student will no longer be valid.
As a result, students are encouraged to accept their offers as soon
as possible.
All forms and offer letters have been updated to reflect this change in
procedure. For further information please refer to the latest email
communication.

Enrolment dates
Some programs will have commencement dates that are different
to those listed below. These dates will be stated clearly in the offer
letter. Please ensure your students are familiar with their date, time
and venue.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2009</th>
<th>Enrolment</th>
<th>Commencement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TAFE</td>
<td>28 January</td>
<td>9 February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exception</td>
<td>18 February</td>
<td>2 March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Nursing (Advanced Standing)</td>
<td>28 January</td>
<td>2 February</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Academic results
Please note that Semester 2 results have been released.
Transcripts for students have been forwarded to their sponsors.
Please contact us if you have not received them.

Invoices
Invoices for Semester 2 have been forwarded to sponsors.
If your finance department’s contact details have changed
please let us know.

International delegations
RMIT University regularly hosts international delegations, including
those on study tours, exchange partners, government and business
groups. During the September to December 2008 quarter, we have
had the pleasure of meeting with the following individuals/
organisations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Individuals/organisations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>LOYOLA Institute of Business Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University of Mumbai</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>Ministry of Home Affairs</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Director General of Post and Telecommunication, Ministry of Communication and Information Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>Weizmann Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>INHA University</td>
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<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>Taylor’s University College</td>
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<td>UK</td>
<td>University of Northumbria</td>
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<td></td>
<td>University of Salford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>Hanoi National University of Education</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: RMIT University Protocol Office

What’s on RMIT’s web site?
2009 academic calendars
www.rmit.edu.au/academic-registrar/academic_calendars
Publications
www.rmit.edu.au/international/brochures
Programs and fees 2009
www.international.rmit.edu.au/info/programfees.asp
Refund policy
www.rmit.edu.au/international/refundpolicy
RMIT University Alumni information
www.alumni.rmit.edu.au
Scholarships web site
www.rmit.edu.au/international/scholarships

Newsletter feedback
We are keen for your feedback. Please address all comments and
queries to:
Sharon Yap
RMIT University, International Services
Manager, Research and Client Relations
Email: sharon.yap@rmit.edu.au
Tel: +(61 3) 9925 1540

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Fax: +(61 3) 9663 6925
Email: ISScholarships@rmit.edu.au
Web site: www.rmit.edu.au/international