Wake up call
National Science Week
15th – 23rd August 2009

www.rmit.edu.au
Bernie Hobbs

ABC Science broadcaster, New Inventors Judge, Environmentalist

Bernie Hobbs has always had a thing for science. And while she’s spent some time actually doing it, her real passion is for talking (and talking, and talking) about science. A former teacher and medical researcher, Bernie’s been talking, writing and having a beer or two over science at the ABC since 1997. Whether it’s through her weekly radio shows, The New Inventors, her award-winning websites, Science in the Pub or the children’s TV show, The Experimentals, her mission is to convert the “science equals yawn” crowd.

Clare Grandison

Environmental Science, Vietnam Project

Clare has always been fascinated with the biology of the natural environment and the human interaction with it. Since beginning the Environmental Science degree at RMIT she has had the opportunity to travel to Vietnam and take part in the undergraduate Environment Project Research Team. This project has allowed her to travel internationally as part of a multi-disciplinary student consultancy, research environmental issues in a global context, and engage with local communities.

In the summer of 2008/09 Clare was also awarded a three month Student Vacation Scholarship with the Defence Science Technology Organization. During this time she worked with the Environmental Compliance and Biotechnology Group on a biomimetics research project, investigating the anti-biofouling potential of extract of marine mussel shells. She has found it very inspiring to be able to work with an organization dedicated to scientific progression, and be exposed to the professional scientists engaged by DSTO.

Clare is currently studying Honours at RMIT.

Darren Pace

Chemical Engineering, Shell Australia

Prior to graduating from RMIT in 2006, Darren was an active member in the Association of Chemical Engineering Students (ACES). One of his biggest achievements was the development of a peer tutoring program – where senior year students would tutor junior year students. Since graduating from a combined Bachelor of Engineering (Chemical Engineering) and Bachelor of Business (Business Administration), Darren has been working in the oil industry, where he has spent the past three years working in liquid fuel production for ExxonMobil and Shell Australia.

Darren is a volunteer for Engineers Australia, serving as the first Young Engineers Australia Victorian Environment Officer in 2007–08. He is currently a national representative for the Victorian Young Engineers Committee.

In 2008, Darren co-authored an energy paper titled “A Sustainable Australia – reenergising the world”, which was short listed in the Inaugural National Energy Essay Competition.

Tanya Ha

Environmentalist

Tanya Ha is a writer, television presenter, environmentalist and sustainable living advocate. She is best known as the Eco Coach in the award-winning SBS reality TV series Eco House Challenge, and the author of the acclaimed eco-guide book Greeniology.

Warm, engaging and more hip than hippie, Tanya is a rare breed of environmentalist – one with a sense of humour. She makes complex environmental issues easy to understand and offers practical, accessible advice that people can incorporate into their lifestyle.

Tanya’s work currently focuses on writing books and feature articles, environmental communication consulting and other green media projects.

Tanya spent many years working for Planet Ark, a non-political, non-confrontational, unashamedly populist environment group that defines itself by what it’s for, not what it’s against. She also serves on the boards of the state government authority Sustainability Victoria and the green group Keep Australia Beautiful.