RMIT's Formula Hydrogen Car

The Guiness World Records lists this 450kg car as the smallest hydrogen-powered racer in its class.

How does it work? The fuel in the tank is hydrogen gas and the modified combustion engine burns the hydrogen to produce energy. Environmentally friendly, the only by-product pumped out of the twin exhaust pipes is water vapour. This innovative project has benefitted from the generous support of sponsors.

Front cover: Professor Felicity Roddick and RMIT Student Union President Jessica Hall championed this year’s annual appeal campaign.
This booklet recognises and thanks those people and organisations whose philanthropic support changed the lives of our students in 2009. In its pages we illustrate and celebrate the diverse ways in which this generosity has been expressed. I hope you find these profiles inspiring. I know that the students and staff at RMIT are heartened by the way this support helps them achieve their goals.

Most of the stories in the booklet, therefore, demonstrate support for various aspects of technology. RMIT is also distinguished by its close relationships with industry and this too is exemplified by many of the stories this year, with companies donating many millions of dollars of software, equipment and services to support teaching and research. I want to extend special thanks to the RMIT Foundation. Against the background of the global financial crisis, the RMIT Foundation managed to finish the year with greater assets than at the start, and made an increased distribution of grants, prizes, scholarships and research funding. Donors can gain great reassurance that their funds are well managed by the Trustees of the Foundation.

The University has a number of key strengths that exemplify our motto, Perita Manus Mens Exculta ("a skilled hand, a civilised mind") and in 2009 we chose to celebrate RMIT’s leadership in technology.

RMIT’s Equity and Access Scholarships received a considerable boost from the 2009 Annual Appeal. Each scholarship is a vote of confidence in that student’s ability and worth.

2009 also saw the formal launch of the RMIT SEEDS program – a student-led program of social entrepreneurship – where students and alumni act as volunteers both at home and overseas, using their professional skills to change individual lives and community outcomes for the better. The SEEDS program also benefited from funding from the Annual Appeal. It is gratifying that many of the students and alumni now volunteering as social entrepreneurs were once the recipients of scholarships, demonstrating convincingly the value of the original gift. In addition to the many individual donors to this program, we also thank those companies and not-for-profit organisations that have supported SEEDS projects.

The University has embarked on an ambitious capital building plan. This plan brings new buildings to support RMIT’s internationally excellent design research and education, and expanded learning and teaching facilities for all students. RMIT’s major heritage buildings, such as the Emily McPherson building, are the subject of major restorations. The restored Emily McPherson building will house the Graduate School of Business and Law. Such projects offer the opportunity of thanking those that originally donated to the infrastructure of the University and to engage new donors in creating exemplary spaces for teaching and research.

Every benefaction makes a difference. Each gift, no matter how small or large, contributes to our students and to the ability of the University to shape and better the community. To those who have given and continue to give to RMIT to support aspirations for better education and research to find answers to the issues that challenge us, I extend, on behalf of RMIT, sincere thanks.

Professor Margaret Gardner AO
Vice-Chancellor and President
The background to The Roy and Iris Simmons Award in many ways reflects the history of RMIT itself.

The Award was established by Dr Roy Simmons in gratitude for his education at RMIT, which led to a lifelong career in science and biochemistry.

Dr Simmons commenced his studies at RMIT (then the Working Men’s College), in 1919. Scholarship support throughout his studies led to his graduation in 1924 with a Diploma of Applied Chemistry.

What followed was an exceptional career path at CSL (then the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories), with Dr Simmons commencing as a laboratory assistant and retiring 47 years later as CSL’s Principal Scientific Officer.

During his career, Dr Simmons made outstanding contributions to the field of microbiology and to the understanding of blood groupings and transfusion safety. His work was recognised with the award of a Fellowship by RMIT (then the Melbourne Technical College) in 1945. Dr Simmons was also awarded the rare honour of Doctor of Science (honoris causa) in 1985 for his contributions to medical science.

He never lost sight of the “influences and activities that one comes to realise have been the means of moulding one’s professional and private life”, which he acknowledged in his valedictory address in 1960 to graduating students at RMIT.

Dr Simmons’ kind bequest to RMIT in his will in 1975 enabled an annual award to be established in 1982 within the School of Applied Sciences. With generous ongoing philanthropy by Dr Simmons’ daughters Margot Bergstrom, Patricia Stuart and Ann Simmons, the award has continued for more than 25 years and is one of the longest standing at RMIT.

In addition to her financial input, Mrs Ann Simmons remains closely involved with the award as a member of the Selection Committee. “The high calibre and dedication of all the nominees has been inspirational, and I hope that they, too, will go on to save and influence the lives of thousands of people world-wide as my father did,” Ann said.

The criteria for the award stems from Dr Simmons’ conviction that “the average diligent student can achieve success and international recognition by continuous study, and constant application to the task at hand”. Consequently, recipients are selected on qualities of leadership and community involvement as well as their academic results.

Ann Simmons continues her father’s great legacy.
The award is initially presented as a monetary grant to a selected second year student of Applied Chemistry. On successful attainment of their degree, the student receives a gold ingot. For the 10th and 20th anniversaries of the award, functions were held which gathered together past recipients. In a moving tribute to the impact of the award, one early recipient wore his gold ingot around his neck at both events, and continues to this day to proudly display his award.

“The influences and activities that one comes to realise have been the means of moulding one’s professional and private life.”  Dr Roy Simmons

Margot Bergstrom (left) and Ann Simmons with the inaugural award winner, Andrew Patterson, at the 20th anniversary celebration event for the award in 2003.

Dr Roy and Iris Simmons.

And the awardees say ...

1983 winner Andrew Patterson:
“The other three candidates were all academically more gifted than I was but I was pleased to be able to demonstrate how I could contribute to all of the criteria the award sought to recognise.”

2005 winner Jarry Abbas:
“Winning the award gave me the encouragement to work hard and achieve something special. Above all, I saw the award as motivation to follow Dr Simmons’ example and achieve great things in my career.”

With thanks
Argyle Print Pty Ltd
3AW Fairfax Radio Pty Ltd
3M Australia Pty Ltd
3MBS FM
A MacDougall & Co Pty Ltd
Australian Association of Clinical Biochemists
Abbott Diagnostics Division
Ms Philippa Abbott
Accenture
Access Paper Pty Ltd
ACP Magazines Pty Ltd
AD instruments Pty Ltd
ADG Communications Australia Pty Ltd
Advantage Direc Finance
Advertising Institute of Australasia
Aesop
The Age
Agfa-Gevaert Group
Agilent Technologies Australia Pty Ltd
Australian Institute of Landscape Architects
Australian Institute of Marine Science
Alcatel-Lucent Australia
Alcoa of Australia Pty Ltd
Aldenoccio Solicitors
Alfred Health (The Alfred)
Australian Library and Information Association Ltd
Allens Arthur Robinson
Allianz Australia Insurance Limited
Mr Mahathir B Alnashor
Attitude Private Wealth Pty Ltd
Amcor Limited
Ammoc Marketing
Mr Roy Andersen
Dr John T Andrews
Ms Wei Ling Ang
ANL Container Line P/L & ANL Singapore Pte Ltd
ANZ
The Australian Power Institute
Architects Registration Board of Victoria
ARC Australian Research Network for Advanced Materials
Australian Centre for RF Bioeffects Research
Architecture Media Pty Ltd
Architectus Melbourne Pty Ltd
Australian Radio Communications Industry Association Inc
Arthur Roe & Associates Pty Ltd
ASA
ASAP Cosmetics
Association of Consulting Surveyors (Victoria)
Atchison Consultants
Australian Teachers of Media Victoria
Aurecon Australia Pty Ltd
The Australian Ballet
Austin Health Victoria
Austock Group Limited
Australian Trade Commission
Australia Post
Australian and New Zealand Map Society Inc
Australian Computer Society Inc
Australian Human Resources Institute
Australian Industry & Defence Network
Australian Institute of Conveyancers (Victorian Division) Inc
Australian Institute of Export
Australian Institute of Radiography
Australian Marketing Institute
Engine giant Rolls-Royce is one of a number of companies giving RMIT students the chance of a lifetime to gain international work experience.

Rolls-Royce and RMIT have an ongoing partnership in which students contribute to the combat jet F136 program based in Indianapolis, while acquiring invaluable experience in the international business arena.

After finishing a one-year internship with Rolls-Royce, RMIT Aerospace Engineering and Business Management student Nick Bradley was selected to participate in the 2009 International Scholar Laureate Program (ISLP). The prestigious program was held over 10 days in Boston, New York and Washington, DC.

"The knowledge I gained from my time at Rolls-Royce and my involvement in ISLP has given me real-life experience in understanding how to be the leader of an international team, how to analyse your product in competitive sales environments, and most of all how to operate within a leading global organisation," Mr Bradley said.

Jim Payton, Deputy Director Business Development for the GE Rolls-Royce Fighter Engine Team, said Mr Bradley had done an outstanding job with the F136 program, making significant contributions to the entire team while also being a pleasure to work with.

"His acceptance into the ISLP was a well-deserved honour for this future leader in the aerospace industry," Mr Payton said.

Each year, up to 200 students are sent on industry placements around the world under the RMIT International Industry Experience and Research Program (RIIERP) to gain experience in their chosen field and an insight into different cultural and work ethics. There are 165 participating companies in 16 countries, mainly in Europe and North America, but also in Asia and Japan.

RIIERP Director, Professor Sylvester Abanteriba, said RMIT was committed to providing graduates with a global passport – a qualification arising not only from an internationalised curriculum, but one that incorporates first-hand experience of world’s best practice.

---

Smart Cricket Bat

A new high-tech cricket bat that reduces the ‘zinging effect’ felt by big-hitting batsmen could be on the market soon, thanks to RMIT’s Sabu John.

Mr John has patented the world’s first cricket bat with active vibration control, which will reduce the reverberation felt by batsmen by up to 42 per cent. The secret to beating the ‘zinging effect’ is in the high-tech bat’s handle. It uses electro-mechanical sensors and actuators to attenuate the vibrations that the batsman experiences when the ball hits the sweet spot.
RMIT's science graduates have some of the highest employment rates in Australia, due in no small part to the work-integrated learning opportunities and support offered by companies such as CSL Bioplasma.

During 2009, the University placed 33 final year undergraduate students in a diverse range of pharmaceutical industry internships across Victoria and the ACT. These placements were underpinned by endowments to the RMIT Foundation, which provides bursaries to support students during their placement year. In 2009, CSL Bioplasma contributed more than $100,000 towards the provision of these bursaries.

Since 1997 Dr Joseph Bertolini, Research and Development Manager at CSL Bioplasma, has mentored and trained RMIT science students in carrying out special projects within a laboratory environment.

“The students are integrated seamlessly into the lab,” Dr Bertolini said. “We give them real work to complete—they are not treated as students. They are able to learn a lot about experimentation within a working laboratory and to find out first-hand about the unique nature of the pharmaceutical industry.”

RMIT alumnus Ms Zaheda Roma is now working full time at CSL Bioplasma as a Laboratory Scientist, having completed her work placement there in 2008. “It was great to be able to get on-the-job training at such a well-regarded company as CSL,” she said. “I was given plenty of opportunities to contribute and was made very welcome. It gave me a good insight into testing processes and helped me confirm which direction I should take in my career.”

CSL Bioplasma views its long-standing commitment to the professional placements as part of its corporate responsibility in developing the skills and knowledge of tomorrow’s scientists.

Dr Bertolini said: “During their time with us, the students are able to develop their scientific, organisational and communication skills, which helps them on their way towards employment within the industry—and there’s every chance we might employ them in the future. In many cases, they also gain the confidence and motivation to pursue doctoral studies.”
Advertising meets technology

RMIT students Jason Deacon and Ebony Holmberg became the first Australians to win the prestigious Cannes Future Lions student advertising competition. The students developed an engaging video clip campaign for online travel agency Expedia, which depicted teams of young people using a mobile phone GPS application and racing around Melbourne’s iconic sights to find a hidden code to win a free trip from Expedia.
A Belgium-based technology partner for the automotive and aerospace industries is taking a leading role in the establishment of a collaborative research centre with potential benefits for students and for the local industry. RMIT students will be the winners in a joint venture between the University and LMS International, a global leader in simulation and testing technology. With substantial input from LMS, RMIT has established an Australian Centre of Expertise in Noise, Vibration and Harshness (nVH).

The nVH centre is set to become an innovative model for academic and industry engagement. Its activities will consist of education and research, with RMIT students also given the opportunity to undertake internships at LMS International’s offices world-wide.

LMS is providing equipment at significantly reduced cost and donating specialist software to the centre, as well as facilitating technical input through the involvement of their expert staff.

Boris Marrone, LMS International’s South-East Asia/Pacific Area Manager, said this was a first in Australia.

“As a world-wide engineering innovator for companies in the automotive, aerospace and other advanced manufacturing industries, LMS is able to play an important role in keeping the local industry up to speed with what is happening around the globe.”

“We are keen to support the industry in Australia by enabling the use of our equipment, providing regular technology updates, and offering seminars for students and industry professionals,” Mr Marrone said.

For students, this will mean the opportunity to engage in work-simulated learning and research activities using state-of-the-art equipment with the involvement of industry experts.

Head of RMIT’s School of Aerospace, Mechanical, and Manufacturing Engineering, Professor Aleksandar Subic, said “The partnership provided a new way for industrial partners and universities to undertake joint research activities and develop a complementary expertise in a specialised area of strategic importance, both nationally and internationally.”

**Good Vibrations**

The original Six Pack Esky was designed by RMIT alumnus Edward Kayser. Released in 1984 by plastics manufacturer Nylex, the Esky is still in production today and more than 800,000 units have been sold. To many, the trusty Esky is as familiar in their home as an old friend. RMIT boasts the longest running Industrial Design course in Australia, so it is perhaps not surprising that so many industrial designers of influence have hailed from RMIT.
For almost a generation, young scientists have had a chance to try their hand at experiments and advanced technology, thanks to the commitment of Siemens Australia to education and innovation.

Now in its 16th year at RMIT, the Science Experience is a national program providing science activities and presentations across dozens of universities for hundreds of students entering Year 10.

Over three days in January, students discover the many fields of science by taking part in short lectures and hands-on workshops. From the first program in 1990, the program has given students a chance to get a feel for university and a career in areas from forensic biochemistry to computer science and engineering.

Siemens has been the key sponsor of this program from its early days until 2009, and has been instrumental in the long term success of the program. The strategy has addressed the challenge to meet Australia’s future skills shortages. It has encouraged high school students to pursue a career in science and technology and make appropriate choices at secondary level for a scientific career.

RMIT Program Coordinator Nick Besley said the program provides an invaluable opportunity for students to mix with science experts and undergraduates.

“The event is run by academics and professionals who love science,” Mr Besley said. “It’s a fun way for students to investigate a possible career path in science and to find out about the many directions they can pursue by studying science.”

The 2009 program included experiments in Chinese medicine, nursing, biotechnology and medical radiations, as well as a range of activities in hematology, medical imaging and human anatomy.

With thanks:

- Flower and Garden Show Ltd
- Focus Paper (Aust) Pty Ltd
- Ford
- Fosham Wealth Advisors
- Formfile Records Management Group
- Ms Kathy Fox
- Mr Terence Francis
- Frankpile Australia Pty Ltd
- Franklin Web
- Dr Ian Fraser
- Miss Kate A Freeburn
- Freudenberg Pty Ltd
- Fuji Xerox
- Fundraising Institute Australia
- FW Holt & Co
- GA Financial Services
- Professor Margaret Gardner AO
- Gabbett Machinery Pty Ltd
- General Television Corporation Pty Ltd
- Generation-e
- Genetic Health Services Victoria
- Geyer Design Melbourne
- GHD Pty Ltd
- Mr R D Gibson
- Gilham Financial Management
- Dr Jane Gilmour
- GK Aerospace Engineering Services Pty Ltd
- GlaxoSmithKline Australia Pty Ltd
- Glenora Weaving
- Global Consulting Services
- Global Medical Solutions
- GM Holden Ltd
- Goldman Sachs JBWere
- Mr Amit Golwala
- Ms Janet Le Good
- Gorman Industries
- Goulburn Valley Health
- GPLA Financial Solutions Pty Ltd
- Graduate Management Association of Australia
- Grafe Scientific Pty Ltd
- GrantReady
- Ms Natasha Greco
- Mr Bill Geffen
- Gregory Australia Ltd
- Grey Worldwide Pty Ltd
- Grimsey & Associates
- Groundtruth Mapping Systems
- Speech Recognition Australia Pty Ltd
- GST Australia
- GSK
- The Guild Group Holdings Limited
- Mr Radhey S Gupta
- Hafele Australia Pty Ltd
- Hagameyer Lifestyle Brands
- Hall & Wilcox Lawyers
- Hamburg Sud Australia Pty Ltd
- Hamilton Morello Pty Ltd
- Mr Rick S Harrison
- Hassell Architecture
- Mr Ronald Haverman
- Hawker de Havilland
- Head and Humphreys Land Consultants
- HEIA Inc (Vic)
- Heidelberg Graphic Equipment Ltd
- Mr L Heinrich

Year 10 students taking part in the Siemens Science Experience program at RMIT.
Boeing is the world’s leading aerospace company and the largest manufacturer of commercial jetliners and military aircraft combined.

Their support of RMIT University over the last 10 years has ranged from research into advanced composite structures, to providing awards and scholarships to aviation and engineering students.

These awards and scholarships are now part of a University Relations model that Boeing Australia offers to universities nominated as Focal Universities by the company.

Adnan Raghdo, Boeing Engineering and Quality Director, said: “Our long involvement with RMIT is very important. RMIT is an industry partner aligned with the company’s core business and we are proud to be able to be involved with the University’s programs, students and staff.”

“Boeing’s scholarships at RMIT provide opportunities for both regional and rural students and for female students who may otherwise miss out on an engineering career. It’s critical that we support and help these students to improve diversity in the workforce.”

Boeing is also committed to promoting cutting-edge technology in the aviation and engineering industries and to supporting the best engineers entering the workforce.

RMIT’s Assistant Director, Global Business Development, Matthew Miller said: “The scholarships that Boeing awards our students are fantastic. The students really appreciate them and the scholarships help them on their way financially.”

For Boeing, the highlights of supporting RMIT have included providing travel bursaries to give students the opportunity to experience the US aerospace industry, and working with RMIT to develop an outreach program to increase students’ knowledge of aerospace and engineering at an early stage in their high school education.

Mr Raghdo said: “Reaching young people at school to introduce them to the idea of an engineering career, and then encouraging them to explore study paths at RMIT, is very inspirational for everyone involved.”

RMIT student and scholarship recipient Caleb White dwarfed by an engine at the Boeing production facility in Seattle, USA.
Aruna Devi, RMIT Master of Laboratory Medicine student, hopes to help the wider community through her work and research.
The Medical Radiations Research Group (MRRG) at RMIT is able to further its groundbreaking experiments in the treatment of cancer and other diseases after IDB Holland generously donated a Germanium68/Gallium68 Generator worth $42,000.

The product, which is used in Positron Emission Tomography (PET), offers hope to cancer sufferers by improving detection rates of hard-to-find tumours, as well as monitoring the success rate of the treatment.

According to RMIT’s Associate Professor Simon Cowell, IDB Holland’s donation enabled MRRG to enrol a full-time PhD student to research ways of making better, smarter drugs.

“One of our projects is enhancing chemotherapy drugs, such as herceptin, by making them radioactive, so you can use medical imaging to see exactly where it is going. You can use the radioactivity to treat the tumour and that’s much more targeted than, say, radiation therapy.”

The compact, portable product works by generating its own radioactive pharmaceuticals, removing the need for a cyclotron – the expensive machine that makes the radioactivity for use in PET – on site. According to Professor Cowell, this could make cancer imaging a lot more accessible, especially in remote regions.

The generator is located at the MRRG laboratory at RMIT’s Bundoora Campus. Research projects have also been carried out in conjunction with the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA).

“This is a great opportunity for us to have scientists look at the product and share their experiences with us,” IDB Holland’s Marketing Manager Philippe Van Overeem said.

Professor Cowell added: “The donation of this generator enables us to actually run a particular group of experiments and allows us to present some work that is quite unique in Australia.”

The generator is located at the MRRG laboratory at RMIT’s Bundoora Campus. Research projects have also been carried out in conjunction with the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA).

“The generator enables us to actually run a particular group of experiments and allows us to present some work that is quite unique in Australia.”

According to RMIT’s Associate Professor Simon Cowell, IDB Holland’s donation enabled MRRG to enrol a full-time PhD student to research ways of making better, smarter drugs.

“One of our projects is enhancing chemotherapy drugs, such as herceptin, by making them radioactive, so you can use medical imaging to see exactly where it is going. You can use the radioactivity to treat the tumour and that’s much more targeted than, say, radiation therapy.”

The compact, portable product works by generating its own radioactive pharmaceuticals, removing the need for a cyclotron – the expensive machine that makes the radioactivity for use in PET – on site. According to Professor Cowell, this could make cancer imaging a lot more accessible, especially in remote regions.

The generator is located at the MRRG laboratory at RMIT’s Bundoora Campus. Research projects have also been carried out in conjunction with the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA).

“This is a great opportunity for us to have scientists look at the product and share their experiences with us,” IDB Holland’s Marketing Manager Philippe Van Overeem said.

Professor Cowell added: “The donation of this generator enables us to actually run a particular group of experiments and allows us to present some work that is quite unique in Australia.”

According to RMIT’s Associate Professor Simon Cowell, IDB Holland’s donation enabled MRRG to enrol a full-time PhD student to research ways of making better, smarter drugs.

“One of our projects is enhancing chemotherapy drugs, such as herceptin, by making them radioactive, so you can use medical imaging to see exactly where it is going. You can use the radioactivity to treat the tumour and that’s much more targeted than, say, radiation therapy.”

The compact, portable product works by generating its own radioactive pharmaceuticals, removing the need for a cyclotron – the expensive machine that makes the radioactivity for use in PET – on site. According to Professor Cowell, this could make cancer imaging a lot more accessible, especially in remote regions.
With statistics revealing that food and beverage industries supported 14,000 new jobs in 2008, a number of industry partners are taking an active role in supporting RMIT’s Food Science program and encouraging its best and brightest students.

Food and agribusiness are fast emerging as Australia’s biggest growth sectors. That potential was backed in 2009 by key RMIT food industry partners, who worked closely with the University’s Food Science program and sponsored scholarships for promising young students.

Mr Philip Corbet, Quality and Technical Group Manager at Simplot Australia, believes strongly in the need for industry to support high quality education in food science.

“It is essential to have people who know what to do and how to do it, particularly in adverse climatic conditions,” he said. “We operate in a global market, and we must be able to operate efficiently and effectively if we are to be competitive.”

“The Food Science program is critical to the industry, as it produces high quality, work-ready graduates. Some university courses are very academic, but the RMIT Food Science program focuses on demonstrated output. The industry requires people who are able to take in information, process it and apply it in a useable way.”

“As a significant player in the Australian food industry, Simplot believes it is in our interests to support the existing training programs,” Mr Corbet said. “And it is very rewarding to be able to recognise and reward talented students through the annual scholarships.”

With funding provided by industry partners, RMIT offers scholarships to the top first-year students that support the students through to graduation.

Professor Mann of the School of Applied Sciences said, “The companies involved with these scholarships have a long history of supporting our Food Science students, and we’re very grateful for their continuing commitment to RMIT.”

The winners of the 2009 scholarships were:

**Consumer Science:**
- Tania Hosking – McCormick Foods Australia Scholarship
- Elizabeth Rose Hutchinson – Nestlé Australia Scholarship

**Food Technology and Nutrition:**
- Mei Nixon – HJ Heinz Australia Scholarship
- Lauren Zuidema – Simplot Australia Scholarship
- Amy Williams – Cadbury-Schweppes Scholarship

**With thanks**
- Klepner’s Jewellers
- Knog
- Kodak International Pty Ltd
- Kodak Jewellers Supplies
- Kooskas Country Cookies
- KPMG
- Kraft Foods Limited
- KSL Legal
- Kyoko
- Lakeside Consultants
- Landmark Computers
- Lantibeuf Medical Imaging
- Larder Fresh
- Law Institute of Australia
- Lawler Draper Dillon Chartered Accountants
- Lawvale Pty Ltd
- Lectra Australia Pty Ltd
- Ms Mun Shiu Lee
- Leo Burnett Pty Ltd
- Mr-Taylor Calitty Leihlean
- LexisNexis
- Mr William S Lim
- Linen House
- Listech Pty Ltd
- Logistics Association of Australia
- London Partners Pty Ltd
- L’Oreal
- L’Oreal Melbourne Fashion Festival
- Ms Xinghui W Lu
- Lynton Crabb Photography
- Magtrade Plus
- Mr Telska Maluma
- Manhattan Group
- Mr Chad N Mannisto
- Map Land
- Mapping Sciences Institute Australia
- Mr Robert Marin
- Marino Constructions Management
- Mario Group
- Marsh Insurance
- Mathews Timber Ptd Ltd
- Mattel
- Maxus Australia Pty Ltd
- McBirnie-Charles Ryan
- McCormick Foods Australia Pty Ltd
- McGrathNicol
- McGraw-Hill Australia Pty Ltd
- Ms Elizabeth McKenzie
- MDB Business Advisors
- Media Super Printing
- The Media Entertainment & Arts Alliance
- Medibank Private
- Medical and Dental Accounting Pty Ltd
- Mr Saumit Jayesesh Mehta
- Melbourne Artist Supplies
- Melbourne City Council
- Melbourne Health
- Melbourne Magistrates Court
- Melbourne Pathology
- Melbourne Recital Centre
- Melbourne Survey Supplies
- Melton Shire Council
- Mercedes Benz
- Metropolis Bookstore
- Michelin Australia

**Scholarship winner Emma Roulston and McCormick Foods Technical Director, Fritz Meyer.**

**RMIT student Jeane Baird receives her scholarship from Philip Corbet, Quality and Technical Group Manager, Simplot Australia.**
With climate change, drought and the global economy posing major challenges for rural areas, The Ian Potter Foundation is building on its 25-year commitment to regional and urban communities.

In a new partnership with RMIT, the Foundation is establishing The Potter Rural Community Research Network, which will drive research into how rural enterprises and communities can best respond to uncertainty and increasingly complex challenges.

Based in the Southern Grampians, the network is aimed at drawing together leaders in the local region and establishing links to key Australian and international sources of rural research and innovation, with a focus on better farming and rural development policy and practice.

“The Foundation has had a strong working relationship with RMIT Hamilton over a number of years through the evaluation of The Potter Farmland Plan and the development of the PFP archives,” said Mrs Janet Hirst, Chief Executive Officer of The Ian Potter Foundation.

“This project will build on the experimental learning and collaborative approach of the PFP in a structured and sustainable way.”

RMIT Hamilton operates a regional research and learning centre in the Southern Grampians region. Dr Paul Collits, RMIT’s Regional Development Research Fellow, said: “The community-focused research agenda is the first of its kind in the region, and also creates a new platform as part of RMIT Hamilton’s growing focus on rural futures.”

The project, which is also supported by the Handbury Trust, will run over three years with the aim of developing an ongoing network and long-term outcomes for the region.

“TRUSTS AND FOUNDATIONS

SOLUTIONS TO RURAL CHALLENGES

The Ian Potter Foundation is working to address degraded landscapes in rural areas.”
COLLABORATIVE LEARNING

UNZIPPING THE FUTURE OF FASHION

The Young Essentials Project (YEP) is an integral component of the Diploma of Product Development and Merchandising at RMIT University.

The project was initiated to complement this two-year diploma, and to provide students with the opportunity to work to a commercial brief for key Australian fashion retailers. YEP Coordinator, Ms Robyn Lyons says it provides an opportunity for close integration and communication between key industry and educational partners.

“This annual project allows students to have the unique opportunity to acquire skills and build their employment capabilities. We are delighted to be able to work with such iconic Australian fashion brands as Sportsgirl, Target and Country Road, who take this project very seriously. They provide generous annual sponsorship – we are extremely appreciative," she said.

For the past two years, Target has been a major sponsor of YEP. Target Australia Marketing Manager, Murray Chenery, says that it is great to see so much passion and energy about design and fashion from students and teachers at RMIT. “The students’ work is of a consistently high standard and RMIT should be congratulated on developing our fashion designers of the future. YEP provides Target with a unique opportunity to help support Australia's fashion designers of tomorrow.”

Gavin Gage, Apparel Buying Manager at Sportsgirl, says he has been associated with the RMIT YEP project for the past five years and he is constantly amazed at the fashion concepts created by the students. “This project is without doubt the most impressive alignment between fashion retail and fashion design students in Australia. The vision, creativity and inspiration delivered by the students and teachers is intoxicating and valued greatly by the Sportsgirl brand.”

Winners of the Young Essentials Project 2009

- **Target Australia**: Brief – ‘Destination Youth’
  Winning group: Juventas
  (Cassandra Varigos, Lynh Nguyen, Ashleigh Templar, Miranda Glennon, Hitomi Pratt, Emma Rosenhain, Labiba Latiff, Angeline Mugamu)

- **Country Road**: Brief – ‘A sub brand for denim’
  Winning group: Divinitus
  (Taisha Achilles, Julieanne Forbes, Angie Hanna, Emily Holdsworth, Samantha Hunt, Kishori Purcell, Natalie Saccaro, Mandeep Sharma, Sabrina Suljicicov)

- **Sportsgirl**: Brief – ‘A rewind range’
  Winning group: Timberly
  (Chloe Brooks-Dowsett, Kari Layton, Rebecca Spiller, Emily Healey, Sofia Pace, Jade Moroney, Erin Hodge, Chee Nam Wan)

RMIT students gain invaluable experience while participating in the Young Essentials Project.

With thanks

Microchip Technology Australia
Microsoft
Mr Martinus S Van Mierlo
Mineral Deposits Ltd
Minuteman Press
Mirenesse Cosmetics
Mitchell Communication Group
MIQ Ltd
Ms Kate Moloney
Monahan + Rowe Lawyers
Ms Diana Morgan
Morris Cohen Glen & Co
Morrows Pty Ltd
Mortice & Tenon Australia
Muller Martini Australia
Mr Joel Murray
Murray Goulburn Co-operative Co Ltd
Mr Andrew Murrowood
The Mushroom Group
Myer Family Office Pty Ltd
NanoVentures Australia Pty Ltd
National Australia Bank
National Fire Industry Association
National Institute of Accountants
Natures Organics
Nestlé Australia Ltd
Network Ten Limited
Neuroscience Trials Australia
New Model Beauty Queen
Mr Quack Siew Ng
Nicole Mallalieu Design
Nike
Nissan
Nortel Networks Australia Pty Ltd
Note Printing Australia
Nucletron Pty Limited
Nucleus Network
Nugents Pty Ltd
Mr Graeme H O'Brien
Qebus Landscape Architecture
Olympus Imaging Australia Pty Ltd
OneStop
Open Universities Australia
Oicaia Foundation
Orica Australia Pty Ltd
Origin Energy
Ortho-Clinical Diagnostics
Outward Bound Australia
Mr Inderjeet S Pabla
Pacific Brands
Pacific Personnel
Pagrave Macmillan
Paperlinx Office
Particle & Surface Sciences Pty Ltd
Pattech Pty Ltd
Mr Michael K Patton
Pearson Education Australia
Mr Heimut Pekarek
Percepta
Perkin Elmer Pty Ltd
Perrett & Associates Pty Ltd
Percepta
Peter MacCallum Hospital
Philip Morris (Australia) Ltd
Photomapping Services Pty Ltd
RMIT students and researchers have access to leading-edge satellite communications technology thanks to the support of a world leader in networking solutions, ITC Global.

The company has provided the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering with an industry standard two-way earth terminal, making RMIT the only Australian university to receive full access to its global communications network via a number of geosynchronous satellites.

Discipline Head of Communication Engineering at RMIT, Associate Professor James Scott, said the company’s generous sponsorship will enable students and researchers to gain a practical understanding of the challenges involved in operating live satellite links.

“Our students will be learning the skills they will need for their careers by working on the latest generation of systems that are used in the industry. We can now conduct teaching and research experiments that involve actual uplinking to working satellites.”

“ITC Global’s support will not only enhance RMIT’s research capabilities in satellite communications, but will also enable our graduates to hit the ground running when they head into the workforce,” he said.

Discussions have already begun with ITC Global on possible joint research and development projects.

Manager of ITC Global’s Australian Operations and an alumnus of RMIT’s Master of Telecommunication Engineering program, Chris Hill, said the quality of the University’s programs deserved strong industry support.

“We are very keen to cultivate strength in satellite communications education and research in Australia, and RMIT is one of the few universities in the country that works to develop highly-skilled graduates in this area.”

“The system RMIT students and researchers will work with is the same as our clients use in Australia and around the world,” said Mr Hill.

Associated Professor James Scott with ITC Global’s Chris Hill and RMIT’s Michael Mann at the ITC Global satellite earth terminal at RMIT City campus.
RMIT's Renewable Energy Park

Current student research in sustainable engineering includes solving water supply problems through solar desalination and designing green cars that use solar electricity and hydrogen.

RMIT is committed to environmental sustainability and fair trade practices.
A special purpose training facility is born out of a shared commitment to advancing the technical skills of today’s and tomorrow’s workforces.

The Australian industries reliant on automation have faced significant challenges in recent years, but huge opportunities continue to emerge in advanced manufacturing and automated operational systems. That potential is being backed by SAGE Didactic, the training arm of Australia’s largest privately owned integrator of automation technology.

SAGE Didactic has provided access to millions of dollars worth of equipment for use in automation and mechatronics education and training modules.

The new training facility, which was unveiled on RMIT’s Bundoora campus in March 2009, is equipped with SAGE’s Targeted Technology Introduction Modules (TTIM) system. It will be used for industry training as well as for the development of work-integrated learning programs in RMIT’s School of Aerospace, Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering.

TTIM won the President’s Award at Engineers Australia’s 2008 Engineering Excellence Awards, and the collaboration between SAGE and RMIT has been nominated for an Australian Business/Higher Education Round Table award.

The learning programs made possible by the relationship between SAGE and RMIT dramatically raise graduates’ work-readiness. Peter Dawson, Chief Executive Officer of SAGE Didactic, said: “To the graduate, it means a greater sense of self-worth by enabling them to contribute more quickly within the workplace. The benefits to SAGE as an employer include higher productivity and happier, more fulfilled employees.”

“RMIT and SAGE are working together to deliver common outcomes in skills training, utilising industry best practices to produce work-ready graduates,” RMIT’s Professor John Mo said.

The training program combines theory and hands-on activities with problem-based learning to enable students to learn innovative systems-designed approaches in the context of real industrial situations.

Professor Mo added: “Having access to these award-winning industrial automation technologies will enable RMIT staff to develop internationally reputable laboratories, thereby fostering collaborative research and excellence in teaching.”
RMIT’s 2009 Annual Appeal was a great success, with the value of contributions having increased significantly on the 2008 Appeal; this despite a back-drop of tough economic conditions.

As part of the 2009 Annual Appeal campaign, the University encouraged alumni and staff to contribute to two philanthropic areas that provide critical support for our students and the communities they live and work in:

» Equity and Access Scholarships
» RMIT SEEDS (Student Entrepreneurship, Education and Development in Society): Growing with Communities.

RMIT has a long, proud and continuing tradition of supporting students who require financial assistance to supplement their living and educational expenses while juggling the numerous demands of student life. RMIT’s Equity and Access Scholarships received a considerable boost from the 2009 Annual Appeal.

The 2009 Appeal also generated significant support for the RMIT SEEDS: Growing with Communities program. This program brings together vocational and higher education students from disciplines across the University who wish to realise their ideas and passions in making a positive and sustainable difference to communities, utilising their developing professional skills.

The RMIT SEEDS community supports students by:

» assisting them to establish multi-disciplinary project and/or business teams
» providing project and business planning advice and training
» facilitating access to internal and external partner networks
» providing seed funding for projects
» hosting themed presentation and social events, and
» supporting other student/University initiatives such as Fair Trade, Bounce, Human Rights, RMIT LEAD, and the Student Development Fund.

In 2009, RMIT SEEDS provided seed funding and support for five student-devised and led projects/businesses. These were focused on local communities here in Australia and internationally, and tackled a variety of community issues such as:

» Active Reconciliation – working with Indigenous artists and schools in the Dandenong Ranges
» The recycling of clothing in Australia and internationally
» The regeneration of shanty towns in Johannesburg, South Africa
» Cultural exchange and capacity-building with young people in Thailand, and
» Developing design and manufacturing skills with young people from care homes in Melbourne.

The program is currently funded for three years and therefore still requires additional philanthropic and in-kind support in order to sustain the program into the future.

RMIT University would like to thank all alumni and staff who generously donated to this year’s Annual Appeal. Each gift goes directly to the project or cause and helps make a difference to students’ lives and the impact they then have on their own, and other, communities.

For more information on Equity and Access Scholarships at RMIT please visit the website www.rmit.edu.au/students/scholarships.

For more information about RMIT SEEDS please visit www.rmit.edu.au/seeds.
RMIT SEEDS students: Anna Poluleuligaga, David Goode and Jessica Hall.
THE RMIT UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

GOOD STEWARDSHIP: INCREASED GRANT DISTRIBUTION

The RMIT Foundation began at the time of the merger of the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and the Phillip Institute of Technology when the two formed RMIT University in 1992.

Four Trustees of the Phillip Institute were joined by four RMIT Trustees and a new Trust Deed was drawn up. The fund was small, standing at a little more than $180,000 in December 1994. Today the RMIT Foundation has stewardship of over $22M of assets.

The RMIT University Foundation is the custodian of the funds that are donated to the University. The Foundation report to the RMIT Council and is audited annually by the Auditor-General of Victoria. The Foundation was established under a Trust Deed and the Trustees of the Foundation are people who are, or have been, prominent in their working careers. They are invited to sit on the Board for their professional experience and the knowledge they bring to the business of the Foundation. Some members are experts in the legal and financial arena. There are also members with extensive experience of higher education sector management. Once having agreed to accept a donation, it is the Trustees’ responsibility to see that funds are distributed in accordance with the donors’ instructions and wishes. Such instructions may be in the form of a Will, donor agreement, or other written instruction.

Where the donor gives freedom of choice concerning the precise application of the funds, the Trustees make their decision based on the Trust Deed and advice from the University.

Trustees of the RMIT Foundation utilise the services of a number of professional advisers and fund managers to ensure the best possible investment return on the funds held, within an agreed risk management framework.

The RMIT Foundation has a policy framework that is designed to ensure that funds are distributed in accordance with the wishes of the donor and that the real value of endowed funds is protected against inflation. Where earnings allow, the Board of Trustees of the RMIT Foundation adheres to a policy of reinvesting a portion of the endowment’s earnings back into the fund capital in order to maintain the real value of the endowment. Earnings over and above that required for protecting market value of the endowment are then made available for disbursement according to the donor agreements.

2009 was a difficult year for all financial institutions, with the global financial crisis affecting liquidity, market confidence and investment returns.

Prudent financial management by the Trustees ensured that the effects on the Foundation were minimised. Despite the difficult financial climate the Trustees were able to make an increased grant distribution ($1.39 million). Trustees are mindful that such difficult economic times may be the very periods when the need for financial support is at its greatest.

The Foundation funds a wide range of scholarships that support students to fund or enhance their studies: it also enhances critical staff activity consistent with the mission of the University. There are over 80 separate endowments established by generous donors that fund a wide variety of activities ranging from merit-based prizes in many academic disciplines, through research support for the best doctoral student, to mobility scholarships that enable students to study part of their program overseas.

The International Research Exchange Fellowships provide support to international researchers to visit RMIT to undertake a period of research activity in collaboration with RMIT and/or to support RMIT researchers in undertaking similar collaborative research activity overseas. The Industry Placement Program encourages closer links between RMIT and its industry partners. Foundation funding also supports dozens of scholarships designed to help students who are financially compromised to access or continue their studies.

With thanks
Sir Lawrence Wackett Centre for Aerospace Design Technology
Site Office Landscape
SkillsPlus
 Slater and Gordon
SmartCompany
Ms Anglie M Smashnuk
SIMEC Urban Consulting Group
Ms Helen Smith
Ms Mabel Clifton Smith
Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation
Mr Stephen Somogyi
SOS Online Backup
The Sourcing Studio
Southern Accounting and Consulting Services Pty Ltd
Southern Health
SP Ausnet
Spatial Vision Innovations Pty Ltd
Spicers Paper Ltd
SSL Australia
St Vincent’s Hospital
State Library Victoria
State Neighbourhood Watch Board
Steel Reinforcement Institute of Australia
Ms Catherine A Stegrink
Stonemans Bookroom
Bauhaus Studio of Design
Slutterheim/Anderson Landscape Architects
Summerhill Financial Management
Surno Visual
Survey 21
Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute
Surveyors Registration Board of Victoria
Syonvale
TAC
Ms Sue H Taing
Mr Richard Koh & Ms Iris Tan Foundation
Target Australia Pty Ltd
Taxpayers Australia Inc
Taylors Development Strategists Pty Ltd
Mr Mark Taylor
Techstaff Pty Ltd
Textile Mania
Thales Group
Thames & Hudson Australia Pty Ltd
The Ian Potter Foundation
The Institute of Legal Executives (Victoria)
The Invergowrie Foundation
The Japan Foundation
The Klein Partnership
The LITMUS Group
The William Angliss Charitable Fund
Theo Eyewear
Thomson Reuters Australia Limited
Thompson Learning
Mr Grant Thornton
THQ
Mr Diem Le Tien
Tolarno Hotel
The Toll Group
TOUL Personnel
Tomali & Associates
Toscana Olives Australia
Total Health Pty Ltd
Toyo Ink Australia
Board members (left to right):
Mr Jonathan Harner, Trustee; Ms Rosemary Lever, Trustee; Professor Robin Williams, Executive Director; Emeritus Professor Brian Smith AO, Trustee; Ms Swee Loh, Trustee; Professor Dennis Gibson AO, RMIT Chancellor and Trustee; Mrs Yolanda Klempfner AO, Chair; Emeritus Professor Leo Foster, Trustee; Mr Ian George, Trustee; Mr Steve Somogyi, RMIT Vice President Resources and Trustee; Mr Peter Enlund, Chief Finance Officer; Mrs Judy Cope-Williams, Trustee; Mr Christopher van Aanholt, Trustee.

* Sadly, Ms Swee Loh died in August, 2009.
RMIT Nursing students in their element. Your donations help to enhance the lives of our students and the broader community.
INSPIRED? YOU TOO CAN CONTRIBUTE...

HOW TO GIVE

RMIT GIFT MATCHING
RMIT is committed to leveraging gifts where possible in order to maximise student reach and benefit. Endowment gifts for scholarships over $120,000 are considered for matched funding by the University.

Also, many corporate organisations encourage donations by their employees by matching their gifts. Please consider whether this is something your employer would support.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND ENDOWMENTS
A scholarship is a powerful vote of confidence in another person’s ability and worth. Your gift, no matter how big or small, contributes to our students and to the ability of RMIT University to shape and enrich the communities in which we operate.

DONATIONS OF GOODS IN-KIND
In-kind gifts are a tangible way of supporting RMIT and its students. Many donors have supported the University in this way, such as donating equipment or by giving their time to act as guest speakers, lecturers, program advisors or mentors.

INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT
RMIT’s history of creating highly skilled and work-ready graduates comes in large part through the willingness of industry to offer work placements, internships, providing advice on skills needs or research service contracts.

DONATE A MAJOR GIFT
Gifts for specific projects or initiatives (scholarship endowments, capital programs, research and so forth) are an ideal way to make a significant impact on RMIT and the experience of its students.

BEQUEST TO RMIT
A ‘living gift’ is a means of preserving your own financial situation during your lifetime while also providing a future benefit for RMIT and its students. By making a bequest to RMIT you are ensuring your support of the University from your estate. Gifts can be made for specific purposes such as furthering study, or helping a particular group of students (rural, disadvantaged, academic achievers, mature aged and so on).

ANNUAL APPEAL
The funds raised from this appeal will be used to create a range of new scholarships to support students of all disciplines, helping to meet students’ increased financial burden, and will allow the University to offer even greater opportunities for advanced study.

PAYROLL DONATIONS
Ongoing donations by way of direct debit are a simple and effective way of donating to the University.

CULTURAL GIFTS
Paintings, book collections, film, sculpture and other resources can all be received by the University, which is a registered recipient under the Cultural Gifts Program of the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts. The program provides tax incentives to encourage gifts of culturally significant items from private collections.

TAXATION STATUS
RMIT University and the RMIT Foundation are both registered with the Australian Taxation Office as deductible gift recipients (DGRs).

MORE INFORMATION
For more information regarding donations or industry partnerships, please visit www.rmit.edu.au/giving, or call RMIT Development on +61 3 9925 3588.

FEEDBACK
Every effort has been made to thank all those who have supported RMIT in 2009. Please let us know if any contributors have been overlooked. They will be gladly acknowledged in a future publication.

RMIT UNIVERSITY | PHILANTHROPIC GIFTS 2009
RMIT: BUILT ON PHILANTHROPY

1887
‘The Working Men’s College’ opens its doors on 7 June after the public rose to the challenge of matching an initial £5000 pledge by Francis Ormond. It offered courses to both men and women and was immediately popular.

1934
The Working Men’s College is renamed as the ‘Melbourne Technical College’.

1937
As part of its 50th anniversary celebrations, the Wool School building is renamed the ‘RB McComas’ Wool School. Mr McComas, a wool-broker and a director of the Commonwealth Bank, had in 1917 offered a pound-for-pound donation to add an extra storey to the building.

1958
The 19th-century Guild Hall on Swanston Street is reopened and named ‘Storey Hall.’ The hall was named in honour of Sir John Storey, who was an industrialist, a College Council member and a generous benefactor to the College. John Storey established an endowment in 1956 with an initial gift of $250,000.

1979
The ‘Emily McPherson College of Domestic Economy’ joins the college. This building is currently undergoing extensive renovations before reopening in 2010. Ethel McPherson, daughter-in-law of the founders, established a perpetual prize fund with a gift of $40,000.

1992
The Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and the Phillip Institute of Technology form ‘RMIT University’ under an Act of Parliament. The RMIT Foundation is later created as a legacy of an earlier Foundation at the Phillip Institute.

1993
The Melbourne College of Decoration joins RMIT and is today an important part of the TAFE School of Design. The importance of interior decorating remains to this day with the award of the Wendy Royle Scholarship.

1995
The Melbourne College of Printing and Graphic Arts joins RMIT. The College, which grew out of the Melbourne Printing Trades School established in 1947, had enjoyed great support from the printing industry and its suppliers. This continues today in the form of equipment and in-kind donations, worth several million dollars, made by industry leaders to the International Centre for Graphic Technology at RMIT’s Brunswick campus.

1999
The Melbourne Institute of Textiles, which began in 1985 as the Melbourne College of Textiles, becomes part of RMIT. Fashion and textiles are special strengths of the University, the history of the industry in Melbourne in particular being richly documented in RMIT’s Frances Burke Textile Resource Centre, which was established on a philanthropic gift.

2000
The Government of Vietnam invites RMIT University to begin operating in Vietnam. RMIT’s provision of education in this country is greatly assisted by the Atlantic Philanthropies, who have contributed over $60 million to our work in Vietnam to date.

2002
The Bundoora Netball and Sports Centre opens as a result of a partnership formed between RMIT and the City of Whittlesea, bringing benefit to both. The three netball courts, fully equipped fitness centre and aerobics studio are used recreationally by RMIT students and staff and provide a focus for academic studies in Human Movement and Physical Education.

2008
RMIT unveils its plans for an exciting $78 million design hub that will incorporate research, exhibition and industry collaborative spaces.
RMIT Creative Media students, circa 1970s and today.