Welcome to the Centre for Design’s quarterly e-newsletter: The Centre has had another busy three months, with new interest in research and training needs from across the emerging sustainability professions. This has led to a need for more staff, and we are welcoming new staff both this quarter and next quarter to undertake a new range of exciting and diverse research projects. Meanwhile, we completed our Green Building and Design conference course across five state capitals over the last three months, and we are now about to ramp up research on the Sustainability Accord Grant funded project “Accelerating Sustainable Buildings in Local Government”, in partnership with four metro councils across Melbourne. This incorporates adult and group learning principles with the long term goal of rolling out an ASB Practice Improvement Program across the local government sector. To keep in touch with this and other new projects at CfD, I invite you to watch future newsletters and our website for updates.

A/Prof Ralph Horne, Director, Centre for Design.
ralph.horne@rmit.edu.au.

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Sustainable Built Environments

Your Home Renovator’s Guide

The Your Home Renovator’s Guide has been funded by the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, the Building Commission (VIC), Sustainability Victoria, Department of Housing Works (WA), Queensland Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Environment and Climate Change, ACT Planning and Land Authority, Moreland Energy Foundation and has been researched and developed by CfD and the Institute for Sustainable Futures at UTS. The Guide will assist renovators to make informed decisions with regards to achieving an environmentally friendly and healthy and comfortable home that can also save them money. For further information contact Helaine Stanley (03) 9925 9087.

GBD08 – Solutions through integrated design

The Green Building and Design conference series 2008, presented by the Centre for Design, included over 100 presentations, workshops and several site visits to landmark developments. Delegates from around the country left the events well informed, fully inspired and with increased confidence to drive their own initiatives further.

This year this annual professional training conference was not only held in Melbourne and Sydney, but for the first time also in Brisbane, Perth and Adelaide. In order to put together a programme with national and local content for the respective cities, the RMIT Centre for Design formed development partnerships with the Centre for Subtropical Design at QUT in Brisbane, the University of South Australia in Adelaide and the Curtin University of Technology in Perth. The collaboration was tremendously successful, resulting in ongoing information and expertise exchange between our stakeholders.

The two-day conference was a well received opportunity for architects, policy makers, energy consultants, building owners and the building industry to a comprehensive programme of presentations on the state of sustainability in the built environment in Australia. Topics ranged from policy updates, the business case and the value of building green, town planning and transport issues, infrastructure (water and energy) to case studies and the responsible choice of materials. Frequent Questions & Answer sessions as well as the final panel discussion and World Café workshop provided the delegates with well received opportunities to engage in discussions and to exchange ideas.

Keynote speakers included Minister Jennings (Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Victoria), Chris Johnson (Executive Director Special Projects Division, NSW Department of Planning), Minister McNamara (Minister for Sustainability, Climate Change & Innovation, Queensland), Lord Mayor of Brisbane Campbell Newman, Tim O’Loughlin (Deputy Chief Executive, SA Department of Premier and Cabinet) and Ms Dorte Ekelund (Deputy Director General of Policy Group, Department of Planning and Infrastructure - WA).

Feedback from speakers and delegates has been unanimously positive. The professional organisation, the comprehensive character of the programme and the excellent quality of speakers and presentations was commended. The interactive sessions as well as the site visits were voted by the delegates to have been some of the best aspects of the conference.

The Centre for Design would like to thank the national sponsor the federal Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and Arts (DEWHA), all city and session sponsors as well as media sponsors (Niche media and Architect & Builder) for their generous support. For further information, please contact trvess.moore@rmit.edu.au.

‘Greening’ the Expo Solution Group

The Expo Solutions Group (ESG), one of Australia’s leading service providers in the exhibition and interior design market, approached the Centre for Design to assist ESG with the incorporation of environmental sustainability principles into their business. ESG not only considers that adopting environmentally-friendly practices is the right thing to do, but it strongly believes that adopting sustainable practices will enhance the company’s brand and image and add to its economic success. According to ESG, at the moment ‘green’ options are not widely available in their industry.

The Centre for Design was approached due to its nature of being an independent objective, applied research institution. The Centre’s independence has helped significantly in securing the support internally and externally, by the staff as well as the clients of ESG.
Sustainable Built Environments continued

Using a national showroom fit-out project as a case study, the Centre for Design was asked to look into how its environmental impact could be reduced. The design for the project had already been finalised, all furniture selected and/or designed, the catalogue printed, the pricing investigated. As the initial briefing, to suggest alternative materials only, was considered a 'band-aid' approach, the Centre for Design convinced ESG that a more holistic approach should be adopted.

The Centre for Design:

- reviewed some of the materials already specified, such as MDF boards, paints, adhesives, and
- looked within the spaces at measures beyond the selection of materials, such as the introduction of plants, type of packaging for materials and product stewardship.

As an example, the selection of paints used by ESG was analysed and a choice of more environmentally friendly alternatives suggested. The result of the findings has convinced ESG to move from solvent based to water based paints. The new factory layout has since been revised to incorporate the new painting processes.

As far as product stewardship is concerned, ESG has since introduced certificates, supplied with all furniture items manufactured in house, which guarantee that the product may be returned to ESG at its end of life. ESG will then partly re-use and partly recycle the product.

For further information, please contact nicola.willand@rmit.edu.au.

Building Energy Analysis Professionals (BEAP) Pilot Course

National Framework for Energy Efficiency (NFEE) recently initiated a new Graduate Certificate for Building Energy Analysis Professionals (BEAP). The Centre for Design, the Clean Energy Council and the National Centre for Sustainability at Swinburne University, were commissioned to collaboratively develop this course.

BEAP offers a professional qualification in building energy principles and energy modelling techniques to professionals in the buildings and construction industry. The objectives of the course are to increase the uptake of energy efficient technologies and processes across Australia by developing skills and knowledge in the area of energy analysis.

The course will comprise of four modules, two of which were piloted in April and May by the Centre for Design to a group of fourteen participants from a range of backgrounds including large consulting firms working in the field of energy efficiency, smaller business interested in expanding into this area and local government.

BEAP is currently being reviewed by the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) and is likely to be taught at any registered training organisation by 2009.

Environmentally sustainable school buildings: achieving multiple outcomes and benefits

Initial research at the Centre for Design suggests:

- A green school building can act as a ‘living laboratory’ for student exploration of green buildings;
- A green indoor environment should introduce more fresh air, lower levels of toxic compounds, more natural light, and thus promote better physical conditions for learning;
- A green indoor environment is also better for teachers, whether psychologically or physically or both, leading to higher productivity by staff;
- A green school building stands as an example to the community, providing ethical leadership, in turn providing various ‘green halo’ effects in terms of enhanced interest from high quality students, awards and recognition, etc.

CfD has now been engaged by The Association of Independent Schools of Victoria to undertake a research project and produce a guide to ecologically sustainable school buildings. The project will examine school buildings internationally as well as in Victoria, and develop case studies and principles for sustainable schools stakeholders in realising the multiple benefits of green school building initiatives.

We welcome your input, cases studies and thoughts. For further information, please contact ralph.horne@rmit.edu.au.
Sustainable Built Environments continued

Productivity in green buildings

Sustainability Victoria have engaged the Centre for Design to undertake a scoping study and facilitate a workshop of key stakeholders in Victoria concerned with the productivity benefits of green office buildings.

Building on work CfD undertook for the Building Commission last year, this new project will investigate the business case for green productive commercial buildings. While productivity has long been recognised as a key consideration in the design, refurbishment and occupation of commercial buildings, there is now significant interest in the potential links between green buildings and improved productivity outcomes. Indeed, expected productivity improvements have been used as primary drivers in decisions to invest in green buildings.

A key term in the green-productivity nexus is Indoor environment quality (IEQ). IEQ describes a range of factors, typically including air quality, air speed, humidity, light quality and noise. These different factors characterise the quality of the environments in which Australians spend over 90% of their lives – indoors. However, a widely acknowledged problem with IEQ and productivity is the difficulty of drawing clear metrics and of separating various potential variables and causal factors in productivity. Various approaches have been used to gather and present evidence, and a range of methods and approaches have been applied to different buildings.

For further information please contact karen.rosenberg@rmit.edu.au.
Climate Change and Social Context

With the recent introduction of various projects to the Centre including ‘Urban Infrastructure’, ‘Carbon Neutral Communities’ and ‘Lifetime Affordable Housing in Australia’, a new area has been formed ‘Climate Change and Social Context’.

‘The Practice of Going Green: The Experience of Homeowners who Renovate to Improve the Environmental Performance of their Home’

A pilot study of Melbourne home owners who chose to do a ‘green’ renovation was funded through the Urban Infrastructure program of RMIT University’s Global Cities Institute. The aim of the research is to determine potential enablers and barriers encountered by homeowners who embark on sustainable renovations. Sources of information and advice, household relationships and relationships with building suppliers, architects and designers were explored using qualitative research methods. Interviews were conducted with participants from households who had recently completed or were completing a renovation, elements of which were to improve the environmental performance of their home. Participants’ understanding of sustainability and their motivations for undertaking their ‘green’ renovation were determined during the interviews. Findings to date reveal that households are motivated to improve the performance of their home by a range of complex and interacting factors. Perceptions of sustainability varied and included that it is a means to maintain comfort and wellbeing, that ‘green’ is a new standard to be met, or that living sustainably is an ethical duty. Participants’ motivations included to improve the thermal comfort of their home, to minimise energy and water consumption and to engage with sustainable technologies. The next stage of the research explores these findings further through interviews with a larger sample of homeowners as well as interviews with builders and other building industry service providers. For further information please contact cecily.maller@rmit.edu.au.

3rd Australasian Housing Researchers’ Conference

Susie Moloney, Cecily Maller and Ralph Horne presented a paper at the 3rd Australasian Housing Researchers Conference held in Melbourne on 18-20 June. The paper was titled ”Housing and Sustainability: Bridging the gap between technical solutions and household behaviour”. The paper discusses the ‘socio-technical framework’ adopted in, and an overview of, two large research projects currently underway at the Centre called Carbon Neutral Communities: Making the Transition and The Practice of Going Green: The Experience of Home Owners in Improving the Environmental Performance of Housing. For further information, please contact susie.moloney@rmit.edu.au.

Lifetime Affordable Housing in Australia: Integrating environmental performance and affordability

The significance of climate change and its implications means that major efforts to improve the energy and water performance of housing can no longer be delayed. At the same time, there is broad agreement that housing affordability is a growing issue and providing quality, affordable housing for Australian families and individuals is a policy imperative.

There is a perceived trade-off between residential building (environmental) performance and cost. There are also perceived trade-offs in locational efficiency, for example, the supply of lower cost land (and therefore housing) on the outer periphery, remote from key employment centres, which then requires more private transport, more use of fuel and more greenhouse gas emissions. Trade-offs extend to wider social and economic costs, particularly for lower income, vulnerable households. In order for future planning and policy mechanisms to deliver optimal environmental performance and affordability, there is a need to carry out a ranging empirical analysis to make the affordability and sustainability aspects of the housing debate explicit.

Lifetime Affordable Housing will provide this essential research to underpin policy and will enable Australia to provide high performance urban housing within current and future economic and environmental limits. Funding has been provided by the Australian Research Council (ARC) to carry out this work under the Linkage Projects Scheme for a period of 3 years.
Climate Change and Social Context continued

Research Questions

The Lifetime Affordable Housing research project will address the following four research questions, designed to direct research in key themes such as life cycle costs and locational efficiencies:

1. What are the through-life costs and benefits of predominant housing forms in Australia's major cities?
2. What are the real through-life costs and benefits of utilising urban brownfield and greyfield sites to supply more affordable housing around employment centres to enhance locational efficiency?
3. How do the costs and benefits identified in question 1 and 2 impact on housing affordability over the short and long terms?
4. How can the perceived trade-off between affordability and housing performance be overcome by market and regulatory mechanisms including:
   a) financial incentives and disincentives (private/public) to encourage environmental performance in housing
   b) regulatory and planning reform, including policies to encourage denser residential redevelopment on existing brownfield and greyfield urban sites, and
   c) refining affordability policy mechanisms to ensure long-term as well as short term positive outcomes?

The Lifetime Affordable Housing team are currently developing case studies for analysis, looking at three scenarios in particular; baseline (5-star to current building codes); enhanced (7-star to enhanced performance parameters) and world class (approximately 9 star, approaching carbon neutral). LCA and costs data are currently being applied to each scenario to calculate capital, payback and lifetime costs of each, with emphasis on three key parameters; $, kgGHG and litres of water used. The Lifetime Affordable Housing team are currently engaging stakeholders in the housing industry with relevant expertise in these areas.

For any queries in relation to Lifetime Affordable Housing, please contact john.morrissey@rmit.edu.au.
Life Cycle Assessment

LCA Master-class

The Centre for Design is pleased to announce an LCA Master-class with Bo Weidema, to be held at the Rockford Darling Harbour in Sydney on Friday the 8th of August.

Bo Weidema is one of the world’s leading LCA practitioners. He was instrumental in the development of the SPOLD LCI data format and database network from 1995 to 2001. He is executive manager of the ecoinvent database, associate professor at Aalborg University, member of the UNEP/SETAC Life Cycle Initiative’s task forces on Social aspects (co-chair) and Natural resources and land use, and expert delegate to the ISO TC207 / SC5 on life cycle assessment.

The day covers two of the most challenging aspects of LCA; the use and practice of consequential LCA, and the integration of process and input output LCA. Consequential LCA attempts to model the results of decisions using marginal assessment approaches taking account of market conditions and constraints on production. Input output LCA models are sector level environmental LCA models based on economic data and this can be a valuable resource for LCA, especially when it can be integrated with process LCA data.

The course agenda:

Morning session 9:00am – 1.00pm:
- Decision making contexts
- System boundaries in economic and environmental assessment
- System boundaries in life cycle assessments (LCA)
- Consequential LCA – why, when and how?
- Stepwise procedure for expanding system boundaries in LCA

Afternoon session 1:45pm – 4:30pm:
- Introduction to input output LCA
- Coupling of I/O LCA and process LCA

The cost will be $500. For further information please contact scott.mcalister@rmit.edu.au.

LCA Course

The Centre will be continuing with our two day introduction to LCA courses throughout the year. The course is designed for professionals (policy makers, managers, designers, engineers, and environmental specialists), educators and students interested in understanding or practising Life Cycle Assessment.

Topics covered include:
- The ISO 14040 series methodology for LCA
- Detailed explanation of each stage of LCA
- Practical examples and case studies
- Streamlined LCA techniques
- Overview of LCA software tools, including undertaking a mini-LCA using SimaPro LCA software

Contextualisation of LCA with other tools such as Risk Assessment, Life Cycle Costing, and Environmental Impact Assessment

For further information contact scott.mcalister@rmit.edu.au, or visit the RMIT short courses website (www.shortcourses.rmit.edu.au/).

LCI of timber products

The Centre has completed the Particleboard and MDF module of the Life Cycle Inventory (LCI) for Forestry and Wood Products, produced for Forestry and Wood Products Australia (FWPA). The project was a collaboration between the CSIRO, Ensis and RMIT, to create a rigorous LCI of representative Australian forest and wood products and processes from forests through to final wood products. Information from the project will be used in the AusLCI Database Initiative (www.auslci.com/). For further information, contact scott.mcalister@rmit.edu.au.

Life Cycle Thinking (LCT) Training

Whilst the centre is very active in providing training on Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), we have recently responded to requests to provide training on life cycle thinking. This provides a framework for holistic design and decision making incorporating sustainability into design and development. LCT allows participants to develop an understanding for a product’s whole of life implications and thus make appropriate designs to minimise impacts. For more information please contact leyla.acaroglu@rmit.edu.au.
Sustainable Products and Packaging

New Sustainable Packaging Design Workshops

The Centre for Design is delivering a new series of sustainable packaging design workshops on behalf of the Sustainable Packaging Alliance (SPA). The one-day workshop is designed to provide fast moving consumer goods packaging designers, technologists and environmental managers with the knowledge to integrate environmental decision-making into their packaging design processes.

The workshop will:

- Introduce designers to Life Cycle Assessment with an emphasis on the environmental impacts of packaging from cradle to grave
- Involve designers conducting environmental impact assessments of packaging system case studies using SPA’s Packaging Impact Quick Evaluation Tool (PIQET)
- Outline strategies to improve environmental considerations in packaging design and identify gaps and barriers to their implementation

Note: Registered delegates receive a PIQET data collection sheet prior to the workshop, which they will need to complete so that they can actively participate and use the PIQET software during the workshop. For more information contact glenn.di-maurohayes@rmit.edu.au.

Defining sustainable packaging

More information on the definition of sustainable packaging can be found at the Sustainable Packaging Alliance’s website at www.sustainablepack.org.

SPA began work on the definition in 2003 and released its first definition in 2004. Over recent years it has been updated and in November 2007 was enhanced with a range of strategies and key performance indicators for each of the four principles – efficient, effective, cyclic and safe.

The definition can be used to guide packaging and product stewardship principles within organisations. It can be used to guide corporate strategy and new product development; assist in defining packaging strategies (define objectives, targets, key performance indicators and prioritise); guide new product development processes; and assist in internal and external reporting.

People are encouraged to download the discussion paper. We would appreciate receiving your feedback on the definition, what you like about it and where improvements can be made. Please send your feedback to karli.verghese@rmit.edu.au.

SPA Roundtable 15 – Degradable packaging: sustainability opportunities and challenges

Over 80 people attended the 15th SPA Roundtable held of 30th May and organized in association with the Plastics and Chemicals Industries Association (PACIA). The purpose of the roundtable was to explore the sustainability of degradable plastics used for packaging. It approached the topic from three perspectives:

- Sustainability and life cycle thinking;
- Product stewardship; and
- Infrastructure for end-of-life management.

Presentations and discussions covered issues such as:

- Environmental, economic and social implications of degradable plastics;
- Australian standards and guidelines for degradable plastics;
- Current status of end-of-life infrastructure and future plans; and
- Communication strategies across the packaging supply chain.

Speakers at the roundtable were:

- Helen Lewis (SPA),
- Tim Grant (CSIRO/Centre for Design RMIT),
- Patrick Crouche (Australian Competition and Consumer Commission),
- Dr Paul Bainton (Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts),
- Peter Bury (PACIA),
- Dr Kishan Khemani (Plantic Technologies),
- Dr Richard Smith (Amcor),
- Ben Morris (Municipal Association of Victoria),
- Bill Grant (Sustainability Victoria) and
- Todd Anderson (Olympic Polymers)
Sustainable Products and Packaging

A very clear conclusion from the Round Table was that degradable polymers may contribute to the increased sustainability of packaging but there are a number of principles which must be met:

- They must be selected on the basis of a perceived environmental need (e.g. waste, litter, non-renewable resources);
- They must be ‘fit for purpose’ and their degradation properties must be appropriate for the disposal environment at end-of-life (landfill, water, recycling, composting etc);
- Suitable recovery systems need to be established for biodegradable polymers with the support of all key stakeholders, including polymer suppliers and manufacturers, local government, state government and composters; and
- Consumers need clear and accurate communication on the benefits of degradable polymers and how to dispose of the product appropriately.

Review of National Packaging Covenant (NPC) signatory action plans and annual reports

The Centre for Design has recently completed a component of a comprehensive review process commissioned by The National Packaging Covenant (NPC) who is the body charged with managing the environmental impacts of consumer packaging in Australia. CfD was obtained to independently review the NPC signatories’ progress against NPC’s environmental goals, targets, key performance indicators and the Environmental Code of Practice for Packaging (ECoPP). A random statistically valid sample of signatories ranging from brand owners to industry groups and raw material suppliers were reviewed. The report is one of five concurrent independent studies that NPC has commissioned. Initial feedback from NPC has praised CfD’s ability to choreograph detail and critical analysis into a seamless evaluation process. More information on the mid-term review of the NPC can be found at www.packagingcovenant.org.au. For more information contact karli.verghese@rmit.edu.au.

2008 AIP Conference 'climate of change'

The packaging industry descended upon Sydney’s Luna Park in mid June for the 2008 Australian Institute of Packaging’s National Conference “Climate of Change” Towards a sustainable packaging industry. With over 280 delegates and 46 speakers the conference covered issues including the climate change problem, life cycle assessment, PIQET, updates on the National Packaging Covenant, returnable packaging, waste and recycling and biopolymers.

Three members of CfD presented at the conference:

- Dr Karli Verghese presented to on delegates SPA’s definition of sustainable packaging
- Dr Juin Majumdar presented on the Packaging Impact Quick Evaluation Tool (PIQET) and
- Areli Avendano spoke about the role designers have towards sustainable packaging based upon findings from her PhD interviews.

More information on the conference, presentations etc can be found at the AIP’s website www.aipack.com.au.

Greenfly: Design greener products

Greenfly is an online tool for designers to assess and integrate environmental considerations into their products using eco design strategies and life cycle assessment (LCA) data. Greenfly guides the user quickly and simply through product life cycle stages and provides environmental assessment onscreen in real time. Greenfly also provides the user with practical and assessable guides and tips on sustainable design. Greenfly employs the latest web technology allowing for the easy integration of extra features such as regulatory compliance in future versions.

For a limited time you access Greenfly for free! Go to www.greenflyonline.org to register. We are currently finalizing the research plan for the next phase of Greenfly which will focus upon two modules – electronic and electrical products and the furniture industry. For more information please contact leyla.acaroglu@rmit.edu.au.
Sustainable Products and Packaging continued

Eco-design panel Q&A featuring Allan Chochinov

A free lecture and question and answer panel on eco-design, featuring international guest, Allan Chochinov (Core 77 and Pratt Institute of Art and Design) and CfD staff Director Ralph Horne, Karli Verghese and Andrew Carre was held on Thursday the 17th July at RMIT City campus.

The event was open to all members of the public and was aimed primarily at the design and engineering community. The event was chaired by John Gertsakis (WSP Group) with Allan Chochinov’s presentation focussed on imperatives in design, looking at design today, designers and innovation and the outcomes of these practices. Chochinov’s presentation was iconic and engaging and displayed methods to improve design practice to create value through design and products with meaning and consequence. He challenged the designs of the future to be more sustainable and for people to reconsider how they approach consumption.

This engaging Q&A panel answered questions and shared valuable opinions and insight into eco-design, life cycle assessment, product innovation and design for the future, including active examples from Andrew Carre and his shaving device! The Q&A event was insightful and interactive allowing participants to engage with designers and interdisciplinary research experts regarding a diverse range of topics.
Staff @ CfD

CfD is expanding! Two recent additions to the Centre for Design team are featured below:

**Dr Cecily Maller (Post-doctoral Research Fellow, ‘Urban Infrastructure’, Global Cities Institute)**

Cecily Maller is a post-doctoral research fellow based at the CfD. She has over 10 years’ research experience, with expertise in sustainability education, public health, natural resource management and ‘green’ housing renovations. Beginning with a BSc Hons in environmental studies from Griffith University, and then completing a PhD at Deakin University in public health, Cecily has a multidisciplinary background and is interested in context-driven research. One of her main interests concerns the social dimensions of sustainability, in particular, interactions and relationships between people and their environments. Her PhD, funded by the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth), explored contact with nature and children’s mental, emotional and social health in the context of sustainability education in primary schools.

Cecily’s work at the Centre currently focuses on the social aspects of urban infrastructure, including homeowners’ motivations for improving the environmental performance of their dwellings. Before joining the Centre, Cecily was a social scientist for the Australian Government in Canberra (at the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry) where she managed research projects commissioned by policy makers on change in rural industries and communities. This experience ignited her interest in the relationship between research and policy.

Previously, Cecily has been employed in the university sector, undertaking ecological and social research, and she has taught at Deakin University in the School of Health and Social Development. She has also worked for local and state governments in Queensland and Victoria in the areas of natural resource management and sustainability.

**Paul-Antoine Bontinck (Research Officer LCA)**

Paul-Antoine moved from France to Melbourne to practice LCA and eco-design at the Centre for Design. More than pure research, his main interest is the application of the LCA methodology inside commercial companies and the usage of LCA principles in society.

Paul-Antoine will graduate from a Master Degree in Environmental Engineering in October with a specialisation in eco-design. He has been undertaking this degree at the EME (Ecole des Métiers de l’Environnement, France), an engineering school which specialises in environmental engineering. Mainly focused on waste and water treatment, EME, also provides courses in various subjects linked to the management of the environment (air treatment, noise pollution, soil remediation, sustainable construction, etc).

**Volunteering at CfD**

In July this year the Centre for Design offered students and recent graduates the opportunity to gain valuable work experience in sustainable design by opening up volunteering and intern positions at the Centre. These positions called for two (or more) passionate and sustainably motivated volunteers per semester. We had an overwhelming response of candidates, many willing individuals from a vast range of background at RMIT and beyond, from both current students and graduates.

The main role of the volunteer is to undertake a range of projects relating to sustainable products, materials and buildings. The volunteers will aid the research officer as well as assist the Centre Director with tasks as required.

Several volunteers and a Dutch intern will begin work at CfD over the coming months. If you would like to volunteer keep an eye out for future news via the website and newsletter (see www.cfd.rmit.edu.au).