A message from the Executive Director

Property Services had a very rewarding year in 2010. We completed several flagship refurbishment projects that have opened to much acclaim. RMIT University’s foundation building, the Francis Ormond Building, re-opened in August 2010 and the regal old building has come to life with sleek and contemporary office and meeting spaces and a sprawling outdoor courtyard and café. The refurbishment also unearthed some original period details, restoring the building to its original splendour.

The Emily McPherson Building was opened for Semester 2, 2010 and is currently the home to the new Graduate School of Business and Law. This school was launched in late October by Chris Evans, Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Jobs and Workplace Relations and is gaining momentum as one of the most leading edge postgraduate education hubs in Australia.

A new urban landmark for RMIT and the City of Melbourne also opened in 2010. Located on the corner of Swanston and La Trobe Streets, the provocative “green brain” is the new atrium level for RMIT’s Building 22, home to RMIT Info Corner and the International and Development Portfolio. The green brain is a new multi-purpose venue for the University and can be used for conferences, seminars and social functions. The green brain is linked to the neighbouring, multiple award-winning Storey Hall. The new venue’s unique façade echoes the green penrose motif design which flanks the front of Storey Hall.

The green brain was officially launched by Robert Doyle, Lord Mayor of Melbourne in November.

Property Services has been focussing on reducing RMIT University’s carbon footprint and carried out extensive work on environmentally sustainable infrastructure upgrades. A chilled water plant on the Building 12 rooftop has been augmented to provide chilled water to the future Swanston Academic Building for air conditioning and will also cool neighbouring Buildings 16 and 22. The energy efficient chilled water plant will reduce annual electricity consumption by around 12%, which equates to 665 tones of Co2.

Other achievements include the appointment of the main contractor for the Swanston Academic Building. Brookfield Multiplex took possession of the construction site, near the corner of Swanston and A’Beckett Streets, and works are well underway.

While significant, these achievements are part of a much larger suite of activities and objectives that Property Services is managing and delivering. I invite you to read this report to gain a broader overview of our 2010 highlights and to receive a glimpse into Property Services’ developments for 2011.

 Darren McKee
 Executive Director, Property Services
The Year of the Bike

Throughout 2010, Property Services played an instrumental role in increasing the profile for bikes as a viable and environmentally sustainable means of transport. A survey was conducted into the commuting habits of the RMIT community to determine why some staff and students choose to ride their bikes to RMIT and others use public transport or drive to work.

The Property Services Environment team also coordinated the annual Ride to Work Day, which attracted more than 100 bike riders this year. Staff and student bike riding enthusiasts made the trip to RMIT on a wet Melbourne morning and were treated to a healthy breakfast.

New bike facilities were also introduced on the City campus with Property Services managing the installation of a Bike pod; this facility contains a shower and a change room for the University community and general public.

A secure bike cage is available in the carpark of Building 51 at 80-92 Victoria Street on the City campus.

BikeScope survey has come full cycle

More than 1,300 of RMIT’s cyclists and aspiring cyclists swung into gear and completed the online BikeScope survey. The survey was developed by Bicycle Victoria for RMIT and ran over a four week period through late August and September in 2010.

BikeScope was open to both staff and students and the results will be used to inform the development of a Bike Plan for RMIT. This will form the basis for a strategy to increase the number of people who ride their bikes to work.

RMIT also commissioned Bicycle Victoria to carry out a bike audit of the existing bike parking facilities across the City, Bundoora and Brunswick campuses.

The audits took place in August and are designed to provide an outline of RMIT’s existing bike parking facilities and to provide some recommendations on ways to improve bike parking for the University community.

Property Services’ Environment Team coordinated the survey which is the first survey into bike facilities and staff and student commuting habits that Bicycle Victoria has issued to an educational institution.

The survey results showed that RMIT University is regarded as a place that supports cyclists. The survey results rate RMIT’s provision of bike riding facilities quite highly.

While the results are encouraging, feedback also indicates that there is work to be done. Many survey respondents indicated that improved secure bike parking facilities was the most important factor to persuade them to become regular riders to RMIT.

Other significant factors that respondents indicated would encourage them to start riding to RMIT or to become more regular riders, include enhanced locker and storage facilities and improved bike parking hoops.

On the Bundoora and Brunswick campuses staff would like undercover bike parking while City campus staff have indicated that more bike parking is required on Swanston Street.

The data gathered from the audits indicate where bike riders prefer to park on campus. This information will enable RMIT to make more informed decisions about where to provide future bike parking and what type of parking will be the most utilized by staff and students.

Survey participants were in the running to win an iPad or a $300 gift voucher from CBD Cycles.

The lucky winners were:

» Dr Sarah Bekessy, Senior Lecturer with the School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning.
» Shefton Parker, Researcher and Clinical Acupuncturist with the School of Health Sciences.

Ride to Work Day: Why not every day?

Wet weather did not stop more than 100 RMIT University staff and student bike riders from cycling to work and enjoying a hearty breakfast and camaraderie with fellow cyclists.

They were participating in Ride to Work Day, an annual event that encourages people to forgo public transport and cars and hop on their bikes to commute to work. Ride to Work Day also aims to encourage people to continue riding to work.

The program is run by the Bicycle Network in conjunction with state and territory cycling organisations across Australia.

The Property Services’ Environment Team organised the Ride to Work Day event for RMIT which was sponsored by RMIT Human Resources. The Pedal Pushers, the Student Union Bike Collective that offers bike-related workshops and activities throughout the year, hosted the breakfast on Brunswick campus.

The organic muffins served at the breakfast were sourced from the Student Union’s Real Foods, the fruit was acquired from Fruit Box and Jasper Coffee supplied free certified Fairtrade, organic and shade-grown coffee.

Staff and students at the Ride to Work Day breakfast on the City campus.
Bike pod on the City campus

Property Services’ Projects team facilitated the installation of a bike pod in the carpark of Building 51 on the City campus.

The state of the art Bike Pod includes showers and change facilities and is available to the RMIT community and general public without the need for registration or access cards. To save water and to accommodate the morning rush of users, the Bike Pod’s doors are on an auto-timer.

The Bike Pod has been installed in close proximity to the secure access bike cage, a free facility that is available to the University community.

The RMIT pod is a first for the Victorian university sector and is the second pod to be installed in the Melbourne CBD. The first pod is located in the City Square underground carpark.

The Bike Pod was formally opened by Bronwyn Pike, Minister for Education, Skills and Workforce Participation; Robert Doyle, Melbourne Lord Mayor; and Professor Margaret Gardner.

The bike pod project was delivered through joint funding from the Victorian Government’s TravelSmart and Local Area Access Program grants and the City of Melbourne.

Completed projects in 2010

It’s five green stars for the Frances Ormond Building

RMIT University’s foundation building, the Frances Ormond Building, home to the University Chancellery, opened in early August 2010.

The heritage listed, 123 year old Frances Ormond Building, also known as Building 1, has been rejuvenated to a high sustainable standard and has been awarded a 5-Star Green Star Office Design certified rating by the Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA).

Sustainable features include rainwater harvesting for garden irrigation and solar hot water generation. There is also a waste management system, intelligent lighting controls and systems, and low VOC (Volatile Organic Chemicals) paints, carpets and finishes.

Streamlined, contemporary office spaces and meeting rooms are housed within a building that now showcases previously concealed period features. False ceilings and partitions were stripped away to reveal timber, ribbed vault ceilings and stained glass windows. Other period features that have been brought to life again include twisted steel columns and ornate timber trusses.

One of the most impressive rooms in the building is the Council Chambers which was the Francis Ormond Building’s original lecture theatre. This is adorned with a timber-lined ceiling and Gothic inspired windows. There is now a foyer and entrance into the Council Chambers which is befitting of the grandeur of this venue. An intricate and organic carving by Melbourne sculptor Robert Bridgewater has been installed on the wall just outside of the Chamber’s entrance.

The Frances Ormond Building has also been opened up from within by the introduction of an open, glazed stairway and gallery. The stairwell overlooks the building’s north-facing wing that has been converted into a sunny courtyard, with chairs, tables and market umbrellas. The courtyard flanks Pearson and Murphys, the ground-level café that is open to the RMIT University community and the general population. Pearson and Murphys are open from 7am to 5pm and offer a full breakfast and lunch menu. They also provide a catering service to the University.

Emily McPherson Building is open for Business

The highly anticipated Emily McPherson Building opened in time for Semester 2 classes in 2010. Now home to the Graduate School of Business and Law, “Emily Mac” was officially launched on Friday, 22 October 2010 by Chris Evans, Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Jobs and Workplace Relations. The Federal Government contributed $16.7 million to the refurbishment through the Teaching and Learning Capital (Higher Education) Fund to this $40 million refurbishment.

The 83 year old, heritage listed and historically rich Emily McPherson Building has been transformed into a state of the art teaching and learning space. The new Graduate School of Business and Law’s facilities are also available to other postgraduate disciplines through the University.

A spacious student lounge, decorated with the sophisticated décor of a hotel lobby, and coffee cart are available on the ground floor which is suitable for socializing, networking and quiet study. The Emily McPherson Building has also been extended by one level which has been seamlessly integrated into the neoclassical architecture of the building. The new rooftop facility contains venue setups for a boardroom, a hosting room and classrooms. An outdoor terrace decked out with chairs and tables is another feature of the new rooftop level.

Other features include:
- Two lecture theatres and five classrooms
- Flat-floor flexible space for teaching and events
- Multi-purpose hall
- Cutting-edge multimedia technology
- Catering facilities
- Regeneration of historic façade

Landscaping work has also been rolled out to add the finishing touches to this stunningly renovated building.
A new urban landmark

RMIT University’s reputation for showcasing innovative and iconic architecture has been enhanced with the completion of the new rooftop extension to RMIT’s Building 22. This is the home of RMIT’s Info Corner for prospective students and the International and Development Portfolio staff.

In June 2009, construction company ISIS was appointed to refurbish Levels 3 and 4 and add a new level to Building 22. Work was completed in June 2010 and the building’s visually striking façade has generated much interest and intrigue among the University community.

Architects Ashton, Raggett and McDougall (ARM) designed the new atrium level of Building 22 including its unique façade which echoes the green, penrose motif design that flanks the front of the neighbouring, multiple award winning Storey Hall; a landmark Melbourne building that was also transformed by ARM.

The façade of the new extension to Building 22 is inspired by fractal geometry. Courtesy: Bison United.

Located at 330–334 Swanston Street, on the prominent La Trobe and Swanston Streets corner, Building 22’s additional level contains a multipurpose venue suitable for seminars, conference breakout sessions and social functions.

There is an adjoining gallery, foyer space and an outdoor terrace that provides panoramic views of the City and beyond. The new fifth level also connects to the top level of Storey Hall.

The refurbishment was completed with several environmentally sustainable design features. These include water harvesting, with a capacity to store 10,000 litres of water to be used for toilet flushing; an air delivery system; a thermal envelope that exceeds Building Council of Australia (BCA) requirements and creates significant Greenhouse Gas savings; and energy efficient lights that incorporates LED, Cold Cathode and T5 Fluorescent light fittings connected to occupant and daylight sensors to maximise efficiency.

Giving the fine arts a lift

RMIT’s heritage listed Building 2 has remained largely untouched since it opened in 1916. The utilitarian façade of Building 2, akin to the British industrial architecture style, and the interior, with its imposing staircase, high-ceilinged studios and expansive windows, has been the backdrop for nine decades of teaching and learning.

In 2009, works were carried out on the installation of a new lift and lobby to service all five levels of the building. A link from the refurbished Building 2 enables access to Foresters’ Hall (Building 24) which is the home to the School of Art’s Head of School and administrative team and provides upper level access and disabled access to Building 24. Works were completed in February, 2010.

Works were also completed on a paved courtyard that flanks the Building 2 foyer and opens up previously unused space behind the School of Art. The courtyard contains timber seats and wall frames to accommodate climbing plants and provides an attractive new recreation space for the University community. The courtyard was completion at the end of 2010.

A well Advanced Manufacturing Precinct

Refurbishments of the Advanced Manufacturing Precinct (AMP) were completed at the end of 2010. The Advanced Manufacturing Precinct is located in the George Thompson Building (Building 55) on the corner of Queensberry and Cardigan Streets in the heart of RMIT’s Carlton Precinct.

The introduction of the AMP into RMIT University and the Melbourne CBD is particularly pertinent, given that advanced manufacturing is one of Australia’s fastest growing exports. The AMP will be a vital specialist training resource for the advanced manufacturing industry and the Australian economy. The new AMP will deliver cross-disciplinary training and provide teaching in engineering and advanced manufacturing technologies, applied design, development, production, marketing and management.

Some of the key AMP activities are rapid prototyping and manufacturing and computer integrated manufacturing including automation, systems integration, computer numerically controlled manufacturing and testing of products and materials.

Training offered at the precinct will also be aligned with design research to be undertaken at the University’s future Design Hub and mechanical manufacturing and aerospace engineering on the Bundoora west campus.

The AMP received $1 million in funding from the $8.35 million grant awarded by the Australian Government’s Training Infrastructure Investment for Tomorrow (TIIFT), which forms part of the Teaching and Learning Capital Fund (TLCF) for Vocational
Education and Training.

The energy efficient AMP has also been designed to achieve a 4-Star Green Star Office Design certified rating by the Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA). The funds have been committed to the installation of interactive energy performance metering, interpretive screen based equipment and significant energy reduction installations. A new rooftop level with a translucent facade will also add more teaching space.

**New escalators in Building 201**

In late November 2010, work began on the installation of new escalators in the eleven level Siddons Building (Building 201) on the Bundoora west campus. Works were completed before the commencement of Semester 1, 2011. The new escalators have replaced the existing 30 year old escalators that have reached the end of their lifespan.

Building 201 is a heavily populated building that accommodates a number of College of Science, Engineering and Health (SEH) Schools, including Health Sciences, Applied Sciences, Medical Sciences and Life and Physical Sciences. Centrally managed teaching spaces are also situated in the building. The escalator upgrade has substantially improved the large number of staff and student users’ day-to-day experience of the building. The new escalators are energy efficient, with an automatic slow down capacity and shut off when they are not in use.

**New sports fields and athletics track**

Installation of a sports fields and athletics track on the Bundoora west campus commenced in 2009 with works completed by Semester 2 in 2010.

Located along the McKimmies road perimeter of the Bundoora west campus, the facilities are state of the art, sustainable and are available to both the University and general communities. This new sports and athletics precinct is comprised of two playing fields and a four-lane athletics track.

One of the playing fields is a FIFA rated soccer field and the second field is designed for both hockey and soccer.

The playing fields and athletics track have an environmentally friendly, synthetic grass surface. There are also provisions for water to be captured from the surface of the playing fields and diverted to the lake on campus.

The Bundoora Sports and Netball Centre (BNASC) is responsible for the management of these new sporting facilities.

**Informal student study and recreation space is a welcome addition to the Building 56 TAFE facilities.**

The Bundoora west campus sports fields and athletics track are state of the art and environmentally sustainable.

**Renewable energy, textiles and teeth**

A host of TAFE refurbishment projects were completed this year and were marked with official recognition ceremonies.

In 2009, RMIT was awarded $8.35 million in funding from the Australian Government through Teaching and Learning Capital Fund (TCLF) for Vocational Education and Training (VET). The funds were invested across a diverse range of renovation and installation projects.

A major refurbishment of Level 5 of Building 56 on Queensberry Street was rolled out. An impressive suite of collaborative teaching and learning style classrooms with high end audio visual capabilities, administrative space and common areas for recreation and quiet study have been completed. This refurbishment also included the installation of energy efficient lighting and control systems, variable speed drives on local fan coils, and new mechanical controls. This has reduced energy consumption on the floor by up to 30 per cent.

The Bundoora Sports and Netball Centre (BNASC) is responsible for the management of these new sporting facilities.

Informal student study and recreation space is a welcome addition to the Building 56 TAFE facilities.

The neighbouring Building 57 on Lygon Street now has a rooftop classroom; a renewable energy training facility has been installed. The facility includes three solar panels grids that are connected to data telecommunications cabling that allow data from the panels to be recorded and stored on site and directly transmitted into classrooms on lower levels of the building. The facility also contains wind and hydro technologies equipment.

The renewable energy training facility will be used to train School of Engineering (TAFE) electrical pre-apprentice, apprentice and diploma students in solar grid installation, monitoring and occupational health and safety.

The Renewable Energy Training facility on the rooftop of Building 57.

Office space on Level 3 of Building 57 was also refurbished for staff in the Schools of Aerospace, Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering (SAMME) and Engineering (TAFE).

Buildings 56 and 57 were officially launched in early September, with Christine Robertson, Deputy Director, TAFE Operations, presiding over the event.

RMIT University’s Vocational Dental Education Centre in the Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne has been extensively refurbished. New teaching and learning facilities include a 70 seat lecture room.
The University Lawn was completed in December, 2010.

The University Lawn is also environmentally sustainable, with planted shrubbery. The lawn also runs parallel to University Way.

The borders of the 250 m² lawn is flanked by the new north facing building.

The facility provides training for vocational dental health support services in the areas of dental assisting, dental technology, dental prosthetics, and in future, dental hygiene.

In addition to the TLCF funding that RMIT’s Vocational Dental Education Centre received, the University also secured State Government funding to equip the Dental Technician Laboratory. On RMIT’s Brunswick campus, a conditioned laboratory for textiles testing was installed in Building 512 for the School of Fashion and Textiles.

Instrumentation has been installed in the controlled environment laboratory, which will allow the School to analyze contaminants in textile materials and develop a vigorous testing regime to inform the development of environmental sustainability considerations for inclusion in the Australian Textile and Clothing standards.

This new facility is equipped to quantitatively assess carbon, water quality, contamination and energy management in textile and garment designs. Building 512 has also undergone an Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) treatment.

A new lawn for the City campus

RMIT’s City Campus now has another lawn that will provide more outdoor recreation space for the University community. The new University Lawn is an ideal setting for an outdoor lunch or quick break from studies and will enliven a part of the City campus that has been under utilized.

The borders of the 250 m² lawn is flanked by the new north facing courtyard and café of the refurbished Frances Ormond Building (Building 1), a wide gravel walk with seating and avenue of deciduous trees, a screen hedge, and an embankment of newly planted shrubbery. The lawn also runs parallel to University Way.

The University Lawn is also environmentally sustainable, with recyclable, artificial turf and underground tanks for water capture and storage.

The University Lawn was completed in December, 2010.

Bundoora Lecture Theatre

Construction began on Bundoora Lecture Theatre in early February 2010 and was completed in time for classes in Semester 1, 2011. Currently, work on the landscaping is still occurring.

The Bundoora west campus’ new lecture theatre is situated in close proximity to RMIT’s Plenty Road entrance, the eastern car park, Student Hub, Library and main cafeteria in Building 202.

The innovative 360 capacity auditorium is equipped with sophisticated audio visual equipment that will enhance interactive learning and staff and student engagement. There are provisions for the recording of lectures and the capacity for electronic feedback between lecturers and students.

A series of flexible spaces designed for a broad range of uses adjoins the lecture theatre and are earmarked to become key student congregation places on campus. These spaces include a multifunctional, flexible work area and informal learning area (ILA) with the capacity to accommodate up to 200 people. A video link from the auditorium will enable students in the ILA to tune into lectures in progress.

Landscaping surrounding the theatre is currently in progress. The lecture theatre will be flanked by north and south facing courtyards, populated with lush gardens and a covered veranda. The outer wall encasing the lecture theatre will have an undulating and organic shape that will enhance the visual appeal of the campus.

The building is also exemplified by environmentally sustainable design. The building’s energy and water usage data will be viewable on a display screen within the building; there are energy efficient water fixtures and fittings on the screen and there is rainwater collection from the roof of the building to be used for toilet flushing and irrigation.

The Bundoora Lecture Theatre.

Other sustainable design features include energy efficient lighting, low VOC flooring, furnishing and paints, and high indoor environment quality with the provision of good daylight.

Property Services also commissioned Ecology Australia Pty. Ltd. to prepare a Wetland Management Plan for the artificial water body on the RMIT Bundoora west campus to protect and enhance the Bundoora west campus wetland over a five-year period.

Work in progress

The Design Hub is coming

The Design Hub is under construction with the new building earmarked for completion in late May, 2011. The Design Hub is set to be a vibrant centre of postgraduate design, research and education. The new RMIT building will provide cutting edge, sustainable teaching and learning facilities, and a collegial research base for RMIT’s diverse range of design initiatives, design research groups and postgraduate design programs.

The Design Hub is aiming to achieve a Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA) 5-star Green Star Education Rating that signifies “Australian Excellence” in environmentally sustainable design. The Design Hub will be distinguished by a unique building façade to be comprised of 16,000 semi-translucent, sandblasted glass cells with the capacity for solar technology to be incorporated into the cells. The Design Hub façade offers shading that is critical to the delivery of energy efficiency and indoor environment quality for the building.
The internal façade will contain high performance double glazed units with a low emissivity (low-e) film. Low-e is a surface that emits low levels of radiant energy.

Digital image of the Design Hub cafe and forecourt.

**Swanston Academic Building: a new era in education**

The main contractor for the Swanston Academic Building was announced in September 2010. RMIT University appointed Brookfield Multiplex who have now begun construction on the site. The Swanston Academic Building (SAB) will be located next to the RMIT-owned Oxford Scholar Hotel on the corner of Swanston and A’Beckett Streets, and is RMIT’s largest ever construction project. The future building will span 35,000m² of Gross Floor Area and will stand eleven storeys high.

Stunning, state of the art and environmentally sustainable, the new building will provide 12 lecture theatres, 64 teaching spaces and 10 specialist learning venues for the whole RMIT community.

The Swanston Academic Building will also be the new home for the College of Business students and staff, which are currently occupying Building 108 on Bourke Street, and will literally transport this large cohort of staff and students into the heart of the City campus.

Standout features include a two-storey cantilevered student portal that overhangs Swanston Street, nine additional double-height student portals for study and recreation, landscaped indoor gardens, created spaces for public art, and a cluster of retail outlets.

The Swanston Academic Building has also been designed to encapsulate the spirit, views and heart of the City of Melbourne. The façade will consist of abstract, flat colour interpretations of the panoramic views of the city. SAB will be literally wrapped in the texture of the city. Shapes of significant Melbourne buildings viewed from each of the double storey student portals will be repeated in the shapes of the portal windows.

Sustainable design features include a high performance façade with double glazing and sunshadows, grey water recycling, solar hot water and a natural ventilation system.

Construction of the Swanston Academic Building is set for completion by early 2013.

A near complete School of Media and Communication

The final stage of the refurbishment of Building 9, for the School of Media and Communication, is well underway with completion set for mid-2011.

The Building 9 basement and level will house key facilities for the School, including production suites, a postgraduate lounge, a recording studio and new premises for the Works - the School of Media and Communication’s inhouse graphic design studio.

**Bundoora West Pedestrian Spine**

The Bundoora West Pedestrian Spine landscaping project commenced in 2010 and is set to connect the eastern and western ends of the campus. The pedestrian spine will distinguish this RMIT campus as a visually vibrant, engaging and environmentally sustainable place that supports staff and student recreation and pedestrian traffic.

The pedestrian spine pathway and services corridor will lie adjacent to the Bundoora west lecture theatre and will lead towards Plenty Road. A DDA-compliant link between the Hub in Building 202 and the existing carpark is also a part of the pedestrian spine roll-out.

The pedestrian spine will visually enhance the Bundoora west campus and introduce features that include a sprawling lawn terrace, a generous promenade and a nestled amphitheater. Concrete seating edges, lighting and way-finding will be integrated into the landscaping to ensure the campus is secure and allows for ease of navigation.

Aerial view of the Bundoora West Pedestrian Spine.

Sustainable design features include the maximization of water capture and the selection of specific planting that will thrive with low maintenance. Significant existing trees on campus have also been incorporated in the pedestrian design spine.

The pedestrian spine allows for future expansion of the Bundoora west campus and connection into University Hill amenities.

The pedestrian spine is due for completion in mid-2011

**Environmental sustainability**

**An illuminating hour of darkness**

RMIT University participated in Earth Hour for a third consecutive year in 2010. Earth Hour is a worldwide initiative that encourages households, businesses and institutions around the world to switch off their lights for one hour to make a united statement against the effects of global warming.

Earth Hour ran on Saturday, 27 March 2010 from 8.30pm to 9.30pm. The University’s three onshore campuses and offshore campuses in Vietnam turned off their lights to illuminate the issue of effective energy management.

RMIT University recorded a 20 per cent reduction in energy consumption for the duration of Earth Hour.

Over a three year period, RMIT’s results have improved exponentially. In 2008, the University achieved a 5 per cent saving.
in energy consumption and this has escalated to a 20 per cent saving in 2010.
The collective effort of the University community to turn off lights and office equipment in preparation for Earth Hour was key to RMIT’s success.

RMIT’s Property Services Maintenance and Security staff played an instrumental role on the day of Earth Hour by closely monitoring activity on campus and ensuring that all lights were switched off.

The great strides that RMIT University has taken in “greening” its infrastructure is also reflected in the Earth Hour results.

Significant works have been undertaken to enhance the energy efficiency of the RMIT City campus central chilled water plant, which reticulates water via a pipe loop around the campus for the purpose of cooling buildings.

Another measure taken in 2010 was the rollout of an energy efficient lighting upgrade program, which included the installation of new LED (light emitting diodes) emergency exit lighting. LEDs produce more light per watt than incandescent bulbs and last more than 15 times longer.

Offshore, RMIT also performed particularly well. RMIT International University Vietnam achieved a significant energy saving, with 60% less consumption of power than the energy usage recorded at the same time on the previous Saturday. The 225Kw of energy saved is equal to the amount of power that an average household consumes over a one month period.

For more information on RMIT’s commitment to sustainability, visit the Think Green at RMIT website (www.rmit.edu.au/thinkgreen).

RMIT’s got the (resource) smarts

RMIT University is set to become more resourceful and smarter as it takes on new challenges in sustainability. In late 2009, RMIT University signed up for Sustainability Victoria’s ResourceSmart Tertiary program, a compulsory environmental sustainability initiative that is being rolled out across the tertiary education sector.

ResourceSmart Tertiary is a comprehensive environmental management program that has been developed for TAFE facilities and operations. The program is designed to be holistic and flexible so that the goals and objectives can be applied to all educational facilities on campus.

RMIT University’s Sustainability Committee has developed a five year Sustainability Action Plan which contains initiatives and targets up to 2015 and beyond. The plan was submitted to Sustainability Victoria for feedback.

The Sustainability Committee has examined the broader definition of sustainability that encapsulates the social, ethical and educational values and has developed initiatives and targets relating to these areas for inclusion in the action plan.

ResourceSmart Tertiary contains goals and targets around the reduction in energy, water and waste consumption, sustainable purchasing, education for sustainability, and the promotion and reporting of environmentally sustainable commitments and achievements.

The program also contains sustainability targets and objectives for the areas of biodiversity, planning and infrastructure, transport, green office programs, staff behavioural change and information technology.

RMIT University has appointed a Resource Smart Officer to coordinate the delivery of the program.

Property Central database goes green

Do you want to know how energy efficient your building is or how much water is consumed in your building? Property Central, Property Services’ facilities management database, now provides that information.

RMIT staff and students can gain an overview of how the building in which they work or study is performing against water and energy benchmarking levels and how their building is performing against other buildings.

Property Central is a web portal system that is an industry standard, GIS (Geographical Information System) application and a centralised, user friendly repository of all onshore RMIT campus building plans and facilities information.

Staff can efficiently access information on RMIT’s physical resources including building, space and campus information, as well as information specific to the University’s Colleges, Schools and Groups.

Campus maps and building floor plans can also be modified to suit user requirements. Notations can be added and a wide range of information can also be added or removed, like Usable Floor Area (UFA), room type and the School or Group that uses the space.

Visit Property Central at www.rmit.edu.au/propertyservices/propertycentral

Campus Care Fund

The Managers Client Relations (MCRs) have rolled out a program of campus improvements that are adding touches of finesse across the University. The MCRs are responsible for the Campus Care Fund, which is earmarked for the upgrade of campus facilities, including furnishing, flooring and surface painting.

The Kaleide Theatre foyer on Level 2 of Building 8 has been revived with the introduction of new furnishings that are contemporary, attractive and practical. Circular lounge seating and leaf shaped single seats in RMIT corporate colours have been introduced to the foyer. All but one piece of the new furnishing is movable, allowing for the space to be reconfigured for different occasions and purposes.

The lift foyers and thoroughfares of several levels in Buildings 10, 12 and 14 now have new flooring. A durable red and black marmoleum has been installed and has refreshed these previously tired corridors.

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2010 BEIMs maintenance volume:
Work orders raised and responded to:
» Brunswick—905
» Bundoora—4,842
» City (including Hamilton)—17,135