

Increase in ARC Grant Applications

The applications from Round One of the ARC funding are well up across the University and in the Faculty. Within the Faculty we had set a target to submit a total of 15 Discovery and Linkage applications to the ARC. With still one round to go for ARC Linkage Grants (deadline for round two submissions is 6 December) we have already submitted 14 applications, and so look well on our way to exceeding our target by the end of the year.

The following Linkage Grant applications were lodged by the Faculty:

Prof. Craig Deegan from the School of Accounting and Law with industry partner the National Institute of Accountants lodged an application for the project titled: 'An investigation of the role of corporate governance structures in encouraging sustainable business operations'.

Dr. Anthony Lowe and Mr. Geoff Christopherson from the School of Marketing along with Mr. P. Hansford and industry partner the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (Agribusiness) submitted an application for the project titled: 'A best practice supply chain model for exporting Australia's fresh produce to global retailers in Thailand'.

Prof. Bill Martin and Dr. Hepu Deng from the School of Business Information Technology and Ms. J. Heazlewood with industry partners the Public Record Office and Multimedia Victoria Innovation and the Department of Infrastructure lodged an application for an APAI titled:

'Technology and organisational change: A multi-case study of strategic fits within state government departments'.

Dr. Elspeth McKay from the School of Business Information Technology along with Prof. T. Thomas (Applied Science), Dr. J. Martin (The Constructed Environment) and Dr. P. Brogan partnered with Macromedia Inc. in a grant application titled: 'Web-Work-Search-System: An enhanced accessibility for those recovering from mental illness'.

Dr. Roslyn Russell, Prof. Robert Brooks from the Research Development Unit along with Assoc. Prof. G. Nicoletti (Life Sciences) and Em. Prof. R. Borland partnered with BioDiem in a grant application for a project titled:

'Valuations and business models for biotechnology companies.'

Also Assoc. Prof. Peter Smith (Applied Science) and Prof. Robert Brooks from the RDU partnered with BPN Consulting and the ANZ Bank in a Linkage application titled: 'Censored regression techniques for credit scoring'.

We wish all of our ARC Linkage Grant applicants good luck with their applications.

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Below is a table which compares the number of ARC Discovery and Linkage Grants across each Faculty. From this table it is clear that whilst the rate of research grant activity is increasing across the University as a whole, there is significant growth within RMIT Business beyond the University average:

ARC Discovery and Linkage Applications Performance Table for RMIT University

| Faculty | Discovery | | Linkage | | Discovery & Linkage | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|
| | 2001/2002 | 2002/2003 | 2001/2002 | 2002/2003 | 2001/2002 | 2002/2003 |
| Applied Science | 14 | 17 | 10 | 7 | 24 | 24 |
| Art, Design & Communication | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Business | 6 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 10 | 14 |
| The Constructed Environment | 4 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 12 | 8 |
| Education, Lang & Comm Service | 5 | 10 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 11 |
| Engineering | 6 | 14 | 6 | 10 | 12 | 24 |
| Life Science | 4 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 5 |
| TOTAL | 40 | 60 | 34 | 26 | 74 | 86 |

At RMIT Business ARC applications have increased by 40% compared to last year, compared to the University average growth in applications from last year of 16%. These results are encouraging for both the University and RMIT Business.

Doctor of Project Management Program Moves to RMIT Business

At the start of the first semester of 2002, RMIT Business acquired an important companion to its Doctor of Business Administration program, the Doctor of Project Management (DPM). Derek Walker, Professor of Project Management and Director of the DPM program, relocated from the Faculty of The Constructed Environment (TCE) to the Research Development Unit within RMIT Business. This was in response to an opportunity which allowed the DPM and the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) in Construction Innovation to gain substantial support and has also involved the re-locating of five PhD students linked to the CRC's activity to the Faculty.

"The Faculty of Business recognise opportunities to gain synergies between business and the construction industry as well as develop synergies between the DPM and the Masters level business courses as well as the DBA. This is an exciting prospect" says Professor Derek Walker.

The innovative DPM program was introduced in 2001 as a world first professional doctorate in project management. From 2003 it will be offered as a joint-parchment program with QUT's School of Construction Management and Property as part of a long-term collaboration between Derek and the Head of School there Professor Tony Sidwell. Not only is this a first for offering this kind of program, it also makes use of these two ATN University's academic resources in a synergistic way. The DPM is offered to experienced project managers on a full-time basis while they are also working full-

time over a minimum 3-year period. The DPM is unique and can be undertaken in this way by candidates because the program focuses its research completely on the practice of project management using the candidates' active projects as case for reflective learning. Further, all but one of the core courses is undertaken on-line. The fourth core coursework element is undertaken in executive mode over 10 days each year in August. The remaining courses are all focussed around reflective learning and a combination of action and case study research. This can be undertaken purely using communication technologies because the interaction is between the supervisor and the candidate.

The program model guides candidates through four core subject areas: knowledge management (offered out of the School of Business Information Technology); project management procurement and ethics; project management leadership and an elective specialisation course. These core coursework elements are undertaken using group work as well as individual assessment. The RMIT on-line learning hub is used as the platform for linking candidates. Each of the core coursework courses has a companion reflective learning course in which candidates undertake additional private study to add considerable depth to their understanding of relevant theory. Additionally, candidates use the reflective learning courses to develop a publishable-standard paper that prepares them for their research projects. "These papers of about 5-6,000 word length not only provide the base for publishing in the refereed journals or at conferences but also develop the research proposal. This guides candidates along the often-lonely path of developing their dissertation over the final part of the program. The doctoral dissertation of about 50,000 words length is rooted in critical reflective research into project management practice. Many of the advances in our current health system are based upon practice research" Professor Derek Walker added.

The DPM has attracted a global response with 13 candidates. Three candidates who commenced in 2001 are currently enrolled, and another 10 candidates joined the program in 2002. There are 6 candidates based in Melbourne, 1 in India, 3 in Canada, 3 in the USA and 1 in Argentina. "I have had applications from Brazil, Oman and more in the USA and Canada. I built a website to provide a focal point to the program and linked it to the professional project management association in the USA and have found I get most of my referrals from that source" stated Derek.

The DPM candidates come from an interesting background. Most are in their 40's, have at least 10 years in project management environments, and want the opportunity to undertake a doctorate in project management practice. They can only enter the program with either a Master degree or Honours Degree. The source of the Master degree varies. Most have an MBA with backgrounds in IT and change management but a significant number of them have a project management, logistics or engineering Masters. The project management experience is also very diverse. IT and Construction Infrastructure is an obvious source but other candidates also have ports and transport, criminal justice, aerospace and museum curatorship experience. The MBA graduates entering the DPM program have consciously sought a project management specialisation and this is one point where the DPM and DBA link is important. The elective core courses in the DPM can be offered out of a number of the RMIT Business Faculty programs as well as an approved program elsewhere. This diversity of background adds value to the DPM candidate's study experience because it exposes them to a range of project management perspectives based on very different types of project.

"The DPM and CRC research activities in project management and construction procurement are closely linked. RMIT Business responded swiftly to this opportunity" explains Professor Walker. "For example, the PhD and DPM students brought across

from the Faculty of the Constructed Environment have a direct impact upon growing project management supervision at a time when the business community in general have recognised the relevance and pivotal importance of project management. The construction industry is also converging towards business as its focus for new ideas on how to develop and maintain advantage through competitive service differentiation" he added.

One of the PhD students brought across to RMIT Business is researching the area of relationship marketing in the construction industry, which is relevant to relationship-based procurement systems that are attracting increased interest in the construction industry but have been a feature of the business community for a number of decades now. Another of the PhD students is investigating the success of joint venture construction organisations and large-scale infrastructure projects from an organisational culture perspective. Three of the remaining PhD students' work is directly linked to the CRC research project in innovation and knowledge management in the construction industry. One of these students is investigating information communication technology (ICT) diffusion. Another PhD student is researching the link between leadership, knowledge management and innovation in the construction industry and the third PhD in this cluster is investigating organisational learning culture, knowledge management and innovation. Apart from enhancing the PhD research profile for the Faculty, these provide important synergies between RMIT Business and the construction industry.

"On a personal note" reflects Derek, "I love the diversity and exciting possibilities of working with all these project management professional, all in very senior positions undertaking worthwhile projects across the globe. My project management experience for 16 years in UK, Canada and here in Melbourne was on large-scale construction. Being in the Faculty of Business allows me to maintain my project management supervision as well as lead our CRC project team - all in an environment provided by the Faculty which offers a great depth of experience in business and connection to other industries outside construction."

A special thanks to Prof. Derek Walker for providing information and comments for this article.

Recent Completions

The following students have recently completed and submitted their theses:

David Moore, Master of Business by Research,
School of Accounting and Law.

Thesis title: 'Environmental management accounting and effluent treatment and disposal : An investigation into the classification and allocation of costs within a water authority'.

Steven Dellaportas, PhD,
School of Accounting and Law.

Thesis title: 'The effect of accounting education on student's moral reasoning and development'.





Research Funding Opportunities

For details regarding other current research funding opportunities please visit the Research & Development Funding website which provides a list of grants, awards, scholarships and fellowships available to staff and students and is updated weekly at: <http://www.rmit.edu.au/browse?SIMID=jg30k3i1c6l>

Also for a listing of scholarships available please visit the Joint Academic Scholarship On-line Network (JASON) website. JASON is an on-line database of scholarship information for postgraduate students. For further information please visit: <http://jason.unimelb.edu.au>

HCF Health and Medical Research Foundation

The HCF Health and Medical Research Foundation is seeking applications from individuals or groups interested in applying for funding for research projects that align with the aim of the of the Foundation- "...medical research of all kinds and research and enquiry into the provision, administration and delivery of health services for the benefit of HCF contributors and the public generally." The Foundation's Board of Trustees will prioritise funding for projects to commence this year using the following subject areas as a guide:

- Preventative practice
- Risk modification strategies for common morbidities
- Evidence based practice
- Outcome measurement
- Costs effective sub-acute models

Research must be designed to provide knowledge that can be applied.

Closing date: 28 June 2002

Application forms and further details are available from: Mr David Reid, Honorary Secretary, The HCF Health and Medical Research Foundation, C/- The Hospitals Contribution Fund of Australia Ltd., GPO Box 4242 Sydney NSW 2001. Email: dreid@hcf.com.au

Business/Higher Education Round Table Awards (BHERT) - For Collaborative R&D

This is a program of prestigious awards initiated in 1998 to recognise outstanding achievements in collaboration between business and higher education in the field of R&D. The objective of the program is to highlight at a national level the benefits of such collaboration, and enhance links between industry and universities.

Closing date: 16 August 2002

Application forms and guidelines are available from <http://www.bhert.com> (If you have trouble with the BHERT site try Internet Explorer)

Swiss Government Scholarships 2003

Through the Federal commission for Scholarships and Foreign Students (FCS), the Swiss Government offers a certain number of scholarships to foreign postgraduate students wishing to study at a Swiss University. These scholarships are intended to enable recipients either to further their education in Switzerland or to undertake research work in the fields in which the Swiss universities are particularly active.

Closing date: 20 September 2002.

Applications must be properly completed to be taken into consideration and should be forwarded to Ms. Tatiana Romanovsky, Project Coordinator, IDP Education Australia, GPO Box 2601, Canberra, ACT, 2601.

For further information please visit <http://www.admin.ch/bbw/ebildung/eskas.html>

What's New in the RDU Library

Internal Working Papers

Gatt, A., & O'Dwyer, L., 'e-Commerce technology for business: XML - A panacea for e-business?', School of Business Information Technology Working Paper Series, RMIT University, 2/2002.

External Working Papers

Brown, S., Farrell, L., Harris, M., & Sessions, J.G., 'Risk preference and employment contract type', The University of Melbourne, Department of Economics Research Paper No. 845, April 2002.

Dixon, R., 'A simple model of unemployment rate dynamics', The University of Melbourne, Department of Economics Research Paper No. 846, April 2002.

Basov, S., 'Evolution of social behaviour in the global economy: The replicator dynamics with migration', The University of Melbourne, Department of Economics Research Paper No. 847, May 2002.

Chiarella, C., & Goa, S., 'Type 1 spurious regression in econometrics', School of Finance and Economics UTS Business, Working Paper No. 114, University of Technology Sydney, April 2002.

Chiarella, C., & Goa, S., 'Modelling the value of the S&P 500 - A system dynamics perspective', School of Finance and Economics UTS Business, Working Paper No. 115, University of Technology Sydney, April 2002.

Chiarella, C., & Goa, S., 'Solving the price-earnings puzzle', School of Finance and Economics UTS Business, Working Paper No. 116, University of Technology Sydney, April 2002.

Currie, C., 'Integrity and security in the e-century', School of Finance and Economics UTS Business, Working Paper No. 117, University of Technology Sydney, May 2002.

Currie, C., 'Regulatory failure in emerging markets', School of Finance and Economics UTS Business, Working Paper No. 118, University of Technology Sydney, May 2002.

Plummer, K., 'Some reflections on ethics education for accountants', Charles Sturt Faculty of Commerce, Working Paper No. 6/04, April 2002.

Plummer, K., & Rolfe, D., 'A balanced scorecard for agricultural co-operatives: An introduction', Charles Sturt Faculty of Commerce, Working Paper No. 7/04, April 2002.

Kidane, H., 'Australian meat industry: Challenging issues and prospects on world export markets', Charles Sturt Faculty of Commerce, Working Paper No. 8/04, April 2002.

Sharkie, R., 'Knowledge creation and its place in the development of sustainable competitive advantage', Charles Sturt Faculty of Commerce, Working Paper No. 9/04, April 2002.

Hogan, P.R., 'Accounting Information Systems: An analysis of current curricula', Charles Sturt Faculty of Commerce, Working Paper No. 10/04, April 2002.

New RDU Website Coming Soon **<http://www.rmit.edu.au/bus/rdu>**



As part of the website refurbishment project within RMIT Business we have been working to improve not only the look of the RDU website but also the functionality of our site so that it will become a more useful resource to research staff and students as well as industry and external users wishing to learn more about research at RMIT Business. The new RDU will go live on 21 June, and we invite you to visit the new site at <http://www.rmit.edu.au/bus/rdu> and let us know what you think and if you have any suggestions to help improve our site.

The link structure and format of information has been modified in the new site to assist those wishing to find out information, also the content has been up-dated and new areas added. The main links from the home page are About, Research Student, Information and Services, People, Research Publications, Research Seminars and Workshops and Research Centres.

The About section includes a welcome message from the Dean, information about the role of the RDU, research at RMIT Business which includes details of our research concentration areas with links to the Schools and Centres and also information about research with industry.

The Research Students section of the website has been made more functional and useful to students. Information for prospective research students and current research students is clearly divided, although sections of the content that are relevant to both prospective and current students are interlinked. Prospective student information includes details on the research programs offered within the Faculty and how to apply. There is also information advising students what to expect, part of this section is actually written by research students who have commented on their experiences as a research student at RMIT Business. Also there is information for current students on higher degree policies and procedures, the research student manual, ethics, research scholarships, supervision, research seminars and workshops, AMS forms, etc.

Information and Services also is another one of the main links from the RDU home page. This section of the new site includes a large section on supervisor information including a link to the 2002 Supervisor Register, information on research funding opportunities, research in workplans, Faculty Publication Awards, the RDU library and a page of useful research links.

The People section of the site includes a listing of contact details for staff at the RDU, School Research Directors and a link to the Supervisor Register.

The Research Publications section of the website provides access to view past and current editions of the Business Research News, the RMIT Business Research and Publications Report and Working Paper Series. Also there is information about the RDU Library, Faculty Publication Awards, DEST publication guidelines and a register of DEST approved publications received by the RDU for 2002.

Also there is a separate link for Research Seminars and Workshops. This includes information about the proposed research student seminar / workshop program that is currently being developed by the RDU, as well as supervisor training workshops at both the Faculty and University level.

The final link from the RDU home page is Research Centres which includes links to the Transport Research Centre, the Centre for Quality Management Research and the CRC for Construction Innovation.

Once the new site is up and running the RDU is planning to run an information workshop to go through the features and functionality of the new website in greater detail to that outlined in this article for those who may be interested. As we are attempting to make our website a more useful resource for those wishing to find out more about research policies and opportunities within the Faculty we welcome any input that is constructive in helping us to build a better site. If you have any feedback to offer please email bronwyn.coate@rmit.edu.au. Details of the website information session will be advised at a later date once testing of the website is complete.

Research Development Unit

Level 13, Building 108
 Telephone: 9925 5594
 Facsimile: 9925 5595
 Email: rdu@bf.rmit.edu.au
<http://www.rmit.edu.au/bus/rdu>

Staff at the RDU

Prof. Robert Brooks, Associate Dean (Research)
 Jenny Diggle, Director, Industry Research
 Libby Hess, Administrative Officer
 Bronwyn Coate, Research Officer
 Liz Merlot, Research Officer
 Emily Tropea, Administration Assistant
 Ebony Rea, Administration Assistant
 Allison Dutka, Research Student Admin. Officer

The aim of this newsletter is to keep staff informed of research activity within RMIT Business and of research opportunities both outside and within the faculty. If you have any contributions (we are always interested in research or researchers for our feature article) that you think would be of interest to the faculty please contact Bronwyn Coate at the RDU.

The *Business Research News* is also available for viewing on the RDU's web site shortly after it has been distributed in paper form. The web site also contains information for research staff and students including the RDU's library holdings.