Dear Research Students and Supervisors,

1. Great Research Student Conference on the 20 November. Thanks to everyone for presenting, reviewing and assessing. This collegiate support is very much appreciated. The dinner at the end of the presentations is working very well as everyone comments on how much they enjoy this social aspect of the conference.

2. Many thanks to Dr Marg Sellers who presented a very innovative research seminar on the 27 November “Re(con)ceiving children in curriculum: Mapping (a) milieu(s) of becoming’. This seminar had everyone talking and involved in the discussion. If you missed the session, introduce yourself to Marg in 220.03.12 and ask about her fascinating research.

3. Congratulations to Michelle Wisher, a PhD student within the School of Education who has just been awarded a DEEWR Endeavour Research Fellowship to assist her with her PhD research entitled ‘Starting Out in Village School: learning to Teach in Lao PDR’.

4. Planning for 2010 is well under way. We have a Supervisor Induction and Training session planned for the last week of February 2010, the new research student induction is on the 9th of March 2010, the OTED2098 research methods intensive will be conducted on the 9 – 12th March, the research seminars will be running again in 2010 and I hope to have all the new staff who have just been appointed presenting early in the year so we can all get to know their research interests and expertise.

5. Congratulations to the 10 research students who are graduating this year it is a great achievement for both students and supervisors.

   Maree Clarke
   Simon Hamm
   Michael Jordan
   Huong Le
   Judith Maxwell
   Ron Murray
   Khanh Van Dao
   Sharon West
   Andrew Baylor

6. This is the last Research Bulletin for the year, so Louise, Jane and I wish staff and students a great break and hope you all have a very well earned holiday. I trust you have found these Research Bulletins useful. If you would like to see any new items in 2010, please just let me know. I look forward to working with you all again in 2010.
Welcome to Karen Corneille

Karen Corneille has joined the School as a Research Assistant for the newly formed Cluster for Research in Education for Sustainability and Social Inclusion (CRESSI). Karen has come with a wealth of research experience previously working as a research assistant at the University of Melbourne in the fields of educational measurement and school improvement. More recently she has worked in the private sector for an online survey research company. She has a strength in quantitative research (including SPSS). Initially she will be busy exploring research activity in the sustainability and social inclusion areas. Karen’s role is to support all staff who have research interests in this area.

Please contact Karen (karen.corneille@rmit.edu.au) or Heather Fehring if you want further information, or feel that you have a project in mind that could do with some CRESSI help.

More about CRESSI

The Cluster for Research in Education for Sustainability and Social Inclusion has been created to foster and develop research in the areas of sustainability and social inclusion — two important foci for the University’s strategic plan for 2011-2015, as stated by the Vice Chancellor. This initiative will help enhance the research culture of the school and establish a niche for the School within the University.

Currently there are research activities and opportunities which fall neatly under the CRESSI umbrella; these include:

- Work with AISV on case studies of schools’ sustainability education practices
- Studying incorporation of sustainability into our teacher education programs
- Early childhood environmental sustainability education
- Development in sustainability education in the national curriculum
- Exploring social sustainability issues including social inclusion, particularly in the northern corridor
- Students at risk accessing VCE, VCAL and adult education programs
- Students accessing migrant English programs
- Students admitted to undergraduate programs through SNAP and other equity places
- Supporting teachers in Whittlesea and Darebin areas
- The emerging University ‘Northern corridor’ priority
- Work with indigenous communities.