Opening of New Postgraduate Research Facility

A reminder to all RMIT Business staff and research students that you are formally invited to attend the official opening of the RMIT Business Postgraduate Research Student Resource Area. The official opening of this new facility has been eagerly awaited and promises to be a fitting event for the Faculty to gather and celebrate this exceptional facility and student resource. The establishment of this facility shows the Faculty's commitment to building up and strengthening our research environment. In particular it is hoped that this new facility will make the research experience of our valued research students more rewarding. The research facility provides accommodation for the majority of our full time research students and will facilitate more opportunities for research students to network with one another and make their research experience less socially isolating.

The Dean of RMIT Business, Professor Margaret Jackson will make an opening address and Professor Robert Brooks, Associate Dean Research for RMIT Business will make a brief presentation on the future of research at RMIT Business.

So be sure to mark this in your diaries as it is an event not to be missed..............

Date: Wednesday 3rd of October, 2001

Venue: 108.13.33

Time: 2 pm

Light Refreshments will be served.

Please RSVP to Allison Dutka, Research Development Unit, by Monday the 1st of October, 2001. (Phone: 55598; or e-mail allison.dutka@rmit.edu.au)
Call for Papers - 7th International Conference on ISO 9000 & TQM (7th ICIT) (Theme: Change Management)

2-4 April 2002, RMIT Storey Hall, Melbourne, Australia
Organised by the Centre for Management Quality Research (CMQR) at RMIT Business.

The International Conference series on ISO 9000 and TQM (ICIT) has been held every year since 1996 in different parts of the world (UK, Hong Kong and Singapore) and explores contemporary themes in quality management. The Centre (CMQR) is delighted to be hosting the 7th ICIT and it is the first time that this conference will be held in Australia. The conference aims to bring together academics and practitioners to provide an opportunity for mutual learning. The conference is in keeping with RMIT’s strategic plan which states the Universities commitment to inter-and multi-disciplinary research programs that address real-world issues. The Centre, the most recent addition to the RMIT Business research community, cordially invites staff and postgraduate students to consider presenting the key aspects of their work or studies to the international audience.

Contributions are invited in the form of papers addressing any of the following ten sub-themes of the conference:
1. Change Management for ISO 9000 and TQM
2. ISO 9000: 2000, QS 9000, ISO 14000 & SA 8000
3. Business Process Re-engineering
4. QFD, Quality Circles and Tools
5. Leadership and Organizational Development
6. TQ Learning and Knowledge Management
7. Business Excellence and Quality Awards
9. Business Excellence in Services & Education
10. Business Excellence in Public & Health
A 500 word extended abstract must be sent to the Conference Co-Chair at the Hong Kong Baptist University, Prof. Sam Ho by 16 November, 2001. Please refer to the conference web site for submission details.

http://www.hkbu.edu.hk/~samho/7icit.htm

All conference papers will be double-blind peer reviewed by the members of the International Technical Committee to ensure their academic rigour for professional contributions.

The 6th ICIT (Scotland, 2001) contained 90 papers delivered by delegates from 21 countries, almost half of which have since been published in refereed journals. It also featured keynote addresses from 20 international experts drawn from industry and academia. In particular, we wish to encourage RMIT Staff, Masters and Doctorate Students in the various programs (both Course Work and Research) to gain experience presenting to a prestigious international audience and to take the opportunity to highlight RMIT's participation in industrially significant research.

Please contact either Warren Staples or G.Srikanthan on extensions 57563 or 57211, or email 7icit@rmit.edu.au for any further information.

Article provided by Prof. John Dalrymple, Director, Centre for Management Quality Research, RMIT University, Co-Chair, 7-ICIT

Note : Conference papers presented at the 7th International Conference on ISO 9000 & TQM (7th ICIT) will satisfy the DETYA conference publication requirements and presenters will therefore be eligible to receive a Faculty Publication Award.

Faculty Publication Awards

Congratulation to the following researchers in RMIT Business who have recently received Faculty publication Awards since the last BRN.

In the ‘C1 Article in a Refereed Journal’ Category


In the ‘E1 Conference Paper in refereed Proceeding’ Category


Staff are encouraged to apply for Faculty Publication Awards as soon as possible after the journal article, conference paper, book or book chapter that you have authored is published. This will ensure that your publication is included in the Faculty’s total publication count reported to DETYA and that you recieve your due recognition and financial reward. Staff who apply for Faculty Publication Awards for publications for 2000 are now too late to recieve an award for publications from that time and are encouraged to get any 2001 publications to the RDU as soon as they can.
2002 ARC Grant Success

Recently the ARC announced all the successful grants it is to award in 2002. The Faculty had some success and obtained one ARC Linkage Grant plus it was included as a partner in another grant with Griffith University. Our new ARC Linkage grant which was awarded is being led by Prof. Robert Faff from the School of Economics and Finance (along with Prof. D.E. Allen and Prof. T.J. Brailsford who are external to RMIT). The title of the grant is ‘An evaluation of the Morningstar System of Managed Fund Ratings in Australia and New Zealand’. The grant is valued at $108,000 over three years or $36,000 per annum from 2002 to 2004 inclusive. This grant includes funding towards the one APAI award and will involve working with Morningstar as an industry partner.

The project will evaluate the Morningstar system of rating managed funds. Fund ratings considerably influence who manages the $A590 billion (June 2000 - AXISS Australia) in investment funds and are thus important to the efficient operation of the Australian capital market. Key project elements are: 1. the thorough investigation of the domestic Morningstar ratings methodology, identifying its strengths and weaknesses; 2. comparison of the US and Australasian methodologies; 3. analysis of the predictive ability of ratings; 4. an investigation into the feasibility of rating funds on stock selection and market timing; and 5. an investigation of the impact of Morningstar ratings on fund flows.

Well done and congratulations Prof. Robert Faff for success in obtaining funding from the ARC for this research project.

Congratulations also goes to Assoc. Prof. David Kimber and Michael Segon from the School of Management, who are part of a team partnering with Griffith University that was also successful in obtaining an ARC Linkage Project Grant. The title of the linkage grant they are involved in is ‘Conceiving and Implementing National Integrity Systems Assessments (NISA)’. The other external investigators in this project are Prof. Charles Sampford, Prof. C.J. Sampford, Dr. J. Uhr, Assoc. Prof. S. Zifcak and Prof. S. Miller. This project involves industry partners Transparency International and the Office of Public Service Merit and Equity. The grant is valued at $170,049 over three years commencing in 2002. The research to be conducted will be looking at integrity and corruption as conceptually linked opposites. Integrity systems (or ‘ethics regimes’) are the most powerful tools for dealing with corruption. They involve a range of institutions, laws, procedures, practices and attitudes which encourage integrity and discourage / sanction its absence among public servants and those who might wish to corrupt them. This project will examine the way Australian government and business integrity systems (some of which have received international praise for their design and conception) function in order to improve their operation in Australia and to provide examples for other countries.

Well done and congratulations to Assoc. Prof. David Kimber and Michael Segon in acknowledgement of the dedication and hard work that this represents.

Congratulations!

The Research Development Unit on behalf of RMIT Business wishes to formally congratulate Paul Myers on the recent completion of his PhD with the School of Accounting and Law. The title of Paul’s thesis is ‘The Conceptual Framework - The Views of Natural Shareholders in Australia’. Well done Paul!
Recently the following external Working Papers have been added to the collection in the RDU Library. Staff and research students are always welcome to come and browse in our library and borrow items that are of interest.

**Working Papers (External to RMIT)**


Research Funding Opportunities..............

The following funding opportunities may be of interest to researchers in RMIT Business.

*Tobin Brothers Foundation Ltd: 2001 Awards*

Interested organisations or individuals are invited to apply for awards from the Tobin Brothers Foundation. A number of awards of between $500 and $2000 will be made for projects which can be shown to be of direct benefit to the wider community. Awards may be made to assist in general funding in research or in the provision of capital equipment.

Applications will be received only on a formal application form which may be obtained by writing to: The Secretary, Tobin Brothers Foundation Ltd, PO Box 251, North Melbourne, Vic 3051.

Deadline: 12 October 2001

*The Rolex Awards for Enterprise 2002*

The Rolex Watch Company of Geneva, Switzerland is calling for new or ongoing projects. The Awards provide support to break new ground in areas that advance human knowledge and well-being. Awards fund new or ongoing work in the areas of science, exploration, the environment, cultural heritage and education. Any individual of any age or from any country is eligible. Five awards of $100,000 each are available.

Deadline: 31 October 2001

Further information and applications forms are available from: http://www.rolexawards.com/

*The Commonwealth Fund: Harkness Fellowships in Health Care Policy*

Fellowships to conduct a policy-oriented research project in the US for 4-12 months is available. This will involve the successful applicant attending the annual meeting of the Association for Health Services Research and an International Symposium on Health Care Policy in the US. The research fellow will also be required to work with health policy experts and researchers in the US and Australia and be part of an international network for health policy and research. Each fellowship will provide up to US$75,000 in support.

Deadline: October 2001

Further information please see: http://www.cmwf.org/
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.