Welcome New Research Students!

The following students have recently commenced their research studies with RMIT Business:

**School of Accounting & Law**
- **PhD**
  - Gilbert Afful - Accounting in pursuit of managerialism in public sector organisations.
  - Ian Fraser - An investigation into strategy formation in Chinese universities.

**School of Business Information Technology**
- **Master**
  - Marcellus Fernando - Use of technology management as a strategic tool towards achieving competitive advantage.
  - Kelly Hutchinson - The role of e-business and knowledge management in a developing context: The Royal Government of Cambodia.
- **PhD**
  - Doug Thomson - E-markets and e-procurement.

**School of Economics & Finance**
- **Master**
  - Tan Thanh Truong - The regression tendency of beta.
- **PhD**
  - Emawtee Bissoondoyal - The impact of sovereign rating on the South East Asian stock markets.
  - Harvey Hock Khoo - Mergers, acquisitions and takeovers.
  - Norashfah Al Haj - Malaysian financial markets.
  - Bronwyn Coate - The economics of the arts.
  - Craig Kingsley - Risk management and the credit risk premium.
  - Tony Martin - An investigation of the valuation of internet companies and the reasons for their fall in value over the past two years.
  - John Milton - Non-linear optimisation techniques and applying these to the determination of optimal exotic options prices.
  - Marc Olynyk - Corporate governance within managed funds.
  - Magdy Stephan - Utilising equity value in the Australian family home for retirement planning.

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**P.T.O.**
School of Management

Master

Stephan Chambers - Human Resource competencies required by new graduates.

Wayne Fallon - Effective management education and training for the development of socially responsible business practices.

Petra Triandos - The application of entrepreneurship and innovation in events and business.

PhD

Angela Chambers - Human rights, leadership and organisational sustainability.

Bernadette Crompton - Mentoring and coaching - The value to organisations.

Peter Goldsmith - An investigation into the role of group leadership in driving innovation through the influence on organisational culture change.

Carmen Gould - Ethics and the internet.


Natalie McDonagh - Creativity as a tool for individual and organisational learning and development.

Andrew McDonell - Examining industrial action by paramedics during 1993 and 1996: An oral recount.

Robert Pech - The relationship between innovation, organisational change and the impact on culture.

Jarmal Richard - The commercialisation of intellectual property by entrepreneurs.

Peter Robinson - Managers teaching managers: Development of a model for cross sector management collaboration and learning in a rural context.

Jacinta Ryan - Developing a qualitative organisational performance assessment system capable of measuring and improving the health and growth of an organisation, complementary to the balanced scorecard system.

School of Marketing

Master

David Fitzgerald - The capacity of B2B e-commerce platforms have in enhancing the service delivery experienced by customers.

Construction Innovation Scholarship

A PhD Research Scholarship stipend of AUS$24,000 plus a discretionary allowance of up to $6,000 per year for conference travel, materials/books and other expenses authorised by the Senior Supervisor is available for a suitably qualified and interested candidate.

The scholarship is directed towards a student to work in a cluster of researchers involved with a research project on construction industry innovation, specifically on the role of knowledge management in innovation. Currently there are two others PhD students engaged in this research cluster, two professors and two researcher fellows. The successful candidate is expected to commence in July 2002.

Students should have either an honours bachelors' degree (1st or upper 2nd) or a Masters degree in construction management, civil engineering or...
in a knowledge management related area. 
If you are interested in the first instance then please send in the following details:
1. An expression of interest that demonstrates you familiarity with knowledge management concepts and expertise in construction management;
2. A copy of your Curriculum Vitae;
3. Details of qualifications and transcript of results; and
4. Any references that you feel might support your application. 
Applications deadline is May 31 2002. 
Send details by email to: derek.walker@rmit.edu.au

Need More Information?

The title of the project is - 'An investigation into the role of knowledge management in supporting innovation for effective planning and delivery of construction projects'. This PhD to be undertaken full time in the School of Business Information Technology. Professor Bill Martin will be the senior supervisor and Professor Derek Walker will be the second supervisor. 

Research Questions to be considered:

1. How does effective construction planning and delivery of projects depend upon an innovative approach?
   a. In developing improved construction methods
   b. In identifying risk
   c. In responding to opportunities and threats in a flexible manner
   d. In improved coordination
   e. In improved communication
   f. In improved decision making

2. How does knowledge management support innovation?
   a. In knowledge generation
   b. In knowledge sharing
   c. In knowledge use

3. How is knowledge management supported by the learning organisation concept?
   a. In developing an organisational environment where excellence is encouraged
   b. In developing a win-win approach to working with supply chain partners and other stakeholders who can influence the delivery process
   c. In reducing problems associated with failing to consider lessons to be learned from past project delivery experiences
   d. In providing an environment where each individual actively participates in a leadership role in his/her field of expertise to generate and share knowledge including management support and nurturing of learning

Research Methods

- Literature review
  a. Construction time performance and risk management
  b. Innovation – product/process, drivers/inhibitors and innovation diffusion
  c. Knowledge management
  d. Organisational culture/the learning organisation
- Knowledge audit
- Case studies using a soft system methodology for planning and monitoring & control examples—setting up a plan for a project, getting over problems when project time slips.
- Validate results through a workshop where a focus group of ‘experts’ review results and comment upon them

Candidate Profile

- A Masters degree in construction management or good honours degree in construction management or civil engineering plus 3-5 years experience
- Demonstrated understanding of knowledge management principles
- Demonstrated understanding of organisational culture principles
- Available for starting PhD in July to October.
Recent Completions

The following students have recently submitted their theses:

Penelope Bar, Master by Research, School of Business Information Technology. Thesis title: 'Competition has a new interface - An exploratory study of the competitive impact of the world wide web in the Australian mortgage industry'.

Colin Arrowsmith, PhD, School of Marketing. Thesis title: 'Modelling new opportunities for sustainable nature based tourism'.

Carol Gill, PhD, School of Management. Thesis title: 'Rhetoric and reality in workforce management'.

Amalia Di Iorio, PhD, School of Economics & Finance. Thesis title: 'An analysis of the exchange rate exposure of the Australian equities market'.

David Sokulsky, PhD, School of Economics & Finance. Thesis title: 'Empirical investigation into the price effects associated with consistent changes to Australian equity industries'.

Greg Trainor, DBA, School of Management. Thesis title: 'A strategic approach to creating value for the utility customer of the future'.

Miriam Weisz, DBA, School of Management. Thesis title: 'The added value of a co-operative education program'.

Thuy-Huong Truong, Master by Research, School of Marketing. Thesis title: 'Assessing the potential of Vietnam as a holiday destination for Australian travellers'.

Jenny Diggle, PhD, School of Economics & Finance. Thesis title: 'When cash is king - Maximising returns from the optimal asset allocation process'.

Chandana Unnithan, Master by Research, School of Business Information Technology. Thesis title: 'Dot.com rise as an indicator of e-business growth and economic progress in Australia and India'.

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=jg30k31c6l

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
Criminology Research Council: Criminology Research Grants
The Criminology Research Council funds research for individuals or organisations wishing to undertake policy-relevant criminology research. Council invites applications for funding in any area it deems relevant to its work as the major funding body for criminological research. Council encourages research that involves collaborative funding by other agencies and sources.

Closing date: 23 August 2002
For further information please see http://www.aic.gov.au/crc/applications

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 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 are 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

Australian Academy of the Humanities/Academy of Social Sciences in Australia/ Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences- Netherlands
The sponsor shares an agreement of scientific and cultural collaboration with the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, to promote scholarly relations between Australian and Dutch scholars. Visits by scholars are for periods of one to two weeks. Awards provide a per diem and support approved internal travel during the period of stay. The scholar is responsible for the cost of international air fares.

Closing date: 15 August 2002
For further information please see the SPIN Funding database.

Academy of Social Sciences in Australia/ Chinese Academy of Social Sciences - China
Research scholars in the social sciences who are Australian citizens are eligible to participate in a four week exchange program with the People’s Republic of China. The sending country pays international excursion fares to the capital city of the host country,
and the host country provides transport, meals and accommodation.  
**Closing date: 31 July 2002**  
For further information please see the SPIN Funding database.

**National Archives of Australia Frederick Watson Fellowship**  
The sponsor offers up to two Fellowships annually to individuals interested in conducting research substantially utilising its collections. A full-time Fellowship would be for a maximum of three months and a part-time Fellowship for no more than twelve months. For full-time Fellows, a grant-in-aid of up to $750 per week towards living expenses, and a maximum limit of $4,000 for other research costs is available.  
**Closing date: 28 June 2002**  
For further information please see the SPIN Funding database  

**AFL Research Applications**  
The Australian Football League is seeking applications from individual researchers or groups interested in applying for funding for research projects the relation to Australian Football. The AFL Research Board, through consultation with the AFL clubs, has identified areas of interest and topics that are deemed priorities for Australian Football. The board will prioritise funding for projects to start in January 2003 that may be selected from the following:  
- Groin injuries  
- Psychological effect of not being drafted  
- Physical demands of the AFL’s feeder systems  
- Effect (not injury) of the number and intensity of games that junior footballers are required to play.

In addition the AFL Research Board would welcome any proposals on issues not listed above but which relate to injury prevention, coaching, development and performance in Australian Football. All applications must include the purpose of the study, methods, budget summary, timeline, the written support of an AFL club and a final approval form from the institution’s ethics committee.  
**Closing date: 14 June 2002**  
For further information and application forms please contact the AFL: email r&d@afl.com.au  or phone (03) 9643 1955

**What’s New in the RDU Library**

**External Working Papers**


Dixon, R., Freebairn, J., & Lim, G.C., ‘Why are recessions as deep as they are? The behaviour over time of the outflow from unemployment: A new perspective’, The University of Melbourne, Department of Economics Research Paper No. 842, March 2002.


**Report from the 2002 International Conference on Quality in Postgraduate Supervision**

Recently staff from the RDU (Rob Brooks, Liz Merlot, Libby Hess, Allison Dutka and Bronwyn Coate) attended the Quality in Postgraduate Research Conference held in Adelaide. The conference allowed for the opportunity to compare notes with colleagues from other institutions within Australia and around the world concerning issues of quality in postgraduate research. In recognising that quality in postgraduate research integrates a number of perspectives from key stakeholders, the views of postgraduate students, supervisors, support staff, administrators, policy makers, members of research councils, industry partners and government agencies were discussed. The conference dealt predominately with issues falling under the main theme areas of:

1. Policies affecting postgraduate research education
2. Exchanging views on current good practice in the field of postgraduate research education
3. Student perspectives and issues.

Some of the issues covered at the conference included the impact of the Research Training Scheme, issues affecting part time students, boundaries of plagiarism, progress reporting, the focus of assessment, supervisor training programs, building reflective practice, differing student / supervisor expectations, international students (general assistance needs, language assistance needs, specific problems arising between international students and their supervisors), students perspectives on what constitutes good support and students conceptions about what research actually is. These issues arising from the conference
where the focus of the last faculty supervisor training workshop, and notes which provide more detail on these issues are available by contacting Bronwyn Coate in the RDU (email: bronwyn.coate@rmit.edu.au). Also the conference proceedings will be available for interested staff and students to borrow from the RDU library once they are received.

Call for Papers: International Seminar on Transforming Quality in Higher Education

This seminar is a joint endeavour of two research centres in the antipodes of the world: the Centre for Research into Quality, University of Central England in Birmingham, UK and the Centre for Management Quality Research, RMIT Business. It will take place in RMIT Storey Hall from 30 - 31 October 2002.

The heart of the seminar will be focused discussion groups addressing the various facets of transforming quality, augmented by keynote speakers and parallel papers. The keynotes are to be provided by four eminent Educationalists from four continents. For more details visit the seminar website: [http://www.qualityresearchinternational.com/tq.htm](http://www.qualityresearchinternational.com/tq.htm)

Papers are invited on topics closely linked to the themes of the seminar. More details are available at the website: [http://www.qualityresearchinternational.com/tq/callpapers.htm](http://www.qualityresearchinternational.com/tq/callpapers.htm)

RMIT staff and students will be eligible for a discount entry; details will be provided at a later date. For further information contact G. Srikanthan tel. 9925 1372 or e-mail 7qhes@rmit.edu.au

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Emily Tropea, Receptionist - Admin. Assistant  
Ebony Rea, Receptionist - Admin. 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.