

TECHNOLOGY AT HEART

ANNUAL REPORT 2009

Office of the Chancellor

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April 2010

The Hon Bronwyn Pike MLA
Minister for Skills and Workforce Participation
Level 1, 2 Treasury Place,
East Melbourne 3002

Dear Minister

In accordance with the provisions of the Financial Management Act 1994, I have much pleasure in submitting for your information and for presentation to Parliament the Annual Report of RMIT University for the year ended 31 December 2009.

The Annual Report was approved by the Council of RMIT University at its meeting on 22 March 2010.

Yours sincerely



Professor R Dennis Gibson AO
Chancellor

Published by:
RMIT University
University Communications Unit

Building 96, Level 1
17-25 Lygon Street
Carlton South

GPO Box 2476
Melbourne VIC 3001
Australia

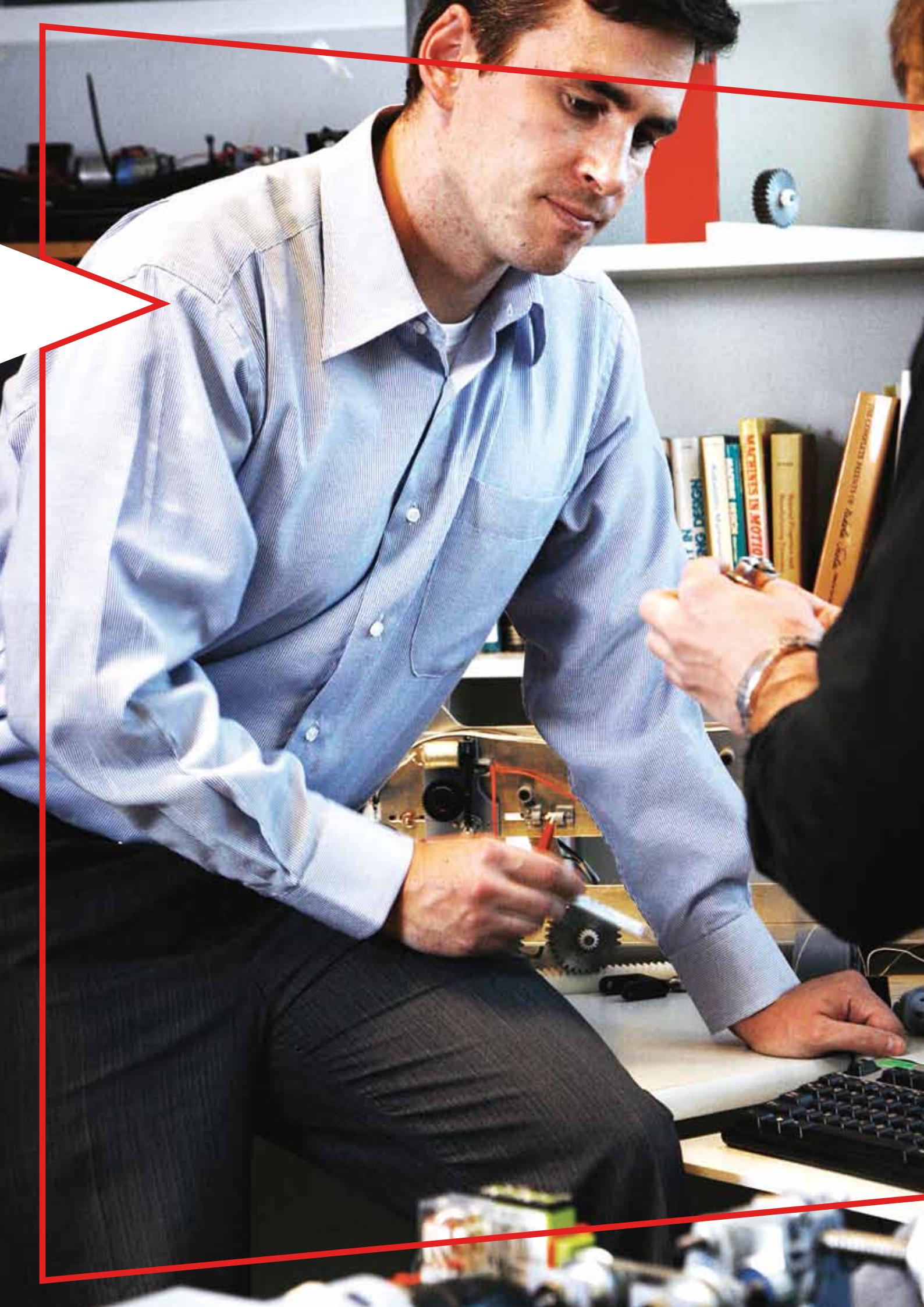
Tel. +61 3 9925 2000
ABN: 49 781 030 034
CRICOS Provider No: 00122A

Project manager and editor: Pauline Charleston
Design, layout and production: Design and Publishing Unit, University Marketing
RMIT University's 2009 Annual report and previous reports
are available online at www.rmit.edu.au/about/annualreport

10632 0410

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A vertical strip on the left side of the page shows a close-up of a man's face and shoulder. He is wearing a dark t-shirt. A prominent red star-shaped sticker is attached to his right upper arm. He is looking down at a laptop keyboard. A blue mechanical component with red wires is resting on the laptop's trackpad area.

ORGANISATIONAL OVERVIEW

MISSION OF RMIT UNIVERSITY

RMIT is a global university of technology with its heart in the city of Melbourne. We create and disseminate knowledge to meet the needs of industry and community, and foster in students the skills and passion to contribute to and engage with the world.

RMIT'S VISION TO 2010

RMIT aims to be:

- » Global in outlook and action, offering our students and staff a global passport to learning and work
- » Urban in orientation and creativity, reflecting and shaping the city of the 21st century
- » The first choice provider of work-relevant learning in Australia, preparing students for professions and vocations of the future
- » One of Australia's top research universities, internationally known for our applied focus and for excellence in research and research education in our chosen fields.

CORE VALUES

To be useful, creative, connected, fair and passionate:

USEFUL

Our graduates are creative, skilled and highly employable. Knowledge and skills developed in our students are relevant and applicable to the needs of communities, industry and individuals. Our staff are outcome-oriented and agile in their approach to meeting the needs of communities, industries and individuals.

CREATIVE

Opportunities for students and staff to fulfil their potential are created. Innovative curriculum and research solutions are sought, applied and rewarded. A creative and inventive culture is fostered.

CONNECTED

Students' aspirations, experience and needs are central to evaluating our performance and shaping improvement. Industry and community are active partners in our teaching and research. Global networks formed around enterprise, industry and communities underpin our operations. Teamwork is supported and encouraged.

FAIR

Learning opportunities cater for a diverse range of students, including those who may be disadvantaged in relation to education and/or labour markets. Respect for indigenous cultures is reflected in our work. Intellectual freedom and tolerance is nurtured and debate encouraged. A physically, culturally and socially safe work and study environment is provided for all staff and students. Ethical, honest and open dealings characterise relationships with students, staff and partners.

PASSIONATE

Meeting the needs and aspirations of our students and partners is a top priority. Excellence in teaching, scholarship and research is rewarded and supported. Cultural and social diversity is supported and celebrated.

CHANCELLOR'S STATEMENT

In 2009 RMIT continued with the implementation of its Strategic Plan, *RMIT 2010: Designing the Future*, under the leadership of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Margaret Gardner AO. While containing many elements, this plan has reinforced the focus on RMIT's role as a global university of technology.

True to its establishment as the Working Men's College in 1887, RMIT remained focused on the provision of high quality and practical education, training and research. It remained firmly committed to meeting the needs of its students, industry partners and broader community stakeholders.

RMIT achieved another very strong financial operating surplus in 2009. This financial result underpins the continuing implementation of a number of the University's initiatives, including its significant infrastructure plan. In particular, construction of the Design Hub commenced during the year, and preparatory work for the Swanston Academic Building continued in earnest.

I would like to thank all members of RMIT Council for their hard work and support during 2009. Ms Anne Dalton served as Deputy Chancellor in 2009 and also as a member of the Remuneration Committee. Ms Frances Awcock AM concluded her term on Council at the end of 2009. Her service on Council and the Nominations and Governance Committee was invaluable. Professor John Nieuwenhuysen, Ms Rhonda O'Donnell and Mr Trevor Tappenden have had their terms on Council extended to 31 December 2012, and I look forward to continuing to work with them.

The Council secretariat has continued to provide both Council and the Chancellor with high quality support.

The 2009 Annual Report demonstrates that the year was one of achievement for the University, its staff and its students. This excellent result places RMIT on firm footing for 2010 and beyond.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Gibson".

Emeritus Professor R Dennis Gibson AO
Chancellor

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S STATEMENT

2009 was a challenging year across the globe, as the financial crisis caused widespread economic decline and questions for government and society about the operations of financial markets and their regulation.

The impact of the global financial crisis on RMIT was to raise questions for our research and for the content of our educational programs. It was also an occasion for the expertise of our academics to be called upon to analyse and comment on this unfolding situation and its implications. RMIT was fortunate that the crisis did not impede our operations or viability.

The other local but devastating event in 2009 was the Victorian bushfires. This affected our staff and students, along with the entire Victorian community. The University's research has been a significant part of the longer term response. Through the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre, research led by Professor John Handmer analysed the response and provided advice on ways to equip communities for these circumstances. Immediately, the University contributed more than \$100,000 to the Bushfire Appeal. Our staff and students worked as volunteers, and also provided a consulting service from our Bundoora campus for those affected.

RMIT's Design Research Institute launched a Design Challenge on Fire to solicit innovative ideas for bushfire prevention and planning. The winning entry was Polytactics, which advanced the use of lightweight polymer materials that are activated by fire to transform into a protective porcelain membrane. The team was led by Professor David Mainwaring from the School of Applied Science and Professor Sue-Ann Ware from the School of Architecture and Design.

Demand from domestic and international students was strong and strengthened during 2009. This included strong demand for Advanced Diploma and Diploma qualifications, now part of a contestable domestic market as a result of the Victorian Government's Skills Reform initiatives.

There were a number of important achievements in 2009:

- » RMIT's research grant funding from the Australian Research Council and the National Health and Medical Research Council increased by almost 15 per cent in 2009 compared to 2008.
- » Three Future Fellows were awarded five-year fellowships by the Commonwealth Government to undertake research. They were Professor Helen Lingard from RMIT's School of Property, Construction and Project Management, Associate Professor Jinhu Lu from the Chinese Academy of Sciences, who will work in RMIT's Platform Technologies Research Institute, and Dr Quentin Stevens from University College, London, who will work in RMIT's Design Research Institute.
- » A total of 175 PhDs were awarded.
- » myRMIT, the University's new online student portal, was launched featuring single sign-in access to email, enrolment and program information, as well as course materials. A range of interactive features allowing personalised news and discussion forums contributes to communication both with and between students. This adds to other online features including podcasts of lectures, online course materials, online enrolment and an expanded wireless network across the campuses and surrounding buildings enabling students to have a flexible and rich environment.

- » RMIT's support for disadvantaged students was expanded through the award of 2,115 scholarships with a total value of \$7 million. New scholarships were provided for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students enrolled in health programs. The number of schools in RMIT's Schools Network Access Program which provides disadvantaged students with direct access to RMIT programs increased from 49 in 2007 to 93 in 2009.
 - » In teaching and learning, six RMIT academics were honoured in the annual Australian Learning and Teaching Council Citations for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning, and four vocational teachers were awarded International Specialised Skills Institute scholarships. RMIT's Professor Iouri Belski from the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering won a prestigious national Award for Teaching Excellence for his work in assisting students to improve their capacity to analyse complex engineering problems.
 - » While all programs at RMIT must have a work, studio or clinical learning experience, RMIT introduced new forms of international work experience, as well as expanding the number of students overall with an international work experience project from 116 in 2008 to 211 in 2009. The new projects involved collaborating cross-disciplinary teams of students from RMIT Melbourne and Vietnam working on the redesign of paediatric wards in a Vietnamese hospital, and the implementation of an income-earning business to support a Vietnamese orphanage. Some 114 students from the Melbourne and Vietnamese campuses collaborated on these new projects.
 - » Reinforcement of RMIT's position as a leader in international education was given when RMIT Vietnam was awarded a prestigious Golden Dragon Award from the Vietnamese Government for the seventh year in succession.
 - » RMIT was named by Boeing as one of its 22 focal universities world-wide facilitating research, student internships and scholarships.
 - » RMIT was named an EOWA Employer of Choice for Women for the third successive year.
 - » Energy, water and greenhouse gas emissions were reduced. Notable was a decrease in greenhouse gas emissions of close to 13 per cent between 2008 and 2009. RMIT was also named Victoria's first fair trade university in 2009.
 - » As part of capital expenditure totalling \$140 million in 2009, RMIT commenced construction of the Design Hub, continued redevelopment of the Francis Ormond Building and the Emily McPherson Building, and significantly progressed the design of, and preparatory works for, the Swanston Academic Building. Building 9 was substantially refurbished and extended to house the School of Media and Communication, with the introduction of innovative teaching and studio spaces as well as new student lounge spaces.
- RMIT contributed its staff and student expertise to dealing with global as well as local challenges. It did so by building on a strong foundation of achievement in education, research and service, and also by drawing on its focus as a global university of technology with its heart in the city.



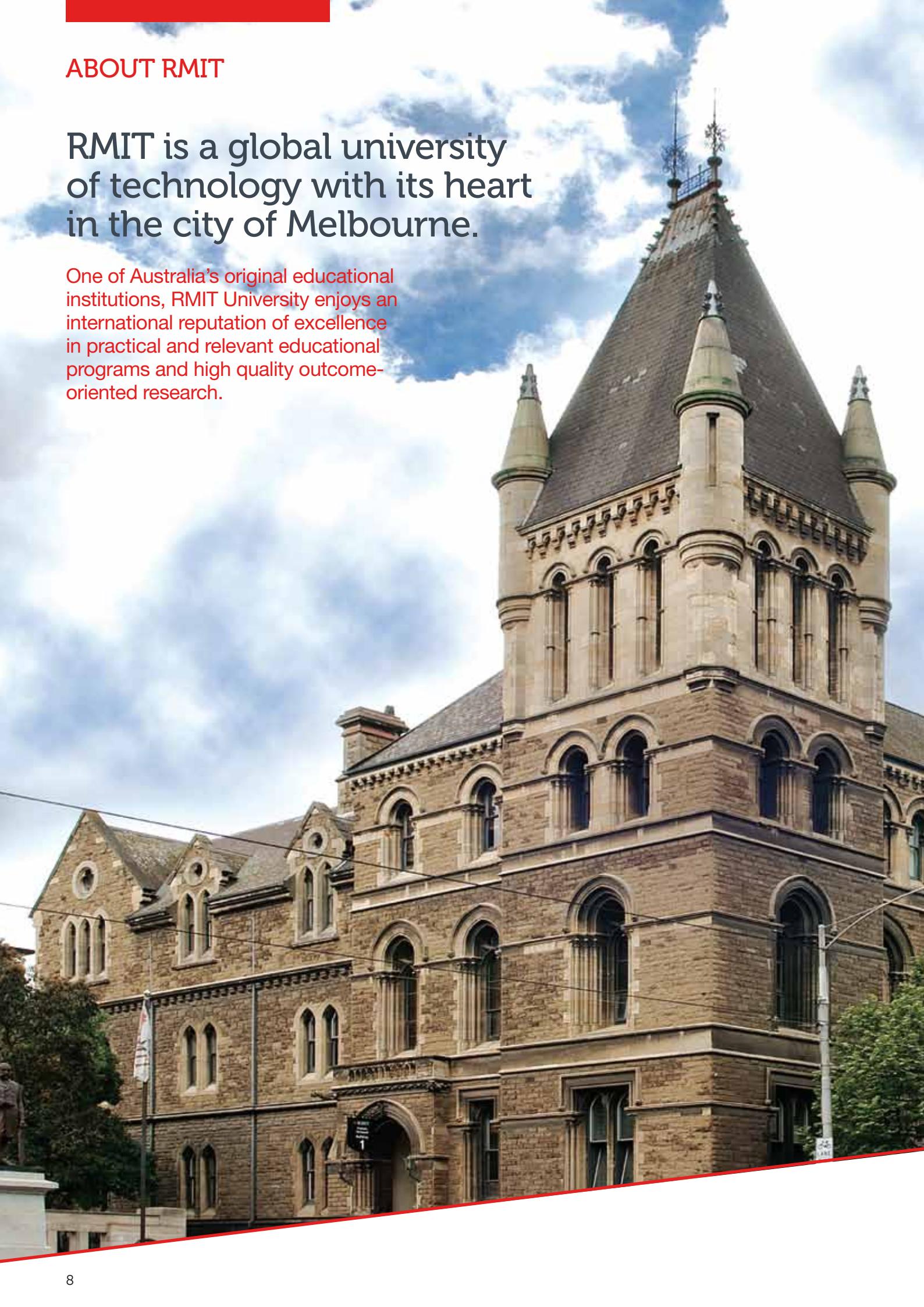
Margaret Gardner

Professor Margaret Gardner AO
Vice-Chancellor and President

ABOUT RMIT

RMIT is a global university of technology with its heart in the city of Melbourne.

One of Australia's original educational institutions, RMIT University enjoys an international reputation of excellence in practical and relevant educational programs and high quality outcome-oriented research.



Australia's largest dual sector tertiary institution, RMIT offers an extensive range of postgraduate, undergraduate and vocational programs. Learning pathways between higher education and VET provide students with flexible entry opportunities, or the option of dual sector qualifications combining the best of both sectors.

RMIT is recognised as an educational leader in the fields of architecture and design, creative arts, communication, information technology, business and engineering.

RMIT prides itself on the strong industry links it has forged over the University's 122-year history. Collaboration with industry is integral to the University's leadership in applied research and education, and to the development of highly skilled, globally focused graduates. As a result, RMIT graduates are valued by employers around the world for their leadership skills and work readiness.

Under its work-integrated learning policy, RMIT courses include work, studio or clinical experience, industry projects, internships and opportunities for overseas study and placements, ensuring that graduates are equipped with the skills and insight that employers value in the ever-changing global economy. A range of scholarships are also available to students.

RMIT has three Melbourne campuses – in the central business district and in Brunswick and Bundoora in the city's northern suburbs – and two campuses in Vietnam. With significant teaching partnerships in Hong Kong, China, Malaysia and Singapore, RMIT has a strong educational presence in the Asia-Pacific region.

The RMIT community is diverse. The University's total student population of 71,628 includes 27,500 international students, of whom more than 16,000 are taught offshore (5,000 at RMIT Vietnam). Students benefit from a learning environment which is intellectually stimulating and distinctive, and which has strong connections with contemporary professional practice.

RMIT has four Research Institutes representing established areas of University expertise:

- » RMIT Design Research Institute
- » RMIT Global Cities Research Institute
- » RMIT Platform Technologies Research Institute
- » RMIT Health Innovations Research Institute

The University is known for excellence in research which is directed towards addressing the problems and needs of industry and communities world-wide.

RMIT is a member of the Australian Technology Network of universities, and in 2009 was named the first Fair Trade University in Victoria (and equal first in Australia).

RMIT University is a self-accrediting institution established under Victorian Government legislation. RMIT's objects under its Act are to foster excellence in teaching, training, scholarship, research, consultancy, community service and other educational services and products. The University has the power to confer degrees, diplomas, certificates and other awards, and is a major provider of vocational education and training (VET) programs.

SENIOR OFFICERS



Vice-Chancellor and President

Professor Margaret Gardner AO BEcon (Hons), PhD (Syd), DUniv (Griffith), FAIM, GAICD

Professor Gardner is RMIT's Chief Executive Officer for higher education and vocational education and all controlled entities. She is responsible for ensuring strong, effective leadership and clear direction within the University through an appropriate vision and strategic plan. She also chairs the Boards of RMIT Vietnam Holdings and RMIT International University Vietnam. Professor Gardner has had a prominent academic career, having held leadership positions at Griffith University and the University of Queensland.

Professor Gardner currently chairs the Museums Board of Victoria and is a director on the Australian Learning and Teaching Council. She is also a member of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Council on Australia Latin America Relations, Executive and Chair of its Education Advisory Group, a member of the LH Martin Institute Advisory Board, the Federal Government's Higher Education Research Reference Group, the Business Spectator Advisory Board and the Australian Defence Force's Reference Group on Women.

In 2007, Professor Gardner was made an Officer of the Order of Australia in recognition of service to tertiary education, particularly in the areas of university governance and gender equity, and to industrial relations in Queensland.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic

Professor Jim Barber BSocSc (RMIT), BA (Hons), MSocWork (Flinders), PhD (Adelaide)

The DVC Academic is responsible for academic strategy, learning and teaching, profile management, quality, organisational reviews and academic staffing, and is Standing Deputy to the Vice-Chancellor.

Professor Barber has extensive experience in academic management, teaching and research in Australia and Canada. He holds a PhD in experimental psychology, a Masters degree in social work, and Bachelor degrees in Arts (First Class Honours) and Social Science.

Professor Barber has an international research reputation and is the author of six books. He is a recipient of the Pro Humanitate Medal, North America's highest literary award in the field of child welfare, and received the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching whilst Head of Flinders University's School of Social Administration.

Vice President Resources and Chief Operating Officer

Mr Steve Somogyi MSc (Melb), SM (MIT), FIAA

The Vice President Resources contributes to operational and system development and effectiveness, and to the strategic improvement of facilities and people resources. He is responsible for leadership of the corporate resources areas of the University, including Financial Services, Information Technology Services, Internal Audit and Risk Management, People and Culture, Legal Services and Property Services.

Mr Somogyi was appointed as Vice President Resources and Chief Operating Officer in 2006, having previously had extensive experience in the financial services and health care industries.

He is a Director of RMIT Foundation, VERNET, Guild Group and ING Australia. He is also a member of the Commonwealth Government's Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission and a Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries of Australia.

Pro Vice-Chancellor Business

Professor Gill Palmer BSocSc (Hons), MSc (Industrial Admin) (LSE), PhD (London City), GAICD

Professor Palmer was appointed PVC Business in 2008, having previously been Dean of Monash University's Faculty of Business and Economics.

She has an extensive background in the development of business education, including leadership roles at London School of Economics, CASS Business School (UK), Queensland University of Technology and the University of Wollongong, and in management roles with the British Government. She has also managed a business consultancy. She has been President of the Australian and New Zealand Academy of Management and the Association of Industrial Relations Academics of Australia and New Zealand. She has also chaired an ARC review of management research, was a foundation Board member of the Australia and New Zealand School of Government and is a Board member of Craniana. She has an accomplished academic reputation, with eight books and many articles published on human resource management and employment relations.

Pro Vice-Chancellor, College of Design and Social Context

Professor Colin Fudge BArch (Hons), MA (Town and Regional Planning) (Sheffield), DSc (Bristol), FRIBA, MRTPI, FRSA

Professor Fudge was appointed PVC DSC in 2008, having previously worked in government, academia and the private sector. This included the two universities in Bristol and the University of Cardiff (UK), Chalmers University and the Royal Institute of Technology (Sweden), UK and Swedish governments, Victorian government and the European Commission.

Professor Fudge has contributed through interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research on public policy formulation and implementation; cities, sustainable development and adaptation to climate change; public health; demographic change and urban design. This has been recognised through the awarding of the Royal Professorship of Environmental Science by the Swedish Academy of Sciences and an Honorary Fellowship of the Royal Institute of British Architects. In 2009 he received an Honorary Doctorate in Bristol for his work on public policy. He has written eight books, 80 articles and reports, numerous book chapters and has presented more than 120 conference papers.

Pro Vice-Chancellor Science, Engineering and Health

Professor Peter Coloe BSc (Hons), PhD (Monash), FASM

Professor Coloe was appointed PVC SEH in 2008, having previously headed the School of Applied Sciences. He has contributed significantly to management, education and research activities over his 20 year career at RMIT, and has served on Council since 1999. He chaired the Academic Board in 2000-08 and championed many of the University's teaching and learning developments, particularly in the study of science.

A prolific researcher as well as a sought-after research supervisor, Professor Coloe has more than 160 publications and has been awarded three worldwide patents which have gained him international recognition.

Professor Coloe is an advisor to the Federal Government's Biosecurity Australia risk assessment panel and the Victorian Government's biotechnology task force. He is an Australian Society for Microbiology fellow and council member, a member of the International Union of Microbiological Services, an ARC and NHMRC grants referee and serves on Microbiology Australia's Editorial Board.





Pro Vice-Chancellor, International and Development

Dr Madeleine Reeve (until September 2009)

BA (Melb), BEd (Monash), MEd (Canberra College of Advanced Education), PhD (James Cook)

Dr Reeve was appointed in 2002. She is responsible for the development and implementation of the University's domestic and international positioning including student recruitment, industry engagement, alumni, fundraising, media and communications, University brand management, offshore partnerships for the delivery of award programs, and international institutional linkages to support student mobility.

Functional areas include University Marketing, Communications, Events, Alumni and Development, International Services and Global Business Development (incorporating the facilitation of strategic industry partnerships).

Dr Reeve is a Board Member of RMIT Vietnam Holdings and RMIT International University Vietnam.

Pro Vice-Chancellor, Research and Innovation

Professor Daine Alcorn BSc (Hons), MSc, PhD (Melb), GAICD

Professor Alcorn is responsible for leading and building the University's capability in research and innovation. She has a broad-based teaching and research background in health and life sciences, and has been closely involved in the development of interactive multimedia teaching programs.

Professor Alcorn has more than 100 publications in the area of renal development, structure and function, her research having been supported by continued national research funding for more than 20 years.

A regular member of Australian Medical Council accreditation teams, she has contributed to medical program reviews at Bond University and the Universities of Western Australia, Tasmania and Adelaide. She has served on the NHMRC Research Committee and chaired its Research Fellowships Committee, is the past Inaugural Chair of the Victorian Cancer Agency Consultative Council, and is currently a Board member of Museums Victoria and the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.

Pro Vice-Chancellor Students

Professor Joyce Kirk BA (Syd), DipEd (Syd), MLitt (NE), MA (Lib) (CCAE), PhD (UTS)

Professor Kirk is responsible for identifying and planning services to meet the needs and aspirations of RMIT's different student groups and for enhancing the student experience. She works closely with administrative, academic and teaching staff to implement and enhance a University-wide student-focused learning environment. Her portfolio includes responsibility for the Student Services and Academic Registrar Groups, RMIT Union, and monitoring of the University's funding agreement with the RMIT Student Union.

Prior to joining RMIT in 2004, Professor Kirk was Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at University of Technology, Sydney. She is a member of the editorial boards of international and national journals and contributes to professional and research conferences as a program committee member and speaker. Professor Kirk maintains an active interest in the field of information management.

Director TAFE

Mr Allan Ballagh DipEd (Melb State College), BEng (Gordon), MEd (RMIT), Grad Cert Enterprise Management (Swinburne)

The Director TAFE provides leadership and expert advice to RMIT TAFE, and ensures the development and promotion of RMIT's capacity to innovate in vocational education provision and pedagogy.

Mr Ballagh is RMIT's delegate to the Victorian TAFE Association CEO Council. He has a broad range of leadership and management experience in the TAFE sector and is currently the representative for TAFE Directors Australia on the National Quality Council's Training Package Steering Committee. Mr Ballagh is also a member of the Capital City Local Learning and Employment Network Management Committee.

President RMIT Vietnam and Pro Vice-Chancellor

Professor Merilyn Liddell AM MBBS (Melb), MFM (Monash), MD (Monash), FRACGP, GAICD

Professor Liddell was appointed PVC and President RMIT Vietnam in July 2009, having previously held similar roles at Monash University. Prior to this, she had a long career in clinical medical practice, then combined this with academic medicine, becoming Head of Monash University's Department of General Practice. Her primary research interests were in clinical communication and medical education.

Professor Liddell led the Monash Malaysian campus through a major phase of development, including setting up an Australian Medical Council accredited medical school.

University Secretary

Dr Julie Wells BA, DipEd (University of WA), BA (Hons) (Murdoch University), PhD (Monash)

Dr Wells was appointed University Secretary in April 2009, heading Office of Governance and Planning which provides integrated support for University governance and for strategic, academic and business planning. She was previously Executive Director, Policy and Planning, and has served as Principal Policy Adviser to the Vice-Chancellor.

Dr Wells has extensive experience in tertiary education administration and management, and in public policy. Her background includes teaching and administrative roles in a number of schools, TAFEs and universities, providing advice and support to State and Commonwealth parliamentarians, and leading the policy and research unit in NTEU's National Office. She was a founding Board Member of the Council for the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences.



2009 GALLERY



Deputy Prime Minister visits Brunswick campus

Deputy Prime Minister Julia Gillard visited Brunswick campus to call for applications for funding under the government's \$200 million Training and Infrastructure Investment for Tomorrow program. Ms Gillard met students and staff, and was shown how to plot Gerber patterns on the University's new computer-aided design facility, which she praised as "state of the art".

Keith Cowlishaw (RMIT) and Federal Member for Wills, Kelvin Thomson, watch as fashion teacher Sandie Benson shows the Deputy Prime Minister how to use the CAD facility.

Minister launches Advanced Manufacturing Precinct

RMIT's Advanced Manufacturing Precinct will provide leading-edge infrastructure to support practical training in advanced manufacturing and applied design. The project was officially launched in July by Victorian Skills and Workforce Participation Minister, Jacinta Allan.



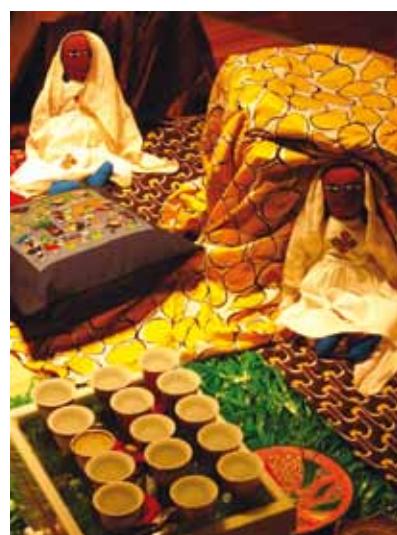
Professor Margaret Gardner and Minister Jacinta Allan at the launch.



Professor Margaret Gardner and Guangdong's Professor Yubo Lu celebrate the partnership.

Chinese Medicine research partnership

Research into the benefits of herbal medicine and acupuncture for treating the symptoms of respiratory diseases will be boosted through a \$1.05 million partnership. Researchers from RMIT University and the Guangdong Provincial Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences, China's leading traditional Chinese medicine research facility, will collaborate on a study comparing the effectiveness of treatments for managing chronic bronchitis and emphysema.



An Ethiopian coffee ceremony was one of the many displays at the Fair Trade Fiesta, aimed at raising awareness of Fair Trade principles among staff and students and showcasing the availability and use of Fair Trade certified products at the University.

RMIT scores a Fair Trade University first

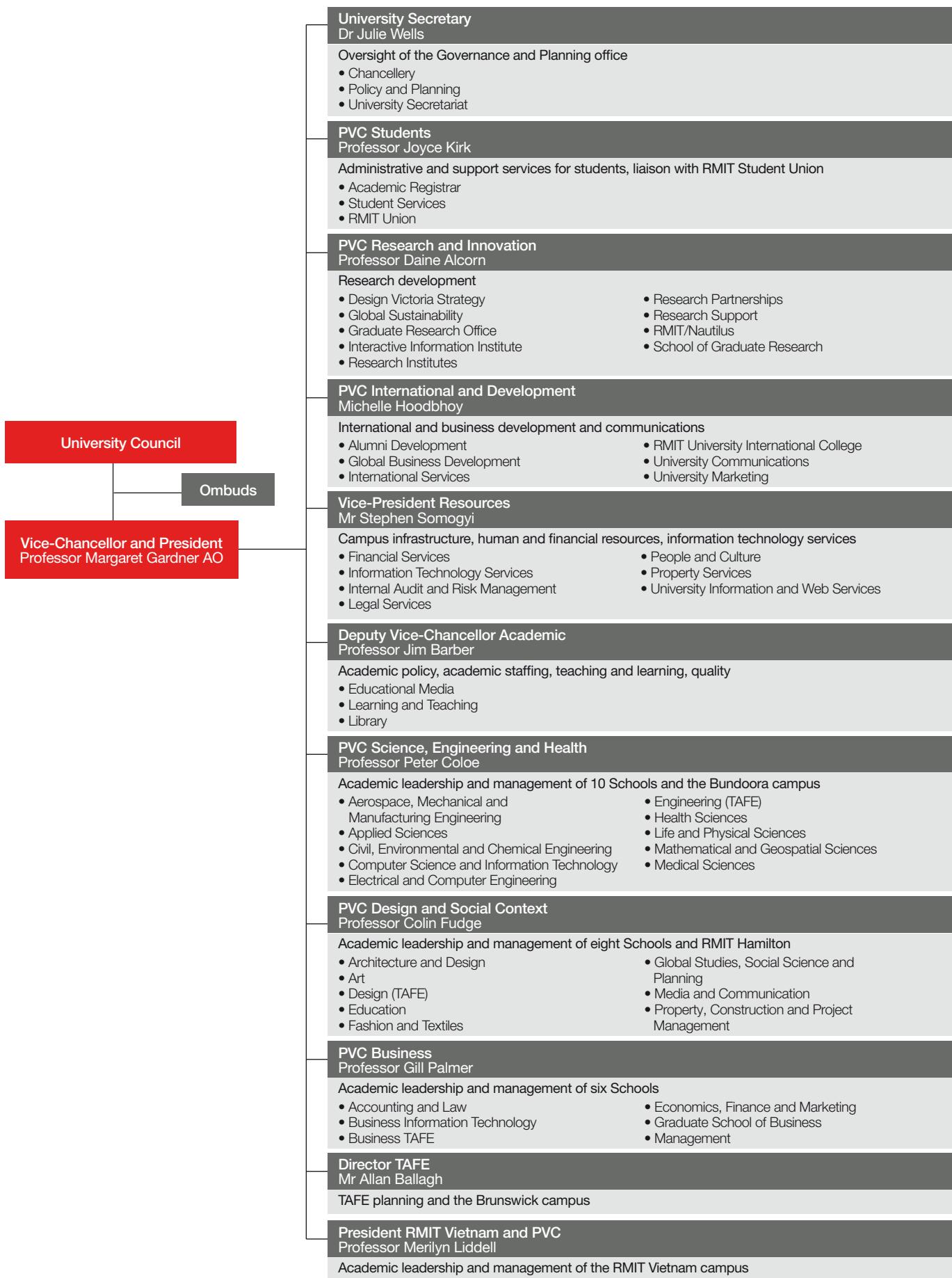
In 2009, RMIT University was named the first Fair Trade University in Australia, jointly with Macquarie University.

The announcement was made during Fair Trade Fortnight, with RMIT being awarded its certificate at the Fair Trade Fiesta held in Storey Hall on 15 May.

RMIT has established a Fair Trade Steering Committee which will report to the Vice-Chancellor annually. Fair Trade certified products are available in cafes on campus and are served at all meetings hosted by the University and Student Union. The University aims to incorporate Fair Trade into elements of our curriculum, into work-integrated learning and into campus life in Vietnam, as well as ensuring that Fair Trade guides our procurement policies.

ORGANISATIONAL SUMMARY AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2009

This organisational chart provides a graphical representation of the management structure of RMIT University as at 31 December 2009. Up-to-date versions of the organisational chart are available on RMIT's website.



STATISTICAL SNAPSHOT

Enrolments (headcount) by Sector	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009*
HE	39,301	42,103	43,974	47,641	50,496
VET	22,357	20,967	21,683	22,604	21,132
By Type					
Domestic	42,407	41,708	42,772	44,469	44,128
International:					
Onshore	8,626	8,899	9,134	10,077	11,150
Offshore	9,581	10,622	10,837	11,735	11,455
Vietnam	1,044	1,841	2,914	3,964	4,895
By Award Level					
Postgraduate Research	1,702	1,687	1,612	1,621	1,615
Postgraduate Coursework	8,674	8,701	8,759	9,543	10,341
Undergraduate	28,925	31,715	33,603	36,477	38,540
VET	22,357	20,967	21,683	22,604	21,132
Total	61,658	63,070	65,657	70,245	71,628
Fee Type (load%)					
HE					
Government-funded	50	48	46	44	43
Australian fee-paying	9	8	8	8	7
International	41	42	45	47	50
Other	1	1	1	1	1
VET					
Government-funded	69	71	72	71	71
Australian fee-paying	9	8	9	10	15
International	20	18	16	16	13
Other	2	3	3	3	2
Commencements Melbourne					
HE					
Domestic Students	8,558	8,837	8,319	8,905	8,787
International Students	3,325	3,673	3,760	4,141	4,739
VET					
Domestic Students	12,279	11,810	12,993	13,571	12,443
International Students [#]	723	722	754	877	897
Enrolment Load					
HE EFTSL	28,370	30,316	32,001	34,593	36,431
VET SCH	7,825,162	7,576,491	8,171,892	8,208,224	8,405,487
Graduate Outcomes %					
HE Student Satisfaction (domestic)	65.8	68.6	67.6	67.0	66.0
HE Student Satisfaction (domestic and international)	65.7	66.8	66.7	66.9	64.8
VET Student Satisfaction (domestic) ¹	82.9	83.9	82.7	84.6	83.9
HE Graduates in Full-time Employment (domestic) ^{2,3}	83.6	86.8	83.7	85.9	77.7
HE Graduates in Full-time Employment (domestic and international) ^{2,3}	84.4	85.9	82.9	83.6	75.4
VET Graduates in Employment (domestic) ^{1,4}	82.8	79.0	83.2	80.4	82.8

1 VET results not available for international graduates.

2 Percentage of those available for full-time employment.

3 The global financial crisis had a significant impact on the 2009 HE FT employment outcomes.

4 Includes in full-time and part-time employment.

Sources: HE: GCA, CEQ and GDS data files, 2005-2007; 2008-2009 RMIT data files. VET: NCVER, SOS RMIT and State data files, 2005-2009.

Student Completions	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Staff	2008	2009
HE	7,780	8,026	8,410	11,990	N/A	Total FTE* RMIT University	3,529.8	3,615.0
VET	5,820	5,535	5,290	5,557	5,630	Total FTE* RMIT Vietnam	291.0	421.8
N/A: Not available								
Foundation Studies Enrolments (headcount)	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	* Full-time equivalent (two people both working 0.5 time fraction = 1 FTE)		
Melbourne	345	392	456	632	691	For detailed employment statistics, please refer to Page 29.		

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

The consolidated 2009 net operating result for RMIT University and its subsidiaries was \$85.0 million, building on the strong results of recent years.

The following comments refer to RMIT University only, unless specified otherwise.

University revenue increased to \$746.9 million from \$666.5 million, excluding the effect of income received from the Commonwealth for deferred superannuation benefits. On a consolidated basis, with the same exclusions, revenue increased to \$813.1 million from \$735.6 million.

RMIT University's operating result was \$76.8 million, 10 per cent of revenue, compared to \$54.5 million in 2008.

Australian Government Financial Assistance – including HECS-HELP and VET FEE-HELP increased by \$35.9 million, from \$304.5 million to \$340.4 million. Commonwealth supported places (CSP) were 233 EFTSL ahead of target and 660 ahead of the DEEWR Agreement. The additional operating grant and student contributions funding for teaching and learning activities amounted to \$11.8 million, plus \$0.9 million by way of additional Commonwealth scholarships which are directly disbursed to students. Commonwealth research grants were in line with the previous year at \$21.6 million.

State Government grants totalled \$72.3 million. Of that amount, TAFE-specific funding was \$72.2 million, up by \$5.0 million. Recurrent grants increased by \$5.1 million to \$66.8 million and capital grants increased by \$1.3 million to \$4.3 million, whereas other grants decreased by \$2.4 million to \$1.2 million as some programs were completed.

Course fees and charges increased to \$245.2 million from \$216.9 million, or 13 per cent.

Australian undergraduate fee-paying revenue decreased to \$9.8 million as no new enrolments can be made following a change in government policy, but domestic postgraduate revenue increased by 21.5 per cent from \$8.2 million to \$10.0 million.

International fee-paying student fee revenue increased by 14.4 per cent (or \$25.7 million) to \$203.7 million. Favourable trends have been reported in HE, VET and Foundation Studies, with total enrolments at 105 per cent of target, students commencing at 106 per cent and students returning at 103 per cent.

Other fees and charges increased by 11.2 per cent to \$9.5 million. Investment revenue decreased by \$2.2 million to \$6.5 million due to mainly lower yields as a result of the global financial crisis. The University has made no investments in 'sub-prime' securities. RMIT's Council-approved investment policy ensures only high quality securities issued by prudentially safe institutions are utilised.

Income received from the Commonwealth for deferred superannuation benefits was higher than in 2008 as the estimated unfunded liability increased. This varies considerably from year to year but has no surplus impact as the revenue recognised is matched by a corresponding expense.

Rental income increased by \$0.9 million to \$7.0 million mainly as a result of last year's acquisition of properties.

Research income has increased by 12.5 per cent (or \$2.3 million) to \$20.9 million.

The operating result attributed to TAFE was \$1.9 million, compared to \$3.5 million in 2008. While revenues increased by 10.5 per cent to \$126.7 million, expenses also increased – primarily in employee costs which increased by 11.5 per cent (\$8.9 million).

Employee benefits and on-costs increased by 8.7 per cent to \$421.9 million, excluding the effect of deferred superannuation benefits, with higher rates of salary increases incurred due to phasing of the enterprise bargaining agreement and the recruitment of additional staff.

Expenditure on academic and teaching salaries increased by \$20.6 million or 9 per cent. Non-academic salaries increased \$13.3 million or 8.3 per cent. The average number of full-time equivalent staff in 2009 was 3,471 – 146 higher than the previous year.

RMIT has embarked on a \$500 million capital works program over a five year period. This represents the largest expenditure on capital works in the University's 122-year history.

Repairs and maintenance increased to \$10.5 million from \$9.6 million as work progressed on reducing maintenance backlogs. Capital expenditure was \$140.7 million, compared to \$125.7 million in 2008. The current ratio decreased from 74.1 per cent to 64.3 per cent. Current assets decreased from \$172.0 million to \$156.9 million. Cash balances decreased by \$17.5 million. Capital expenditures were higher in 2009 and, as planned, utilised some of the accumulated cash balances.

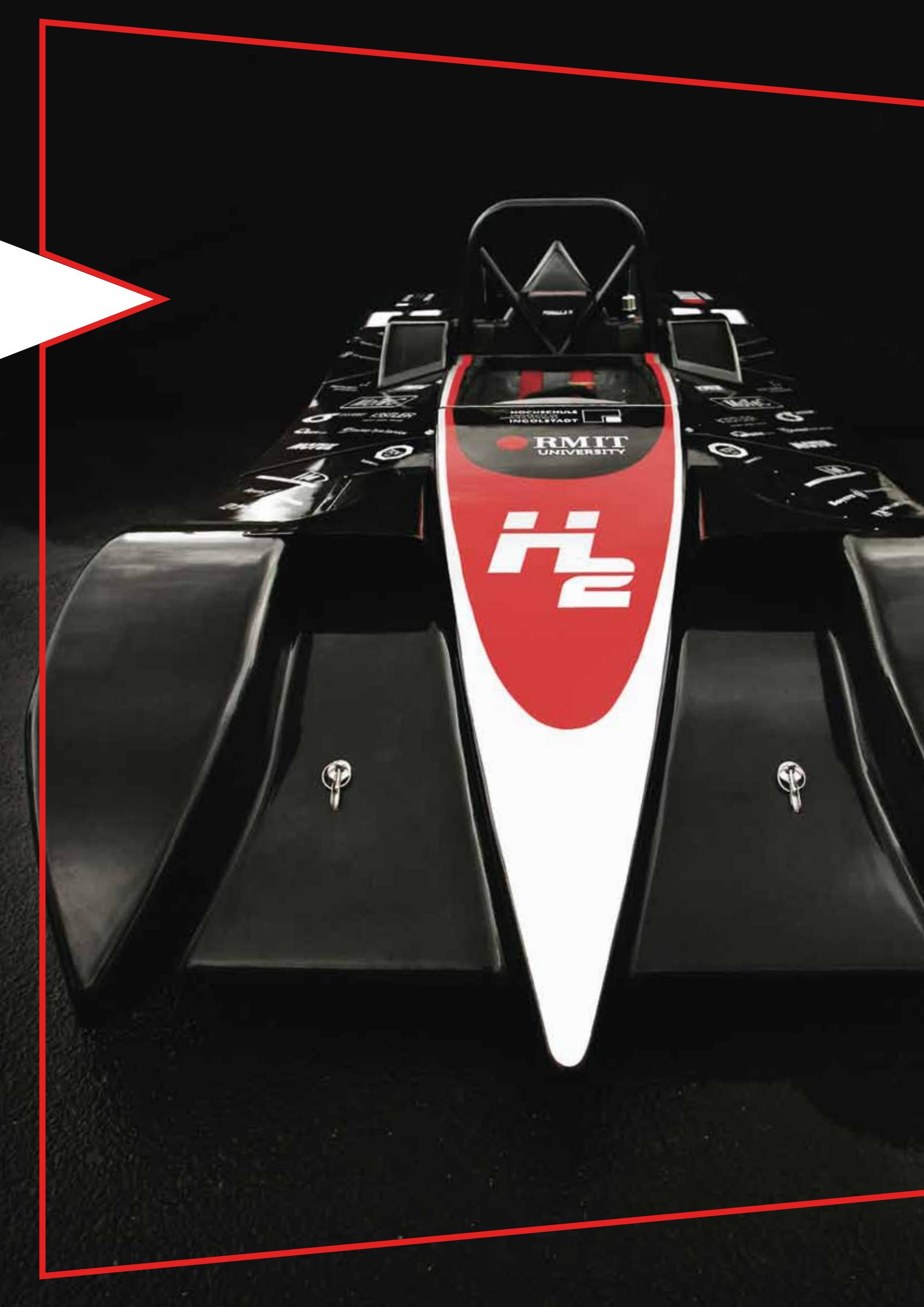
Current liabilities increased by \$11.7 million due to increases in employee provisions (mainly long service leave), student fees paid in advance and accrued interest payable to subsidiaries.

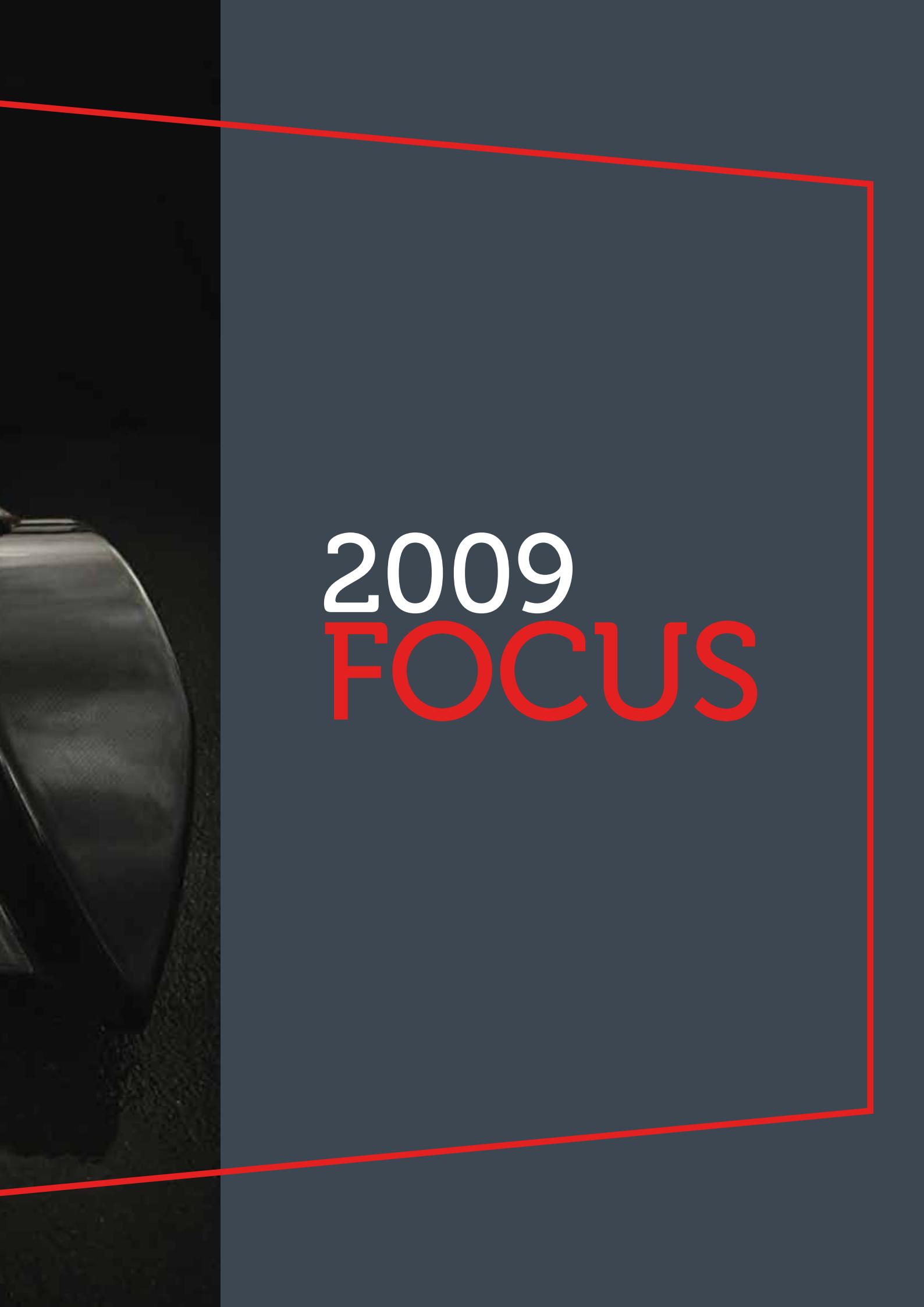
Consolidated cash balances totalled \$127.6 million.

RMIT Vietnam continued its strong and sustained growth. It continues to generate strong cash flows and invested US\$7.5 million in construction works to meet its fast-growing student load.

RMIT Training continued to experience strong demand for its English language courses and delivered an excellent operating result in line with the previous year.

RMIT Foundation continued to hold a large proportion of its assets in cash. The investment portfolio rebounded strongly, recovering \$2.2 million of the loss of market value from the previous year.





2009 **FOCUS**

TECHNOLOGY AT HEART



The University has a long and proud history of excellence in technological education – the key theme presented in this Annual Report – stemming from its origins in 1887 as a new educational institution for the people of Melbourne.

Francis Ormond, RMIT's founder, suggested that the institution should begin as an art and science school developing into a technological college. In his mind, as in many others of his time, technology was more powerful than art and science, and that idea of the power of technology continues to infuse our understanding of its importance.

This institution became 'The Tech' because technology is the means to reshape the possible. In the nineteenth century, educational institutions such as this one were founded to bring the benefits of technology to their populations. This institution was no different, and much of the early work of RMIT's founding body was bringing technological education to Melbourne.

One of the earliest programs in photography in the world was developed here. The first radiography program in Australia was taught at RMIT in 1929, and in the same period courses in still and motion picture projection and broadcasting were developed and taught at RMIT.

Today, technology pervades our education. RMIT University has taken architecture into virtual worlds: automotive engineering experts have designed a hydrogen-powered racing car, and biotechnology and nanotechnology programs bring ways to transform food, materials and health.

Technology is not an end in itself. It enables creativity and allows production to achieve its fullest impact. It fills our lives and informs how we earn our livelihoods, and it has transformed how we experience culture and how we communicate.

The 'T' in RMIT stands for technology. From its beginnings in 1887 to today, RMIT has devoted itself to producing graduates versed in the most recent technology, and to creating spaces in which researchers can take those technologies to new levels.

Our researchers work in many fields, and the stories of developments in nanotechnology, engineering, aerospace, textiles, information and communications technology and more are told in these pages and throughout the University's Annual Report for 2009.

The magic, power and practicality of technology were in the minds of those who imagined this new educational institution some 122 years ago. They could not imagine what we can do today and what we will do tomorrow. But they saw, as we know, that it is technological education and research that shows us nothing is impossible.

This text is an edited extract of the Vice-Chancellor's speech 'Technology: Making the Future Work' on RMIT Founders' Day, 3 June 2009.



Blood flow can be controlled more precisely thanks to research carried out by the RMIT Platform Technologies Research Institute.

BLOOD CLOT BREAKTHROUGH

A world-first micro device developed at RMIT and published in 2009 in the prestigious *Nature Medicine* journal has enabled researchers to discover a new way that blood clots can form.

The discovery is a major breakthrough that will impact on the treatment and prevention of heart disease and stroke. Created by RMIT Associate Professor Arnan Mitchell with student Francisco Tovar, the innovative device mimics the shape of damaged or diseased blood vessels to allow precise control and monitoring of blood flow.

Using the device, a research team at the Australian Centre for Blood Diseases was able to prove a new link between disturbed blood flow and blood clotting, potentially explaining why current anti-clotting drugs are ineffective.

Blood clotting diseases affect more than half of Australia's adult population, killing one Australian nearly every 10 minutes, but four decades of research into anti-clotting treatments have failed to make a serious impact on mortality rates.

Researchers at the Platform Technologies Research Institute, in collaboration with Monash University, hope to develop the technology into a diagnostic tool that could be used by hospitals to predict excessive or ineffective blood clotting in patients.

WORLDWIDE ACCESS TO RMIT RESEARCH

2009 saw the launch of the RMIT Research Repository, a digital collection showcasing RMIT's research outputs to the world.

The repository makes records and objects freely available and searchable over the internet, and marks the first time the University's intellectual outputs have been brought together in one place. Content includes journal articles, videos, audio content and websites.

By facilitating digital access to research and collaboration between researchers, the repository will increase the overall use and impact of RMIT's research.



At the launch of the Research Repository: James Lewis and Marion Slawson (RMIT); Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Margaret Gardner AO; Michael Walsh (Excellence in Research for Australia); Craig Anderson (RMIT); Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) Professor Daine Alcorn.



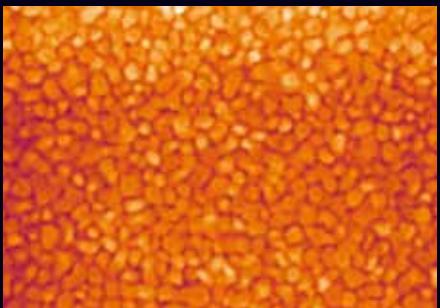
Associate Professor James Scott (RMIT), Chris Hill (ITC Global), Michael Manh (RMIT) at the ITC Global satellite earth terminal at RMIT's city campus.

INDUSTRY SUPPORT FOR GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY

RMIT students and researchers will have access to cutting-edge satellite communications technology thanks to the University's engagement with ITC Global, a world leader in networking solutions.

The company has provided the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering with an industry standard two-way earth terminal, making RMIT the only Australian university to receive full access to its global communications network via a number of geosynchronous satellites.

ITC Global's support will enhance RMIT's research capabilities in satellite communications, and will enable students to work on the latest generation of systems being used in the industry, enabling them to be readily employable when they head into the workforce.



Gold surface before modification, magnified 200,000 times.



After modification by RMIT researchers, the surface of the gold is covered in nano-spikes.

MEASURING MERCURY WITH NANOTECHNOLOGY

RMIT researchers have used breakthrough nanotechnology to create a pioneering sensor that can precisely measure one of the world's most poisonous substances, mercury.

Developed by RMIT's Industrial Chemistry Group, the mercury sensor uses tiny flecks of gold that are nano-engineered to make them irresistible to mercury molecules.

Traditional mercury sensors used by industry can be unreliable. Industrial chimneys release a complex concoction of volatile organic compounds, ammonia and water vapour that can interfere with the monitoring systems of mercury sensors.

The RMIT-developed sensor is robust enough to cope with this industrial environment, but still sensitive enough to give precise readings of the amount of mercury vapour emitted.

It was developed with the use of patented electrochemical processes that enabled the researchers to alter the surface of the gold, forming hundreds of tiny nano-spikes, each about 1,000 times smaller than the width of a human hair.

Funded through an ARC Linkage grant, the project was supported by leading industry partners, who have now engaged RMIT to develop a mercury sensing device for a pilot plant trial at one of their Australian refineries.

The Industrial Chemistry Group's multidisciplinary team is one of Australia's leading research units working on solutions for the monitoring and clean-up of gas and liquid mercury. The Group will extend its work on mercury removal technology through an international collaboration with the Indian Institute of Chemical Technology at Hyderabad.

GREEN I.T. IN ACTION

GREEN DATA CENTRE INITIATIVE

RMIT is part of an Australian-first university alliance to develop a shared data centre that aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The facility is to be built in Melbourne's south-eastern suburbs and will serve some 200,000 students and staff – a population greater than that of Ballarat and Bendigo combined.

The alliance between RMIT University, Monash University and the University of Melbourne, in collaboration with Fujitsu, is expected to reduce energy use through improved data centre design and the shared use of the latest energy-efficient technology.



Professor Margaret Gardner AO (right) with Professor Edwina Cornish (Monash University), Joel O'Halloran (Fujitsu) and Professor John Dewar (University of Melbourne).

HOW GREEN IS AUSTRALIA'S BUSINESS SECTOR?

RMIT's School of Business Information Technology leads green IT research in Australia and internationally. A survey carried out by the School in 2009 of more than 300 IT specialists indicated a gap between professionals' awareness and concern for sustainability issues, and the actions that they and their organisations have taken.

Survey results showed that major concerns included e-waste management and the dual role of IT in causing and resolving environmental sustainability problems. The study indicated that while IT professionals are practising simple behaviours to support green IT, there was more limited adherence to complex practices at organisational levels.



Professor Hepu Deng and Dr Vanessa Cooper from the RMIT Green IT research team.

The findings of a second research project indicated differences in IT initiatives internationally. While Australian and New Zealand organisations are leading the 'softer' side of sustainability policies and practices to reduce the environmental impact of IT, US organisations are far more advanced in the adoption of technologies and practices that reduce energy consumption and improve efficiency.



World Vision's Francois Tsafack (left) with RMIT Computer Science students.

NEW TECHNOLOGIES FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Postgraduate Software Engineering students in RMIT's School of Computer Science and Information Technology worked with IBM in 2009 on an applied learning project that is developing location-based applications on mobile phones.

The objective is to develop solutions for capturing timely, accurate and comprehensive location-based data, particularly for use in developing countries.

The project also involved World Vision in its household evaluation data collection through mobile technology. World Vision has conducted two surveys – one in Cambodia and one in Malawi – using the new software.

In comparison to paper surveys, the technology enables immediate access to data and avoids the need for laborious data entry, which has resulted in positive feedback from World Vision.



TAKING ARCHITECTURE AND ART INTO VIRTUAL WORLDS

RMIT is at the cutting-edge of education, research and development in the field of creative media, utilising sophisticated 3D environments such as Second Life.

The School of Media and Communication has set up a virtual RMIT campus in Second Life, an emerging platform that represents a highly evolved interface to the internet.

Second Life has become a focus for universities and businesses world-wide, which use the site to exchange information and host conferences in which participants log on as their Second Life avatars. Participants are able to create a graphic representation of themselves in the form of their avatar, which then becomes their pathway to an online world with endless possibilities.

Through this complex media, students and researchers working in a range of creative fields can develop their ideas in a media-rich framework, collaborate internationally and reflect in very different ways on life in the real world. It enables architects to experiment with notions of space, form, gravity and transparency, and film makers to make movies or experiment with characters and sound.

The space can be used for all kinds of research and creative play, and in many ways this technology represents an important nexus between art and social science.

RMIT researchers have already utilised virtual environments to develop interactive consoles to help brain-injured patients in their long road to rehabilitation.

In September, the School held an exhibition of 3D graphic art, *Dark Luminance*, featuring the work of RMIT researchers and allowing participants to explore the boundaries between real and virtual dimensions.

HYDROGEN RACER ON SHOW IN EUROPE

RMIT's Formula H vehicle – Australia's first hydrogen-powered racing car – featured at two high profile European events in 2009.

The clean and green racer was on display at the 63rd International Motor Show, the world's largest auto exhibition, in Frankfurt in September, and at the Deutsche Tourenwagen Masters (German Touring Car Masters), one of Europe's largest sporting events.

With more than 900 million vehicles on the world's roads responsible for around one third of greenhouse gas emissions, Europe is increasingly open to the possibilities of hydrogen as the clean, renewable fuel of the future. It is the most common element in our universe that can be produced from water, natural gas and biomass using renewable energy sources.



Built and tested by RMIT's Aerospace, Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering in collaboration with Germany's Fachhochschule Ingolstadt University of Applied Sciences, the hydrogen car introduced a radically different approach to the design and development of sustainable automotive technologies.

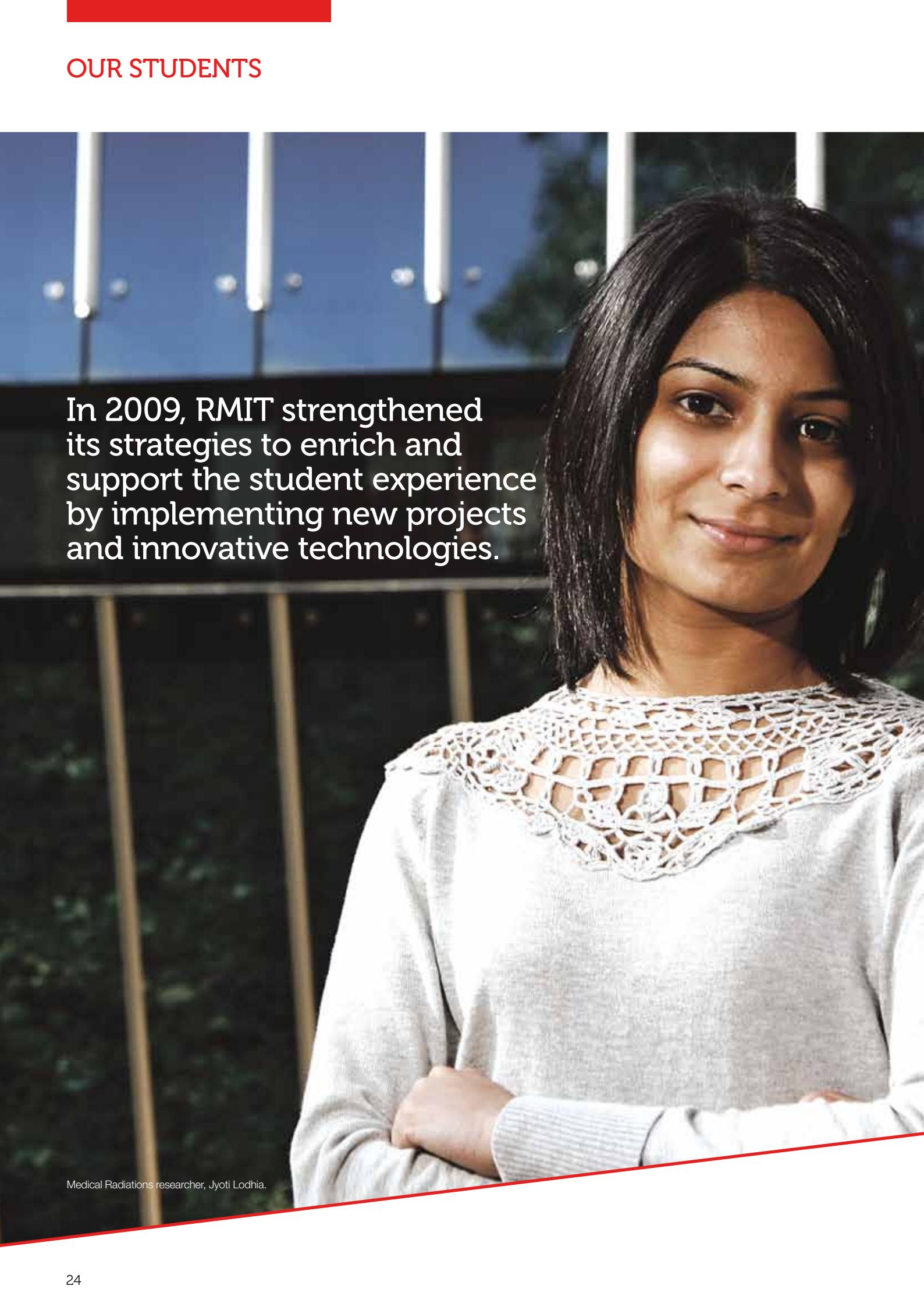
The vehicle has undergone trials at the Oschersleben racetrack, hitting speeds of up to 140 kmh. By aiming to set speed records for one-seater, hydrogen-powered racing cars, the School is showcasing the possibilities of this alternative clean technology, both in racing and for conventional passenger vehicles.





REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

OUR STUDENTS



In 2009, RMIT strengthened its strategies to enrich and support the student experience by implementing new projects and innovative technologies.

Medical Radiations researcher, Jyoti Lodhia.

STATEMENT ON STUDENT EXPERIENCE

RMIT launched the *Statement on Student Experience* to support its commitment to furthering the academic, personal and career development of its students. The statement contains eight themes:

- » challenging and innovative
- » socially engaging
- » culturally enriching
- » vocationally focused
- » industry recognised
- » internationally focused
- » enriched through technology
- » safe, supportive and fair

CHALLENGING AND INNOVATIVE

The Student Development Fund was one of the key student initiatives and projects launched under this theme in 2009. Established in Semester 1, the fund supports students in widening their horizons through transformational learning experiences.

A total of \$22,900 was awarded to students over the year in support of a range of development opportunities, including assisting a student to attend the COP15 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen.

RMIT continued to provide opportunities for students to volunteer and lead through its Learn Engage Aspire Develop (LEAD) program, overseeing 38 volunteer programs across the University. LEAD students provided mentoring to new students, organised events, managed sports teams and student associations, and participated in orientation activities.

Students also had the opportunity to act as representatives on joint student-staff consultative committees within each of the Schools. The 636 students who completed training and structured volunteer activities received RMIT accreditation.

SOCIALLY ENGAGING

The world of sport provided some excellent opportunities for social engagement for RMIT students in 2009. Six students were selected to represent Australia at the World University Games in Serbia, in sports as diverse as table tennis, water polo, athletics and taekwondo. At the Australian University Games on the Gold Coast, RMIT athletes won five gold, four silver and three bronze medals, with three students selected for the prestigious Green and Gold teams.

The GloBALL program offered international and local students new to Melbourne the chance to attend Australian Football League matches and Football Clinics with the Essendon Football Club.

CULTURALLY ENRICHING

Multicultural and arts initiatives offered students culturally enriching experiences in 2009. RMIT Union Arts continued to create opportunities for students to succeed in the arts, with festival involvement including *Titus Andronicus* in the Melbourne Fringe Festival, *Mobile Textualism* in the Melbourne Writers Festival and *In Bloom* in the L'Oréal Melbourne Fashion Festival.

The RMIT Student Film Awards and RMIT Idol continued to showcase the best student filmmakers and performers. Students performed several plays on campus including *Snatches* and the annual children's theatre production, *James and the Giant Peach*. Attended by thousands of children and parents from all over Melbourne, these performances helped contribute to the thriving arts culture across RMIT and in the wider community.

Organised by the Student Union, Africa Day was celebrated in September with African students sharing and celebrating their heritage and culture with the wider student community. World Week, also celebrated on RMIT's City campus, saw more than 3,000 students discovering and experiencing diverse world cultures.

In a bid to foster cultural exchange and harmony, students and staff came together in October to celebrate Diwali – the Indian festival of lights – at Bundoora campus. Traditionally, the multitude of lights signify the triumph of good over evil in every human being.



Students and staff celebrate Diwali, the Indian festival of lights.

VOCATIONALLY FOCUSED

In 2009, RMIT's Career Development and Employment website was redesigned to enhance accessibility and usability.

The RMIT Vacation Work Expo, designed for students looking for vacation work or internships during their degree, attracted 1,500 students and 18 corporations.

INDUSTRY RECOGNISED

The student-run television station, RMITV, won four Antenna Awards for community television production and continues to be the biggest provider of programs to Channel 31. The station also ran 11 television production workshops at RMIT's City campus and two full-day workshops at Beaconhills College in Pakenham, Victoria, during the year.

RMIT continued funding and supporting SYN FM, a youth-run media organisation that provides a strong community voice for young Australians from its studio base situated on the University's city campus. In 2009, SYN worked with more than 60 schools and 1000 young people, giving them training, radio and TV broadcast opportunities and exposure to all facets of the media-making process.

INTERNATIONALLY FOCUSED

The Student Entrepreneurship, Education and Development in Society (RMIT SEEDS) program was officially launched in 2009. A student-led initiative supported by the University, SEEDS aims to encourage social entrepreneurship among students and to establish and nurture student-run projects that help communities grow.

SEEDS provides students from all disciplines with funding for project ideas that are socially entrepreneurial, can be sustained over time and have a positive impact on communities at home or abroad. Initiatives must enhance the social, health, educational, environmental or economic means of a community and are supported with training and mentoring.

Projects already funded include:

- » Thai Youth Capacity-Building project, aimed at building the skills and experience of youth in regional Thailand to help combat youth migration and maintain cultural and sustainable environmental practices
- » a clothing exchange to reduce waste and promote sustainability in fashion
- » *Make Yourself at Home* initiative, which gives Sudanese immigrants the skills to design their own furniture
- » an "active reconciliation" project comprising multi-modal art workshops and performances of collaboratively made art, music and dance pieces inspired and led by local indigenous artists



SEEDS clothing exchange in action at Federation Square.

RMIT students, alumni and staff, as well as charities, businesses and NGOs are encouraged to get involved as a partner, mentor, committee member or volunteer, or by donating to RMIT SEEDS.

ENRICHED THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

A major initiative that enhanced student life through technology in 2009 was myRMIT, the University's new online student portal. Launched in February, myRMIT features single sign-in access to email, enrolment information, course materials and frequently asked questions, as well as providing students with 24 hour access to information central to their academic program. The portal also offers classifieds, forums and a gallery of student work promoting connections with students beyond the classroom.

The expansion of online enrolment at RMIT continued, with 95 per cent of commencing students and 96 per cent of continuing students in standard semesters enrolling online.

Social media was used by Orientation to reach students through online video tours of the City campus on YouTube, Google maps, Flickr images and messages through Facebook and Twitter.

As part of the Melbourne Writers Festival, RMIT Union Arts and University Communications created Mobile Textualism – a technologically innovative poetry anthology. Poems written specifically for the mobile phone medium were broadcast during the festival and online through Twitter. The project received more than 300 entries from around the world and gained national media coverage.

SAFE, SUPPORTIVE AND FAIR

Various initiatives focused on this theme in 2009, including a successful submission for the *Stay Safe in the City* project funded by Melbourne City Council and Medibank. Students were given the opportunity to develop a synopsis for a short video on the subject, which was then judged by a panel and produced by RMITV.

RMIT's Chaplaincy increased the number of chaplains to 10, with Anglican, Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Islamic, Jewish, Buddhist, Greek and Russian Orthodox faiths now represented. Chaplaincy also assisted a Master of Arts student in the creation of a vibrant symbolic artwork. Titled *Path to Paradise*, the project involved student and staff participation and encouraged a sense of community on campus through a series of ephemeral artworks created using brightly coloured rice.

Also in 2009, the Student Union launched Compass, an information and referrals service for RMIT students experiencing life challenges. The service improves student access to support for a range of problems.

EQUITY AND DIVERSITY

RMIT remains committed to supporting and developing access programs for students from diverse backgrounds. In 2009, the University addressed equity and diversity in many ways including awarding more than \$7 million for 2,115 scholarships.

New scholarships were introduced for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students enrolled in TAFE and Higher Education health-related programs. The scholarships support the education of health workers and workers in allied areas and are part of RMIT's commitment to closing the gap in life expectancy between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians and improving the wellbeing of ATSI communities.

Scholarships for students enrolled in one-year Honours programs were also introduced, encouraging further study and research preparation.

The introduction of a dedicated scholarships application portal on the VTAC website resulted in a 110 per cent increase in scholarship applications.

RMIT further strengthened its ability to attract a diverse body of students with the continuation of the Schools Network Access Program (SNAP), Special Entry Access Scheme, Indigenous Access Scheme and other programs. A highlight was the increase in students enrolling in TAFE through SNAP, doubling from 49 in 2007 to 93 in 2009.

The University hosted an equity forum, *Students of the Future*, in August to consider the strategic implications of the Commonwealth's equity targets for higher education.

RMIT celebrated International Women's Day with Tasneem Chopra, chair of the Islamic Women's Welfare Council of Victoria, who addressed students and staff on discrimination against Muslim women.



Arfa Kalok works on her ephemeral art in Bowen Street.

ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

Info Corner, RMIT's innovative front-of-house information centre for prospective students considering tertiary study, has continued to strengthen the University's engagement activities.

Enquiries to Info Corner increased by 25 per cent on 2008, with a total of 163,470 enquiries via all channels. Email enquiries rose by 20 per cent, while phone calls increased by 29 per cent. The number of face-to-face visitors to Info Corner was 83,074 (January–November), comprising 96 per cent local prospective students and 4 per cent international prospective students.

Attendance at RMIT's Open Day 2009 was conservatively estimated at 33,000.

Outreach activities to secondary schools increased, with the Student Recruitment team meeting a rise in requests for visits to or from RMIT. The team conducted 110 campus tours for 4,858 secondary school students, an increase of 7 per cent on 2008, and gave 35 off-campus presentations, 6 per cent more than in 2008. The annual Career Advisor seminar recorded 98 per cent positive feedback from participants.

STUDENT DIVERSITY

All Students %	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
HE					
Female	50	50	51	50	50
International	40	38	46	49	49
VET					
Female	50	50	46	47	49
International	15	14	12	11	9
By Age Group %	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
HE					
Young people 15-19	9	11	11	11	10
Aged 20-24	48	48	50	51	53
Mature age 25-44	38	37	35	34	33
Mature age 45+	5	5	4	4	3
VET					
Young people 15-19	28	30	27	28	28
Aged 20-24	32	33	33	32	32
Mature age 25-44	32	30	32	32	31
Mature age 45+	9	7	8	8	9
Domestic Students %	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
HE					
School leavers	44	50	51	48	47
Articulation from VET	21	21	19	20	20
Overseas born	21	21	21	21	25
Non-English speaking background	5	5	5	5	8
Rural/remote	10	10	11	11	10
Low socio-economic status	15	15	16	16	12
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3
VET					
School leavers	15	NA	15	15	11
Overseas born	25	NA	25	27	26
Non-English speaking background	7	NA	8	11	12
Rural/remote	13	NA	16	16	11
Low socio-economic status	19	NA	17	18	16
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders	1.8	NA	1.6	1.6	1.4

NA: Not available

HE 2005-2009 based on full-year data.

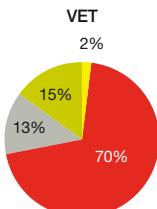
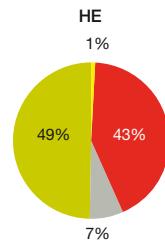
HE 2009 enrolment provisional as at January 2010.

The figures in the table above are based on student enrolments.

The figures in the graphs (right) reflect EFTSL.

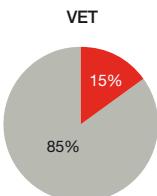
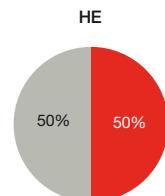
STUDENTS BY FEE TYPE (LOAD)

Broad Fund	HE % load	VET % load
Government-funded	43	70
Australian fee-paying	7	13
International	49	15
Other	1	2



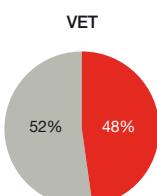
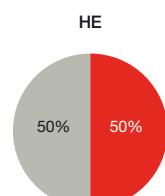
STUDENTS BY CITIZEN-RESIDENT STATUS (LOAD)

Citizen Status	HE % load	VET % load
International	50	15
Domestic	50	85



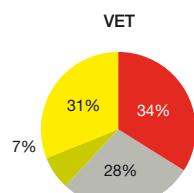
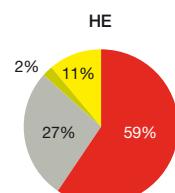
STUDENTS BY GENDER (LOAD)

Citizen Status	HE % load	VET % load
Female	50	48
Male	50	52



STUDENTS BY AGE GROUP (LOAD)

Age Group	HE % load	VET % load
Aged 20-24	59	34
Mature Age 25-44	27	28
Mature Age 45+	2	7
Young People 15-19	11	31



OUR STAFF

RMIT is committed to attracting, developing, rewarding and retaining staff who embrace the future with energy and creativity, and who are focused on the needs of our students and partners.

Throughout 2009, RMIT continued working on improvements in HR services to enhance attraction and retention and address feedback from the 2007 Staff Survey.

Key projects included upgrading recruitment processes; leadership development for over 400 managers and leaders; performance management and development activities; workforce planning for schools and groups; and managing change processes as RMIT continues to reshape to face future challenges.

It was a relatively stable year for the University's workforce, with a slight increase in FTE staff numbers. Turnover fell for the second consecutive year, including a 3 per cent drop in turnover of staff with less than three years' service. Recruitment continued to be a critical focus. In response to changes in the candidate market, attraction strategies have been reviewed with a greater focus on international recruitment. These new strategies have produced excellent results, with an increase of 28 per cent in applicants from overseas.

The central recruitment team has continued to work on process improvements to the web-based recruitment system. These improvements have generated an increased number of applications and a more efficient and effective recruitment process.

A comprehensive review of HR policies and procedures was commenced with the aim of producing a rationalised set of consistent and clear policies strategically aligned to the needs of RMIT.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Leadership development continued to be a priority, with activity occurring to support leaders and managers at all levels. Established in response to the Staff Survey, the expanded RMIT Leaders Program saw 280 mid-level managers participate in a series of workshops designed to enhance leadership skills and confidence. The program brought this diverse leadership group together for the first time, and the knowledge and networks gained by the participants will contribute significantly to the University's ongoing success.

Senior leaders explored strategic issues including internationalisation, workforce planning and research excellence at discussion forums hosted by the Vice-Chancellor.

RMIT's People and Culture unit partnered with the School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning to offer 30 funded places in the Diploma of Management. This opportunity for staff to obtain a nationally recognised qualification, understand the RMIT environment and learn from their peers is an important driver of leadership and management capability for those in frontline management and team leader roles.

The Open Program is the primary conduit for staff professional development, supporting the evolving needs of the University and its people through a range of workshops and training programs. The focus of the Open Program is on strategic priorities such as research and learning and teaching, as well as 'RMIT knowhow', personal effectiveness and leadership and management. In 2009, 164 workshops were run, with more than 2,100 registrations. A particular strength of the Open Program is the sharing of organisational knowledge and technical expertise through the use of internal facilitators to deliver contextualised workshops.

EQUITY AND DIVERSITY

Work informed by Togip Gabaareng, RMIT's Indigenous employment strategy, continued in 2009. Successes included the appointment of the University's first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Professor and the establishment of a small ATSI academic team. The ongoing advancement of indigenous employment at RMIT helps ensure that our workforce reflects the communities in which we operate and that the environment supports indigenous staff.

For a number of years, RMIT has focused on improving parental leave provisions and support mechanisms for women returning to work. Since 2001, there has been a 70 per cent increase in maternity leave applications. More significantly, the retention rate of women returning to work has markedly increased. The number of women resigning when on maternity leave has decreased from over 55 per cent to 14.5 per cent over that time. A majority of women returning to work do so on a part-time basis, necessitating a stronger focus on flexible working arrangements for parents and others with carer responsibilities.

RMIT was named an EOWA Employer of Choice for Women for the third successive year, recognising our ongoing commitment to equal opportunity for women in the workplace.

During the year RMIT hosted another successful Clare Burton Memorial Lecture, in collaboration with the other ATN universities. The free public lecture on paid maternity leave was delivered by Associate Professor Marian Baird from the University of Sydney.

HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING

RMIT is committed to providing and maintaining a safe and healthy workplace for all staff, students and visitors. New and ongoing initiatives during 2009 included measures to address an increased number of reported incidents and lost time, as well as concerns about stress and mental health in the workplace. Most significantly, our Health, Safety and Wellbeing Strategic Plan was devised in 2009.

Notable outcomes achieved through the plan included the introduction of an induction program for contractors covering health, safety, communication and consultation processes; the implementation of a online incident and hazard reporting system; and the development of a critical incident management policy and a procedure for managing threatening and inappropriate behaviour.

The increased number of reported OHS incidents can be attributed to greater awareness of incidents and hazard reporting following the introduction of a user-friendly online system. There was a 30 per cent increase in RMIT's workers' compensation insurance premium for the year, driven by higher claims costs despite a levelling off of the number of claims.

	2007	2008	2009
OHS incidents reported	390	381	535
Lost-time injury frequency*	3.75	4.99	6.02

* Number of lost-time injuries recorded per million hours worked

Psychological injuries, sprains/strains and muscle tendon disorders account for the majority of claims.

In 2009 RMIT introduced a program to ensure the safety of our students, aimed at developing greater awareness of personal safety and security. RMIT Security constantly monitors campus conditions and updates processes to ensure our students are able to experience a safe study environment, and RMIT actively encourages the University community to report any incidents immediately to both Security and the Police.

Wellbeing has also been an important focus in 2009. More than 1,500 staff took up the opportunity of a free health consultation and medical assessment, while 1,200 staff received free flu vaccinations. Wellbeing training and information sessions were run throughout the year on topics including weight loss, work/life balance, manual handling and smoking.

Two training modules on stress management were introduced – one applicable to all staff and a second highlighting the particular responsibilities of managers.



Professor Aleksandar Subic, Head of School, Aerospace, Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering (3rd from right), with the winning Health and Safety Committee.

WorkSafe's annual awards, open to all Victorian workplaces, recognise individuals and organisations that have made a significant contribution to improving health and safety in their workplace. RMIT was represented with finalists in three categories, and the School of Aerospace, Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering won the award for Health and Safety Committee of the Year.



RMIT's Daniela Norman, Chiew Khong, Professor Peter Coloe, Don Savvides, Professor Margaret Gardner AO and Dr Monir Takla at the award presentation.

EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

Staff Type	Total FTE*		Female FTE*		% Female	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
Academic (HE)	1,123.1	1,145.3	436.3	446.0	38.9	38.9
Teaching (VET)	508.5	523.2	224.5	229.1	44.1	43.8
Executive	84.2	92.6	31.0	36.6	36.8	39.5
General	1,814.0	1,853.9	1,107.1	1,131.5	61.0	61.0
Total	3,529.8	3,615.0	1,798.9	1,843.2	51.0	51.0

*FTE: Full-time equivalent (two people both working 0.5 time fraction = 1 FTE)

Staff-Initiated Turnover %	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Less than three years' service	20	13	12	13	10
Greater than three years' service	7	6	7	5	5
All staff	10	7	9	8	7

New Staff Recruitments	Female	%	Male	%	Total
Academic (HE)	82	43	105	56	187
Teaching (TAFE)	39	50	38	49	77
Executive	2	28	5	71	7
General	197	65	105	34	302
Total	320	55	253	44	573

Figures have been rounded. Data as at 31 December 2009.

ACADEMIC LIFE



RMIT graduation event at Etihad Stadium.

In 2009 RMIT continued to make significant contributions to the four learning and teaching objectives of its Academic Plan, now in the third year of implementation:

- » Producing work-ready graduates with a hunger for lifelong learning
- » Ensuring student satisfaction
- » Providing a global passport for students and graduates
- » Maximising RMIT's dual-sector advantage

PRODUCING SKILLED GLOBAL CITIZENS

The principle of 'learning by doing' continues to drive RMIT's approach to learning and teaching. The major initiative supporting this principle is the RMIT Work-Integrated Learning (WIL) policy, which helps students develop a practical knowledge of their profession.

The University has significantly extended student placements for cooperative education programs, industry and work-based projects and simulated work projects. More than two-thirds of coursework programs, from Advanced Diplomas through to Bachelor and Master degrees, now include WIL experiences, and this will be extended in 2010.

RMIT's campuses in Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi provide unique opportunities to facilitate international WIL and mobility experiences for students regardless of where they are based. In 2009, the University implemented projects which offered 114 students from Melbourne and Vietnam the opportunity to collaborate with local organisations and experience real-to-life work situations.

Projects included the design of a more functional and efficient paediatric ward at Da Nang General Hospital, creation of a marketing strategy and resources for the Long Hoa Orphanage water bottling initiative, and projects in design, construction, environment and multimedia. In addition, 106 students took part in study tours to Vietnam. These experiences further strengthen RMIT's capacity for strong graduate employability outcomes.

RMIT recognises that today's students require an awareness of the world around them and an ability to practise their professions globally. Through a unique combination of WIL experiences and international mobility opportunities, the University enables students to become creative and productive global citizens while developing skills that are highly desirable to employers. The success of these efforts has resulted in increasing participation in study tours, offshore placements/internships and education abroad options.

RMIT continues to strengthen its dual sector advantage by providing opportunities for students to develop industry-relevant practical skills as part of their degree program. In 2009, to meet the growing industry demand for graduates with specific vocational skills, the University initiated a project to offer 'skills electives' to higher education students.

The electives focus on national skills shortage areas such as Health and Community Services, Property and Business Services, and Construction. The result has been strong student interest in the initial skills electives, with planning underway to extend the project. Positive feedback from students acknowledges the value of the skills gained from these electives.

ENHANCING LEARNING FOR INDIGENOUS STUDENTS

The enrolment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in higher education saw an increase of 26 per cent from 2008 (and 70 per cent from the 2005 figure). Overall, there were 320 indigenous students enrolled in HE and TAFE programs this year. This increase is in part due to the success of the University's unique Indigenous Access Scheme.

Further development to improve the student experience for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders continued in 2009 .

Support through RMIT's Learning and Teaching Investment Fund (LTIF) resulted in the creation of the Gama-dji (a Wurundjeri word meaning "emerge") University Skills Program, which will provide first-year students with the opportunity for a customised academic, social and cultural orientation to the University. It will encourage indigenous students to establish relationships with their peers and with staff.

Criminal Justice degree student Sherylee Welsh received the 2009 Ricci Marks Young Aboriginal Achiever Award from the Premier. RMIT students also received this prestigious award in 2006 and 2008.

In another individual highlight, Master of Education by Research student Eric Clarke submitted his thesis on the history of Aboriginal tent fighters in Victoria. A member of RMIT's Koori Cohort of Indigenous Researchers, Mr Clarke's interest in the subject stemmed from his childhood listening to tales of his father's days in the boxing ring.

LEARNING AND TEACHING ACHIEVEMENTS

Supporting and promoting active student engagement was a significant focus during 2009, with a range of initiatives being undertaken to transform the formal and informal learning environments that shape the student experience. A Learning Spaces Advisory Group was established to facilitate the creation and refurbishment of University facilities and to work with students, staff and architects to develop innovative and stimulating learning and teaching models that inform spatial design.

Substantial progress was made on introducing offshore teaching models aimed at achieving equivalence between offshore and onshore programs with an emphasis on student experience. An implementation plan for internationalisation was developed with a view to linking this work to the offshore teaching models.

RMIT also implemented a Large Class Support initiative to ensure more personalised and meaningful engagement between teaching staff and students in larger classes. The project was aimed at enhancing tutorials through increased training and support for tutors, as well as reducing tutorial size. Survey results indicate that the project was successful, with students in 11 out of 12 courses experiencing significantly improved satisfaction with teaching and overall satisfaction with the course.

Supporting innovation in teaching practice continues to be a priority. LTIF provided \$1.8 million in funding for diverse projects targeted to the strategic priorities of the University. Project outcomes will be broadly disseminated throughout RMIT and the tertiary education sector. This highlights the enthusiasm of RMIT staff to undertake projects that enhance student experience in areas such as e-learning, dual sector qualifications, work-integrated learning and global mobility.

The University recognises, rewards and celebrates excellence in teaching practice and associated support services through its annual Teaching Awards. This year, 64 outstanding academics were recognised through group and individual RMIT Teaching Awards and Certificates of Achievement.

RMIT teachers were also honoured in the annual Australian Learning and Teaching Council Citations for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning. RMIT received six Citations and Associate Professor Iouri Belski won a prestigious Award for Teaching Excellence in Physical Sciences and Related Studies.

ADVANCEMENTS IN E-LEARNING

Technology is integral to education and research at RMIT and is a key driver of innovation and transformation in learning design and teaching practice.

RMIT's E-learning Advancement Program (REAP) promotes the use of technology to provide opportunities for active student participation and engagement with the learning process. The University is now able to offer instruction and interactive materials on demand and to provide environments that encourage exploration, problem solving, reflection, collaboration and self-managed learning.

Major achievements in 2009 included:

- » Introduction of e-portfolios to enable students to demonstrate their formal and informal learning during their time at RMIT and in their transition to graduate employment.
- » Expansion of the recorded lectures service, Lectopia, in response to positive feedback from students and staff. Accessing of recorded lectures more than doubled with 170,000 downloads from homes, workplaces and RMIT campuses.

- » Introduction of University-wide Personal Response Systems technology, offering the capacity for in-class feedback by students to questions via 'clickers' or mobile phones.
- » Introduction of virtual classrooms, enabling students from any location globally to participate in a live and interactive classroom with staff and other students.

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENTS

The Library continued to enrich the RMIT experience and was the most popular campus destination in 2009, with more than 2 million student visits.

A number of building projects were completed, including significant works at both the Brunswick and Carlton sites. These now offer a student lounge and greater study space. In response to continuing student demand, evening and weekend hours were extended, with major Library sites now open more than 80 hours per week.

Anticipating future student demand, the Library introduced Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology, adding RFID tags to more than 50,000 items in the Business Library. This system will replace barcodes and will simplify self-service for students, as well as improving Library resource management.

Upward usage trends continued, with students using physical Library spaces, electronic resources and study rooms more than ever before. E-resources were enthusiastically adopted, with access to some databases and e-books increasing by more than 50 per cent.

RMIT participated in the Insync Library Client Survey in 2009. Results indicated excellent student feedback on facilities and equipment, service delivery, communication, staff and resources, compared with more than 25 Australian academic libraries.



More than 300 academics attended the 2009 ATN conference.

ATN conference examines assessment

New directions in student assessment were discussed at the 2009 Assessment in Different Dimensions conference held in RMIT's Storey Hall. The conference provided the opportunity to explore different dimensions of assessment and to share best practice. Keynote speakers were Dr Chris Rust (Oxford Brookes University, UK), Professor Jan Herrington (Murdoch University) and Professor Geoffrey Crisp (University of Adelaide). Professor David Boud (University of Technology, Sydney) conducted a workshop on educational change associated with assessment practices. The attendance of more than 300 teaching staff from Australia, New Zealand and the UK far exceeded that of previous years.

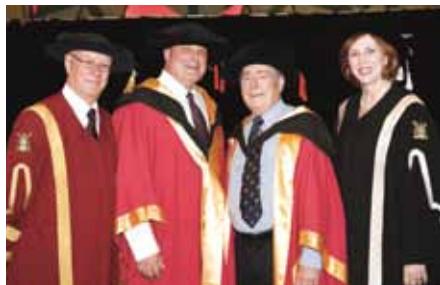
Launch of RMIT on iTunes U

In 2009 RMIT joined over 200 universities and colleges world-wide on iTunes U, which provides free audio and video podcasts via iTunes. RMIT on iTunes U offers students convenient access to course resources, and allows RMIT to share lectures, talks, campus tours and other material with a global audience. Importantly, iTunes U also provides an outlet for showcasing student work and creativity.

RMIT AWARDS

HONORARY DEGREES

- Dr Jack Dusseldorp OAM
Doctor of Social Science honoris causa
- Dr Geoffrey Handbury AO
Doctor of Social Science honoris causa
- Dr Alexis Wright
Doctor of Communication honoris causa



Professor Dennis Gibson AO, Dr Jack Dusseldorp OAM, Dr Geoffrey Handbury AO, and Professor Margaret Gardner AO.



Dr Alexis Wright.

AUSTRALIAN LEARNING AND TEACHING COUNCIL AWARDS

The following RMIT staff were granted ALTC awards:

- Award for Teaching Excellence**
(Physical Sciences and Related Studies)
Associate Professor Iouri Belski
(School of Electrical and Computer Engineering)

Citations for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning

- Dr Anthony Bedford**
(School of Mathematical and Geospatial Sciences)
For enhancing the first year experience and for innovative teaching practice that fosters enthusiasm for statistics through establishing relevance to students' lives.

- Peter Burton**
(School of Electrical and Computer Engineering)

For the development and use of quasi-interactive videos and the sustained and innovative use of multimedia technology in teaching engineering, providing students with individualised learning opportunities.

- Dr Mark Gregory**
(School of Electrical and Computer Engineering)
For sustained commitment to the innovative application of educational technology and the introduction of an engineering stream providing graduates to support the global digital network.

- Professor Pavla Miller**
(School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning)

For design, coordination and teaching of an innovative research strategies course catering for honours, coursework masters and research students from several academic units at RMIT.

- Dr Gloria Latham**
(School of Education)
For inspiring face-to-face teaching that supports and challenges knowledge creation while utilising sustained innovative design and application of educational technologies.

- Professor Rob Watts**
(School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning)

For designing, leading and teaching an innovative and inspiring social science curriculum project designed to engage first year students in large foundation social science classes.

STAFF AND STUDENT AWARDS

Francis Ormond Medal, to a staff member who has served the University with distinction or given meritorious service

Dr Helen Smith (Office of the Director TAFE)

Ralph McIntosh Medal, for outstanding service to students
Anne Marino (Academic Registrar's Group)

Institute Award: Highest Prize for Student Achievement (HE)

Vandit Bhasin, Bachelor of Engineering (Chemical Engineering)/Bachelor of Science (Biotechnology)

Institute Award: Highest Prize for Student Achievement (TAFE)

Ascenza Formenton, Advanced Diploma of Business (Advertising)

J N McNicol Prize, for outstanding academic record in an undergraduate degree

Kiplimo Yego, Bachelor of Engineering (Communication Engineering)

Beazley Award, for excellence as an apprentice
Ms Suzana Kostovski, Printing

Patricia Guthrie Memorial Award, recognising outstanding female students for academic excellence, social awareness and involvement in community affairs

Sandra Arico, Bachelor of Business (Entrepreneurship), and

Aleisha Dakin, Bachelor of Applied Science (Physical Education)



Professor Dennis Gibson AO and Anne Marino.

TEACHING AND RESEARCH AWARDS

Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award

Associate Professor Sandra Jones
(School of Management), and
Associate Professor John Reece
(School of Health Sciences)

Vice-Chancellor's Award for Research Excellence

Professor Aleksandar Subic
(School of Aerospace, Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering)

Vice-Chancellor's Award for Emerging Researcher

Associate Professor Laurene Vaughan
(School of Media and Communication)

Vice-Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Thesis

Dr Janet Hunt PhD
(School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning)

Ian Permezel Memorial Award,

recognising an early career researcher to enable presentation of a paper at an overseas conference

Dr Yoko Akama
(School of Media and Communications)

Malcolm Moore Industry Research Award,

for an industry-partnered research project by an early career researcher

Dr Lisa French
(School of Media and Communications)

University Research Prize

Dr Zarina Md Nor
(School of Economics and Finance)

Dr Matthias Haeusler
(School of Architecture and Design)

Dr Goranco Milosovski

(School of Aerospace, Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering)

Teaching Award Winners

Category

Dr Jeff Shimeta	Biological Sciences, Health and related studies
Associate Professor Barry McIntyre	Law, Economics, Business and related studies
Professor Jiyuan Tu	Physical Sciences and related studies
Associate Professor Julian Bondy	Social Sciences (including Education)
Dr Jennifer Elsden-Clifton	Early Career Academic
Mr Marko Dumovic	TAFE Teacher of the Year
Mr Alain Grossbard	TAFE Initiative of the Year
Mr Arthur Shelley	Outstanding Sessional Teaching Award (HE)
Ms Belinda Johnson	
Mr Chris Davies	
Ms Cathryn Kriewaldt	The First Year Experience
Dr Mahesh Joshi	Assessment and Feedback
Dr Prem Chhetri	Innovation in Curricula, Learning and Teaching
Dr Heather Pisani	
Dr Richard Guy	
Dr Peter Rich	
Dr Tom Molyneux	
Mr Giovanni Mandarano	
Ms Cathy Leahy	Flexible Learning and Teaching
Ms Lila Kemlo	
Ms Heather Bigelow	
Ms Shrumpy Desai	
Ms Camella Chiang	
Dr Ulas Gezgin	Services supporting Student Learning

Certificates of Achievement

Category

Dr Scott Mayson	Humanities and the Arts
Dr Khalil Ibrahim	Physical Sciences and related studies
Mr Lucas Holden	
Ms Christine Craik	Social Sciences (including Education)
Associate Professor Adela McMurray	Indigenous Education
Ms Kate Church	Early Career Academic
Dr Natt Pimpa	
Ms Barbara White	
Ms Hiroko Ohashi	
Mr Michael Matuszynski	
Ms Xiaowen Fan	
Dr Yi Jin	
Mr Zhihua Yao	TAFE Teacher of the Year
Mr Nevil Schultz	
Ms Madeleine Shanahan	Scholarship of Teaching and Learning
Mr Paul Foulstone	Outstanding Sessional Teaching Award (HE)
Dr Paul Myers	
Dr Daryll Cahill	
Ms Sonia Magdziarz	
Ms Joan Pagonis	
Ms Lila Kemlo	The First Year Experience
Mr Leigh Brown	
Associate Professor Jeff Walkley	
Dr Bernie Holland	
Dr Amanda Benson	
Ms Lee Anton-Hem	Innovation in Curricula, Learning and Teaching
Dr Hossein Seif Zadeh	
Mr Huan Vo-Tran	
Ms Kathy Douglas	Flexible Learning and Teaching
Ms Baia Tsakouridou	Services supporting Student Learning
Mr Arthur Adamopoulos	
Mr Vince Bruno	
Dr Christopher Cheong	
Dr Martin Dick	
Mr Stas Lukaitis	
Mr Ian Searle	
Professor Ross Smith	
Mr Martin Kelly	

Research at RMIT is shaped by a number of drivers including our urban location and orientation and our strong links with industry, government and international partners.

2009 was another successful year with continued improvement in research outcomes. RMIT received its highest ever amount of funding under the ARC Discovery Grant scheme and from NHMRC, and conferred 175 doctoral degrees.

RMIT RESEARCH INSTITUTES

RMIT has developed four strong research institutes with an emphasis on cross-disciplinary research that enhances the University's engagement with industries and communities. These platforms are reflected in the RMIT Research Institutes which bring together multidisciplinary teams to address research questions of world-wide concern. In 2009, RMIT was commended by the Australian Universities Quality Agency for "the establishment of high-level research institutes to focus resources with the aim of achieving strong international recognition in areas of strength".

In 2009, RMIT continued to embed the Research Institutes through the development of a policy framework that will formalise their common objectives and ensure that the Institutes are integrated into the University's planning and reporting cycle.

RMIT's Research Investment Fund provided critical support to the Institutes to underpin their operations as they mature. Funds were also used for a range of whole-of-university initiatives to help RMIT achieve its strategic priorities in relation to research. These included Research Leave Awards to facilitate research-related activities undertaken at a location external to RMIT, and Emerging Researcher Grants to support early-career researchers.

RESEARCH INSTITUTE ACHIEVEMENTS



Minister Gavin Jennings with three members of the Polytactics team.



Dancers perform at the *Nation-building across the Urban and Rural in Timor-Leste* conference in Dili.



Dr Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka launches RMIT's partnership with UN-HABITAT.



HRH Prince Hassan addresses the Pathways to Reconciliation summit.

DESIGN RESEARCH INSTITUTE

The role of this Institute is to highlight the importance of design in all areas of life. Its five key project areas are spawning projects across many disciplines, with research teams addressing such challenging issues as new urban environments, healthy workplaces, performance-enhancing sports garments, the role of art in public and private places, and the construction of interactive spatial maps and archives.

In 2009 the Institute developed the annual Design Challenge as a vehicle for fostering innovative ideas and developing partnerships between education, research, industry and the public.

Following the Black Saturday disaster, the inaugural *2009 Design Challenge: Fire* was launched, bringing together a diverse range of researchers and experts to generate proposals for bushfire prevention and planning, emergency responses and post-fire regeneration.

In November the Victorian Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Innovation, Gavin Jennings, announced the winning team which posed the question: "What alternative strategies and tactics can designers employ at domestic and infrastructural scales to reconsider fire diversion and site rehabilitation?" Their solution was Polytactics – the use of lightweight polymer materials that are activated by fire events. The polymers are cast into lightweight screens, road barricades and construction fencing, which transform into a protective porcelain membrane when heated during a fire. Post-fire, the material degrades into the soil and assists with environmental regeneration.

The Design Challenge demonstrated the potential for the design sector to uncover solutions to complex contemporary issues by working in transdisciplinary collaborations. The Polytactics team was awarded a \$25,000 research and development grant, and the concepts generated by all finalists were exhibited at the Melbourne Museum over several months.

GLOBAL CITIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE

In recognition of the 10th anniversary of Timor-Leste's vote for independence, RMIT held a conference in Dili focusing on *Nation-building across the Urban and Rural in Timor-Leste*. The conference was opened by East Timor's Acting Prime Minister, Jose Luis Guterres, and attracted participants from more than 20 countries. It included discussions on gender, peace and security, justice, governance and development.

The conference was organised in liaison with Australian Volunteers International, East Timor NGO Forum, Caritas Australia and Charles Darwin University, and received funding from a range of sources including AusAid, Airnorth and the Australia Pacific Research Network, as well as RMIT's Global Cities Research Institute and Globalism Research Centre.

Minister for Climate Change, Senator Penny Wong, announced that RMIT will host national research into how climate change will impact on disaster management and emergency services, and what can be done about it. The research forms part of the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Program, which aims to prepare Australian governments and vulnerable industries and communities for the unavoidable impacts of climate change. The project will be funded by the Federal Government, RMIT and national partners.

A new strategic partnership between RMIT and the United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-HABITAT) was launched with an address by the UN-HABITAT Executive Director, Dr Anna Tibaijuka.

Also in 2009, the Global Cities Research Institute, in partnership with Monash University's Centre for Ethics in Medicine and Society, convened an international summit on global reconciliation in Amman. The Pathways to Reconciliation summit, supported by HRH Prince Hassan of Jordan, brought together more than 200 reconciliation experts from 33 countries to tackle global cultural, religious, racial and political difference. A film maker, a doctor and an artist were the winners of the inaugural Desmond Tutu Fellowship Scheme, providing opportunities for Australians to undertake projects that contribute to reconciliation.

HEALTH INNOVATIONS RESEARCH INSTITUTE

The Institute was officially launched in December by Nobel Laureate Professor Erwin Neher, together with RMIT Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Margaret Gardner AO.

With the appointment of a new Director, Professor David Adams, this Institute has consolidated its activities and now has four established research programs:

- » Metabolism, exercise and disease
- » Electromagnetism: biophysical modulators
- » Traditional and complementary medicine
- » Ion channels and transporters as therapeutic targets.



Health Innovations Research Institute Director, Professor David Adams, at the launch of the new Institute.

The Institute focuses on cardiovascular diseases, insulin resistance and diabetes, obesity, arthritis, mental health and stroke, and has established multidisciplinary teams to develop new ways to address the socio-economic health burden associated with these maladies.

In 2009, the Institute continued to work towards achieving its primary goal of translating fundamental science discoveries into effective and safe therapeutic outcomes.

Researchers from the Traditional and Complementary Medicine Research Group partnered with China's leading traditional Chinese medicine research facility, the Guangdong Provincial Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences, in an Australian-first clinical study into the effectiveness of herbal medicine and acupuncture for managing chronic respiratory diseases. The Academy is contributing \$1 million to this research.

The Institute had notable success in attracting external funding, with the award of four ARC Discovery grants and three NHMRC grants. Institute Director, Professor David Adams, will lead research into the use of venom peptides developed by marine cone snails to design new drugs for the treatment of a variety of diseases and disorders such as chronic and neuropathic pain. Professor Adams was awarded Australian Professorial Fellow funding as part of his ARC funding.

State-of-the-art equipment critical to the delivery of excellent research outcomes was acquired during the year, including two confocal microscopes and an ImageXpress imaging system, one of only a handful in Australia.

PLATFORM TECHNOLOGIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE

The Institute's inaugural Annual Symposium, held in July, heard from some of Australia's leading researchers and industry experts on a range of topics including nanotoxicology and nanosafety issues, smart energy and green car technologies.

The symposium was designed to promote broadly based collaborative research across RMIT disciplines and colleges, as well as with industry and community across the country and abroad.

Researchers continued to produce excellent outcomes in 2009 including a breakthrough with a micro-device that enables scientists to investigate the development of blood clots. Researchers plan to develop the device into a diagnostic tool to assist in the detection and treatment of blood clotting diseases, which affect more than half of Australia's population.

One of the key objectives of the Research Institutes is to link research discoveries to applications. In 2009, the Platform Technologies Research Institute achieved this objective by signing a licensing agreement with Aron Universal to commercialise the production of the nanopigment PNP98 for automotive paint. PNP98 can help to cool cars by reducing the absorption of heat from solar radiation, leading to improved comfort and less reliance on air conditioning.



Black Tea House: Memorial to the 2009 Bushfires, by Terunobu Fujimori.



Schmuck 2009 exhibition: Meaner than Yellow, pendant by Robert Baines.

RMIT GALLERY

RMIT Gallery is the University's premier exhibition space for international and national artists. Housed in Storey Hall, the Gallery is a vibrant art and design gallery with a global outlook and a celebrated example of architectural innovation. The Gallery also has responsibility for the RMIT Art Collection.

A curated exhibition program presents the best of contemporary practice in fine art, design, craft, fashion, architecture, new media/technology and popular culture relevant to professional outcomes in research and teaching across the University. The Gallery also produces publications and provides lectures, seminars, artist talks and performances to engage a broad audience.

The successful 2009 exhibition program presented nine diverse shows. Of particular note, *Liu Xiao Xian: from East to West* demonstrated the Gallery's long-standing engagement with Asian art and culture. *Schmuck 2009*, one of the world's most dynamic and prestigious exhibitions of contemporary jewellery, was presented in Australia for the first time in its 50 year history.

Shelter: On Kindness invited 50 artists, architects, writers and philosophers to reflect on what qualities of environment and circumstance afford us shelter in the physical and metaphorical sense.



Shelter: On Kindness exhibition.

Acclaimed Japanese architect Terunobu Fujimori, with assistance from more than 50 RMIT art and architecture students, constructed *Black Tea House: Memorial to the 2009 Bushfires*, a tea house installed within the Gallery using reclaimed wood from bushfire-affected areas.

Super Human: Revolution of the Species explored technological innovation.

In 2009, RMIT Gallery and its staff were presented with the 2009 ICOM Australia (International Council of Museums) Award for International Relations. The award, presented at the Museums Australia conference in Newcastle, celebrates the outstanding work undertaken by individuals and Australian institutions that have strengthened international relations and contributed to the cultural richness of the region. ICOM recognised the Gallery's outstanding program for 2008-09 and the leadership of its Director, Suzanne Davies.

RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS

Research at RMIT is characterised by its focus on end users. RMIT has continued to strengthen and extend its networks and partnerships through research collaborations involving government, community and industry. RMIT participates in Cooperative Research Centres, including the recently renewed CRC for Spatial Information.

Researchers from the Platform Technologies Research Institute strengthened their relationship with a leading sports equipment and accessories company, Mizuno, which will provide support for scholarships for PhD students in sports engineering technologies. RMIT and Alcoa Australia signed a Memorandum of Understanding formalising a further three years of an innovative industry-based learning initiative for alumina technology in Western Australia.

As a global university of technology, RMIT actively encourages and supports collaborative research with international partners. In 2009, RMIT researchers received international recognition for excellence in their fields. Professor Xinghuo Yu, Director of Platform Technologies Research Institute, received a Chang Jiang Scholar Award from the Ministry of Education of China.

Professor Suresh Bhargava was recognised by industry for his leadership in the area of safety and the environment by winning the Worley Parsons Award at the 2009 Chemeca conference in Perth, becoming the first academic in Australia to receive the award.

In collaboration with the Japan Sports Engineering Association, the Australasian Sports Technology Alliance and the International Sports Engineering Association, RMIT organised the international biennial Asia-Pacific Congress on Sports Technology. Held in Hawaii in September, the Congress provided an international forum for scientists, engineers and educators who are involved in sports technology research, development and innovation.

Researchers from RMIT's Centre for Design are working with the Vietnam Green Building Council to examine Vietnam's vulnerability to climate change and required responses. The project will explore sustainable building design and measurement systems, as well as the viability of alternative water and energy supply options.

Other collaborations in Vietnam include joint research training with the Ministry of Education and Training for PhD students in the areas of food technology, biotechnology, computer science, geospatial sciences and education; and scoping studies undertaken by researchers from RMIT's Global Cities Research Institute in conjunction with urban authorities in Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi.

RESEARCH EDUCATION

RMIT commenced the establishment of the new School of Graduate Research, which will provide support for Masters and PhD students to ensure they have a high quality student experience and develop the skills to enhance their research careers. The School will also be responsible for research student administration and for shaping the University's strategy for research training.

In 2009, 412 new Higher Degree by Research (HDR) students commenced their studies at RMIT, of whom 63 were awarded an Australian Postgraduate Award, 13 received RMIT PhD scholarships and six were awarded an RMIT International Research Scholarship. A total of 254 HDR students graduated at ceremonies in Melbourne and offshore.

RESEARCH PERFORMANCE

Further increases were recorded in RMIT's nationally competitive research grant income. RMIT was awarded ARC funding of \$8,341,591 through the Discovery and Linkage programs, and \$1,126,250 in NHMRC funding for projects commencing in 2010.

RMIT was successful in being awarded three prestigious Future Fellowships in the ARC's inaugural scheme to assist the development of mid-career researchers. Each Future Fellow attracts \$740,000 in Commonwealth research support over four years. They include Professor Helen Lingard (School of Property, Construction and Project Management), who will consider strategies to improve workplace safety in the construction industry, and two researchers drawn from overseas.

ARC Linkage Grants for RMIT Research Projects

Funding Year	Funded	ARC Funding	Industry Collaboration
2010 Round One	6	\$1,514,604	\$2,862,987
2009 Round Two	5	\$1,770,195	\$2,983,021

ARC Discovery Grants for RMIT Research Projects

Funding Year	Funded	Total Funding
2010	10	\$3,964,000

Funding for ARC Future Fellows

Funding Year	Funded	Indicative Funding over project life
2010	3	\$2,244,819

Funding for RMIT NHMRC Projects

Funding Year	Funded	Total Funding over project life
2010	2	\$1,126,250

Higher Degree Research Activity

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
HDR enrolments	1,702	1,687	1,612	1,621	1,616
HDR EFTSL	1,126.6	1,102.5	1,064.0	1,053.7	1,100.6
HDR award program completions	215	253	261	267	N/A

Research Publications Data

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
HERDC weighted research publications	1,176	1,205	1,213	1,271.65	N/A

N/A: Not yet available

ACADEMIC SCHOOLS

As at 31 December 2009, RMIT University offered programs of study in 24 Schools across three Colleges.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

School	Head of School
Accounting and Law	Associate Professor Kevin Adams
Business Information Technology	Professor Brian Corbitt
Business TAFE	Ms Vicki Molloy
Economics, Finance and Marketing	Professor Tony Naughton
Graduate School of Business	Professor John Toohey
Management	Associate Professor Sandra Martin

COLLEGE OF DESIGN AND SOCIAL CONTEXT

School	Head of School
Architecture and Design	Professor Richard Blythe
Art	Professor Elizabeth Grierson
Design (TAFE)	Mr Hendrikus Berkers
Education	Professor Annette Gough
Fashion and Textiles	Mr Keith Cowlishaw
Global Studies, Social Science and Planning	Professor David Hayward
Media and Communication	Ms Lauren Murray
Property, Construction and Project Management	Professor Ron Wakefield

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

School	Head of School
Aerospace, Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering	Professor Aleksandar Subic
Applied Sciences	Professor Suresh K. Bhargava
Civil, Environmental and Chemical Engineering	Professor John Buckeridge
Computer Science and Information Technology	Professor Heiko Schroder
Electrical and Computer Engineering	Professor Ian Burnett
Engineering TAFE	Mr Peter Ryan
Health Sciences	Professor Ken Greenwood
Life and Physical Sciences	Ms Cheryl Underwood
Mathematical and Geospatial Sciences	Professor John Hearne
Medical Sciences	Professor Harry Majewski

Through RMIT's adjunct professors program, eminent people are invited to become involved in teaching and research at the University. This helps to strengthen RMIT's links with industry, community and government, and provides our students with exposure to people who are leaders in their respective fields.

ADJUNCT PROFESSORIAL APPOINTMENTS 2009

Name	School
Jack Jacoby	Graduate School of Business
Kimon Lycos	Economics, Finance and Marketing
John Dalrymple	Management
Errol Muir	Management
Ted Lipiarski	Management
Henry Bosch	Management
Peter Williams	Management
Amanda Gome	Management
Kevin Murray	Art
Isobel Crombie	Media and Communication
Geoffrey Meen	Global Studies, Social Science and Planning
Ian Howie	Design and Social Context
Matthew Cuthbertson	Aerospace, Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
Dong Yang Wu	Aerospace, Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
Tony Quick	Aerospace, Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
Albert Goller	Aerospace, Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
Peter Johnston	Applied Sciences
Robyn Williams	Applied Sciences
Keith Frampton	Computer Science and Information Technology
Terence Jones	Electrical and Computer Engineering
Xiaoxha Yin	Electrical and Computer Engineering
William Lin	Health Sciences
Ken Sellick	Health Sciences
Keith McVilly	Health Sciences
William Blyth	Mathematical and Geospatial Science
Kellie Knight	Medical Sciences
Kunthauai Pathmaraj	Medical Sciences

EMERITUS PROFESSORIAL APPOINTMENTS 2009

Name	School
Trang Thomas	Health Sciences

In 2009, the College of Business capitalised on the restructuring activities and reviews of recent years that have had a positive impact on management, infrastructure and academic outcomes.

Highlights for the year included strong improvements in teaching scores, national and international recognition of outstanding staff and students, the expansion of the College's research activities through the reinstatement of two research centres, and the opening of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Study Centre at RMIT.

As RMIT's largest provider of offshore programs, the College initiated a major University-wide project to review and provide strategic direction for ongoing international education activities. The Business Plan Competition was a major winner at the 2009 Business/Higher Education Round Table awards. The Business TAFE School launched two major commercial activities, setting a precedent for future growth and potential VET opportunities.



ORGANISATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND CAPACITY BUILDING

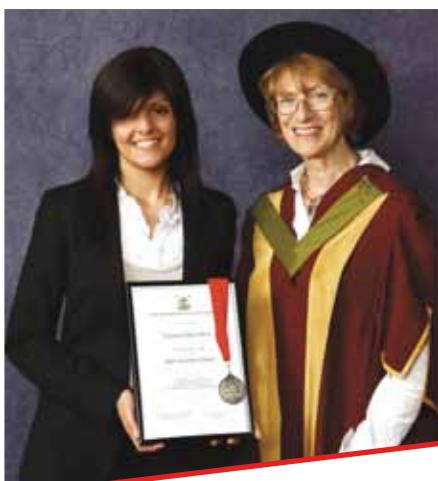
Following a review of the Business TAFE School and appointment of Mr Dale Williams to the newly created role of Deputy Director TAFE Business, a School restructure and a major VET market analysis project were commenced to ensure that a viable, quality driven and relevant VET business profile is maintained in the context of Skills Reform implementation.

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

The School of Management's Entrepreneurship degree was recognised as Australia's pre-eminent program at the 2009 Global Student Entrepreneur Awards. This places RMIT as Australia's top university for entrepreneurship and the program as the 12th ranked in the world. Students in the program play a significant role in this success, with one student, Jamie Xuerub, achieving first place in the Australian Global Student Entrepreneur Awards, to be followed by representation of RMIT and Australia at the global finals in Kansas City.

Professor Margaret Jackson (School of Accounting and Law) secured an ALTC Priority Programs grant for her project *Graduate professional entry courses in Accounting and Law*. Associate Professor Sandra Jones (School of Management) obtained an ALTC Leadership Program grant for her project *Lessons learnt: Identifying synergies in distributed leadership*.

Several students received awards for excellence. Business Entrepreneurship student Sandra Arico, winner of the 2009 Business Award and the Patricia Guthrie Memorial Award for outstanding female students, is one of the founding directors of The Hive, a successful networking organisation for entrepreneurs.



Martin Petkovski, Tristan Monti, Slavica Jovanovic and Suz-anne Ly.

RMIT International Business students scooped two of the three national awards in the 2009 Austrade International Business Plan Competition. Martin Petkovski, Tristan Monti, Slavica Jovanovic and Suz-anne Ly won the *New to International Business* award for their plan for exporting olive oil to China. The *Expanding Markets* award was won by Corin Seneviratne, Mario Seneviratne, Michiyo Murao and Achila Galpottage-Don for their proposal to export organic dog food.



Corin Seneviratne, Mario Seneviratne, Stan Roche (Austrade), Michiyo Murao and Achila Galpottage-Don.

Students storm to success

RMIT Business Marketing students have enjoyed spectacular success in recent years in the prestigious L'Oréal Brandstorm marketing competition.



2009 L'Oréal Brandstorm winners:
Benjamin Robertson, Melisa Lay and Evan Montero.

The global event gives student teams the opportunity to combine marketing theory and creativity by producing new concepts and marketing communications for specific product lines within the L'Oréal group. After a series of finals held in 36 countries, the winning teams travel to Paris to represent Australia in the international final.

Since 2004, RMIT teams have never been placed lower than third in the national final, competing against more than 6,000 students from 180 business schools across the country. RMIT teams were first-prize winners in 2006, 2008 and 2009, scooping the pool in 2008 by finishing first, second and third.

In 2009, the winning team comprising Melisa Lay, Benjamin Robertson and Evan Montero went on to record the outstanding outcome of world runners-up after competing in Paris among the best of the best from 36 countries.

The students were mentored throughout the six months of the competition by Dr Marion Steel and Dr Con Stavros from RMIT's School of Economics, Finance and Marketing.

RMIT's success in the Brandstorm competition exemplifies the strong industry and practical focus of the University's marketing degree.

LEARNING AND TEACHING

Continuing focus and investment in learning and teaching initiatives has yielded excellent results. This was evident in the radical escalation of teaching performance scores in the School of Accounting and Law and the School of Economics, Finance and Marketing that followed the implementation of Large Class Support initiatives. Numerous surveys have indicated strong outcomes in good teaching scores and overall satisfaction with the student experience within the College of Business.

In 2009, the College implemented a pathway diploma incorporating an embedded English and learning skills component. The Diploma of Commerce, offered in Melbourne, Ho Chi Minh City, Hanoi, Shanghai and South China, emphasises the strengthening of in-course and concurrent language and academic support for students before articulation into an undergraduate business program.

Work-integrated learning continued to be of major importance, with planning well advanced for implementation in all offshore locations. The successful redevelopment of the Bachelor of Commerce focused in particular on the industry and community needs of the Vietnam campuses.

Achievements for 2009 included improvements in the management of onshore and offshore student loads to ensure the delivery of a quality educational experience. Entry levels were raised and courses rationalised in selected programs. A new Associate Degree in Business, a Masters in Information Management and a common Bachelor of Business (Honours) program have been introduced.

INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT

The College of Business revitalised its industry and community engagement activities with a renewed focus on work-integrated learning and cooperative education, alumni relations, industry research partnerships and commercial projects.

The RMIT Business Plan Competition was awarded Best Vocational Education and Training Collaboration at the 2009 Business/Higher Education Round Table (B-HERT) Awards.



Mark Snell (major sponsor Fuji Xerox), Elizabeth Burke (RMIT), David Hind (B-HERT), Rosemary O'Connor, Professor Aaron Smith and Dr Marcus Powe (RMIT).

At the award presentation, Deputy Prime Minister Julia Gillard praised the achievements of the winning programs, saying that collaboration between education and business will be more important than ever over the next few years.

The competition continues to be a tremendous showcase for the entrepreneurial spirit of RMIT Business students. This year, 97 teams participated in the competition including 11 teams from RMIT Vietnam.

In support of the College's commitment to innovation and entrepreneurship, the Innovation Unit's Business Lecture Series continued to provide a networking and information forum for Melbourne's business and academic community. The series presents a range of speakers with expertise relating to innovation in the science, technology and business arenas. RMIT hosts and delivers the Business Lecture Series in partnership with Ernst & Young and VESKI (Victorian Endowment for Science, Knowledge and Innovation).

The Business TAFE School engaged with industry through two major commercial activities: a management training program for clothing retailer Billabong Australia, and the delivery of the Diploma of Logistics in four States in partnership with TNT and the Transport and Logistics Industry Skills Council, funded by the Federal Government. These collaborations set a precedent for future growth and foreshadow potential opportunities under a nationally funded VET system.

Professor Sinclair Davidson and Dr Steven Kates provided both written and oral evidence to the Senate Economic References Committee as part of its investigation into the economic consequences of the government's economic stimulus initiatives.

Professor Ian Palmer, Deputy PVC Research, was asked to conduct a review of the structures, systems and processes of the Academy of the Social Sciences of Australia, one of four Learned Academies in Australia comprising members who have achieved distinction in one or more branches of the social sciences. The Palmer Review was commissioned by ASSA in response to a Government request.

The College's annual prize-giving ceremony, celebrating the achievements of 112 students, was supported by 58 sponsors from business, industry and community organisations.

RESEARCH

Research activities in the College of Business enjoyed renewed vigour in 2009. The College reinstated two Research Centres:

- » Centre for Finance
(Professor Richard Heaney, Director)
- » Centre for Management Research
(Professor Peter Fairbrother, Director)

RMIT secured funding from the Smart Services CRC as part of a \$120 million commercially focused collaborative research initiative between 12 industry partners and six Australian universities.

The funding will support research in two projects. For the first project, *Digital Cultural Collections: Copyright and Traditional Knowledge*, the College of Business will work closely with the Australian Museum in Sydney to ascertain best practice, and will consult extensively with the Pacific communities in Melbourne to understand their approaches to traditional knowledge and intellectual property as cultural collections become digital.

The second project, *Innovative Mobile Banking Solutions*, involves working with Suncorp to examine the use of mobile technology for banking and financial services with an emphasis on access, privacy, security and trust. The funding also includes \$50,000 for full or partial scholarships for research into the use of smart technologies within the social and cultural context.

A number of staff members were successful in attracting funding in the most recent grant round for the Melbourne Centre for Financial Studies.

A new Business research website with improved navigation and stakeholder communication was launched during 2009.

GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

The College of Business is a recognised leader in the development and provision of outbound student mobility activities.

In 2009, new opportunities with existing partners in Europe and the US were made available to TAFE students.

As well, student exchange links are being developed with prominent business schools in Europe and Asia with a view to enhancing future research cooperation and industry engagement opportunities.

Five projects initiated by academic and general staff across the College were selected for funding by the College's newly established International Strategic Initiatives Fund.

These projects range from developing program advisory committees and industry reference groups to strengthening collaboration between RMIT's Melbourne and Vietnam campuses in improving administration services, enhancing consistency of course experience and outcomes, and high level executive training.



Centre Director, Ken Waller; Federal Trade Minister, Simon Crean; Victorian Parliamentary Secretary for Industry and Trade, Marsha Thomson; Centre Chairman, Alan Oxley; Professor Gill Palmer and Centre Advisory Board Chairman, Bruce Kean AO. Photo: Laki Sideris

APEC STUDY CENTRE OPENS AT RMIT

RMIT's strong regional links were enhanced with the opening by the Federal Minister for Trade, Simon Crean, of the Australian APEC Study Centre at the RMIT College of Business. The Centre works at the forefront of advocacy for Australia's economic, trade and strategic objectives in the Asia-Pacific region.

The aims of the Centre bolster the objective of the College of Business to become one of the region's leading business schools. RMIT's partnership with the Centre brings new opportunities for regional and industry linkages, further developing the College's renowned business education model and enhancing its regional presence.

The global economic crisis has created major challenges for business with interests in the APEC region. Combining the Centre's expertise in trade and finance with the programs of the College and RMIT's active engagement in the region, particularly in Vietnam and China, will enhance the capacity of both the Centre and the College to understand and respond to this radically different environment.

COLLEGE OF DESIGN AND SOCIAL CONTEXT

The eight schools of the College of Design and Social Context (DSC) encompass RMIT's art, communication, design, education, humanities, construction and social science disciplines.

A new School, infrastructure development, a new process for collecting research data and innovation in teaching and learning were a few of the key activities which made 2009 a busy and successful year for the College.

The newly created School of Media and Communication was launched mid-year, bringing together the former Schools of Applied Communication and Creative Media to form a new entity that underpins and builds the University's leadership and strength in the industry. RMIT is enhancing its programs through this merger, focusing on the creative and business needs of the media and communication industries.

The College welcomed Professor David Hayward as its new Dean of the School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning, one of the largest schools in the University.

Four milestones were marked with special events. The School of Education celebrated 50 years of teacher education at RMIT, while the Social Science/Environment program marked its 25th anniversary. The Centre for Design recorded its 20th anniversary in 2009 with a major increase in research funding.

The Professional Writing and Editing program marked its 21st anniversary by hosting an event at Victorian Trades Hall and publishing a commemorative anthology, *Visible Ink*.



ACADEMIC AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Professor Colin Fudge was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in recognition of his outstanding contribution as PVC of the University of the West of England.

Adjunct Professor Alan Pears became a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for his service to the environment through the development of policy and design in the fields of energy efficiency and sustainability, as well as through public awareness programs.

Works by Professor Lyndal Jones (School of Media and Communication) featured at London's Tate Modern museum as part of a travelling exhibition of British and Australian video art.

RMIT graduate and lecturer in Architecture and Design, Simone Leamon, won the 2009 Cicely & Colin Rigg Contemporary Design Award for her chair titled Lepidoptera (pictured, right).

Two RMIT Advertising students achieved a 'first' for Australia by winning the prestigious Cannes Future Lions competition. Jason Deacon and Ebony Holmberg were selected from more than 700 entries world-wide for their innovative mock advertising campaign for travel website Expedia.



Architecture student Tom Morgan won the House re-Growth Pod competition for the design of a new family home for residents of Kinglake affected by the bushfires.

RMIT graduates dominated the Design Institute of Australia's inaugural Victorian Graduate of the Year Awards (GOTYAs), taking out three of the four award categories. Elly Gardner (pictured, right) was the overall Graduate of the Year and won the Textile Design award. Of the 11 award nominees, seven were RMIT graduates.

Textiles student Laura Labrin won the Dreamweaver Design Award, sponsored by international textile company Warwick, and was named best student designer for 2009 in her category.

RMIT alumnus Jackson Slattery (pictured, right) won Australia's richest prize for young painters, the Metro Gallery Art Award, for his intricate painting of Muslim pilgrims at prayer. He was one of five School of Art students selected as finalists for the 2009 award.

Communication Design student Sam Dickson won the 2009 Greenpeace Design Awards for his poster 'We can't always rely on someone else to save the world'. Sam's design was selected from over 1,500 poster designs that were submitted from across 77 countries.



Priyanka 2002 and Priyanka 2008: Photos from Carla Gottgens' *Girl??? I'm a Woman Now!* exhibition.

Screenwriting lecturer Chris Corbett won Best Screenplay and third prize overall at the world's largest short film festival, *Tropfest*, for his script, *Fences*.

Bachelor of Communication (Media) graduate Tamara Anghie was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Live Action Short Film as producer of the film *New Boy*, which has won awards at more than 20 international film festivals.

At the Quill Awards for Excellence in Journalism awarded by the Melbourne Press Club, five of the awards were won by RMIT graduates. The awards were for Young Journalist of the year, investigative journalism in any medium, best sports story in any medium, best online report and best radio current affairs report.

Phil Taylor, a final-year Scientific Photography student, was a joint winner of the prestigious 2009 New Scientist Eureka Prize for Science Photography.



Lepidoptera, the winning chair designed by Simone Leamon.



Elly Gardner, GOTYA winner, with her Contemporary Curtain window treatment.



Jackson Slattery with Metro Gallery Art judge, Jeff Kennett.



Leyla Acaroglu, winner of RMIT's 2008 Patricia Guthrie Memorial Award, with her eco-designed wares.

Recognition for outstanding communicators

RMIT's Communicator of the Year award, organised by final year Public Relations students, recognises an Australian who has used communication to outstanding effect in achieving important community outcomes.

Former High Court judge, Michael Kirby, and community activist, Melina Schamroth, were worthy joint winners of the award in 2009.

Ms Schamroth is the founder of Make a Difference, known as m.a.d.woman, an organisation that champions a wide range of community-related causes through public awareness campaigns and by finding volunteers to work for them. In 2009 she actively supported bushfire-affected communities in Victoria.



Michael Kirby and Melina Schamroth, joint winners of RMIT Communicator of the Year 2009.

Presenting the awards to Mr Kirby and Ms Schamroth, Lauren Murray, Dean of RMIT's School of Media and Communication, said, "It says something about the diversity and calibre of Michael and Melina's achievements that our selection panel determined it would recognise two people this year."

Quoting the Federal Attorney-General, who recently called the retiring High Court judge "the great communicator", Ms Murray praised Mr Kirby for his wide-ranging commitment to community wellbeing.

"He is known for more than his ability to make difficult and technical concepts comprehensible and accessible to the layperson. He's also renowned for speaking out, sometimes at personal cost, on community issues ranging from gay rights to animal cruelty."

Past winners include internationally renowned climate change authority Professor Tim Flannery, and Choir of Hard Knocks founder Jonathan Welch.

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

The College has seen considerable improvements through capital works projects with the overall aim of improving teaching and learning facilities for students and staff. All schools had some capital works undertaken and the College office moved to new premises to enable the consolidation of staff accommodation and learning and teaching spaces.

The School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning consolidated its office and staff to the newly refurbished Building 37. The School of Architecture and Design started teaching in its new collaborative teaching spaces.

On the Brunswick campus, five computer laboratories were consolidated to provide better open access areas for student use. The School of Fashion and Textiles has a new integrated knitting studio and enhanced environmental conditions in its laboratory, which is used for textile research and sustainability industry training.

The joint Art and Design TAFE Foundation Studies program moved into a refurbished Building 6, which has provided improved facilities for the program's international students.

At Bundoora campus, the School of Education is now using its completed collaborative learning and teaching space with enhanced facilities for the music program and a new training room to deliver the industry-based training and assessment program.

LEARNING AND TEACHING

The College successfully trialled an innovative practice model for staff professional development and scholarship. Under the model, learning and teaching staff work closely with academic staff within each discipline to provide support in bringing about change in teaching and learning practice that is embedded in local disciplinary practice.

In response to industry demand, two new programs were developed in 2009: the Bachelor of Early Childhood Education and the Master of Economic Development.

Associate Professor Barbara de la Harpe was awarded an ALTC Studio Learning grant aimed at strengthening learning and teaching in the creative arts disciplines.

Professor Elizabeth Grierson and Associate Professor David Forrest have been appointed to the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority to review arts curricula in Australia.



RMIT students with Long Walk founder, Michael Long, and coordinator, Kim Kruger (left).

RMIT is committed to the development of work-integrated learning projects that provide rich educational experiences for students. In 2009, a group of Public Relations students helped to develop a campaign for The Long Walk, a charitable trust that supports Aboriginal wellbeing. The students met with founder and former Essendon footballer Michael Long, while developing a strategy aimed at broadening the traditional football focus of the annual event to raise awareness of indigenous issues and celebrate outstanding achievement.

RESEARCH

During 2009 RMIT prepared and submitted data to the ARC on Humanities and the Creative Arts as part of an ERA (Excellence in Research for Australia) trial. The activity provided a comprehensive picture of the University's research output in creative works and confirmed the University's considerable strength in this area.

The Centre for Design developed a home sustainability assessment tool to calculate energy and water usage and greenhouse gas emissions for the Federal Government's Green Loans program. Up to 200,000 homes are expected to be assessed over the next five years, with the goal of helping Australians tackle climate change by encouraging the installation of energy-efficient products.

The Centre also worked with the Sustainable Packaging Alliance on an environmental impact study commissioned by Woolworths Limited to examine the environmental impacts of different forms of shopping bags.

Western Victorian agencies are working with RMIT's regional research and learning centre in Hamilton in a major research project valued at \$347,000, which will encourage the voice of young people about their community and their future. Sixty young people will be trained as researchers to identify youth issues in South-West Victoria, to be followed by community consultations and action plans.

With funding from the Australian Federal Police, researchers in the School of Fashion and Textiles are exploring the use of advanced textile materials in ballistic armour.

Researchers from RMIT's Australian Centre for Human Rights Education (ACHRE) and the Koori Health Units of the University of Melbourne and the Department of Human Services were awarded an ARC Linkage grant to research the social determinants of indigenous health through a human rights approach.

Professor Jock McCulloch (School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning) was awarded an ARC Linkage grant for his research into the history and implications of the occupational disease Silicosis. He was also elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities.

Professors Manfred Steger and Heikki Patomaki were awarded an ARC Discovery Grant to conduct an analysis of the ideological claims of the global justice movement.

Dr Robbie Guevara and colleagues from the School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning gained an ARC Linkage grant to consider school-community learning partnerships for sustainability.

Professor Mark Burry won a prestigious Velux Visiting Professorship to work with the Centre for Information Technology and Architecture in Copenhagen until 2011 in research into the structural exploitation of material performance.

INDUSTRY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Esteemed Australian authors Robert Dessaix, Chloe Hooper, Nam Le and Drusilla Modjeska joined RMIT as Writers-In-Residence in 2009, as part of a joint initiative with the Copyright Agency Limited's Cultural Fund.

Professor Desmond Cahill, a world authority on religion, conflict and globalisation, led Melbourne's bid for the Parliament of the World's Religions and was Honorary Director for the event, which brought together 5,000 people of faith along with humanists and atheists from all over the world to participate in 650 events, lectures and workshops.

Performers and special guests from RMIT's SIAL (Spatial Information Architecture Laboratory) Sound Studio presented five concerts in the new Melbourne Recital Centre. The performances built on four years of research and development in the Studio's spatial music series 'Spectrum'. RMIT was the only tertiary institution to be included in the opening series of performances.

Designs by Harmony Lam were presented at RMIT's Metamorphosis student showcase as part of the L'Oréal Melbourne Fashion Festival.

RMIT was appointed a supporting partner of the 2009 Conseil International du Bâtiment Conference, which brought together industry bodies world-wide on issues of research and innovation in building and construction.

Michael Webster (School of Media and Communication) was appointed chair of the Melbourne International Writers Festival.

RMIT Fashion students again participated in the annual L'Oréal Fashion Week, with their runway fashion show selling out in less than 24 hours.

A specialist program combining merchandising and clothing production was developed by the School of Fashion and Textiles in partnership with global fashion brand Billabong, with the potential for Diploma level training for the company's employees.

The Planet Wheeler Foundation provided \$64,000 to establish an Architects Without Frontiers pro-bono design and research office at RMIT and to support various projects including two indigenous culture centres in Arnhem Land and a disability day care centre in Hoi An, Vietnam.

A multidisciplinary research team was behind a ground-breaking multicultural education policy for Victorian government schools launched by Education Minister Bronwyn Pike. The policy embeds cultural diversity and social cohesion as central to learning and teaching, and aspires to make all Victorian students informed and thoughtful global citizens of the future.

In conjunction with the United Nations Environment Program, researchers from the College of DSC are conducting a global survey aimed at exploring how young adults perceive, imagine and shape sustainable lifestyles. The results will support the design and implementation of policies to promote sustainable lifestyles taking into consideration cultural differences.

The College's Learning Community Partnerships Group has secured funding from the City of Whittlesea for 'Industry Education for Sustainability', a student and community engagement project aimed at creating employment and educational career pathways for young people. Two secondary schools in Melbourne's north will pilot green electives developed by RMIT as part of this project.

The Victorian Parliamentary Secretary for Justice, Marsha Thomson, launched a human rights report as part of an RMIT ACHRE project in partnership with the Victorian Local Governance Association, the Department of Justice and five local Councils.

The School of Global Studies Social Science and Planning was engaged to deliver the Certificate IV in Government Court Compliance for more than 500 registrars from the Supreme, Magistrate and local courts over a five year period.

A staff professional development program was developed by RMIT for Anglicare Victoria to build the skills of their program managers, team leaders and practitioners. This program reinforces RMIT's commitment to deliver applied vocationally-relevant education that is responsive to industry needs.

INTERNATIONAL

RMIT welcomed the cultural representative of the Embassy of Spain and the Spanish Education Advisor in Melbourne to discuss a student exchange program between Australia and Spain, as well as the possibility of housing a new Hispanic Studies Centre in the University. These links recognise the growing presence of the Spanish language, culture and civilisation in Australia.

RMIT design alumni from Asia, Europe, America and Australia reflected on their achievements at a three-day event held in Bali. Design Life 2009 marked the start of an annual reunion celebrating the contributions made by international students to programs and culture in the School of Architecture and Design, and which they continue to make as graduates in their homelands.

Officials from the Chinese regional government of Wujin announced plans for the development of a world-leading eco-resort at Lake Tai Hu, with a masterplan developed by RMIT academics. China's largest lake, Lake Tai Hu in the Shanghai hinterland was used for sailing events at the 2008 Olympics and suffers from outbreaks of blue-green algae. The Victorian Government was represented at the announcement by The Hon. Maxine Morand MP.



A conceptual rendering of the planned eco-resort at Lake Tai Hu in China.

The Singapore Police Force has engaged RMIT's Translating and Interpreting program to provide professional development workshops in forensic interpreting to their police officers. The training deals with proper interpretation of prosecution evidence and the impact that one badly interpreted word can have on the outcome of a case.

Professor Robert Baines (School of Art) visited The Netherlands with postgraduate gold and silver-smithing students for a seminar at Rietveld Academy followed by an exhibition of work at Galerie Marzee, one of Europe's most prestigious contemporary jewellery galleries.

Dr Philip Samartzis (School of Art) was awarded an Australia Council for the Arts Project Fellowship and an Australian Antarctic Arts Fellowship to develop an art project in Antarctica examining the impact on individuals of extreme environmental conditions.

Dr SueAnne Ware (School of Architecture and Design) will undertake a 12 month study in collaboration with US colleagues to research and compare the invisible infrastructures and sustainability of Melbourne and Washington DC.

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND HEALTH

Exceptional achievements by individuals and staff teams as well as students bring into focus the many facets of success across the 10 schools in RMIT's College of Science, Engineering and Health (SEH).

Professor Peter Coloe was appointed as PVC of the College for a further five years. He brings vital attributes in his continuing senior leadership role in the University, including extensive experience in industry-relevant research and in managing and developing innovative learning.

After six years as Director, Planning and Resources for the College of SEH, Dr Lois Fitz-Gerald took up the role of Executive Director, RMIT Office of Research.

Dr Elaine Saunders joined the College as Director of Industry Engagement, Marketing and Development, a new role focusing on extending RMIT's capabilities in partnership with industry.





Elizabeth Smolinska receives the Rod McGee award from Grant Atherton of Engineers Australia's Civil College Board.

LEARNING AND TEACHING

RMIT's practical approach to learning ensures enhanced opportunities both in and outside the classroom. Final year Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) student Elizabeth Smolinska was awarded Engineers Australia's Rod McGee Medal for 2009.

Students from the School of Medical Sciences travelled to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to compete against 112 teams at the International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) competition. RMIT's team received high commendations and certificates of achievement for their efforts.

RMIT's School of Mathematical and Geospatial Sciences hosted the GU8 Mathematics Contest, promoting the development of mathematics education through the exchange of information between member universities. Over 250 talented students from six universities participated, with 33 winners selected for a variety of award categories. RMIT students took out one gold, one silver and three bronze awards.

The School of Electrical and Computer Engineering showcased the talents of undergraduates at the annual ENGenius Trade Fair. Student projects were assessed by a panel of industry representatives, with the five most innovative designs receiving prizes. This annual event provides an opportunity for students to demonstrate their projects and develop contacts with industry.

The College has also invested in refurbishing School of Applied Sciences laboratories in Building 14. A \$1.5 million electron microscope has been installed, ensuring the provision of the latest in advanced technology for staff and student teaching and learning. The acquisition of this highly sophisticated equipment will see RMIT assuming the position of having the largest integrated multidisciplinary microscopy and micro-analysis facility in Victoria.

RMIT and SAGE Didactic unveiled a new automation training facility at the Bundoora campus. SAGE Didactic is the training arm of SAGE Automation. The facility is equipped with SAGE's Targeted Technology Introduction Modules system and will be used for automation and mechatronics education and training, as well as in the development of work-integrated learning programs in the School of Aerospace, Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering.



A visit by a friendly Dalek, part of a private project by Senior Lecturer Peter Burton, was a big hit at ENGenius.



Advanced Manufacturing and Mechatronics student Sanjana Singh works in the RMIT-SAGE Automation Training Centre.

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

The College received more than \$6.4 million funding for 15 projects under the ARC Discovery and Linkage schemes, and two NHMRC grants. The funding will support research ranging from investigations into intelligent agent systems in computing to new developments in silicon photonics, as well as areas including cell biology, exercise and healthy lifestyles. This is a record achievement for the College in Category One funding. The grants will in turn attract additional industry funding.

Three research projects led by Professor Lin Padgham (School of Computer Science and Information Technology) were awarded ARC grants. Discovery grants will enable Professor Padgham and her team to work on two artificial intelligence projects. A Linkage grant will foster collaborative research with CAE Professional Services Australia on integrating and automating testing in multi-agent system development. Professor Padgham's success was capped with her appointment to the ARC College of Experts.

Enhanced performance against key research indicators allowed the College to increase its number of research groups to 15. Collaborative work on multidisciplinary approaches to key research questions, and resultant improvements in areas including publications, income and higher degree completions, confirmed the following areas of research strength:

- » Advanced Coatings, Surface Engineering and Soft Condensed Matter
- » Advanced Industrial Informatics
- » Advanced Materials
- » Aerospace and Automotive Design Research
- » Biomedical Electronics
- » Biotechnology
- » Data Search, Analysis and Storage
- » Environmental and Molecular Science and Technology
- » Geospatial Sciences
- » Membrane Ion Transport
- » Metabolic Diseases
- » Microplatforms Research
- » System Modelling and Optimisation
- » Theory and Simulation of Matter
- » Traditional and Complementary Medicine

Expertise from these groups relevant to areas of climate change and resource management featured among the College's research achievements this year.

As part of a project announced by the Australian Government soon after Black Saturday, Professor John Handmer (School of Mathematical and Geospatial Sciences) was funded by the Department of Climate Change's National Adaptation Research Network for disaster management and emergency services to undertake research into the potential impacts of climate change on primary industries.

RMIT is a participant in the CRC for Spatial Information, awarded \$32.2 million for eight years for a major research program in satellite positioning and remote sensing technologies. The project will in turn provide access to new data, technologies and services for key Australian industries. Professors Simon Jones and Kefei Zhang (School of Mathematical and Geospatial Sciences) will lead teams conducting research under the CRC's Agriculture, Natural Resources, Climate Change program and its Positioning program.

Schools of Applied Sciences and Civil, Environmental and Chemical Engineering research teams, together with collaborating institutions, received four Smart Water Fund Grants.

The University cemented its research support for the water industry with the opening of a new wastewater laboratory at Bundoora campus. The laboratory will provide simulations of wastewater treatment processes to assess factors that influence pathogen die-off in field treatments.

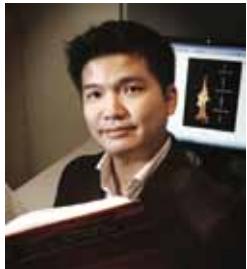
Results of this research are expected to aid microbial safety management in wastewater treatments, and will inform the redesigning of treatment processes for more efficient and safe production of biosolids. Equipment for the laboratory has been funded by the Victorian Smart Water Fund.

Furthering the College's commitment to excellence in outcome-related applied and theoretical research, many achievements clearly demonstrate relevance to industry and community needs.

Working with the CRC for Advanced Composite Structures, Dr Caleb White (School of Aerospace, Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering), is developing a technology that imitates the human nervous system to sense structural faults in aircraft. The innovative system could allow real-time monitoring, enabling cracks in planes to be detected mid-flight.

Associate Professor Kefei Zhang (School of Mathematical and Geospatial Sciences) received a grant under the Australia-China Special Fund, which was established by the Australian and Chinese Governments to support priority areas of research in science and technology. He is working in partnership with Chinese researchers to investigate a GPS radio occultation technique to provide improved accuracy in the forecasting of potentially devastating weather phenomena.

The search for a better way to predict bushfire behaviour enabled Dr Sherman Cheung to win a Victoria Fellowship. He will travel to fire research laboratories in China and the US in developing a computer program that models bushfire burning. This is the second consecutive year that a School of Aerospace, Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering researcher has received this prestigious award.



Victoria Fellowship recipient
Dr Sherman Cheung.

A research team led by Professor John Hawley (School of Medical Sciences) will collaborate with the Australian Institute of Sport, McMaster University and Nestlé Research Centre on *Optimising Exercise and Nutrition Throughout the Life Cycle*. The project, which received an ARC Linkage Grant, will develop novel dietary protocols to improve treatment options for muscle degeneration among elderly Australians. RMIT's capabilities in health and medical sciences were enhanced with the opening of a new facility and services centre at Bundoora campus for complex experiments involving cell structures.

INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT

Significant new programs in workplace training, together with continuing support for teaching and learning, exemplified industry engagement and partnerships in 2009.

WorkSafe has accepted RMIT's proposal for Stage 2 of the WorkHealth initiative that will allocate \$218 million to a suite of training and workplace education programs over five years.

WorkHealth aims to support Victorian workplaces in offering voluntary programs to promote worker health and wellbeing, and provide prevention programs aimed at decreasing the risk of chronic disease such as Type 2 Diabetes and cardiovascular disease. The School of Life and Physical Sciences will be responsible for training the organisations that will provide these services.

The School of Medical Sciences and the Ian Potter Foundation launched the Flow Cytometry Core Facility, which will enable researchers to undertake concurrent tests from a single drop of blood or cell culture. In a related area, Dr Leonard Pattenden (School of Medical Sciences) was funded by ANZ Trustees to investigate a new method for drug design to important cell surface targets.

Bachelor of Applied Science (Disability) student Sam Murray was granted a prestigious Churchill Fellowship for research that will examine compulsory registration and accreditation systems for disability support workers in the UK and US.



Churchill Fellowship recipient
Sam Murray.

The College of Science, Engineering and Health held its inaugural Higher Degree by Research Student Conference in October. More than 270 students and staff attended the event and a number of students were given the opportunity to present their work.

The closing address was presented by RMIT Alumnus of the Year 2008, Dr Amanda Barnard. In 2009, Dr Barnard won the Prime Minister's Malcolm McIntosh Prize for Physical Scientist of the Year, in recognition of her ground-breaking work in modelling nanoparticles.

Industry engagement reaches new heights



Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Margaret Gardner AO, with Tony Carolan, General Manager Supplier Management and Procurement, Boeing Australia.

RMIT's significant links with the aviation and aerospace industries were strengthened through involvement in the Australian International Airshow at Avalon. Equipment designed by researchers from the Sir Lawrence Wackett Aerospace Centre was on display, and RMIT signed a memorandum of understanding with the Association of Aerospace Industries (Singapore), an umbrella organisation for the major players in the Singapore aerospace industry.

RMIT was named as a focal university for the Boeing Company in Australia, among an elite list of 22 universities world-wide who receive grants through the Boeing CyberGrants system. Funding enables RMIT to offer a range of student scholarships, as well as community outreach programs to increase secondary students' knowledge of aerospace and engineering.

The Airshow also saw 14 cadets from Oman Air, who completed 12 months' commercial pilots training with RMIT Flight Training, receiving their flight wings in an event attended by Sultan Al Khaflan and the Oman Consul General.



Professor Gardner hands flight wings to a successful Oman Air cadet.

INTERNATIONAL

In 2009 the College continued to forge strong partnerships with prominent international organisations and educational institutions that have created pathways for sharing ideas and for increased research and business opportunities.

RMIT University researchers will play a pivotal role in developing a sustainable automotive industry through a Global Green Car Learning Clusters project, which has received \$441,000 from the Federal Government's Diversity and Structural Adjustment Fund.

This initiative links together a world-wide framework of students, engineers, researchers, managers and other stakeholders from the automotive industry to promote greener car technologies, at a time when the industry in Australia requires a fundamental shift in design and manufacture to remain environmentally and commercially viable.

COMMUNITY FOCUS

The University celebrated National Science Week with its annual careers breakfast seminar, *A wake-up call to discuss all things science and sustainability*. More than 130 VCE students, careers teachers and industry representatives listened to scientist Bernie Hobbs from the ABC's New Inventors and writer Tanya Ha as they dispelled the myth that science only happens in a laboratory. RMIT graduates, environmental scientist Clare Grandison and chemical engineer Darren Pace, recounted their personal experiences, while NASA astronaut Dr Megan McArthur delivered a presentation on life in outer space.



Science for Breakfast: Professor Peter Coloe and Professor Julianne Reid (RMIT), graduate Clare Grandison, SBS presenter Tanya Ha, graduate Darren Pace, ABC presenter Bernie Hobbs.

School holiday programs targeting secondary students were held at the University's City and Bundoora campuses. The College ran practical sessions and activities over three days for more than 250 aspiring engineers. Hands on Health, a collaborative event between the Schools of Health Sciences and Medical Sciences, presented interactive workshops and highlighted the diverse career options in these industry areas. The Siemens Science Experience hosted nearly 100 students from across Victoria for three days in January.

In recognition of RMIT's commitment to supporting science in schools, the Victorian Government funded a pilot project to place current RMIT science and engineering students in schools to work with Years 5-8 students. This initiative has inspired the Brains Trust Project, a school outreach program aimed at providing a positive educational experience in science and maths classes in six selected primary and secondary schools.

A HEALING HAND

RMIT played an integral role in supporting local communities following Australia's worst natural disaster on Black Saturday. The University's psychology, osteopathy, Chinese medicine and chiropractic teaching clinics opened their doors for free consultations to those affected by the bushfires.

As well, two Master of Clinical Chiropractic students, Carla Murdoch and Dominic Flynn took the initiative to set up emergency clinics in Whittlesea and Healesville near the worst affected areas. Sixty students came on board to offer their services, treating more than 400 CFA volunteers and other emergency services personnel over 15 days. RMIT and the Chiropractors Association of Australia arranged for professional chiropractors to volunteer their services and supervise the work of students.



Carla Murdoch (centre) with chiropractic students providing care at one of the mobile clinics.

RMIT researchers also travelled to the affected areas and worked with State fire agencies to examine the key issues that emerged from the disaster. The researchers were brought together by the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre to provide Australian fire and land management agencies with independent analysis.



Dr Katharine Haynes, a Research Fellow at RMIT's Centre for Risk and Community Safety, with Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and fire officers at the scene of the Victorian bushfires.

PhD student Josh Whittaker contributed to the Program C Bushfire Community Safety book, provided material for input into the Garnaut Report on Climate Change and played a lead role in the research response taskforce. He also received a prize for excellence from the Bushfire CRC for his research into why people are vulnerable to fires.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

RMIT maintained its position as a successful provider of high quality vocational education and training, in the context of the Victorian Government's Skills Reform agenda as outlined to the University by the Hon. Jacinta Allan MP in her visit to the University in March. Delivery of government and non-government funded areas met or exceeded targets in all areas.

In the second half of 2009, RMIT delivered Advanced Diplomas and Diplomas in the new Skills Reform market, with new eligibility criteria meaning that some students, such as those who held previous qualifications at the same or higher levels, were no longer eligible to access government-funded places for higher level VET qualifications.

RMIT set targets to test these new market conditions and while all targets were met, demand for programs was uneven. TAFE Business and Engineering significantly exceeded their targets, whereas Design and Arts programs did not attract the level of demand anticipated in this competitive fee-paying environment.

The University undertook an information project to inform all staff of Skills Reform changes and major administrative changes were required. A centralised staff and student information website was created, comprising a unique user-friendly 'eligibility calculator' to enable prospective students to determine if they are eligible for government-subsidised training.

RMIT successfully tendered for \$150,000 from the annual \$800,000 funding pool established by Skills Victoria to stimulate demand for VET training in key industries, in collaboration with Industry Training Boards (ITB). Funding supported the delivery of a Certificate IV in Property Services (Operations) with the Business Skills Victoria ITB, and a dual qualification in Electrical and Instrumentation with the EPIC ITB.

STUDENT AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

Four RMIT vocational staff were awarded International Specialised Skills Institute Fellowships in 2009. The fellowships assist with international travel to help identify skills deficiencies and possible solutions. The awardees were:

- » Gita Pendharkar, Electronics teacher (School of Engineering TAFE) (pictured, right)
- » Rachel Halton, Studio Textiles and Design teacher (School of Fashion and Textiles)
- » Inna Konopov, Knitting teacher (School of Fashion and Textiles)
- » Trudie Orchard, Textile Testing Services Manager (School of Fashion and Textiles)

Aboriginal student Dianne Fleming (pictured right) celebrated NAIDOC Week by winning the DEEWR Victorian State Traineeship Employment Award for 2009 in the Participant Achievement Award category from a record field of 13 entrants. A Certificate IV in Administration student at the School of Business TAFE, Ms Fleming works in RMIT's Ngarara Willim Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Centre through the 370 Degrees Group.

Pierre Chedraoui, an RMIT Information Technology student, had the rare opportunity of being presented to the Governor-General, Quentin Bryce AC, at Government House, Canberra (pictured, right). This followed his selection for the prestigious *Today's Skills: Tomorrow's Leaders*, a national initiative which brings together the best and brightest apprentices and trainees for an intensive career and leadership development program.

Printing and Graphic Arts graduate Melissa Guiney was one of 24 Australian students to represent her country at the 40th International WorldSkills Competition held in Canada, following her win in the national finals. She came fourth in her Graphics Design Technology category and picked up a Medallion of Excellence. She was supported by RMIT Graphic Media Technologies teacher Sarah Jones, who was an International gold medal winner in 2003 and is now a WorldSkills judge and trainer.

Ryan Pontelandolfo, a 2nd year Refrigeration and Air Conditioning apprentice, won the WorldSkills Australia regional competition in the refrigeration category, and will compete at the national WorldSkills competition in Brisbane in 2010.



Four of RMIT's Ngarara Willim team: Manager, Stuart McFarlane; Student Advisor, Anne Holland; Trainee of the Year, Dianne Fleming; and Indigenous Education Officer, Eric Clarke.



Gita Pendharkar is congratulated by Sir James Gobbo AC CVO, ISS Institute's Patron in Chief.



Pierre Chedraoui (left) and Governor-General, Quentin Bryce AC.

INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT

In 2009 RMIT intensified its industry engagement work across the VET community. The VET Committee established a working group to coordinate and support this work across the three Colleges, and a number of new collaborations were developed. Through the Federal Government's Productivity Places Program, RMIT entered into a \$700,000 partnership with TNT and the Transport & Logistics Industry Skills Council to deliver the Diploma of Logistics to 150 TNT staff nationally.

RMIT also developed a partnership with the Construction & Property Services Industry Skills Council to train existing workers and new job entrants for seven multinational companies including ISS, Brookfield Multiplex and Transfield, as well as for the Reserve Bank of Australia. Training of 15 staff commenced in the Certificate IV in Property Services (Operations), to be expanded to incorporate the development and delivery of a higher level VET qualification in Facilities Management to 50 staff in 2010.

A new partnership with the Victorian Employers' Chamber of Commerce and Industry led to the delivery of the Certificate IV in International Trade to 30 industry-based students throughout the State.

The School of Engineering (TAFE) established a partnership with the Electrical Trades Union (ETU), Energy SAFE Victoria, Sustainable Footprint and Holmesglen TAFE to pilot workforce training courses in efficient and renewable energy technologies.

EQUITY AND ACCESS

RMIT trains Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in its mainstream programs and also develops tailored programs in consultation with communities to meet specific training needs. In 2009, the University expanded delivery of training programs to ATSI students and communities to a total of 84,166 SCH. Of these, 47,404 were delivered in targeted programs, and the remaining 36,762 to ATSI students enrolled in mainstream programs.

The School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning has worked with DHS's Public Tenant Employment Program and the Victorian Public Tenants Association in a targeted initiative to provide training options to people living in public housing and meet the needs of the aged care industry, which is struggling with skills shortages.

The Community and Human Services discipline catered for these participants by contextualising the Certificate IV in Aged Care Work program, resulting in 25 new enrolments during 2009 following 11 successful completions in the previous year.

In 2009 RMIT supported displaced electrical apprentices through a new initiative funded by DEEWR, the Victorian Skill Commission, ETU and the National Electrical and Communications Association. The Skills Enhancement Program, a partnership between RMIT and the 370 Degrees Group, provides intensive support for 100 apprentices displaced from employment due to the global financial crisis.

Following the success of the first phase of the program in bringing 60 apprentices back into the workforce, Phase 2 commenced in October with a further 100 apprentices.

Walkley Award for former refugee

Screen and Media student Fouad Hady, a former refugee from Iraq, won a 2009 Walkley Award for International Journalism for his report City of Widows produced for the SBS TV's *Dateline* program.

The program presented a view of Iraqi life often neglected through the perspective of western media. It focused on the Baghdadi suburb of Al Rashad, home of militant cleric Moqtada Al Sadr.



Fouad Hady, 2009 Walkley Award winner for International Journalism.

During his time in Al Rashad, Mr Hady interviewed and visited the homes of Al Sadr supporters before stumbling upon a former women's prison from the Saddam Hussein era that had been turned into makeshift housing for the impoverished community.

The Walkley awards judging panel made special note of Mr Hady's camerawork and narration in the piece, citing it as "very moving and outside the usual journalism template".

TAFE Enrolments (headcount) by Broad Program Level	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
AQF 5-6 (Dip, Adv Dip)	11,184	9,977	9,957	10,087	9,708
AQF 3-4 (Certs III & IV)	8,318	7,960	7,645	8,353	8,770
AQF 1-2 (Certs I & II)	1,480	1,752	2,603	2,765	1,194
VCE/VCAL	554	535	536	531	543
Other*	821	743	942	868	917
Total	22,357	20,967	21,683	22,604	21,132

* Non-award programs/programs not elsewhere classified.

Key Performance Indicators	2008	2009
Participation of 15–24 year-olds	11,529	12,662
Participation of 25–64 year-olds	8,271	8,406
Module load completion rate*	75.8%	79.0%
Student overall satisfaction	85%	84%
Student contact hours (SCH)	8,821,724	9,136,557
Total cost per student contact hour	\$12.30	\$13.09
Working capital ratio**	1.3 : 1.0	0.9 : 1.0
Net operating margin	5.9%	3.9%
Fee for service revenue (as % of total TAFE revenue)	33.3%	32.9%
Revenue per EFT staff (TAFE teaching and non-teaching staff)	\$116,541	\$104,244

* Calculated for total SCHs of all modules reported to OTTE/Skills Victoria

** After adjusting current LSL provision in accordance with International Accounting Standards restatement requirements.

Energy Consumption	2008	2009	% Change
Gas (MJ)	15,670,178	19,089,548	+21.56
Electricity (kWh)	9,282,710	10,441,017	+2.27
Green Power (kWh)	1,192,353	2,088,203	+36.36
Energy (MJ)	52,458,313	56,677,207	+8.04

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT

RMIT recognises the importance of global education and has actively focused on building international networks and improving performances in international research and student mobility through study abroad and student exchange.

STRATEGIC APPROACH

In 2009, RMIT faced a number of challenges including the impact of the global financial crisis and increased competition world-wide. Despite this, the University continued to focus on its vision of offering students a global passport to learn and work.

The key components of this vision remain and the University continues to focus on:

- » international connectivity
- » student and staff diversity
- » student mobility
- » international program accreditation and recognition
- » delivery of internationally relevant programs both onshore and offshore
- » work-integrated learning and experience to prepare students for today's globalised workplace

2009 OUTCOMES

RMIT recorded a strong performance in 2009 in the recruitment of international students. The number of international students commencing in award programs in Melbourne in 2009 (not including English language students) was 6,513 (2008: 5,645), making a total international student population (new and continuing) of 11,708 (2008: 10,400).

The proportion of students for each College in 2009 was unchanged compared with the previous year. Business College programs remained the most popular area of study choice with 37 per cent of all international onshore commencements, followed closely by the College of SEH with 35 per cent and the College of DSC with 28 per cent.

A customised system was developed in 2009 to improve the application process for RMIT recruitment representatives, prospective international students and staff. 'Apply International' enables students to apply online to study at RMIT, track the status of their application and download letters and visa documentation, while academic selection officers are able to assess and process applications more quickly.

RMIT University International College coordinates recruitment and services offered to international students in Foundation Studies, including English tuition and a range of post secondary programs with pathways to specialised degree programs.

Commencing students in Foundation Studies numbered 634 (up from 586 in 2008), while 163 students undertook the Diploma of Commerce (formerly Diploma of Business) (2008: 195) and 89 students enrolled in associate degrees (2008: 108).

International students enrolled on scholarships totalled 875 (509 commencing and 366 returning students, excluding English language students), an increase of 21 per cent against 2008 (725). Commencing sponsored students in 2009 came primarily from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Malaysia.

Seven Endeavour International Postgraduate Research Scholarship living allowance awards were provided to commencing students in PhD research programs.

In all, scholarships were funded by more than 40 providers in 26 countries.

Top 10 Source Countries for International Onshore Commencements

Country	%
China	31
Malaysia	11
India	8
Indonesia	6
Vietnam	5
Saudi Arabia	4
Korea (South)	3
Thailand	3
Singapore	3
Germany	2

Offshore Higher Education Award Completions

Country	No.
Singapore	1,689
Hong Kong	744
Vietnam	683
China	242
Malaysia	153
Indonesia	38
Sri Lanka	34
Japan	28
Taiwan	22
India	15
Asia (other)	29
Africa	15
USA	12
Canada	7
Europe	7
Total	3,718

Figures are for 2008. Completions data for 2009 will be available in June 2010. Data not available for VET.

STUDENT MOBILITY

RMIT actively encourages students to consider studying, working or undertaking research overseas. Student mobility opportunities have grown, enabling our students to gain international industry-based experience, enhance their skills through exposure to cutting-edge professional practices, and immerse themselves in different cultural and work/academic environments.

The University has more than 159 agreements with educational institutions throughout the world for student exchange. Poland was added as an education destination in 2009. Agreements can include direct semester exchange, study tours with reciprocal exchange, and inbound fee-paying semesters of study. They also provide for other cooperative activities such as staff exchange and research collaboration.

International study abroad students at RMIT numbered 192 (2008:174), primarily from Germany and the USA. A further 289 students arrived on inbound exchange (2008: 285), and RMIT sent 226 students on semester-length overseas exchange (2008: 230).

In 2009, RMIT embarked on a special project with partner institutions in the UK, Denmark, France and the Netherlands to support VET students undertaking semester exchange. The joint European Union mobility project, *International Vocational Knowledge and Skills Exchange*, is supported by the Australian Government.

RMIT INTERNATIONAL INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE AND RESEARCH PROGRAM (RIIERP)

The global financial crisis affected RIIERP in 2009 to a significant extent, with 94 students accepted for placements as against 116 in 2008.

The program provides opportunities for students to undertake international work experience and research with partner companies in 16 countries. It is open to undergraduate and postgraduate students, with places offered on the basis of academic merit and interviews to determine candidate suitability. Measures have been introduced to expand the program to include students in VET, as well as students from RMIT Vietnam.

In 2009, three PhD grants of \$450,000 were pledged by Volkswagen in Germany to cover research over three years in the area of vehicle safety.

The year also saw a significant strengthening of collaborative research engagement between RMIT and overseas partner companies. Fifteen major research projects have been defined in the areas of renewable energy, space propulsion, composite materials, power electronics, biotechnology, vehicle accidents and water treatment.

Aerospace Engineering and Business Management student Nick Bradley was selected to participate in the 2009 International Scholar Laureate Program after completing a one-year RIIERP internship with Rolls-Royce in Indianapolis. The prestigious program was held over 10 days in New York, Boston and Washington DC. Rolls-Royce and RMIT have an ongoing partnership in which students make valuable contributions to the combat jet F136 engine program, while gaining valuable experience in the international business arena.



Nick Bradley takes Wall Street by the horns during his US based internship with Rolls-Royce.

DELEGATIONS

RMIT hosted 80 high level visits, 26 more than in 2008. Visiting delegations numbered 300. Delegations from China (16) continued to be the most frequent, followed by Malaysia, Vietnam, the US and Latin American countries. The latter included hosting the plenary session of the Australia Latin America Leadership Program, with delegates from Peru, Brazil and Mexico and their peers from Australia. The driver of this highly successful program was the Council on Australia Latin America Relations, of which RMIT Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Gardner AO is the Chair, Education Advisory Group.

There were 17 visits from institutions within European Union member states including Poland, the UK, Italy, Finland, Germany and Russia.

A visit by the European Commission's Director General – Education and Culture, Odile Quintin, was a highlight. The visit was designed to allow for discussion with EU partner institutions about RMIT's recently funded EU/Australia project for exchange of VET students in the fields of business, fashion and engineering. Discussions included the management of new models for credit transfer and work placements.

Many international visits to RMIT in 2009 had a technology focus, with delegations from the China Academy of Space Technology, China Aerospace Science and Industry Corporation, the Moscow Aviation Institute and Samsung Electronics, Korea. A visit from Abu Dhabi's Masdar Institute of Science and Technology, a high profile institution in the emissions-free city of Masdar enabled discussions on potential research collaborations and postgraduate scholarships for RMIT students.

RMIT also hosted visitors from Tianjin University and Tianjin University of Technology through the Tianjin Government's leaders training program, in collaboration with the City of Melbourne as part of its sister relationship with that city.

Other international visits to RMIT focused on the areas of art and design, media and communication, business and urban planning, with the aim of increased research collaboration and student and staff exchange.

INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

During 2009 RMIT signed 22 Memoranda of Understanding with institutions internationally, which included commitments to research, a range of collaborative activities, exchange of students and staff, seminars and conferences, and exchange of academic materials. Several MOUs were signed with China's State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs relating to the provision of training programs for senior government officers.

An MOU was signed with Belgium's highly ranked Catholic University of Leuven in the field of mechanical engineering, while further collaborations in areas of technology were finalised with the China Academy of Space Technology and the Association of Aerospace Industries (Singapore), as well as with Degrémont in France for research collaboration in waste water treatment.

Further MOUs signed in 2009 were in the fields of Chinese medicine with the Guangdong Provincial Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences, teacher training in Beijing, business linkages in India, and work-integrated learning projects for students in Vietnam in cooperation with the Da Nang General Hospital.

RMIT's relationship with the University of Salford in the UK was broadened, as was the linkage with the University of Cape Town in South Africa.

TRANSNATIONAL EDUCATION

Of the 71,628 students who study at RMIT, 11,455 study in programs delivered through our partners outside Australia, in cities such as Singapore, Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur and Shanghai. RMIT has formed close partnerships with universities and educational providers in these and other major cities in Asia.

Currently, 50 award programs are delivered through international partnerships, with some programs including a period of study in Australia. 2009 was a year of both consolidation and expansion of the University's offshore partnership programs.

While some programs were wound down, a range of new offerings were introduced, including three new Engineering Master programs and a Bachelor of Engineering program at the Singapore Institute of Commerce. A new part-time offering of the Bachelor of Business (Marketing) program was launched at Singapore Institute of Management, and Bachelor of Business programs in International Business and Logistics and Supply Chain Management began at the Shanghai Institute of Foreign Trade.

A new partnership management model to improve efficiencies and support for offshore partnership award programs was put into effect. Central to the model is the appointment of partnership managers who undertake a broad project management role that includes monitoring key program-related activities, coordinating contractual matters, and acting as a primary point of contact for partner communications on matters such as University policies and procedures.

As well as partnership manager appointments, key academic and administrative roles have been defined as part of this model. This management structure played an important role in successful preparations for the offshore components of the 2009 AUQA audit, and a survey of partners conducted during the year indicated significantly improved communication and program management arrangements.

Student information guides and program manuals for staff have been introduced for all major offshore partnerships with the goal of improving consistency in the implementation of RMIT policies and procedures at offshore locations, thereby creating a more equitable environment for offshore students.

RMIT ENGLISH WORLDWIDE

RMIT English Worldwide (REW) operates as part of RMIT Training Pty Ltd which was originally established to support the University by providing English language training to international students for entry into tertiary study. The business has since expanded the scope of its activities into offshore delivery and corporate and industry markets.

The core products of REW are English for Academic Purposes (EAP) for pathway tertiary students and Concurrent English courses delivered in combination with selected RMIT diploma programs. EAP programs are conducted at the REW College in Melbourne under the national ELICOS accreditation framework, as well as at partner institutions offshore. The Concurrent English program that was introduced in 2007 at RMIT Vietnam is now also delivered at Shanghai Institute of Foreign Trade.

In 2009, REW commenced a major renewal of its EAP program at all levels. New courses were delivered in Melbourne and were scheduled for release at RMIT Vietnam in early 2010. The curriculum team also responded to the needs of partner institutions in Saudi Arabia and modified course materials and assessment to make them culturally appropriate.

Demand for study remained robust, with a growth of seven per cent nationally and nine per cent in Victoria. ELICOS revenue reached \$15.57 million (a 26.5 per cent increase against the previous year). REW recorded 1,990 new students and 37,379 weeks purchased, with a record high of 1,200 students in the final quarter of the year.

China continued to be the largest source of new students in Melbourne. While the scholarship schemes of Saudi Arabia receded, other opportunities emerged in the Middle East and increased business was recorded in Thailand and Vietnam against 2008 figures.

Increased demand in the EAP program prompted a review of accommodation arrangements. Administrative staff were relocated to Building 108 and refurbishment of Building 36 commenced. Some structural changes were made to provide additional classrooms, teacher spaces and a new reception area to cater for the increased number of applicants for the IELTS test.

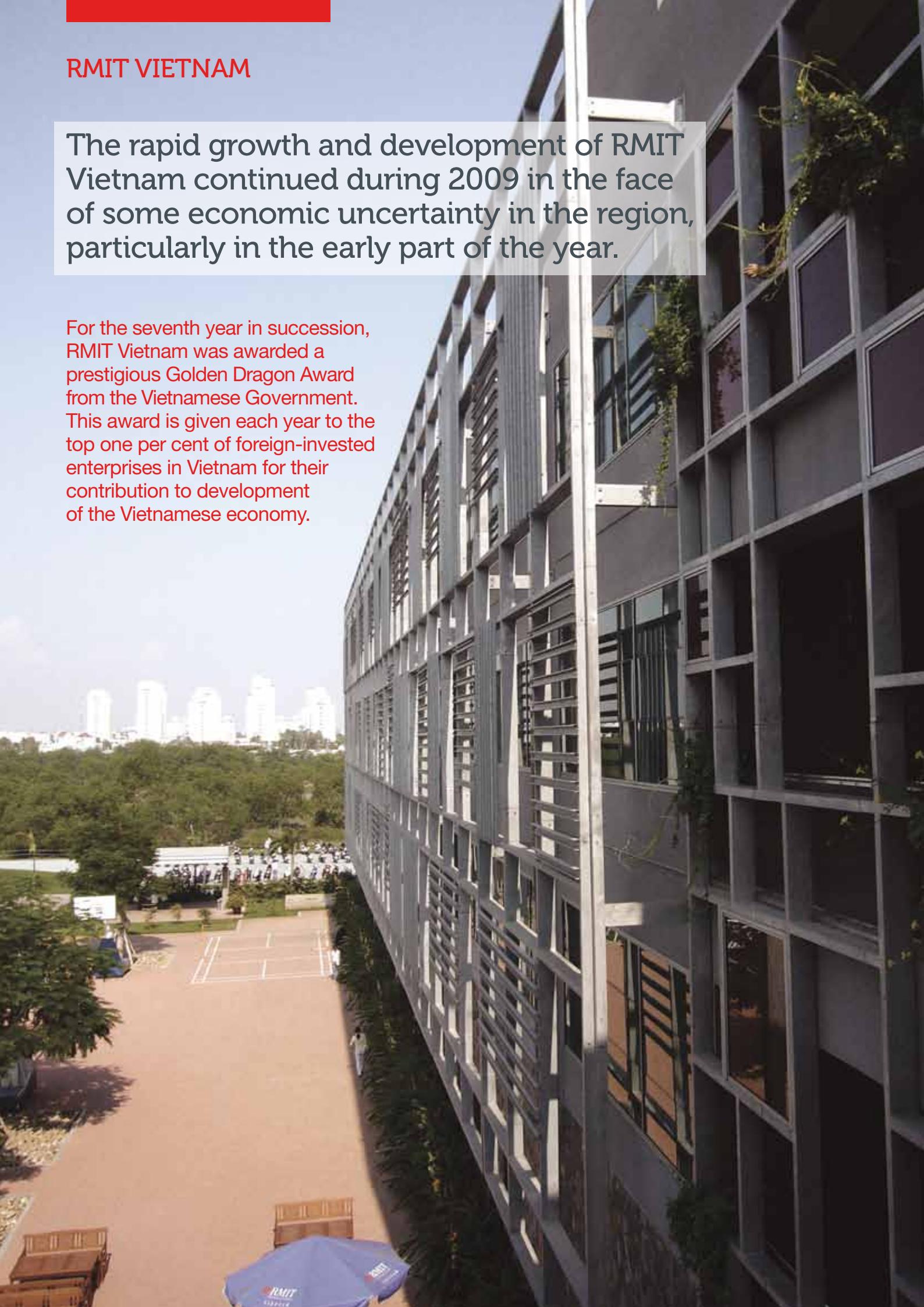
Revenue of \$2.5 million was recorded from sales to offshore partners in Vietnam, Thailand, China and Saudi Arabia. The number of students participating in Academic English programs offshore remained steady at 7,000. REW won a further contract in Saudi Arabia to provide Academic English training to students completing their preparatory year at Al Jouf University.

REW also targets industry sectors whose professionals require English language training, both offshore and onshore. REW successfully contracted with aviation clients in Europe, Russia and the Middle East, and was selected by the Vietnamese Government to deliver English language training for 30 administrators. REW also delivered training to groups of teachers sponsored by the Nanhai Education Bureau in China and Thailand's Office of Basic Education.

Domestically, REW provided English language services to 50 clients including Cisco Systems, NAB, Allens Arthur Robinson and KPMG. The other domestic products, IELTS and IELTS Preparation were strong performers with revenue of \$1.59 million.

The rapid growth and development of RMIT Vietnam continued during 2009 in the face of some economic uncertainty in the region, particularly in the early part of the year.

For the seventh year in succession, RMIT Vietnam was awarded a prestigious Golden Dragon Award from the Vietnamese Government. This award is given each year to the top one per cent of foreign-invested enterprises in Vietnam for their contribution to development of the Vietnamese economy.



RMIT Vietnam welcomed its new President, Professor Merilyn Liddell AM, who brings a wealth of knowledge and experience and a distinguished background in medicine and academia, her most recent posting being as President of Monash University's Malaysia campus.

The two Vietnam campuses continue to develop as the Asian hub in RMIT's dual hub strategy, which now links Vietnam and the Asian region to the University's Australian and global operations. From 30 students in Ho Chi Minh City in 2001 and similar beginnings three years later in Hanoi, the Vietnam campuses have grown to become important fixtures in the Vietnam and regional education scene, demonstrating an ability in 2009 to withstand a degree of economic turbulence along the way.

Enrolments at the end of 2009 totalled more than 5,000. With eight academic programs now operating and major redevelopment activity in train at both Vietnam campuses, the imperative has been to maintain the quality and relevance of existing academic programs while moving to embrace new opportunities important to the University and to Vietnam's future.

Graduation ceremonies held at Hanoi Opera House and Ho Chi Minh City's Hoa Binh Theatre on 29 November brought the total number of graduates from RMIT Vietnam to 1,700.

During the year, 170 internship opportunities were provided for students to obtain career-building experience with major international and national employers.

More than 1,150 students completed pre-University English studies and gained direct entry into RMIT higher education programs.

Full scholarships of more than US\$21,000 each were awarded to 29 young people, mainly Vietnamese high school graduates, to study at the University. These scholarship winners joined more than 125 existing scholarship students currently attending RMIT Vietnam.

RMIT Vietnam's undergraduate program in accountancy expanded from being offered only at Ho Chi Minh City campus to become a national offering with classes also in Hanoi. This move was accompanied by new scholarships and prizes introduced in association with KPMG, Deloitte and CPA Australia.

The undergraduate program in Business Information Systems recorded steady growth, with some of its courses being offered in the largest of RMIT Vietnam's undergraduate programs, Commerce. The Commerce program underwent a major restructure, with four new specialist streams introduced to give students the opportunity to develop more specific capabilities:

- » Accountancy
- » Business Information Systems
- » Entrepreneurship
- » Marketing

The Professional Communication program, which offers a range of courses unique within the Vietnamese environment, enjoyed rapid growth in 2009.

The library collection was dramatically enhanced during the year, with thousands of new titles added to reflect the growing diversity and depth of academic programs.

Plans continued for a new office and classrooms building at Ho Chi Minh City campus, to be located alongside the existing academic building. Also in 2009, plans were drawn up to enable consolidation into a new single site at Hanoi campus. The new site will accommodate ongoing growth at the campus and provide improved student and staff facilities.

Successful cross-campus activities in 2009 included:

- » *Building the Community:* Architecture, Design and Construction students from Melbourne worked with RMIT Vietnam students in a field work program to design transitional housing for children at risk in Hoi An.
- » Three students in the Executive MBA program at RMIT Vietnam won a major prize in the 2009 Business Plan Competition for their strategy to establish a new private high school in Hanoi.



- » *Writing Ho Chi Minh City:* Creative Writing students from Melbourne worked with RMIT Vietnam-based Multimedia students in the development of a conceptual map incorporating writing, photographs and observations of – and engagements with – the city, its sites and experiences.

INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT

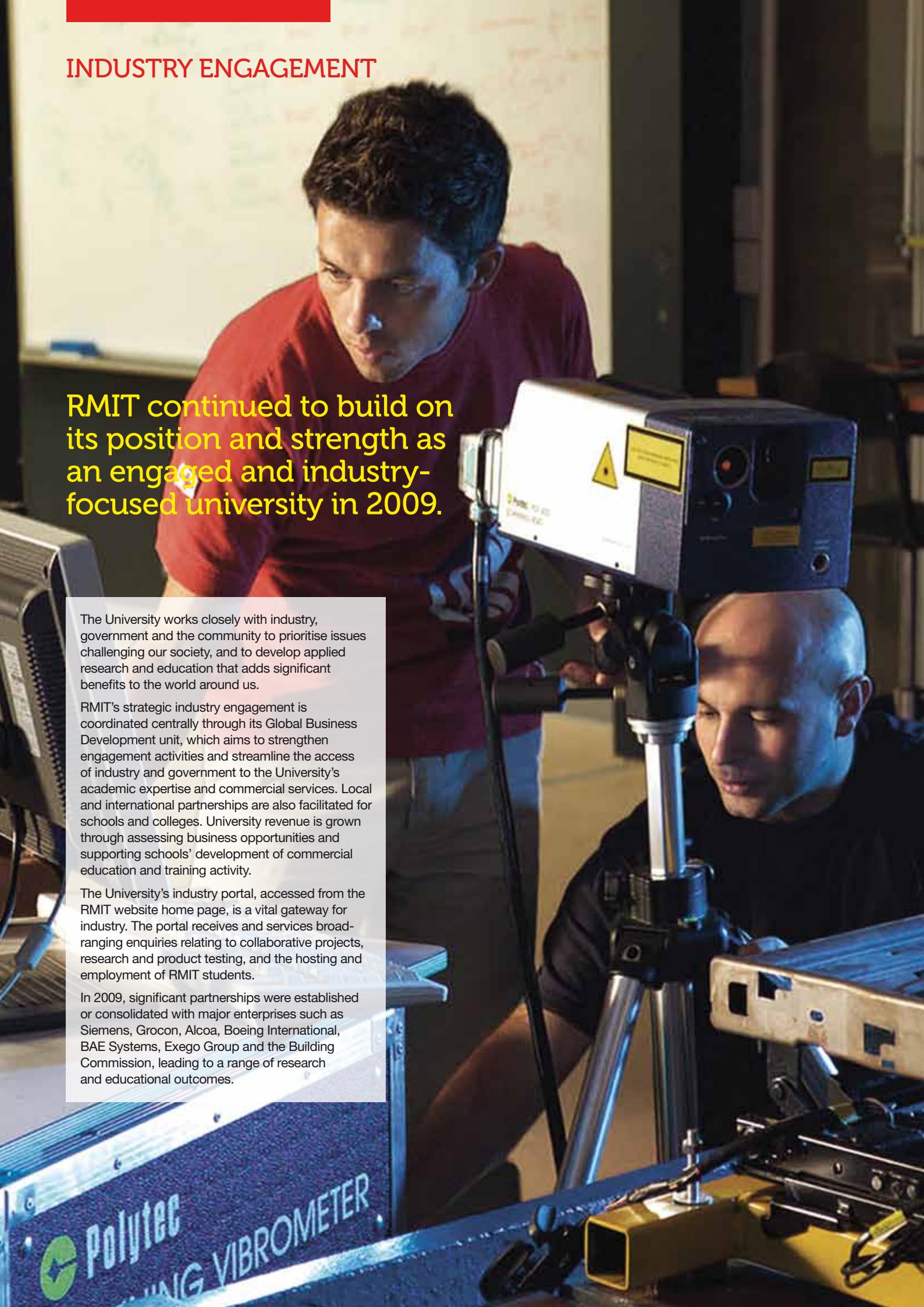
RMIT continued to build on its position and strength as an engaged and industry-focused university in 2009.

The University works closely with industry, government and the community to prioritise issues challenging our society, and to develop applied research and education that adds significant benefits to the world around us.

RMIT's strategic industry engagement is coordinated centrally through its Global Business Development unit, which aims to strengthen engagement activities and streamline the access of industry and government to the University's academic expertise and commercial services. Local and international partnerships are also facilitated for schools and colleges. University revenue is grown through assessing business opportunities and supporting schools' development of commercial education and training activity.

The University's industry portal, accessed from the RMIT website home page, is a vital gateway for industry. The portal receives and services broad-ranging enquiries relating to collaborative projects, research and product testing, and the hosting and employment of RMIT students.

In 2009, significant partnerships were established or consolidated with major enterprises such as Siemens, Grocon, Alcoa, Boeing International, BAE Systems, Exego Group and the Building Commission, leading to a range of research and educational outcomes.



LISTENING TO INDUSTRY

RMIT continued its national leadership in industry engagement, bringing together industry and government decision-makers to explore and discuss the critical issues affecting a range of sectors and the community, and to provide valuable feedback and advice to the University.

In 2009, 90 senior industry representatives contributed to forums held across five key industry sectors:

- » Aerospace and aviation
- » Automotive
- » Built environment, construction and infrastructure
- » Health and community services
- » Media and communications

The industry forums, hosted by the Vice-Chancellor and held annually, are an integral part of the University's industry engagement strategy. Drawing on the expertise and experience of these select groups of industry leaders ensures that RMIT is aware of the most recent national and international trends and developments, and of the implications for education, research and graduate skills.

As a result of the industry forums, a number of new collaborations have been instigated and multidisciplinary project teams have commenced work on research projects, training and education programs that will deliver direct benefits to our students and to industry.

SHOWCASING OUR ENGAGEMENT

In 2009, a series of capability statements were developed to enunciate the University's experience and expertise in the five key industry sectors. These five documents are a key communication tool to promote the university's capability to a broad professional audience.

The capability statements showcase the University's success in industry collaborations and research, and demonstrate how our linkages open the door to extraordinary opportunities for undergraduate and postgraduate students. They also communicate to industry and government RMIT's strong multidisciplinary approach to solving challenges facing industry and society, and illustrate how working with the University can deliver significant benefits.

RESPONDING TO INDUSTRY NEEDS

RMIT's dual sector structure enables the University to react promptly to industry needs in relation to workforce development. RMIT has been responsive to changes in government policy, skills agenda, industry priorities and economic conditions, focusing on strengthening internal and external networks with practitioners and policy makers.

The University secured significant enterprise and government workforce development contracts in 2009, both nationally and internationally. These projects were across a range of industry sectors including transport, defence, health and community services, aviation, finance, retail, building and construction and automotive.



Fine Art student Becc Orszag received the 2009 Siemens-RMIT Acquisition Award for her charcoal drawing, *cannot contain this*.

ENGAGEMENT IN ACTION: SIEMENS AND RMIT

RMIT and Siemens have a rich and long-standing partnership. Shared values, a strategic approach and three collaborative programs are central to the relationship.

The Siemens-RMIT Fine Art Awards program reached its ninth year in 2009 and is one of the longest arts-business partnerships and the most progressive program of its kind in Australia. Eight students receive a combined \$32,000 in financial scholarships to further their studies and careers. The winning work becomes a part of Siemens corporate collection.

Siemens Science Experience has been operating at RMIT for 16 years, with Siemens the key sponsor of this national program from 1992 to 2009. More than 1,500 secondary students have had the opportunity to learn hands-on about careers in science and technology through the program at RMIT.

Siemens is also a founding partner in RMIT's International Industry Experience Research Program and has hosted over 125 students at its sites in Germany and the US over a 10 year period.

There is a strong alignment between the two organisations. RMIT is a global university of technology and Siemens delivers innovation and technological solutions on a global scale. Both organisations share a keen interest in a skilled and creative workforce and collaborate across a number of areas with this focus. More than 90 Siemens employees are RMIT alumni, and two Siemens executives are members of program advisory committees which shape the University's education programs in their sector.

GLOBAL LEARNING CLUSTER FOR GREEN CARS

RMIT is leading an important international project to build capacity and innovation in the development of green car technologies.

The Global Green Car Learning Clusters project brings together specialised knowledge to support an innovative and sustainable automotive industry. It is based on the recognition that the automotive industry needs to make a fundamental shift in design and manufacture of road vehicles to remain commercially and environmentally viable.

The \$1.2 million project has received \$441,000 from the Federal Government's Diversity and Structural Adjustment Fund.

The RMIT team is working with Ford Europe, GM Holden, AutoCRC, the University of Applied Sciences Ingolstadt (Germany), Chalmers University (Sweden) and the Australian National University, with the support of the Victorian Automobile Chamber of Commerce and the Society of Automotive Engineers Australasia.



RMIT's hydrogen-powered car on the Oschersleben racetrack in Germany.

Researchers from the School of Aerospace, Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering are working on three priorities for the industry:

- » developing hydrogen, gaseous and electric car technologies
- » vehicle life cycle design and assessment
- » end-of-life vehicle treatment systems

The outcomes of the research will help build intellectual capacity required in the design and development of green cars of the future. Benefits for society and the economy will include retention of automotive jobs in Victoria and the sustaining of automotive exports as one of Australia's top 10 export earners.

ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

Thousands of RMIT alumni engaged with the University during 2009.

In partnership with the academic colleges and schools, RMIT's Alumni Relations team creates opportunities for alumni to remain actively engaged with the University. In recent years the University has developed strong global networks for knowledge and information exchange. In addition to the Melbourne-based community, there are formal alumni networks and representatives around the world, encompassing geographical regions and special interest groups such as Business, Engineering and Architecture.

RMIT's global networks all have their own volunteer representatives dedicated to running them and to supporting the RMIT community as a whole. The networks organise professional development opportunities, sporting activities and social events, and build social capital through charitable initiatives.

The successful implementation of a new communications and records system has continued to benefit the work of the Alumni Relations team and the wider University. The system allows the University to engage rapidly with large groups of specified alumni at any one time. Its services have been used extensively across the University as a means of informing specific groups of alumni about reunions, conferences, networking programs and social functions.

In 2009 Alumni Relations conducted an appraisal of existing communication activities with the support of an external professional, aimed at developing a more engaging, interactive and user-friendly online communications strategy. A major website enhancement, known as NetCommunity, will offer alumni the tools and benefits available on state-of-the-art social networking sites.

This follows a pilot project undertaken this year, with select groups trialling a members-only section of the alumni website, offering them a personal welcome message and exclusive access to benefits, profiles and news.

In 2009 RMIT's alumni body maintained its valued support of students and University projects by offering their time, money and energy in a number of ways including student mentoring, monetary donations, volunteering, guest lecturing and promoting the University across the world.

Significantly, RMIT alumni gave generously to the Annual Appeal, more than doubling the amount received in 2008. This year's Appeal supported equity and access scholarships, as well as the RMIT Student Entrepreneurship, Education and Development in Society (SEEDS) program.

A wide range of local and international programs were delivered throughout the year. These included the annual Alumnus of the Year presentation; successful "An Audience With" events featuring Dr Bob Isherwood and Alison Goodman; a careers forum on wellness; an Alumni/SEEDS social entrepreneurship forum; welcome events at offshore graduations; a series of luncheons for senior and retired alumni; and, for the second year, the Alumni and Friends Golf Day.

The monthly Alumni Newsletter continued to be an effective way of communicating with alumni, as did website content including new profiles, news and a range of alumni programs and event listings.

ALUMNI SNAPSHOT

At 31 December 2009, RMIT had 388,000 alumni in more than 131 countries including:

Country	Alumni
Australia	307,962
Singapore	24,389
Hong Kong	8,391
Malaysia	7,726
China	5,669
Vietnam	3,053
Indonesia	2,758
India	1,562
Thailand	1,280
United States	1,128
Japan	1,035

RMIT ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS



Sotheary Ly.

Sotheary Ly arrived in Melbourne aged 16 with no English language skills, and has since achieved many goals, culminating in selection for a prestigious 2009 Future Summit Australian Leadership Award. She was one of three RMIT alumni among the winners, the others being 2008 and 2009 RMIT Alumni of the Year, Amanda Barnard and Daniel Almagor.

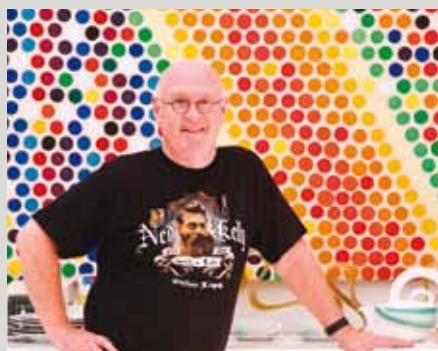
Ms Ly completed two postgraduate studies at RMIT, including a Masters of Social Science and an Advanced Diploma of Interpreting and Translating. In 2003 she was also awarded the Centenary Medal by the Prime Minister John Howard, in recognition of her contribution to Australian society.

She has since returned to Cambodia to take up the challenge of working with the Healthcare Centre for Children to help stop human trafficking and the exploitation of women and children.



Leah Heiss with *Drift*.

In her work *Drift*, RMIT alumni and lecturer Leah Heiss explored human connectivity through small-scale interactive objects developed from materials engineered at the nanoscale. The work formed part of the Super Human: Revolution of the Species exhibition at RMIT Gallery in November.



John Henry.

Award-winning architect John Henry, who graduated from RMIT in 1977, has an eclectic range of specialities, from residential property to community health centres for national and international markets. He is currently working with the Victorian Government's Bushfire Recovery and Reconstruction Authority on rebuilding the community house in the razed country town of Flowerdale.

A house he designed in Research has taken out the 2005 Architeam Award for medium-sized buildings, two National Residential Interior Design awards in 2006, and the Royal Australian Institute of Architects' Colorbond Steel Award in 2007.

AID EXECUTIVE KNOWS NO BORDERS

A young entrepreneur with a passion for helping others became the third recipient of RMIT's Alumnus of the Year award in 2009. Daniel Almagor's achievements since graduation have demonstrated a commitment to excellence, dedication to communities who need a helping hand, and a vision for future RMIT students to aspire to.

After completing a double degree in Aerospace Engineering and Business Administration in 2001, Mr Almagor founded not-for-profit organisation Engineers Without Borders Australia (EWB). EWB partners with disadvantaged communities worldwide to improve their quality of life through education and the implementation of sustainable engineering projects. It now has 20 active chapters around Australia.

Past EWB projects include the development of a wind turbine to produce electricity for remote areas in Nepal, a computer project for refugees around Australia and for an orphanage in India, biomedical training in Cambodia, water treatment in East Timor and road assessment in an indigenous Australian community.

As well as working as CEO of EWB, Mr Almagor is Managing Director of national vaccination company Medivax. He is a Churchill Fellowship recipient and in 2005 was named among the 100 most influential engineers in Australia.



Daniel Almagor.

The Alumnus of the Year is awarded to graduates whose endeavours after their time at University reflect the work ethic and values of the University, and who have used the education they received at RMIT for the greater good.

In accepting the award at the annual presentation and breakfast in Storey Hall, Mr Almagor said he began mapping out his future at the age of 21 one Friday afternoon in an Aerospace Engineering class. "My mind started racing and I talked to classmates about what we as engineering students could do to make a difference and help people in need," he said.

After leaving RMIT, he established EWB as a framework for young engineers to support disadvantaged people through small scale engineering and capacity building projects.

"I love being busy, especially when you know it's all for a good cause. I wake up in the morning and feel great. You know that you're contributing to help those who really need it."

BUILDINGS AND CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT

In 2009, RMIT invested \$140 million in its comprehensive capital works program including 31 major construction and refurbishment projects, several of which are now complete.



The Swanston Academic Building will transform the northern end of the CBD.

LANDMARK BUILDINGS

SWANSTON ACADEMIC BUILDING

RMIT unveiled detailed plans for its landmark development that is set to transform the University's precinct and the northern end of Swanston Street. The 10-storey Swanston Academic Building, RMIT's largest ever construction project, will include innovative teaching and learning spaces, outstanding environmental design and a striking facade featuring hundreds of angular sun shades.

The new building is the centrepiece of the University's \$500 million investment into the CBD. Environmentally sustainable and visually stunning, the future Swanston Academic Building will redefine teaching and learning at the University.

The building will wrap around the Oxford Scholar Hotel on the corner of A'Beckett Street and will provide 12 lecture theatres, 64 teaching spaces and 10 specialist learning venues for the RMIT community. It will also accommodate the College of Business, currently located in Bourke Street.

Kay House (Building 48) was demolished in 2009 to make way for the new building. The design development stage of the project was finalised in November and construction is due for completion in 2013.

DESIGN HUB

In August 2009, construction work began on the Design Hub, set to open in 2011 as a state-of-the-art epicentre of design research and education. The new RMIT building will be located at the former Carlton & United Brewery site on the high profile north-west corner of Victoria and Swanston Streets. Designed by architect and RMIT alumnus Sean Godsell, the building will provide cutting-edge research facilities and a collegial research base for RMIT's diverse range of design activities, research groups and postgraduate design programs.



The lecture theatre is to be a free-standing, iconic building that will form a new eastern entrance point for the Bundoora West campus.

The building will feature a striking and environmentally responsible design incorporating a translucent 'smart skin' to comprise more than 16,000 sandblasted glass cells, which will harness solar power and assist in cooling and heating the building. This project has received grant funding of \$28.6 million from the Federal Government's Education Investment Fund.

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING PRECINCT

RMIT's Advanced Manufacturing Precinct was officially launched in 2009 by Victorian Skills and Workforce Participation Minister, Jacinta Allan. The George Thompson Building on the corner of Cardigan and Queensberry Streets, Carlton, will be refurbished and extended with an additional rooftop level, providing more than 3,500 square metres of teaching space.

The new precinct will provide leading-edge infrastructure to support practical training in advanced manufacturing. It will bring together the applied design and manufacturing streams in one location, opening the doors to new opportunities for innovation and product development. Cross-disciplinary training will be delivered by incorporating teaching in engineering and manufacturing technologies, design and development, production, marketing and management.

The Advanced Manufacturing Precinct received additional funding from the Federal Government's Training Infrastructure Investment For Tomorrow program, a component of the Teaching and Learning Capital Fund for VET. This funding will be committed to interactive energy performance metering, interpretive screen-based equipment and significant energy and natural resource reduction installations.

BUNDOORA CAMPUS LECTURE THEATRE

RMIT's Bundoora campus is set to be transformed with the introduction of a sustainably designed, state-of-the-art lecture theatre that will serve both RMIT and the general community. The innovative 350 capacity auditorium will be equipped with sophisticated audiovisual equipment that will enhance interactive learning and staff/student engagement.

This project has received support from both the State and Federal Governments via grant funding of \$5.18 million and \$1.16 million from the Better Universities Renewal Fund and Capital Development Pool respectively.

The outer wall encasing the lecture theatre will have an organic undulating shape that will enhance the visual appeal of the Bundoora campus and will seamlessly integrate with the surrounding buildings and the rustic landscape. The lecture theatre will be flanked by north and south facing courtyards populated with lush gardens and a covered verandah.

The design and technology incorporated into the project will provide for class recording and the capacity for significant interaction between lecturers and students. Flexible, informal spaces designed for a broad range of uses adjoin the lecture theatre and are earmarked to become key learning and teaching spaces on campus. With the capacity to accommodate up to 200 people for stand-up functions, these areas will also be available to the RMIT community.

The design development phase of the project was completed and the contractor appointed in 2009, with completion due by the end of 2010.



Building 9, School of Media and Communication.



The striking design for RMIT's Info Corner at the prominent corner of Swanston and La Trobe Streets.

MAJOR RENOVATION PROJECTS

RMIT's portfolio of properties contains 20 buildings that are recognised to be of significant heritage or streetscape value. As part of our comprehensive capital works program, some of the most important and historically rich buildings continued to undergo extensive renovations in 2009.

One of the major projects completed in 2009 was the consolidation of the School of Media and Communication into Building 9 on the corner of Bowen and Franklin Streets on the City campus. The heritage-listed 72-year-old building is now two levels higher, adding 2,052 square metres to the building. The new Levels 4 and 5 were designed by Melbourne-based Peter Elliott Architecture to harmonise with the Art Moderne architecture of the original building, which was designed by Percy E. Everett.

Refurbishment of the Francis Ormond Building (Building 1), RMIT's 122-year-old foundation stone and the University's headquarters, continued during 2009. Under the architectural guidance of Peter Elliott Architecture, the building's interior has been stripped back and fine period detail has been unearthed. These original features will be fully restored to form part of the completed refurbishment. Internally, the 3,700 square metre building is being opened up from within through the introduction of an open glazed stairway and gallery. A passenger lift will also be installed and staff offices and meeting rooms refurbished.

A state-of-the-art refurbishment of the 82-year-old Emily McPherson Building by architects Lovell Chen continued during 2009. The future home for the Graduate School of Business and Law, including the Juris Doctor program, is due for completion mid-2010. Works include a glazed 'street' at the rear of the building and a rooftop level that integrates seamlessly with the original architecture.

RMIT's Building 2 is undergoing a refurbishment and infrastructure upgrade. In 2009, a new lift and lobby was installed to service all five levels. A link from the refurbished building will enable access to the Forester Building (Building 24), home to the School of Art's leadership team, as well as disabled access to Building 24. The entire School of Art is to be housed in Buildings 2, 4, and 6 on Bowen Street and Building 24, behind Building 2. This will enable closer collaboration among students studying across the diverse range of art disciplines offered within the School.

RMIT's Info Corner (Building 22) is being substantially refurbished. Works will include a new fifth floor and a rooftop canopy resembling a 'green brain' which will echo the green Penrose motif design of Storey Hall's facade. The eye-catching canopy was developed by Ashton Raggatt McDougall, the architects responsible for the award-winning redesign of neighbouring Storey Hall in 1995.

The new fifth storey of this 97-year-old building will also contain a rooftop atrium space for seminars, conferences, receptions and special events. This level will connect to the facilities in Storey Hall. An adjoining gallery, foyer space and outdoor terrace will provide panoramic views of the city and beyond. Works also include the refurbishment of Levels 3 and 4 to accommodate staff from the International and Development Portfolio, a move which further enables the vacating of leased premises.

The renovation of RMIT's distinctive crescent-shaped Building 204 on the central spine of the Bundoora West campus was completed in 2009. The building was designed by 1:1 Architects to high sustainable standards and refurbished into a flexible, multi-purpose space for students.

It contains new offices and meeting rooms for Student Union and RMIT Union staff, as well as a suite of student group spaces and a postgraduate student lounge. Sustainable features include evaporative cooling, permeable paving to allow water to reach tree roots, recycled timber wall finishes and biodegradable floor finishes.

The Archives facility in Building 202 at Bundoora West campus was also completed. It contains an artefacts area for heritage files, a state-of-the-art fire suppression system and staff accommodation. The Archives facility has been built to ensure the longevity of the University's records and valued documents. There are four temperature and humidity-controlled pods that contain compactus storage units. A cool room housing fragile documents and negatives has been installed, as well as a stand-alone declimatisation unit to bring cold-stored documents and negatives to room temperature before they are handled by Archives staff.

BUILDING REFURBISHMENTS

The premises for the School of Applied Sciences' Physics discipline have undergone a dramatic revamp, with two levels in Building 14 on Swanston Street being renovated to accommodate high-end electron microscopy laboratories and testing spaces, as well as staff offices.

The School of Electrical and Computer Engineering moved into its new home in the Casey Wing of Building 10. The redevelopment of Level 9 in Building 10 included four new teaching laboratories, which replaced the School's previous facilities and also assisted in the vacation of leased premises.

The new teaching and learning facilities have been designed to provide a greater level of hands-on experience for students. The laboratories are flexible and practical, with movable furniture, storage space and sophisticated audio visual equipment, enabling staff to directly link with RMIT Vietnam and conduct classes simultaneously across both campuses. The newly refurbished premises have been designed to a high sustainable standard.

RMIT has a suite of computer laboratories in Building 56 at 115 Queensberry Street, in the heart of the Carlton precinct. An entire floor now houses vibrant teaching and learning facilities including five large computer laboratories, a refurbished telecommunications laboratory, a dedicated postgraduate laboratory and two classrooms.



Computer laboratories in Building 56.

The Student Union precinct on the City campus was completed during the year. This area is fitted out with attractive ergonomic furnishings, meeting areas, a student lounge, welfare offices and other student spaces, as well as the Student Union staff offices. This refurbishment has invigorated the thoroughfare on Level 3 of Building 8, which is now a livelier, more dynamic part of the City campus.

ANNUAL WORKS

Throughout 2009, RMIT completed a comprehensive Annual Works program. Campus grounds, office space and student facilities were upgraded and a number of new facilities were opened.

The Kaleide Theatre forecourt leading into Building 8 from Swanston Street was repaved and flooring in the Theatre's foyer was replaced.

Postgraduate students across the City campus now have a student lounge with kitchenette and a computer laboratory in Building 28 adjacent to Building 8.

The computer laboratory, previously located in the now demolished Building 48, was relocated to Building 8. It offers 73 open access PCs and a student support counter.

The Building 57 cafeteria has been rejuvenated with new flooring, laptop recharge desks, a server area upgrade, coloured partitions, lighting upgrades and new furniture. The cafeteria in Building 202 on the Bundoora campus was fitted out with new furniture and the walls were repainted.

The Spatial Information Architecture Laboratory moved into new premises in Building 98 on Victoria Street. Features include open plan office space, postgraduate student workstations and meeting rooms.

PROPERTY CENTRAL – RMIT'S NEW WEB PORTAL

In 2009, a new web portal was introduced to provide centralised, user-friendly details of all onshore campus plans and facilities information. Property Central is an industry-standard Geographical Information Systems application that enables internal and external users to access information about RMIT's physical resources, as well as data specific to colleges, schools and groups.

Campus maps and building floor plans can be manipulated to suit user requirements and notations can be included, such as useable floor area, room type and the school or group that occupies the space. Users can view a selected campus, hone in on a building and view details about individual floors, rooms and student spaces. There is also the capacity to produce space reports, which include listings of different classroom types in a building or on a campus.

BUILDING DESIGN PRACTICE

RMIT's building design and construction standards are outlined in the Property Services Design Brief, which is available on the RMIT website. All 2009 construction work was undertaken with environmental best practice as a priority, including a minimum 5-star Green Star rating for all new buildings and a minimum 4-star rating in all renovated buildings. A number of innovative sustainable features have also been included in 2009 building projects, including water harvesting and chilled beam technology.

The heritage character of buildings is a key consideration for RMIT and this was a major factor in works undertaken on the Francis Ormond, Emily McPherson and other buildings in 2009.

Planting and protection of indigenous species is one of the guiding principles for preserving the natural environment, particularly on the Bundoora West campus, and is a major consideration in all ecologically sustainable development initiatives.

SUSTAINABILITY

In 2009, RMIT established a Sustainability Committee to provide leadership, coordination and guidance in integrating sustainability principles and practices throughout the University's core learning and teaching, research and operational activities. The Committee reports to the Vice-Chancellor's Executive through its Chair, the PVC Design and Social Context.

SUSTAINABLE UNIVERSITY OPERATIONS

RMIT Property Services continued to lead the operational responsibilities of facility design, collection of operational data and reporting to government and institutional bodies. 2009 saw the expansion of initiatives designed to embed sustainable practices into University operations. Property Services also accelerated their efforts to embed sustainability into all activities, including leasing, administration, operations and service delivery.

As a member university of the Australian Technology Network (ATN), RMIT affirmed its commitment to achieving a 25 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020, from a 2007 baseline.

As part of this response to the challenge of climate change, RMIT dramatically lifted its use of GreenPower to 20 per cent of its electricity usage.

In response to the introduction of the *National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act*, RMIT streamlined its carbon management systems and reported Scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions for the City campus.

The University engaged with networks of sustainability practitioners to ensure best practice outcomes were identified and delivered. These groups included the Sustainable Campus Group of Victorian universities, Sustainability Victoria and Australian Campuses Towards Sustainability.

In a newly created role, a Senior Advisor, Environment was employed to work closely with the Manager, Energy in leading cultural change and embedding environmental sustainability into University strategies, projects and operations.



RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

Energy efficiency works undertaken in 2009 included:

- » continued upgrade of old inefficient lighting systems throughout the University to high efficiency alternatives
- » replacement and modification of instrument and control systems to help reduce energy for air conditioning and effectively measure where energy is being used in our buildings
- » extension of the central plant chilled water system to Buildings 7 and 9
- » the first implementation of efficient active chilled beams in Building 9

Reduction of water consumption continued to be a priority. The installation of digital water metering on the Bundoora West Campus enabled water consumption to be monitored and leaks identified by comparing water use against occupancy levels and climatic variations.

Other initiatives included implementation of smarter control technologies and monitoring of cooling towers to more efficiently manage water usage.

2009 RESOURCE USAGE

RMIT built on its efforts in previous years to further reduce its energy and water use and greenhouse gas emissions.

In 2009, the University completed a Level 2 Energy Audit of its campuses in Victoria, which comprised 30 reports covering more than 70 buildings. Results of the audit indicated potential energy savings of 40 per cent for the buildings surveyed against 2008 figures, not taking into account forecast student and space load increases. The results of the energy audit will be used to plan new energy reduction initiatives.

RMIT achieved a 13 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, representing a saving of 30,813 tonnes of emissions per annum compared to 2005. This is the equivalent of taking 7,000 cars off the road, based on 4.3 tonnes of CO₂ for the average car.

2009 RESOURCE USAGE

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Average Energy Consumption per EFTSL (GJ electricity and gas)	10.0	10.2	10.1	9.2	8.5
Water per EFTSL (KL)	6.0	6.0	5.7	5.5	5.1
Greenhouse Gas Emissions (t CO ₂ -e)	92,227	82,654	79,124	70,548	61,414
GreenPower Consumption (MWh)	0	1,022	1,072	8,648	11,329

The University also achieved a 7 per cent reduction in energy per student in 2009, and a 15 per cent reduction from 2005 energy levels per student number – a saving of 55,727 GJ, which is equivalent to the energy use of more than 1,000 Australian residential households.

Water consumption was reduced by 7 per cent per student number in 2009. Current water use is 11 per cent lower than 2005 levels, with more than 35,000 KL of water saved in 2009 alone – the equivalent amount of water in 14 Olympic swimming pools.



Class A recycled water is being used in fountains on the City campus.

CENTRE FOR DESIGN

RMIT's Centre for Design (CfD) promotes sustainability in research, consulting and capacity-building through active dissemination and professional development. It is recognised for its innovative methods for the support of sustainable design of products and services, from packaging and consumer products to buildings, suburbs and cities.

CfD has established a global reputation as a key provider of expertise in ecologically sustainable design and life cycle assessment to the building design and construction sectors and related policy makers. Current projects include:

- » Analysis of assessment tool options for measuring the sustainability performance of residential dwellings, funded by the Department of Sustainability and Environment.
- » Coordination of a series of external research programs for the Federal Government's Green Loans program. CfD is in the final stages of developing the Household Sustainability Assessment Tool, an integral part of the program, which will calculate the greenhouse gas emissions, energy and water efficiency of a home and provide recommendations for improving the performance of household heating, cooling, appliances and fixtures.
- » A Sustainability and Heritage Buildings project aimed at determining the ways in which the retention, adaptation and enhancement of buildings of cultural heritage significance can contribute to environmental sustainability. This project is funded by Heritage Victoria, the Department of Planning and Community Development, and the Environment Protection and Heritage Council of Australia and New Zealand.
- » Lifetime Affordable Housing, an ARC Linkage project which will provide essential research to underpin the availability of high performance urban housing within current and future economic and environmental limits. The project involves carbon assessments of housing and lifetime costing of greenhouse gas savings and financial costs for different housing configurations. Partners include Victorian and South Australian institutions and government agencies.
- » An ARC Linkage project, *Towards Carbon Neutral Communities – Making the Transition*, aimed at developing practical measures for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in urban areas and strategies for overcoming barriers to greater uptake of energy efficiency and alternative technologies.

CfD collaborates actively with researchers and partners across a wide range of disciplines in the search for effective, sustainable solutions and their successful implementation. An example is the coordination of Reimagining the Australian Suburb, a cluster of projects involving researchers across RMIT that focus on separate but correlated areas of sustainable urban development.

SUSTAINABILITY IN LEARNING AND TEACHING

In 2009, VET programs at RMIT increased their focus on sustainability and the development of green skills, undertaking discussion forums to explore ways in which the University responds to social, environmental and economic drivers underpinning sustainability education in the curriculum.

The School of Business TAFE undertook the first phase of the development of a Lean Office Management skills set, conducting background research, analysis and curriculum design in consultation with Innovation and Business Skills Australia.

RMIT offers a broad range of undergraduate and postgraduate programs and courses that incorporate sustainability principles.

- » Master of Business Administration programs: Sustainability is included as part of the curriculum in the core courses offered by the Graduate School of Business.
- » School of Aerospace, Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering: The Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy group offers a range of programs in Sustainable Energy. Postgraduate research students work on a variety of projects ranging from solar desalination, power generation and

storage of hydrogen using renewable energy sources, and the practices necessary to improve energy efficiency.

- » Environmental Engineering: This program introduces students to the concepts of sustainability and their implications for engineering projects.
- » School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning: All first year students studying planning, youth work, social science and environment disciplines undertake Sustainability: Society and Environment as a foundation course, which introduces them to the main concepts and issues underpinning sustainability and strategies to achieve sustainable outcomes.
- » School of Fashion and Textiles: Sustainable design elements have been embedded into the Textile Design degree, and the Fashion Design and Technology diploma has added sustainability as a specific competency.
- » Postgraduate Social Science programs (Environment and Planning, International Urban and Environmental Management and International Development) incorporate all aspects of sustainability into course offerings.

GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY

The Global Sustainability at RMIT unit was established in 2009 to foster increased awareness and practical application of sustainability within the University and externally, in collaboration with business and government agencies.

Internally, Global Sustainability works across Colleges and Schools, providing assistance to lecturers and researchers wishing to develop sustainability courses, and facilitating opportunities for research, curriculum development and consultancy around sustainability issues. The unit also engages with RMIT's facilities, operations and construction managers in relation to planning and implementation of operational sustainability initiatives.

Global Sustainability's external commercial programs involve the provision of strategic research, evaluation, advice and information around sustainability issues relevant to particular organisations, industries and sectors. Work includes the assessment of sustainability performance across a range of social, environmental, economic and governance indicators; national and international industry benchmarking in relation to global best practice on sustainability and research; and advice on carbon management strategies and organisational implications of emissions trading.

Activities in 2009 included:

- » Strategic advice to the ATN in relation to the establishment of the emissions reduction target referred to above.
- » In conjunction with EPA Victoria, development of the web-based Carbon Offset Guide, which delivers Australia's most comprehensive independent directory of

offset providers, prices, project locations, descriptions and accreditation standards. The website is a widely recognised and authoritative resource for businesses, government agencies, non-government organisations and individuals seeking information about the voluntary offset market.

- » Delivery of targeted sustainability coaching to 15 healthcare agencies as part of the ResourceSmart Healthcare Program (Phase 1), working with Sustainability Victoria, the Department of Health and the Department of Sustainability and Environment.
- » Working with Sustainability Victoria to develop the ResourceSmart 5 Star Certification Scheme, including assessment and development of indicators, preparation and review of supporting materials, review of pilot process and development of case studies for government agencies.
- » A study of 20 Australian organisations – including government, non-government, small, medium and large businesses and corporations – aimed at examining public claims of carbon neutrality and gauging how organisations understand and approach their carbon management strategies. The report, *Aiming for Zero: Australian Experience of Carbon Neutrality*, was launched at a public event in June.

- » Development of a Strategic Overview and Learning Development Plan for the Lake Condah Sustainable Development Project and the Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation in south-west Victoria, in conjunction with RMIT's regional research and learning centre in Hamilton and the community partnerships team at RMIT's Bundoora campus.

RMIT ADMINISTERS UNITED NATIONS CITIES PROGRAMME

The United Nations Global Compact, the world's largest corporate citizenship initiative, helps organisations align their operations and strategies with 10 universally accepted principles in the areas of human rights, labour rights, environment and anti-corruption.

The UN Global Compact Cities Programme (the Cities Programme) is the urban component of the Global Compact initiative. It promotes the adoption and practical application of these 10 principles in cities around the world and provides dedicated support to city leaders in demonstrating their commitment.

Established in 2002, the Cities Programme recognises the particular challenges and opportunities for cities in implementing the Global Compact principles and offers a framework for translating the principles into urban governance. It also provides a platform for meaningful engagement and exchange of ideas between cities. A key strength of the Cities Programme is its focus on collaboration between all levels of government, business and society to enhance sustainability, resilience, diversity and adaptation within cities, in the face of complex urban challenges.

Since 2008, the Cities Programme has been administered by an International Secretariat based at RMIT's Global Cities Research Institute, which works closely with the Global Compact office in New York City. Key achievements of the International Secretariat in 2009 included:

- » establishing close relationships with existing member cities and providing assistance with their projects
- » creating a framework that enables cities which have become signatories to the Global Compact principles to progress to the highest level of engagement in the Cities Programme through undertaking a pilot project to address an urban challenge
- » strengthening the inter-sectoral engagement model, including development of a comprehensive sustainability assessment tool and city-based indicators across all dimensions of sustainability
- » preparation of the inaugural Annual Report for the Cities Programme.





A vertical photograph on the left side of the page shows a close-up of a stone building's exterior. It features a dark, textured stone wall with a set of wooden steps leading up to a pair of large, ornate red double doors. Above the doors is a rectangular window with a dark frame. The lighting is dramatic, with strong shadows and highlights on the stonework.

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

GOVERNANCE

RMIT University is governed by a Council that consists of:

- » the Chancellor
- » the Vice-Chancellor
- » two persons elected by the Academic Board
- » three persons elected by and from the staff of the University as prescribed by the Statutes
- » two persons elected by and from the enrolled students of the University as prescribed by the Statutes
- » six persons appointed by the Governor in Council
- » one person appointed by the Minister
- » six persons appointed by Council



Front row, l-r: Professor John Nieuwenhuysen, Rosemary Lever, Frances Awcock AO, Professor Dennis Gibson AO, Professor Margaret Gardner AO, Anne Dalton, Jessica Hall.
Middle row, l-r: Elizabeth McKenzie, Neil Robinson, Jane Gilmour OAM, Fran Thorn, Moira Schulze, Helmut Pekarek.

Back row, l-r: Tom Ayres, Dr Rodney Wulff, Terry Francis, Professor Peter Coloe, Julie Wells (University Secretary), Allan Ballagh, Lisa Thompson-Gordon, Amanda Way (Deputy University Secretary).

Consistent with the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology Act 1992, as from time to time amended, the Council is the governing authority of the University and has the direction and superintendence of the University.

Accordingly, Council members participate in approval of the University's strategic direction, annual budget and business plan, and in monitoring of the University's performance. The Council appoints the Vice-Chancellor and President.

Members of Council, as required by legislation, have duly completed declarations of director-related transactions. No members of Council hold shares as nominees or beneficially in any statutory authority or subsidiary related to the University. Members of Council do not hold shares in RMIT – no shares are distributed by RMIT – or in related companies. Independent and student-elected Council members may choose to receive remuneration for being members of Council. RMIT does not make loans to Councillors or related parties of Councillors.

As part of its commitment to good governance practices, in 2003 the University Council adopted a charter containing broad governance principles. This charter is reviewed annually and was not amended in 2009.

Declarations received from Council members have indicated no conflict of interest or pecuniary interests other than remuneration disclosed in the financial statements.

Professional indemnity insurance of up to \$30 million for members of Council and senior officers is provided under a policy issued by Zurich Australian Insurance Limited.

In accordance with its charter, the Council reviews its performance annually. In 2009, this was an internal review conducted by the Chancellor using a questionnaire and individual interviews. Feedback was positive overall and Council will take account of comments in determining its focus and developing its 2010 work plan. As well as its regular meetings Council had two retreats, the first focusing on the sector's regulatory environment and the second on strategic planning.

The Nominations and Governance Committee oversaw nominations to Council, its committees and subsidiaries, as well as induction and professional development for Councillors. In line with State Government guidelines, optional remuneration was available for independent members of Council and elected students.

Based on its governance charter, new members took part in an induction program and all members were able to participate in a professional development program which covered a range of areas including informing members about stakeholder issues and the activities of the University.

Council approved a new RMIT policy on controlled entities in 2009 and the University is reviewing its practices accordingly. Most controlled entities reviewed their statements of governance principles and reported on changes to the skills, experience and qualifications of directors, on their frameworks for risk management and internal audit.

COUNCIL MEMBERS IN 2009

Ms Frances Awcock AM

Appointed by Governor in Council, member since 27 July 2004.
BA (Melb), DipLib (RMIT).
Expertise in library sector; leadership in information services and cultural affairs.
Other directorships: Trustee, Helen Macpherson Smith Trust.

Mr Thomas Ayers

Elected by RMIT students, member since 15 June 2009.
DipBldg (RMIT), BAppSc (Construction and Management) – current studies.
Other involvement: Active in several clubs and societies at RMIT.

Mr Allan Ballagh

Elected by Academic Board, member since 10 February 2003.
DipEd (Melb State College), BEng (Gordon), MEd (RMIT).
Director, RMIT TAFE.

Professor Peter Coloe

Elected by Academic Board, member since 7 August 2000.
BSc (Hons) (Monash), PhD (Monash), FASM.
Practising researcher and senior academic manager.

Ms Anne Dalton

Appointed by Governor in Council, member since 15 April 2003.
BA (Monash), LLB (Monash), GradDip CommLaw (Monash), GradCert Public Sector Mgt (Griffith).
Partner, Sparke Helmore.
Extensive legal and governance experience.
Other directorships: Metropolitan Waste Management Group, Victorian Government Purchasing Board.

Mr Terry Francis

Appointed by Governor in Council, member since 15 April 2003.
BEng (Civil) (Melb), MBA (Melb), FAICD, FFin, FIE Aust.
Extensive financial and commercial expertise.
Other directorships: Boom Logistics Ltd, ANZ Specialist Asset Management Ltd, Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority, Northern Victorian Irrigation Renewal Project.

Professor Margaret Gardner AO

Vice-Chancellor and President (ex-officio), member since 4 April 2005.
BEcon(Hons), PhD (Syd), DUniv (Griffith), FAIM, GAICD.
Leadership and management experience in the university sector.
Other directorships: Museums Board of Victoria (Chair), Australian Learning and Teaching Council.

Professor Dennis Gibson AO

Elected by RMIT Council as Chancellor, member since 14 April 2003.
BSc(Hons) (Hull), MSc, PhD (Newcastle upon Tyne), DSc (CNAA), Hon DUniv (Sunshine Coast), Hon DUniv (QUT), FTS, FAICD.
Broad range of leadership and management experience in the university sector.
Other directorships: Queensland Premier's Smart State Awards Selection Committee (Chair), Éire Higher Education Authority research assessment panel.

Dr Jane Gilmour OAM

Appointed by RMIT Council, member since 1 January 2005 and Deputy Chancellor 2007-08.
BA(Hons) (ANU), DUP (Sorbonne), FAICD.
Leadership and management experience in the not-for-profit sector.
Other directorships: WaterEd Australia Pty Ltd (Deputy Chair), William Buckland Foundation (Trustee).

Ms Jessica Hall

Elected by RMIT students, member since 1 January 2009.
BA (International Studies) (RMIT)
Other involvement: President of RMIT Student Union, Student Advisory Committee member, Staff Student Consultative Committee representative.

Ms Rosemary Lever

Appointed by Governor in Council, member since 1 March 2005.
DipSocStudies (Melb), BSocWork(Hons) (Melb).
Broad range of leadership and management in the public, not-for-profit and private sectors.
Other directorships: Greatconnections Ltd.

Ms Elizabeth McKenzie

Elected by VET teaching staff, member since 3 March 2008.
BEd, GradDip SpecialEd, GradDip TESOL (Deakin), MEd (RMIT).
Language and learning adviser, RMIT.

Professor John Nieuwenhuyzen AM

Appointed by RMIT Council, member since 4 March 2002.
MA (Natal), PhD (London), FASSA.
Expertise in public policy, research and technology transfer.
Other directorships: Australian Multicultural Foundation.

Ms Rhonda O'Donnell

Appointed by Governor in Council, member since 23 September 2008.
GradDip Innov&ServMgt, MAppSc (RMIT), FAIM, MAICD, MAHRI.
Expertise in technology transfer and international business.
Other directorships: Victorian Government Purchasing Board (Chair), Innovation Advisory Board, ACM.

Mr Helmut Pekarek

Appointed by RMIT Council, member since 1 January 2005.
MEng (AppPhys) (Tech Uni of Vienna).
Broad range of leadership and management experience in business.

Mr Neil Robinson

Elected by academic staff, member since 27 March 2003.
TTTC, Dip AppPhys (RMIT), BSc(Hons), MSc (LaTrobe).
Senior lecturer applied sciences, RMIT.

Ms Moira Schulze

Appointed by Governor in Council, member since 1 January 2005.
BA (Melb), DipEd (Admin) (Melb), MEd (Melb), MAICD, FIPAA.
Experience in leadership and management in the public and not-for-profit sectors.
Other directorships: Hanover Welfare Services, Victorian TAFE Development Centre.

Mr Trevor Tappenden

Appointed by RMIT Council, member since 8 August 2003.
CA, FAICD.
Expertise in finance, accounting, audit and risk management.
Other directorships: Bionomics Ltd, Metal Storm Ltd, Heide Museum of Modern Art (Chair), Buckfast Pty Ltd, John Heine Memorial Foundation, Ernest Heine Family Foundation (trustee), VITS Languagelink, Dairy Food Safety Victoria.

Mrs Lisa Thompson-Gordon

Elected by PACCT staff, member since 1 January 2008.
BSc (Monash), MBus (RMIT), GradDipEd (BCAE), GradDip CareerEd (RMIT).
Other involvement: Policy and program advisor, RMIT.

Ms Fran Thorn

Appointed by the Minister, member since 18 February 2008.
BA(Hons) (Monash), MA, MBA (Melb), GradDip Lib (RMIT).
Secretary, Department of Health.
Experience in leadership and management in the public sector.
Other directorships: National e-Health Transition Authority, CAE.

Dr Rodney Wulff

Appointed by RMIT Council, member since 1 January 2007.
BLA (Oregon), MLA (Harv), PhD (Cornell).
Expertise in landscape architecture and business management.
Other directorships: Tract Consultants Pty Ltd.

Mr Derek Young

Appointed by RMIT Council, member since 10 November 2003.
FACCA, CPA.
Financial and commercial expertise.
Other directorships: Melbourne Theatre Company (Chair), Australian Major Performing Arts Group (Chair), Accenture Australia Foundation (Chair).

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Council has established committees to assist it in discharging its responsibilities. Each committee had a work plan of activity to exercise its responsibilities in 2009, and all committees reported to Council on their activities.

Audit and Risk Management Committee

The Audit and Risk Management Committee acts on behalf of Council to monitor the audit controls and risk management of the University and associated processes.

Its objectives are to assist Council in discharging its responsibilities to the University and its controlled entities with respect to:

- » the integrity of the annual financial statements and financial reporting
- » exposure to legal and business risk
- » the effectiveness of the external and internal audit functions
- » the adequacy and effectiveness of financial management, financial control systems and other internal controls
- » the process for monitoring compliance with laws and regulations
- » monitoring of compliance with the code of conduct.

Campus Development Committee

The Campus Development Committee acts on behalf of Council to:

- » consider and recommend to Council the physical infrastructure master plan for the University in accordance with the University's strategic plan
- » consider and review significant proposed developments on campus to ensure that they are consistent with the physical infrastructure master plan
- » consider and approve the design principles that inform the development of the University's physical infrastructure and the procedures for selection of design consultants.

Nominations and Governance Committee

The Nominations and Governance Committee acts on behalf of Council to ensure Council and the Boards of RMIT controlled entities have an effective balance of skills and experience.

The Committee meets to:

- » recommend candidates for Council vacancies to Council or to the Minister for Education as appropriate to ensure the Council has an effective balance of relevant skills, experience and knowledge
- » recommend to Council a person to be appointed or reappointed as Chancellor and Deputy Chancellor
- » recommend to Council membership of Council committees and oversee the appointment of directors to RMIT controlled entities

- » ensure appropriate oversight of governance principles and conduct in the subsidiaries
- » develop high standards of corporate governance in RMIT Council including the form of performance evaluation, induction and professional development for Councillors
- » recommend to Council changes required to Statutes and Regulations
- » recommend candidates to Council for honorary awards.
- » monitor the development and implementation of planning, quality and performance processes across the University
- » advise Council on the setting up and closing down of controlled entities, and on the University entering into material joint ventures and partnerships
- » monitor performance of controlled entities through quarterly reports against business plans and strategic plans.

Planning and Finance Committee

The Planning and Finance Committee acts on behalf of Council to:

- » review the annual budget and business plan and recommend their approval to Council
- » review an annual report on progress against the business plan and the strategic plan
- » monitor the University's financial performance and other performance indicators against the business plan
- » review policies with regard to investment funds and to monitor their effectiveness
- » review the capital program budget and recommend its adoption to Council
- » consider major initiatives and projects that involve significant commitment and/or risk to the University, to advise Council and monitor progress where appropriate

Remuneration Committee

The Remuneration Committee acts on behalf of Council to:

- » annually agree and monitor performance targets for the Vice-Chancellor
- » annually decide on the quantum of the Vice-Chancellor's performance bonus and total employment cost
- » consider, when required, issues relating to the Vice-Chancellor's contract and make recommendations to Council
- » review and set total remuneration cost ranges for all executive staff
- » review and approve the performance assessments and bonuses recommended by the Vice-Chancellor for the direct-report senior executives
- » provide advice to the Vice-Chancellor on executive performance appraisal mechanisms.

Attendance at Council and Committees in 2008

Name	Council	Audit and Risk Management	Campus Development	Nominations and Governance	Planning and Finance	Remuneration
Frances Awcock	6/6			6/7		
Thomas Ayers	3/6					
Allan Ballagh	5/6					
Peter Coloe	5/6					
Anne Dalton	5/6					2/3
Terrence Francis	6/6	3/5			6/6	
Margaret Gardner	6/6		6/6	7/7	6/6	3/3
Dennis Gibson	6/6		5/6	6/7	6/6	3/3
Jane Gilmour	4/6		6/6		5/6	
Jessica Hall	6/6				6/6	
Rosemary Lever	6/6			7/7		
Elizabeth McKenzie	6/6					
John Nieuwenhuysen	6/6			5/7		3/3
Rhonda O'Donnell	5/6	3/5				
Helmut Pekarek	4/6				4/6	
Neil Robinson	6/6			5/7		
Moira Schulze	6/6	5/5				2/3
Trevor Tappenden	6/6	5/5			6/6	
Lisa Thompson-Gordon	6/6				4/6	
Fran Thorn	5/6					
Rodney Wulff	6/6		6/6			
Derek Young	4/6				6/6	

COMPLIANCE MANAGEMENT

Freedom of Information

During the reporting period, the University received 22 applications under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 (Vic).

Access granted in full:	13
Access granted in part:	6
Pending:	0
Lapsed:	2
Withdrawn:	1

The University is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act and has in place procedures to ensure that it meets its compliance obligations. The University's Freedom of Information Officer for 2009 was employed in the University Secretariat.

Whistleblowers Act 2001

The University supports the aims and objectives of the Whistleblowers Protection Act 2001 (the Act) to encourage and facilitate disclosures of improper conduct by public officers and public bodies and to protect whistleblowers from detrimental action.

The roles of protected disclosure coordinator and protected disclosure officer are carried out by the Deputy University Secretary and disclosures may be made to that officer. Alternatively, staff may make a disclosure directly to the Ombudsman Victoria.

RMIT maintains procedures relating to the Act that were most recently reviewed in July 2009. The procedures outline how the University will respond to the requirements of the Act. The procedures are available online at: <http://prodams.rmit.edu.au/2r9d9qd05nm5.pdf>

Disclosures

1. Number and types of disclosures made during the year: Two disclosures
2. Number of disclosures referred during the year by the public body to the Ombudsman for determination as to whether they are public interest disclosures: Nil
3. Number and types of disclosed matters referred during the year to the public body by the Ombudsman: Nil
4. Number and types of disclosed matters referred during the year by the public body to the Ombudsman to investigate: Nil
5. Number and types of investigations of disclosed matters taken over by the Ombudsman from the public body during the year: Nil
6. Number of requests made during the year to the Ombudsman to investigate disclosed matters under Section 74 of the Act: Nil
7. Number and types of disclosed matters that the public body has declined to investigate during the year: Nil
8. Number and types of disclosed matters that were substantiated on investigation and action taken on completion of the investigation: Nil
9. Recommendations of the Ombudsman under the Act that relate to the public body: Nil

Complaints to Ombudsman's Office

In 2009 there was one complaint reviewed by Ombudsman Victoria where a formal response was requested from the University.

Grievance and Complaints Procedures

RMIT has a strong commitment to ensuring that student complaints are resolved in a fair and timely manner. The University recognises the rights of students to make complaints without recrimination or effect on their grades. Policies, procedures and guidelines on student complaints are available online at: www.rmit.edu.au/students/complaints

When they are involved in the complaints process, students have the support of a number of services provided by the University through the Students Portfolio as well as the Student Union.

RMIT staff are also entitled to fair and consistent treatment and prompt consideration of their complaints. The University maintains comprehensive policies and procedures to ensure staff are given opportunities to resolve any grievances concerning decisions which adversely affect them, or other matters about which they are aggrieved, in their capacity as employees of the University. The procedures are intended to prevent personal conflicts becoming entrenched and to resolve disputes without unnecessary delay and in a conciliatory, informal and effective manner.

In all cases, the University encourages the resolution of problems at the local level, although procedures allow for escalation and review. The University Ombuds reports directly to the RMIT Council and can assist in resolving staff and student grievances that are not able to be resolved through the normal processes and procedures. In addition, complaints about administrative actions and decisions of the University may be made to the Victorian Ombudsman.

Information about the handling of staff grievances or complaints is available online at: www.rmit.edu.au/browse;ID=wmgrukkxjt24z

Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000

In 2009 the University complied with the ESOS Act 2000 and the National Code of Practice for Registration Authorities and Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students (National Code 2007).

National Competition Policy

RMIT has developed costing and pricing models that apply all relevant University costs including overhead and other indirect costs and where appropriate, adjust prices to factor in any competitive advantage the University may have. The price adjustments offset any inequalities which may exist for the University and enables the University to coexist with private businesses in a variety of commercial market activities. Most importantly, it also enables the University to comply with the National Competition Policy including the requirements of the Government policy statement *Competitive Neutrality: A Statement of Victorian Policy* and subsequent reforms.

Public Funding

All public funds allocated to the University have been allocated to the purposes specified by the government or other public funding body.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND INTERNAL AUDIT

Fees and Charges

In 2009, there were no significant changes to the level of fees charged to students by the University other than those detailed under the heading of Skills Reform.

Schedule of Fees and Charges

All fees charged to students at RMIT University are set and approved under the authority of Council. An Approved Schedule of Fees and Charges is published each year that lists all fees that may be charged to students. A copy of the schedules for 2004–09 is available on the RMIT website at: www.rmit.edu.au/fs/studentfees/schedules

Tuition Fees

In 2009, average domestic non-government funded fees increased by 5.2 per cent. International onshore student fees were increased by 5.5 per cent on average. Under Skills Reform, tuition fees charged to State Government-funded VET students who commenced after 1 July 2009 were amended from \$1.37 per student contact hour to a new fee regime of \$1.08–\$2.71 per student contact hour based upon the underlying program of enrolment. Students who commenced prior to 1 July 2009 remained on a fee of \$1.37 per student contact hour, as per Skills Victoria Ministerial guidelines.

Course Material and Administrative Fees

There were no significant changes to the level of fees charged as course material and administrative fees. The number of programs/courses for which material fees may be charged has increased from 404 in 2008 to 443 in 2009. While 443 were proposed, only 256 of these fees were levied in 2009.

Additional Information

Consistent with the requirements of the Financial Management Act 1994, further information on the following items is available on request:

- » Declarations of pecuniary interests
- » Shares held by senior officers
- » Publications
- » Major external reviews
- » Overseas visits undertaken
- » Promotional, public relations and marketing activities

Enquiries should be directed to:

Head, University Communications
RMIT University
GPO Box 2476, Melbourne VIC 3001
Tel. (03) 9925 2000

Risk management is an essential element of the University's corporate governance framework. The RMIT Council plays a fundamental role in the management of institutional risk through its Audit and Risk Management Committee.

The Audit and Risk Management Committee has responsibility for approving the risk management strategy and overseeing the management of risk within the RMIT Group. The Committee acts to ensure that the University has a sound system of internal management and control.

Throughout 2009, the University continued to apply sound processes for identifying, evaluating and managing risks based on the principles of the Australian Standard for Risk Management (AS/NZS 4360). These processes, which are effectively integrated into the University's risk management framework and annual planning cycle, include:

- » training University staff in risk management
- » the annual review and update of a University-wide risk profile using outcomes from risk assessments undertaken by all academic and administrative areas and major projects
- » incorporation of action plans to mitigate identified risks into operational plans, and regular monitoring and reporting of status against those action plans
- » quarterly reporting by RMIT's controlled entities on outcomes of risk management activities to the Audit and Risk Management Committee
- » crisis management planning across all University campuses based on a risk management approach

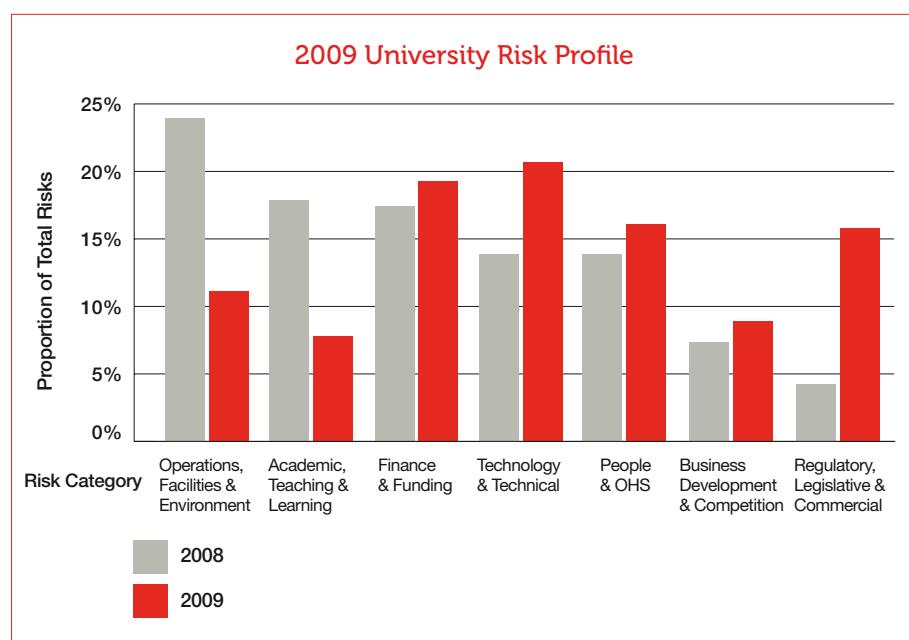
» the formal identification and management of compliance risks through the continued application of a University Compliance Framework overseen by a dedicated Compliance Manager with responsibility for ensuring the framework's operation.

The University's Internal Audit and Risk Management group has responsibility for reviewing the University's risk identification and management processes on a regular basis to ensure their effectiveness.

The University's risk management framework, procedures and supporting toolset have been refined and enhanced during 2009 as part of our ongoing commitment to continuous improvement, and in recognition of the new International Standard on Risk Management (ISO 31000:2009). These changes will take effect in 2010.

One hundred and twenty-four risks across all operating groups were subject to active management during the year, including 28 key University risks that were monitored by the senior executive group to ensure that appropriate mitigation measures were in place to ensure the net risk exposure is consistent with RMIT's objectives and risk appetite. The consolidated risk profile, together with findings from previous Internal Audit reviews, again formed the basis of the annual audit program in 2009.

In accordance with RMIT's Risk Management Guidelines, the identified risks are assigned to seven broad categories that are deemed to be relevant to RMIT in the context of its environment and operations. The risks identified in 2009, together with comparative data for 2008, are categorised in the chart below.



RMIT SUBSIDIARIES

RMIT Foundation

The RMIT Foundation was established in 1994 to receive philanthropic gifts and donations made to RMIT University for both specified and unspecified purposes. RMIT Foundation is managed by a Board of Trustees whose actions are governed by a trust deed. The deed makes the trustees responsible for the prudent stewardship of the funds they invest and manage on behalf of RMIT University. They are also responsible for ensuring that the donor's wishes in making their gift are met.

A trusteeship is an honorary role that reflects the trustee's professional and business acumen and public standing. Trustees are appointed by RMIT Council. The Board counts among its numbers business and community leaders, financial and legal experts, a former Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor. Sadly, one trustee – Ms Swee Loh – died during the year. Two trustees who had served the Foundation since its inception – Emeritus Professor Leo Foster and Mrs Judy Cope-Williams – stepped down in 2009. A search and nomination process has resulted in candidates being considered by RMIT Council as replacement trustees.

A detailed and audited report of the Foundation's activities is provided each year to RMIT Council. For accounting purposes, RMIT Foundation is regarded as a subsidiary and the Foundation's financial performance is integrated into the reporting of the University as a whole, documented elsewhere in this report.

In summary, at the end of 2009 RMIT Foundation had \$22.171 million of net assets. This was an increase in value of approximately \$2.48 million over 2008. Income from donations in 2009 was \$908,000 and investments generated \$879,000: both sources of revenue were down to 50 per cent of 2008 levels as a result of the global financial crisis. The trustees are, however, optimistic about increased income in future. Despite the difficult economic conditions that prevailed throughout 2009, the Board of Trustees unanimously supported a resolution to make significant grant distributions. This was possible because of the prudent management of investment income in the past.

The trustees' unanimous decision was to support the motion: "The Board of Trustees resolves that in 2009, three per cent of the investment revenue generated by each fund will be allocated back into the core capital to 'protect' each fund at current market value, and five per cent of the value of the core capital funds will be allocated to grant-making from the accumulated 'funds available for distribution', according to the requirements of each endowment."

Foundation Chair, Yolanda Klempfner AO, said: "Periods of economic downturn are the very occasions when the Foundation should try to make significant allocations. Students need extra help particularly in these difficult financial times. Making a grant distribution of five per cent return on core capital funds was consistent with the target for grant-making embedded in the Foundation's investment strategy."

In 2009, the RMIT Foundation disbursed \$1.39 million in the form of scholarships, international visiting fellowship grants, awards and prizes to individual students, research units and the schools of the University. This represented an increase of \$458,349 on 2008 figures. This increase was driven by the creation of new scholarships and the reactivation of some older funds as a result of a comprehensive review of all the Foundation's endowments and programs during 2009. These funds support RMIT's teaching and research, facilitate international engagement across disciplines within the University, and create enduring institution-to-institution alliances at a national and international level.

The RMIT Foundation Visiting Fellowship program is a critical support to internationally engaged research, enabling visiting scholars from around the world to spend time at RMIT within the research centres. Similarly, an International Research Exchange program provides support for international researchers at partner institutions overseas and at RMIT to make exchange visits in support of collaborative high quality research. The John Storey Junior Memorial Fund allows many undergraduate students each year to visit a sister institution overseas for a period of study. An industry placement program encourages closer links between RMIT and its industry partners.

The largest part of the Foundation's funds, and therefore the majority of its programs, are tied to specific scholarships, prizes, bursaries and grants. These funds support equity in access, overcoming individual financial hardship, excellence in many discipline areas, study and research overseas, presentation of high quality research, industry placements and community leadership.

The University thanks all those donors who have given and continue to give to RMIT to support our aspirations for better education and research.

Spatial Vision Innovations Pty Ltd

Spatial Vision Innovations Pty Ltd sells geospatial technology and services for use in environmental, land, asset and emergency management, and for government and a growing range of other private sector clients. Integrating geographic and organisational data, Spatial Vision provides award-winning solutions including business systems, advanced spatial analysis, reliable planning systems and practical mapping applications to address some of the country's most pressing environmental, economic and resource issues.

2009 was a very successful year for Spatial Vision, as the business continued to expand its client base in NSW, the ACT, Queensland and WA. The second edition of the company's Vicmap Books was awarded Excellence in Mapping Awards for both General Purpose Mapping and Thematic Mapping at the Spatial Sciences Institute conference.

The company's Groundwater Management Unit project was also widely recognised and received multiple awards, including the Victorian Spatial Excellence Award for Innovation and Commercialisation and the Asia-Pacific Spatial Excellence Award for Spatially Enabling Government.

Taking a new approach to analysing groundwater management units, this project used 3D modelling technology to deliver an online application that allows staff with varied capabilities within the Department of Sustainability and Environment's Office of Water to explore relationships between Victoria's groundwater units.

RMIT Drug Discovery Technologies Pty Ltd

RMIT Drug Discovery Technologies Pty Ltd (RDDT) was established in 2007 to develop and provide pre-clinical safety and bio-analytical testing services that adhere to the OECD Principles of Good Laboratory Practice. The company provides services to international, national and local biotechnology, veterinary and chemical clients and research institutions for the development of intellectual property from the research stage to human clinical trials.

The past year has been one of significant achievements for RDDT despite facing many challenges. The scientific team successfully completed four 28-day safety studies and a number of acute studies. As well, a range of specialised efficacy models were established and validated on behalf of clients.

RDDT's expertise in bio-analysis was extended to provide pharmacokinetic, toxicokinetic and Vitamin D assay services. Strategic partnerships were established with international and local companies such as Trinity Biosciences and Global BioDevelopment to complement RDDT's existing services.

In 2009, in light of the global financial crisis, RDDT concentrated on increasing awareness of its services within the biotechnology and veterinary industries and raising revenue levels. Activities encompassed an intense marketing, public relations and sales campaign including client contact visits, producing quarterly newsletters and hosting exhibition booths at a number of national and Asia-Pacific scientific conferences. These activities had a positive impact on RDDT revenue and built a solid foundation for its future growth.

RMIT Vietnam Holdings Pty Ltd

RMIT Vietnam Holdings Pty Ltd is wholly owned by RMIT and owns RMIT International University Vietnam. It accepts and transfers funds destined for RMIT International University Vietnam and other philanthropic projects in Vietnam.

RMIT Vietnam Holdings Pty Ltd has been engaged in six separate philanthropic projects in Vietnam on behalf of and funded by The Atlantic Philanthropies. These projects principally entail the construction and development of four Learning Resource Centres, each of approximately 7500 square metres, at the Universities of Hue, Danang, Cantho and Thai Nguyen. Other appointments are to manage the translation of the Dewey Decimal System into Vietnamese, the National Task Force program to train staff in Vietnamese libraries, and the development of library resources in Vietnam.

All projects are managed by a small team of staff at RMIT Vietnam in Ho Chi Minh City and supported by library and education professionals from RMIT University.

RMIT Training Pty Ltd

RMIT Training Pty Ltd comprises three business units. RMIT English Worldwide includes the Melbourne Language Centre, IELTS testing and preparation and Aviation English, and is characterised by several offshore partnerships including RMIT Vietnam.

A second unit is RMIT Publishing, encompassing the Informit collections which support University libraries across Australia and New Zealand. RMIT Publishing also manages RMIT University Press.

The third unit is RMIT Continuing Education Centre, which manages the delivery of single and short courses offered across RMIT University. The company's strategic and business plans align with the University strategic plans and the company is profitable. A Board of Directors governs the company activity and is chaired by a member of the RMIT Council. Financial performance, operational highlights and risk management are reported quarterly to RMIT Council.

RMIT Union

RMIT Union is governed by a Board of Management comprising two students appointed by each of the Arts Council and the Sports Council, two nominees of the Vice-Chancellor, and two members of RMIT Union elected by the membership.

RMIT Union has responsibility for the provision of programs in sports, arts and recreation at the University. These programs contribute to the student experience, build the campus community and provide opportunities for students to develop and apply their skills across a range of activities, including engaging in community arts activities, organising tours, serving as a club or collective office-bearer, or representing RMIT at national sporting events.

RMIT Union manages the City Fitness Centre by arrangement with Property Services. Some of the highlights and achievements of RMIT students in programs offered by RMIT Union are featured in the Students section of this report.

RMIT Union acknowledges the strong support provided by the University in 2009 through a grant of \$1.541 million and through in-kind support from RMIT portfolios and Colleges.

Meltech Services Ltd

Meltech Services Ltd was established for RMIT Union in 1975 as a company limited by guarantee. It did not trade in 2009 and is in the process of being deregistered.

RMIT International Pty Ltd

RMIT International Pty Ltd was deregistered on 19 February 2009 following the transfer of the business of the company to RMIT University.

RMIT ASSOCIATED ENTITIES

RMIT's engagement with industry, professional, regional and community organisations, and its investment in research and innovation through spin-off companies and partnerships in Cooperative Research Centres (CRCs), results in the University holding an interest in a small number of associated entities. This interest may be a share of ownership, or significant shared reputation or financial risk. RMIT's offshore award program partnerships are covered elsewhere in this report.

The following table outlines RMIT's associated entities¹ and provides information on their objectives and our assessment of the reputational and financial risks to RMIT.

¹ As per the Australian Accounting Standards' definition of "associates and ventures".

Name	Principal Objects	Level of Risk to RMIT	
		Financial	Reputational
Carbon Regen Pty Ltd	Carbon Regen Pty Ltd was incorporated in 2002 to manage intellectual property (IP) developed in the CRC for Water Quality and Treatment. Prospects for commercialisation of this IP have dissipated over time and the company has applied for voluntary deregistration, which is expected to occur during the first quarter of 2010.	Low	Low
Victorian Institute of Chemical Sciences Ltd	Dedicated to the advancement of the chemical sciences in Victoria.	Low	Low

CONSULTANCIES 2009

Vendor Name	Order Amount(\$)	Invoiced Amount (\$)	Further Commitments (\$)	Description
Entity Solutions	830,613	760,913	69,700	ITS projects
Resource 23 Pty Ltd	671,053	671,053	0	ITS projects
Clicks Recruitment (Australia) Pty Ltd	641,052	585,764	55,288	ITS projects
Belgravia Health & Leisure Group	566,523	566,523	0	BNASC management
IT Matters Recruitment Services	359,312	359,312	0	ITS projects
Hamilton James & Bruce Pty Ltd	355,853	355,853	0	Infrastructure upgrade project
Dattner Grant Pty Ltd	340,304	340,304	0	Leadership program
CWCC Group Pty Ltd	328,440	328,440	0	Community business management program
Command Recruitment Group	318,558	318,558	0	ITS projects
WSP Environmental Pty Ltd	208,744	208,744	0	Green loans assessment
Clark Morris & Associates	206,045	206,045	0	Financial services projects
Global Five Pty Ltd	196,000	196,000	0	PeopleSoft upgrade
Woodstock Consulting Pty Ltd	192,880	192,880	0	Infrastructure upgrade project
Weava Pty Ltd	187,200	187,200	0	Infrastructure upgrade project
Evolving Spaces (Vic) Pty Ltd	250,000	183,110	66,890	Travel management system
EIC Growth Pty Ltd	181,379	174,779	6,600	Entrepreneur in residence
Madison Cross Australia Pty Ltd	174,540	174,540	0	ITS organisational changes
Interpro Australia Pty LTd	170,250	170,250	0	Student portal projects
Icon Recruitment	114,436	114,436	0	Student protal and DSL projects
Paragon Recruitment Services	169,600	169,600	0	ITS projects
Urcot Limited	163,385	163,385	0	Course delivery
Mexikon Pty Ltd	185,250	158,250	27,000	ITS projects
Paxus Australia Pty Ltd	144,900	144,900	0	Infrastructure upgrade project
Learning Edges Australia	142,937	142,937	0	RPL assessment project (Director TAFE)
Montlaur Project Services Pty Ltd	138,428	138,428	0	Project management property services
Executive Central Group Pty Ltd	134,372	134,372	0	Executive consulting
Susan C Bolt	135,000	129,800	5,200	SAB project
The Social Research Centre Pty Ltd	127,275	127,275	0	ARC project (survey)
Dimension Data Australia Pty Ltd	152,791	121,275	31,184	Network support
Oxley International Pty Ltd	219,668	119,668	100,000	APEC Study Centre management services
PricewaterhouseCoopers	116,520	116,520	0	ERP roadmap (ITS) and Design Victoria projects
Advance Group Property Consultants	130,001	114,517	15,484	Cleaning consultancy
Vaxacom Pty Ltd	111,731	111,731	0	Integrated apprentice management system
Jo Fisher Executive Pty Ltd	108,041	108,041	0	Academic search services
Professional Recruitment	104,562	104,562	0	Infrastructure upgrade project
NETIQ Pty Ltd	104,500	104,500	0	VOIP project
Waller Consultancy Pty Ltd	162,901	104,293	58,608	APEC Study Centre management services
TOTAL	8,845,041	8,409,087	435,954	
729 Consultancies of less than \$100,000	7,266,414	7,266,414		

COMPLIANCE INDEX

The Annual Report of RMIT University is prepared in accordance with:

AAS	Australian Accounting Standards
AASB	Australian Accounting Standards Board
DEEWR	Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
ESOS	Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000
ETRA	Education and Training Reform Act 2006
FMA	Financial Management Act 1994
FRD	A-IFRS Financial Reporting Directions
PAEC	Decision of Public Accounts and Estimates Committee of Parliament
RUG	Victorian Government response to the Review of University Governance
SD	Standing Directions of the Minister for Finance issued under the Financial Management Act 1994

No.	Clause	Disclosure	Page(s)
STANDING DIRECTIONS OF THE MINISTER FOR FINANCE			
1	SD 4.2(g)	Report of Operations contains general information about the entity and its activities, highlights for reporting period and future initiatives, and is prepared on a basis consistent with financial statements pursuant to the Financial Management Act, 1994.	15, 83-142
2	SD 4.2(h)	Report of Operations is prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Directions	83-142
3	SD 4.2(j)	Report of Operations is signed and dated by Chancellor or equivalent and includes date of Council Meeting at which Annual Report was approved	Inside front cover
4	SD 4.2(a)	Financial Statements are prepared in accordance with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Accounting Standards (AAS and AASB standards) and other mandatory professional reporting requirements; • Financial Reporting Directions; and • Business Rules. 	83-142 83-142 83-142
5	SD 4.2(b)	Financial Statements available, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balance Sheet (Statement of Financial Position); • Statement of Recognised Income and Expense (Income Statement); • Statement of Comprehensive Income; • Statement of Changes in Equity; • Cash Flow Statement (Statement of Cash Flows); and • Notes to the financial statements. 	89 88 88 90 91 92-140
6	SD 4.2(c)	Signed and dated statement by Accountable Officer stating that financial statements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • present fairly the financial transactions during reporting period and the financial position at end of the period; • were prepared in accordance with Standing Direction 4.2 (c) and applicable Financial Reporting Directions; and • comply with applicable Australian Accounting Standards (AAS and AASB standards) and other mandatory professional reporting requirements. 	85 85 85, 93
7	SD 4.2(d)	Financial Statements are expressed in the nearest dollar except where the total assets, or revenue, or expenses of the institution are greater than: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$10,000,000, the amounts shown in the financial statements may be expressed by reference to the nearest \$1,000; and • \$1,000,000,000, the amounts shown in the financial statements may be expressed by reference to the nearest \$100,000. 	101, 83-142
8	SD 4.2(e)	The financial statements were reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee or Responsible Body prior to finalisation and submission	Inside front cover, 85-87
9	SD 4.5.5	Attestation on compliance with the Australian/New Zealand Risk Management Standard	84
AIFRS FINANCIAL REPORTING DIRECTIONS			
10	FRD 10	Disclosure index	80-81
11	FRD 11	Disclosure of ex-gratia payments	N/A
12	FRD 07A	Early adoption of authoritative accounting pronouncements	101
13	FRD 17A	Long service leave wage inflation and discount rates	100
14	FRD 19	Private provision of public infrastructure	N/A
15	FRD 21A	Responsible Person and Executive Officer disclosure in the financial report	137-139

No.	Clause	Disclosure	Page(s)
AIFRS FINANCIAL REPORTING DIRECTIONS (continued)			
16	FRD 22B	Standard Disclosures in the Report of Operations	3-end
17	FRD 25	Victorian Industry Participation Policy in the Report of Operations	N/A
18	FRD 26A	Accounting for VicFleet Motor Vehicle Lease Arrangements on or after 1 February 2004	N/A
19	FRD 102	Inventories	113
20	FRD 104	Foreign currency	94
21	FRD 106	Impairment of assets	95
22	FRD 107	Investment properties	N/A
23	FRD 109	Intangible assets	116
24	FRD 110	Cash Flow Statements	91, 104
25	FRD 112A	Defined benefit superannuation obligations	127-128
26	FRD 113	Investments in subsidiaries, jointly controlled associates and entities	77-78, 93
27	FRD 114	Financial Investments	113
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS			
28	FRD 22B DEEWR	Analysis of the achievement of the entity's operational and budget objectives for the financial year; should include comparative analysis of indicators such as enrolments, graduations, student performance and satisfaction, staff profile, research performance and performance position	3-end
29	DEEWR	Information with respect to the governance and administrative structure of the university, specifically council members and occupants of senior officers.	10-11, 13, 72-74
30	DEEWR	Outline of student and staff grievance procedures and number of complaints made to and investigated by the Ombudsman	75
31	DEEWR	Details of information available on institution's website, including locations of current and previous Annual Reports	Inside front cover
32	DEEWR	Compliance of financial statements with the Financial Statement Guidelines for Australian Higher Education Providers for 2009 Reporting Period issued by DEEWR.	83-142
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ACT 1994			
Financial Statements:			
33	FMA 49 (a)	• contain such information as required by the Minister;	83-142
34	FMA 49 (b)	• are prepared in a manner and form approved by the Minister;	83-142
35	FMA 49 (c)	• present fairly the financial transactions of the department or public body during the relevant financial year to which they relate;	83-142
36	FMA 49 (d)	• present fairly the financial position of the department or public body as at the end of that year; and	83-142
37	FMA 49 (e)	• are certified by the accountable officer in the manner approved by the Minister.	85
VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE REVIEW OF UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE			
38	RUG	Statement outlining that public funds allocated to the University have been allocated to the purposes specified by the Government or other public funding body. Statement is audited by the Auditor-General.	75
39	RUG	University Council's risk management strategy	76
40	RUG	Summary of financial performance of Associates and Commercial Ventures	78
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR OVERSEAS STUDENTS ACT 2000 (National Code 2007, Sections C & D)			
41	ESOS	Statement indicating compliance with ESOS Act 2000 and the National Code of Practice for Registration Authorities and Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students (National Code 2007)	75
EDUCATION AND TRAINING REFORM ACT 2006 (ETRA)			
42	ETRA, s. 3.2.8	Statement on compulsory non-academic fees, subscriptions and charges payable in the preceding financial year.	76, 107
DECISION OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT (December 1997)			
43	PAEC	Financial and other information relating to institution's international operations	55-59, 83-142





FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology

TAFE Key Performance Indicators 2008 and 2009

Indicator		2008	2009
Participation of 15–24 year-olds		11,529	12,662
Participation of 25–64 year-olds		8,271	8,406
Module load completion rate*		75.8%	79.0%
Student overall satisfaction		85%	84%
Student contact hours (SCH)		8,821,724	9,136,557
Total Cost per Student Contact Hour (SCH)		\$12.30	\$13.09
Working capital ratio**		1.3 : 1.0	0.9 : 1.0
Net operating margin		5.9%	3.9%
Fee for service revenue (as % of total TAFE revenue)		33.3%	32.9%
Revenue per EFT staff (TAFE teaching & non-teaching staff)		\$116,541	\$104,244

* Calculated for total SCHs of all modules reported to OTTE/Skills Victoria

**After adjusting Current LSL Provision in accordance with International Accounting Standards restatement requirements.

Energy Consumption	2008	2009	% Change
Gas (MJ)	15,670,178	19,089,548	+ 21.56%
Electricity (kWh)	9,282,710	10,441,017	+ 2.27%
Green Power (kWh)	1,192,353	2,088,203	+ 36.36%
Energy (MJ)	52,458,313	56,677,207	+ 8.04%

In my opinion the above tables present fairly the data for Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology for the years ended 31 December 2008 and 31 December 2009.

Professor Margaret Gardner AO
Vice-Chancellor and President

P J Enlund
Executive Director – Financial Services

Dated at Melbourne this 22 day of March 2010

Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology

Attestation on compliance with the Australian/New Zealand Risk Management Standard

I, Margaret Gardner, certify that RMIT University has risk management processes in place consistent with the Australian/New Zealand Risk Management Standard, and that an internal control system is in place that enables the executive to understand, manage and satisfactorily control risk exposures. RMIT Council's Audit and Risk Management Committee verifies this assurance and that the risk profile of RMIT has been critically reviewed within the past 12 months.

Professor Margaret Gardner AO
Vice-Chancellor and President
RMIT University

Date: 22 March 2010

Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and Subsidiaries

COUNCILLORS' DECLARATION YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009

In our opinion:

The consolidated financial statements of Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) consisting of the Income Statement, Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows and the accompanying notes thereto, present fairly the financial position of the University and its subsidiaries as at 31 December 2009 and their financial performance represented by the results of their operations for the year ended on that date.

In the Councillors' opinion, as at the date of this declaration, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the entity will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

The attached financial statements of RMIT and the consolidated entity have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Management Act 1994, applicable Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

All public funds allocated to RMIT have been expended for the purposes specified by the Government or other public funding bodies, and RMIT has complied with applicable legislation, contracts, agreements and program expenditure.

We are not aware of any circumstance which would render any particulars included in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Council of RMIT.



R.D. Gibson
Chancellor



M.E. Gardner
Vice-Chancellor and President

STATEMENT BY PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING OFFICER

In my opinion:

The financial statements of RMIT present fairly the financial transactions of RMIT and the consolidated entity during the financial year ended 31 December 2009 and the financial position of its operations for the year ended on that date;

Commonwealth financial assistance expected during the financial year ended 31 December 2009 was expended for the purposes for which it was provided;

RMIT has complied in full with applicable legislation, contracts, agreements and the requirements of various program guidelines that apply to the Commonwealth financial assistance identified in these financial statements; and

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards, the Financial Management Act 1994 and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

In addition, I am not aware at the date of signing these statements of any circumstances which would render any particulars included in the statements to be misleading or inaccurate and there are reasonable grounds to believe that RMIT will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.



P.J. Enlund
Chief Finance and Accounting Officer

Dated at Melbourne
This 22 day of March 2010

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Council Members, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology

The Financial Report

The accompanying financial report for the year ended 31 December 2009 of the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology which comprises the income statement, statement of comprehensive income, statement of financial position, statement of changes in equity, statement of cash flows, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes to and forming part of the financial report, and the councillors' declaration has been audited. The financial report includes the consolidated financial statements of the economic entity, comprising the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and the entities it controlled at the year's end or from time to time during the financial year as disclosed in note 40 to the financial statements.

The Council Members' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Council Members of the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology are responsible for the preparation and the fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the financial reporting requirements of the *Financial Management Act 1994*. This responsibility includes:

- establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error
- selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies
- making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

As required by the *Audit Act 1994*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on the audit, which has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Standards require compliance with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and that the audit be planned and performed to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The audit procedures selected depend on judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, consideration is given to the internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and the consolidated entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used, and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Council Members, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Matters Relating to the Electronic Presentation of the Audited Financial Report

This auditor's report relates to the financial report published in both the annual report and on the website of the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology for the year ended 31 December 2009. The Council Members of the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology are responsible for the integrity of the website. I have not been engaged to report on the integrity of the website. The auditor's report refers only to the statements named above. An opinion is not provided on any other information which may have been hyperlinked to or from these statements. If users of this report are concerned with the inherent risks arising from electronic data communications, they are advised to refer to the hard copy of the audited financial report to confirm the information included in the audited financial report presented on the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology website.

Independence

The Auditor-General's independence is established by the *Constitution Act 1975*. The Auditor-General is not subject to direction by any person about the way in which his powers and responsibilities are to be exercised. In conducting the audit, the Auditor-General, his staff and delegates complied with all applicable independence requirements of the Australian accounting profession.

Auditor's Opinion

In my opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and the economic entity as at 31 December 2009 and their financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with applicable Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations), and the financial reporting requirements of the *Financial Management Act 1994*.

MELBOURNE
23 March 2010



for D D R Pearson
Auditor-General

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Council Members, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology

The Statement of Performance

The accompanying statement of performance for the year ended 31 December 2009 of the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology comprises the statement, the related notes and the declaration.

The Council Members' Responsibility for the Statement of Performance

The Council Members of the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology are responsible for the preparation and the fair presentation of the statement of performance in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1994*. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the statement of performance that is free of material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

As required by the *Audit Act 1994*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the statement of performance based on the audit, which has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Standards require compliance with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and that the audit be planned and performed to obtain reasonable assurance whether the statement of performance is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the statement of performance. The audit procedures selected depend on judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the statement of performance, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, consideration is given to the internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the statement of performance in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the overall presentation of the statement of performance.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Matters Relating to the Electronic Presentation of the Audited Statement of Performance

This auditor's report relates to the financial report published in both the annual report and on the website of the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology for the year ended 31 December 2009. The Council Members are responsible for the integrity of the website. I have not been engaged to report on the integrity of the website. The auditor's report refers only to the statements named above. An opinion is not provided on any other information which may have been hyperlinked to or from these statements. If users of this report are concerned with the inherent risks arising from electronic data communications, they are advised to refer to the hard copy of the audited financial report to confirm the information included in the audited financial report presented on the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology website.

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The Auditor-General's independence is established by the *Constitution Act 1975*. The Auditor-General is not subject to direction by any person about the way in which his powers and responsibilities are to be exercised. In conducting the audit, the Auditor-General, his staff and delegates complied with all applicable independence requirements of the Australian accounting profession.

Auditor's Opinion

In my opinion, the statement of performance of the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology in respect of the 31 December 2009 financial year presents fairly, in all material respects, and in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1994*.

MELBOURNE
23 March 2010



D D R Pearson
Auditor-General

Income Statement

for the year ended 31 December 2009

		Consolidated		RMIT	
	Note	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Revenue from continuing operations					
Australian Government financial assistance					
Australian Government grants	3	238,417	209,833	238,417	209,833
HECS-HELP – Australian Government payments	3	80,340	75,686	80,340	75,686
FEE-HELP	3	21,604	19,068	21,604	19,068
VET FEE-HELP	3	113	–	113	–
State and Local Government financial assistance	4	72,301	68,436	72,301	68,348
HECS-HELP – Student Payments	4	14,914	14,432	14,914	14,432
Fees and charges	5	310,226	274,670	254,764	225,474
Investment revenue	6	8,147	12,963	6,496	8,741
Consultancy and contracts	7	36,961	35,926	32,152	31,078
Other revenue	8	30,095	24,556	25,813	13,878
Total revenue from continuing operations		813,118	735,570	746,914	666,538
Deferred government superannuation contributions		38,642	11,971	38,642	11,971
Total revenue from continuing operations		851,760	747,541	785,556	678,509
Expenses from continuing operations					
Employee related expenses	9	461,756	419,183	421,880	388,054
Depreciation and amortisation	10	40,191	33,342	37,484	30,957
Repairs and maintenance	11	10,580	9,635	10,523	9,620
Borrowing costs	12	88	390	821	1,323
Impairment of assets	13	5,724	3,380	5,998	3,315
Other expenses	14	209,202	196,405	192,725	176,607
Total expenses from continuing operations		727,543	662,335	669,431	609,876
Deferred employee benefits superannuation		38,642	11,971	38,642	11,971
Total expenses from continuing operations		766,185	674,306	708,073	621,847
Operating result before income tax		85,575	73,235	77,483	56,662
Income tax expense	17	597	2,201	671	2,124
Operating result after income tax for the period		84,978	71,034	76,812	54,538
Operating result attributable to minority interest	32	47	(107)	–	–
Operating result attributed to RMIT entity		85,025	70,927	76,812	54,538

The above income statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 31 December 2009

		Consolidated		RMIT	
	Note	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Operating result after income tax for the period					
Gain/(loss) on revaluation of land and building, net of tax	30	–	56,899	–	56,899
Gain/(loss) on value of available for sale financial assets, net of tax	30	2,190	(1,886)	–	–
Exchange differences on translation of foreign operations	30	(8,156)	6,175	–	–
Disposals through revaluation reserve	30	–	195	–	–
Return of unspent funds to donor	31	(66)	–	–	–
Increase in issued capital due to deregistration of subsidiary	31	200	–	–	–
Other Adjustments	31	(280)	–	–	–
Total comprehensive income		78,866	132,417	76,812	111,437
Total comprehensive income attributable to minority interest		47	(107)	–	–
Total comprehensive income attributable to RMIT entity		78,913	132,310	76,812	111,437

The above income statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Financial Position

for the year ended 31 December 2009

		Consolidated		RMIT	
	Note	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
ASSETS					
Current assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	18	127,570	162,952	85,216	102,685
Receivables	19	62,914	59,329	65,658	62,685
Inventories	20	788	812	—	—
Other non-financial assets	25	7,486	7,739	5,990	6,707
Total current assets		198,758	230,832	156,864	172,077
Non-current assets					
Receivables	19	298,052	257,447	298,000	257,395
Available for sale financial assets	21	8,604	5,690	—	—
Property, plant and equipment	23	1,360,156	1,250,306	1,330,063	1,228,628
Deferred tax asset	17	416	159	—	—
Intangible assets	24	1,002	1,225	—	—
Other financial assets	22	172	182	2,494	2,694
Total non-current assets		1,668,402	1,515,009	1,630,557	1,488,717
Total assets		1,867,160	1,745,841	1,787,421	1,660,794
LIABILITIES					
Current liabilities					
Trade and other payables	26	76,570	91,168	62,838	78,911
Borrowings	27	—	657	28,699	27,208
Provisions	28	97,648	93,239	96,225	91,609
Current tax liabilities	17	3,608	3,738	3,608	3,738
Other liabilities	29	66,391	47,209	52,520	30,748
Total current liabilities		244,217	236,011	243,890	232,214
Non-current liabilities					
Borrowings	27	—	4,395	—	—
Provisions	28	306,645	268,002	305,923	267,784
Deferred tax liabilities	17	6	33	—	—
Other liabilities	29	25	—	—	—
Total non-current liabilities		306,676	272,430	305,923	267,784
Total liabilities		550,893	508,441	549,813	499,998
Net assets		1,316,267	1,237,400	1,237,608	1,160,796
EQUITY					
RMIT entity interest					
Reserves	30	589,606	595,572	548,554	548,554
Retained surplus	31	726,199	641,320	689,054	612,242
Total RMIT entity interest		1,315,805	1,236,892	1,237,608	1,160,796
Minority interest	32	462	508	—	—
Total equity		1,316,267	1,237,400	1,237,608	1,160,796

The above balance sheet should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Changes in Equity

for the year ended 31 December 2009

	Reserves \$'000	Retained Surplus \$'000	Minority Interest \$'000	Total \$'000
RMIT CONSOLIDATED ENTITY				
Balance at 1 January 2008	534,707	569,875	460	1,105,042
Balance as restated	534,707	569,875	460	1,105,042
Total comprehensive income				—
Parent entity	60,865	71,445	—	132,310
Minority interest	—	—	107	107
Total	60,865	71,445	107	132,417
Distributions to owners	—	—	(59)	(59)
Balance at 31 December 2008	595,572	641,320	508	1,237,400
Balance at 1 January 2009	595,572	641,320	508	1,237,400
Total comprehensive income				—
Parent entity	(5,966)	84,879	—	78,913
Minority interest	—	—	(46)	(46)
Total	(5,966)	84,879	(46)	78,867
Distributions to owners	—	—	—	—
Contributions from owners	—	—	—	—
Balance at 31 December 2009	589,606	726,199	462	1,316,267
PARENT ENTITY				
Balance at 1 January 2008	491,655	557,703	—	1,049,358
Balance as restated	491,655	557,703	—	1,049,358
Total comprehensive income				—
Parent entity	56,899	54,539	—	111,438
Minority interest	—	—	—	—
Total	56,899	54,539	—	111,438
Balance at 31 December 2008	548,554	612,242	—	1,160,796
Balance at 1 January 2009	548,554	612,242	—	1,160,796
Total comprehensive income				—
Parent entity	—	76,812	—	76,812
Total	—	76,812	—	76,812
Balance at 31 December 2009	548,554	689,054	—	1,237,608

The above Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 31 December 2009

		Consolidated		RMIT	
	Note	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Cash flows from operating activities					
Australian Government Grants received	3	349,206	287,423	349,206	287,423
State Government Grants received		74,546	70,185	74,546	70,185
HECS-HELP – Student payments		14,914	14,432	14,914	14,432
Receipts from student fees and other customers		367,325	336,720	305,481	270,781
Dividends received		1,592	758	1,188	51
Interest received		7,834	10,161	6,429	6,824
Receipt of GST from Australian Taxation Office		25,328	15,442	25,838	15,868
Payments to suppliers and employees (inclusive of GST)		(706,099)	(554,316)	(654,012)	(505,767)
Interest and other finance costs paid		(88)	(390)	–	–
Income tax paid		(1,011)	(1,754)	(801)	(1,541)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	35(b)	(133,547)	178,661	122,789	158,256
Cash flows from investing activities					
Proceeds from sale of financial assets		449	2,892	–	–
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment		532	561	532	576
Payments for financial assets		(1,173)	(1,539)	–	(685)
Payments for intangible assets		(152)	(153)	–	–
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(151,538)	(131,129)	(140,790)	(125,667)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		(151,882)	(129,368)	(140,258)	(125,776)
Cash flows from financing activities					
Dividends paid by controlled entities to outside equity interests		–	(59)	–	–
Repayment of borrowings		(5,052)	(2,888)	–	–
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities		(5,052)	(2,947)	–	–
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(23,387)	46,346	(17,469)	32,480
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		162,952	116,222	102,685	70,205
Effects of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents		(11,995)	384	–	–
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	35(a)	127,570	162,952	85,216	102,685

The above statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

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1 Summary of significant accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial report are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated. The financial report includes separate financial statements for Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) as an individual entity and the consolidated entity consisting of RMIT and its subsidiaries.

1.01 Basis of preparation

The financial report is a general purpose financial report which has been prepared on an accrual basis in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, AASB Interpretations, the requirements of the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and the Financial Management Act 1994 requirements.

Compliance with IFRS

Australian Accounting Standards include Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). The financial statements and notes comply with the Australian Accounting Standards, some of which contain requirements specific to not-for-profit entities that are inconsistent with IFRS requirements.

Historical cost convention

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of available-for-sale financial assets, financial assets and liabilities at fair value through equity and certain classes of property, plant and equipment and investment property.

Critical accounting estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Australian Accounting Standards requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. They also require management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying RMIT's accounting policies.

The areas involving a higher degree of judgement, complexity or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements, are disclosed below:

Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the group.

Key Estimates – Impairment

RMIT assesses impairment at each reporting date by evaluating conditions specific to the group that may lead to impairment of assets. Where an impairment trigger exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined. Value-in-use calculations performed in assessing recoverable amounts incorporate a number of key estimates.

Key Judgements – Provision for impaired receivables

Included in consolidated Accounts Receivable at 31 December 2009 are amounts receivable from customers and students amounting to \$27.010m (2008 – \$24.947m). The full amount of the debt is not recoverable and as such a doubtful debts provision amounting to \$4.187m (2008 – \$4.192m) has been set.

Comparative amounts

Where the presentation or reclassification of items in the financial report is amended, comparable amounts shall be reclassified unless reclassification is impracticable. When comparable amounts are reclassified, RMIT discloses:

- (a) the nature of the reclassification;
- (b) the amount of each item or class of items that is reclassified; and
- (c) the reason for the reclassification.

When it is impracticable to reclassify comparative amounts, RMIT discloses:

- (a) the reason for not reclassifying the amounts; and
- (b) the nature of the adjustments that would have been made, if the amounts had been reclassified.

1.02 Principles of consolidation

The consolidated financial statements incorporate the assets and liabilities of all subsidiaries of RMIT as at 31 December 2009 and the results of all subsidiaries for the year then ended. RMIT and its subsidiaries together are referred to in this financial report as the Group or the consolidated entity.

Subsidiaries are all those entities (including special purpose entities) over which the Group has the power to govern the financial and operating policies, generally accompanying a shareholding of more than one half of the voting rights. The existence and effect of potential voting rights that are currently exercisable or convertible are considered when assessing whether the Group controls another entity.

Subsidiaries are fully consolidated from the date on which control is transferred to the Group. They are de-consolidated from the date that control ceases.

Intercompany transactions, balances and unrealised gains on transactions between Group companies are eliminated. Unrealised losses are also eliminated unless the transaction provides evidence of the impairment of the asset transferred. Accounting policies of subsidiaries have been changed where necessary to ensure consistency with the policies adopted by the Group.

Minority interests in the results and equity of subsidiaries are shown separately in the consolidated income statement and balance sheet respectively.

1 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

1.03 Foreign currency translation

(i) Functional and presentation currency

Items included in the financial statements of each of the Group's entities are measured using the currency of the primary economic environment in which the entities operate ('the functional currency'). The consolidated financial statements are presented in Australian dollars, which is RMIT's functional and presentation currency.

(ii) Transactions and balances

Foreign currency transactions are translated into the functional currency using the exchange rates prevailing at the dates of the transactions. Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from the settlement of such transactions and from the translation at year-end exchange rates of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are recognised in the income statement except when they are deferred in equity as qualifying cash flow hedges and qualifying net investment hedges or are attributable to part of the net investment in a foreign operation.

Translation differences on non-monetary financial assets and liabilities are reported as part of the fair value gain or loss. Translation differences on non-monetary financial assets and liabilities, such as equities held at fair value, are recognised through the profit or loss as part of the fair value gain or loss. Translation differences on non-monetary financial assets, such as equities classified as available-for-sale financial assets, are included in the fair value reserve in equity.

(iii) Group companies

The results and financial position of all the Group entities (none of which has the currency of a hyperinflationary economy) that have a functional currency different from the presentation currency are translated into the presentation currency as follows:

- assets and liabilities for each balance sheet presented are translated at the closing rate at the date of that balance sheet;
- income and expenses for each operating statement are translated at average exchange rates (unless this is not a reasonable approximation of the cumulative effect of the rates prevailing on the transaction dates, in which case income and expenses are translated at the dates of the transactions); and
- all resulting exchange differences are recognised as a separate component of equity.

On consolidation, exchange differences arising from the translation of any net investment in foreign entities, and of borrowings and other financial instruments designated as hedges of such investments, are taken to equity. When a foreign operation is sold or any borrowings forming part of the net investment are repaid, a proportionate share of such exchange differences are recognised in the income statement as part of the gain or loss on sale where applicable.

1.04 Revenue recognition

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable. Amounts disclosed as revenue are net of returns, trade allowances, rebates and amounts collected on behalf of third parties.

The Group recognises revenue when the amount of revenue can be reliably measured, it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the Group and specific criteria have been met for each of the Group's activities as described below. The amount of revenue is not considered to be reliably measurable until all contingencies relating to the sale have been resolved. The group bases its estimates on historical results, taking into consideration the type of customer, the type of transaction and the specifics of each arrangement.

Revenue is recognised for the major business activities as follows:

(i) Government financial assistance

RMIT treats operating grants received from Australian Government entities as income in the year of receipt. Grants from the government are recognised at their fair value where the Group obtains control of the right to receive the grant, it is probable that economic benefits will flow to the Group and it can be reliably measured.

(ii) Fees and Charges

Fees and charges are recognised as income in the year of receipt, except to the extent that fees and charges relate to courses to be held in future periods. Such income is treated as income in advance in the statement of financial position. Conversely, fees and charges relating to current year courses are recognised as revenue in the income statement.

(iii) Investment income

Interest income is recognised as it accrues, taking into account the effective yield on the financial asset.

(iv) Fee for Service/Consulting

Contract revenue is recognised in accordance with the percentage of completion method. The stage of completion is measured by reference to labour hours incurred to date as a percentage of estimated total labour hours for each contract.

(v) Sale of non-current assets

The net profit or loss of non-current asset sales are included as revenue or expense at the date control of the asset passes to the purchaser, usually when an unconditional contract of sale is signed.

The gain or loss on disposal is calculated as the difference between the carrying amount of the asset at the time of disposal and the net proceeds on disposal.

(vi) Property rental (lease) income

Rental income from operating leases is recognised as income on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

(vii) Contribution of assets and donations

Contributions of assets and contributions to assist in the acquisition of assets, being non-reciprocal transfers, are recognised as revenue at the fair value of the asset received when the RMIT Consolidated Group gains control of the contribution.

1 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)**1.05 Income tax**

The income tax expense or revenue for the period is the tax payable on the current period's taxable income based on the national income tax rate for each jurisdiction adjusted by changes in deferred tax assets and liabilities attributable to temporary differences between the tax bases of assets and liabilities and their carrying amounts in the financial statements, and to unused tax losses.

Deferred income tax is provided in full, using the liability method, on temporary differences arising between the tax bases of assets and liabilities and their carrying amounts in the consolidated financial statements. However, the deferred income tax is not accounted for if it arises from initial recognition of an asset or liability in a transaction other than a business combination that at the time of the transaction affects neither accounting nor taxable profit or loss. Deferred income tax is determined using tax rates (and laws) that have been enacted or substantially enacted by the balance sheet date and are expected to apply when the related deferred income tax asset is realised or the deferred income tax liability is settled.

Deferred tax assets are recognised for deductible temporary differences and unused tax losses only if it is probable that future taxable amounts will be available to utilise those temporary differences and losses.

Deferred tax liabilities and assets are not recognised for temporary differences between the carrying amount and tax bases of investments in controlled entities where the parent entity is able to control the timing of the reversal of the temporary differences and it is probable that the differences will not reverse in the foreseeable future.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities relating to the same taxation authority are offset when there is a legally enforceable right to offset current tax assets and liabilities and they are intended to be either settled on a net basis, or the asset is to be realised and the liability settled simultaneously.

Current and deferred tax balances attributable to amounts recognised directly in equity are also recognised directly in equity.

1.06 Leases

Leases in which a significant portion of the risks and rewards of ownership are retained by the lessor are classified as operating leases - note 34b. Payments made under operating leases (net of any incentives received from the lessor) are charged to the operating statement on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

Lease income from operating leases is recognised as income on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

1.07 Business combinations

The purchase method of accounting is used to account for all business combinations, including business combinations involving entities or businesses under common control, regardless of whether equity instruments or other assets are acquired. Cost is measured as the fair value of the assets given, equity instruments issued or liabilities incurred or assumed at the date of exchange plus costs directly attributable to the acquisition. Where equity instruments are issued in an acquisition, the fair value of the instruments is their published market price as at the date of exchange unless, in rare circumstances, it can be demonstrated that the published price at the date of exchange is an unreliable indicator of fair value and that other evidence and valuation methods provide a more reliable measure of fair value. Transaction costs arising on the issue of equity instruments are recognised directly in equity.

Identifiable assets acquired and liabilities and contingent liabilities assumed in a business combination are measured initially at their fair values at the acquisition date, irrespective of the extent of any minority interest. The excess of the cost of acquisition over the fair value of the Group's share of the identifiable net assets acquired is recorded as goodwill (refer to note 1.17). If the cost of acquisition is less than the fair value of the identifiable net assets of the subsidiary acquired, the difference is recognised directly in the income statement, but only after a reassessment of the identification and measurement of the net assets acquired.

Where settlement of any part of cash consideration is deferred, the amounts payable in the future are discounted to their present value as at the date of exchange. The discount rate used is the Group's incremental borrowing rate, being the rate at which a similar borrowing could be obtained from an independent financier under comparable terms and conditions.

1.08 Impairment of assets

Goodwill and intangible assets that have an indefinite useful life are not subject to amortisation and are tested annually for impairment. Other assets are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use. For the purposes of assessing impairment, assets are grouped at the lowest levels for which there are separately identifiable cash flows which are largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets (cash generating units). Non-financial assets other than goodwill that suffered an impairment are reviewed for possible reversal of the impairment at each reporting date.

1.09 Cash and cash equivalents

For cash flow statement presentation purposes, cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with financial institutions, other short-term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value, and bank overdrafts.

1 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

1.10 Receivables

Trade receivables are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. Trade receivables are due for settlement no more than 120 days from the date of recognition for land development and resale debtors, and no more than 30 days for other debtors.

Collectibility of trade receivables is reviewed on an ongoing basis. Debts which are known to be uncollectible are written off. A provision for impairment of receivables is established when there is objective evidence that the Group will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of receivables. Significant financial difficulties of the debtor, probability that the debtor will enter bankruptcy or financial reorganisation, and default or delinquency in payments (more than 30 days overdue) are considered indicators that the trade receivable is impaired. The amount of the provision is the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows, discounted at the effective interest rate. Cash flows relating to short-term receivable are not discounted if the effect of discounting is immaterial. The amount of the provision is recognised in the income statement.

The carrying amount of the asset is reduced through the use of an allowance account and the amount of the loss is recognised in the income statement within 'Bad and doubtful debts'. When a trade receivable is uncollectible, it is written off against the allowance account for trade receivables. Subsequent recoveries of amounts previously written off are credited against 'Bad and doubtful debts' in the income statement.

The percentage provided for by aged receivable category is as follows:

	2009	2008
181 to 270 days	40%	40%
271 to 365 days	50%	50%
over 366 days	100%	100%

No provision is made for receivables from government, education and training sectors.

1.11 Inventories

Stock

Raw materials and stores, work in progress and finished goods are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost comprises direct materials, direct labour and an appropriate proportion of variable and fixed overhead expenditure, the latter being allocated on the basis of normal operating capacity. Costs are assigned to individual items of inventory on the basis of weighted average costs. Costs of purchased inventory are determined after deducting rebates and discounts. Net realisable value is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of business less the estimated costs of completion and the estimated costs necessary to make the sale.

Work in Progress

Services:

Valuation of Work in Progress — Services is based on the number of hours charged to project milestones in respect of incomplete and unbilled milestones. These hours are calculated at the average labour cost per billable hour, including on-costs, for the final quarter of the year. An allowance of 10% has been deducted for potential project overruns.

Products:

Valuation of Work in Progress — Products is based on the number of hours charged to project milestones net of budget overruns. These hours are valued at the average direct cost per billable hour.

1.12 Non-current assets (or disposal groups) held for sale

Non-current assets (or disposal groups) are classified as held for sale and stated at the lower of their carrying amount and fair value less costs to sell if their carrying amount will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than through continuing use.

An impairment loss is recognised for any initial or subsequent write down of the asset (or disposal group) to fair value less costs to sell. A gain is recognised for any subsequent increases in fair value less costs to sell of an asset (or disposal group), but not in excess of any cumulative impairment loss previously recognised. A gain or loss not previously taken up by the date of the sale of the non current asset (or disposal group) is recognised at the date of de-recognition.

Non-current assets (including those that are part of a disposal group) are not depreciated or amortised while they are classified as held for sale. Interest and other expenses attributable to the liabilities of a disposal group classified as held for sale continue to be recognised.

Non-current assets classified as held for sale and the assets of a disposal group classified as held for sale are presented separately from the other assets in the balance sheet. The liabilities of a disposal group classified as held for sale are presented separately from other liabilities in the balance sheet.

1.13 Investments and other financial assets

Classification

The Group classifies its investments in the following categories: financial assets at fair value through profit or loss, loans and receivables, held-to-maturity investments, and available-for-sale financial assets. The classification depends on the purpose for which the investments were acquired. Management determines the classification of its investments at initial recognition and, in the case of assets classified as held-to-maturity, re-evaluates this designation at each reporting date.

(i) Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss include financial assets held for trading. A financial asset is classified in this category if acquired principally for the purpose of selling in the short term. Derivatives are classified as held for trading unless they are designated as hedges. Assets in this category are classified as current assets.

(ii) Loans and receivables

Loans and receivables are non derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. They are included in current assets, except for those with maturities greater than 12 months after the balance sheet date which are classified as non-current assets. Loans and receivables are included in receivables in the balance sheet.

1 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

1.13 Investments and other financial assets (continued)

(iii) Available-for-sale financial assets

Available-for-sale financial assets, comprising principally marketable equity securities, are non-derivatives that are either designated in this category or not classified in any of the other categories. They are included in non-current assets unless management intends to dispose of the investment within 12 months of the balance sheet date.

Regular purchases and sales of financial assets are recognised on trade-date — the date on which the Group commits to purchase or sell the asset. Investments are initially recognised at fair value plus transaction costs for all financial assets not carried at fair value through profit or loss. Financial assets carried at fair value through profit or loss are initially recognised at fair value and transaction costs are expensed in the income statement. Financial assets are derecognised when the rights to receive cash flows from the financial assets have expired or have been transferred and the Group has transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership.

When securities classified as available-for-sale are sold, the accumulated fair value adjustments recognised in equity are included in the income statement as gains and losses from investment securities.

Subsequent measurement

Available-for-sale financial assets and financial assets at fair value through profit and loss are subsequently carried at fair value. Loans and receivables and held-to-maturity investments are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Gains or losses arising from changes in the fair value of the 'financial assets at fair value through profit or loss' category are included in the income statement within other income or other expenses in the period in which they arise.

Changes in the fair value of monetary security denominated in a foreign currency and classified as available-for-sale are analysed between translation differences resulting from changes in amortised cost of the security and other changes in the carrying amount of the security. The translation differences related to changes in the amortised cost are recognised in profit or loss, and other changes in carrying amount are recognised in equity. Changes in the fair value of other monetary and non-monetary securities classified as available-for-sale are recognised in equity.

Fair Value

The fair values of quoted investments are based on current bid prices. If the market for a financial asset is not active (and for unlisted securities), the Group establishes fair value by using valuation techniques. These include reference to the fair values of recent arm's length transactions, involving the same instruments or other instruments that are substantially the same, discounted cash flow analysis, and option pricing models refined to reflect the issuer's specific circumstances.

Impairment

The Group assesses at each balance date whether there is objective evidence that a financial asset or group of financial assets is impaired. In the case of equity securities classified as available-for-sale, a significant or prolonged decline in the fair value of a security below its cost is considered in determining whether the security is impaired. If any such evidence exists for available-for-sale financial assets, the cumulative loss — measured as the difference between the acquisition cost and the current fair value, less any impairment loss on that financial asset previously recognised in profit and loss — is removed from equity and recognised in the income statement. Impairment losses recognised in the income statement on equity instruments are not reversed through the income statement. In applying AASB 139, two tests have been considered in determining whether the impairment entries are to be taken to equity: i. the decline is "substantial" (more than 20% below investment cost) and ii. "prolonged" (more than 12 months in that state). Failure to meet either test would require the impairment to be charged to the profit and loss.

1.14 Fair value estimation

The fair value of financial assets and financial liabilities must be estimated for recognition and measurement or for disclosure purposes.

The fair value of financial instruments traded in active markets (such as publicly traded derivatives, and trading and available-for-sale securities) is based on quoted market prices at the balance sheet date. The quoted market price used for financial assets held by the Group is the current bid price.

The fair value of financial instruments that are not traded in an active market (for example, over-the-counter derivatives) is determined using valuation techniques. The Group uses a variety of methods and makes assumptions that are based on market conditions existing at each balance date. Quoted market prices or dealer quotes for similar instruments are used for long-term debt instruments held. Other techniques, such as estimated discounted cash flows, are used to determine fair value for the remaining financial instruments. The fair value of interest-rate swaps is calculated as the present value of the estimated future cash flows. The fair value of forward exchange contracts is determined using forward exchange market rates at the balance sheet date.

The carrying value less impairment provision of trade receivables and payables are assumed to approximate their fair values due to their short-term nature. The fair value of financial liabilities for disclosure purposes is estimated by discounting the future contractual cash flows at the current market interest rate that is available to the Group for similar financial instruments.

1.15 Property, plant and equipment

Land and buildings are shown at fair value, based on periodic, but at least triennial, valuations by external independent valuers, less subsequent depreciation for buildings. Any accumulated depreciation at the date of revaluation is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the net amount is restated to the revalued amount of the asset.

All other property, plant and equipment is relatively low in value, but represents a large proportion of the total volume of assets. Such assets are acquired and disposed of frequently, have short depreciable lives and subject to impairment tests as applicable. There is no such evidence to indicate a fair value significantly different from depreciated cost and depreciated cost represents a reasonable approximation of fair value. An assessment is to be documented, and reconfirmed in the five-year cycle with the next revaluation due to occur in 2012.

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the Group and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other repairs and maintenance are charged to the income statement during the financial period in which they are incurred.

1 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

1.15 Property, plant and equipment (continued)

Increases in the carrying amounts arising on revaluation of land and buildings are recognised, net of tax, in other comprehensive income and accumulated in equity under the heading of revaluation surplus. To the extent that the increase reverses a decrease previously recognised in profit or loss, the increase is first recognised in profit and loss. Decreases that reverse previous increases of the same asset are also firstly recognised in other comprehensive income before reducing the balance of revaluation surpluses in equity, to the extent of the remaining reserve attributable to the asset; all other decreases are charged to the income statement. Upon disposal, any revaluation reserve relating to the particular asset being sold is transferred out to retained earnings.

An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with carrying amounts. These are included in the income statement. When revalued assets are sold, it is Group policy to transfer the amounts included in other reserves in respect of those assets to retained earnings.

Land and works of art are not depreciated. Depreciation on other assets is calculated using the straight-line method to allocate their cost or revalued amounts, net of their residual values, over their estimated useful lives, as follows:

	2009	2008
	Years	Years
Buildings	25 - 100	25 - 100
Plant, equipment, furniture and fitting and motor vehicles	3 - 20	3 - 20
Leasehold improvements	2 - 51	2 - 50
Computer equipment	4	4
Library collections	10	10

The capitalisation threshold for plant, equipment, computers, motor vehicles and furniture and fittings to be recognised as an asset is \$2,000 (2008 – \$2,000). The library collections are capitalised on an individual unit basis as they are considered to be significant in value as a collective group.

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each balance sheet date.

1.16 Leasehold improvements

The cost of improvements to or on leasehold properties is amortised over the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful life of the improvement to the RMIT Consolidated Group, whichever is the shorter.

1.17 Intangible assets

(i) Research and development

Expenditure on research activities is recognised in the income statement as an expense, when it is incurred.

Expenditure on development activities, relating to the design and testing of new or improved products, are recognised as intangible assets when it is probable that the project will, after considering its commercial and technical feasibility, be completed and generate future economic benefits and its costs can be measured reliably. The expenditure capitalised comprises all directly attributable costs, including costs of materials, services, direct labour and an appropriate proportion of overheads. Other development expenditure is recognised in the income statement as an expense as incurred. Development costs previously recognised as an expense are not recognised as an asset in a subsequent period. Capitalised development expenditure is recorded as intangible assets and amortised from the point at which the asset is ready for use. Amortisation is calculated using the straight-line method to allocate the cost over the period of the expected benefit, which varies from 4 to 20 years.

(ii) Goodwill

Goodwill represents the excess of the cost of an acquisition over the fair value of the Group's share of the net identifiable assets of the acquired subsidiary/associate at the date of acquisition. Goodwill on acquisitions of subsidiaries is included in intangible assets. Goodwill on acquisitions of associates is included in investments in associates. Goodwill is not amortised. Instead, goodwill is tested for impairment annually, and is carried at cost less accumulated impairment losses. Gains and losses on the disposal of an entity include the carrying amount of goodwill relating to the entity sold.

Goodwill is allocated to cash-generating units for the purposes of impairment testing. Each of those cash-generating units represents the Group's investment in each country of operation by each primary reporting segment.

(iii) Intellectual property, trademarks and licences

Trademarks and licences have a finite useful life and are carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and impairment losses. Amortisation is calculated using the straight-line method to allocate the cost of trademarks and licences over their estimated useful lives, which vary from 4 to 20 years.

1.18 Unfunded superannuation

In accordance with the 1998 instructions issued by the Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs (DETYA) now known as the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), the effects of the unfunded superannuation liabilities of RMIT and its subsidiaries were recorded in the income statement and the balance sheet for the first time in 1998. The prior years' practice had been to disclose liabilities by way of a note to the financial statements.

1 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)**1.18 Unfunded superannuation (continued)**

The unfunded liabilities recorded in the balance sheet under provisions have been determined by actuary of the Victorian Government Superannuation Office and relate to the estimates of net liabilities at 30 June 2009. The methodology of measurement of the net liabilities is based on the following actuarial assumptions:

	2009	2008
Economic		
Discount Rate	5.7% pa	6.54% pa
Salary increase rate	4% pa	4% pa
Pension Indexation	2.5% pa	3.5% pa for 2008/2009 3.0% pa for 2009/2010 2.5% pa thereafter
Investment Return on Fund Assets Supporting Pension Liabilities	8.0% pa (net of fees)	8.0% pa (net of fees)

An arrangement exists between the Australian Government and the State Government to meet the unfunded liability for RMIT's beneficiaries of the State Superannuation Scheme on an emerging cost basis. This arrangement is evidenced by the State Grants (General Revenue) Amendment Act 1987, Higher Education Funding Act 1988 and subsequent amending legislation. Accordingly, the unfunded liabilities have been recognised in the Balance Sheet under Provisions with a corresponding asset recognised under Receivables. The recognition of both the asset and the liability consequently does not affect the year end net asset position of RMIT.

1.19 Trade and other creditors

These amounts represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Group prior to the end of financial year which are unpaid. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

1.20 Borrowings

Borrowings are initially recognised at fair value, net of transaction costs incurred. Borrowings are subsequently measured at amortised cost. Any difference between the proceeds (net of transaction costs) and the redemption amount is recognised in the income statement over the period of the borrowings using the effective interest method. Fees paid on the establishment of loan facilities, which are not an incremental cost relating to the actual draw-down of the facility, are recognised as prepayments and amortised on a straight-line basis over the term of the facility.

Borrowings are removed from the balance sheet when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expired. The difference between the carrying amount of a financial liability that has been extinguished or transferred to another party and the consideration paid, including any non-cash assets transferred or liabilities assumed, is recognised in other income or other expenses.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the Group has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the balance sheet date.

1.21 Borrowing costs

Finance costs incurred for the construction of any qualifying asset are expensed as incurred in accordance with Financial Reporting Directive 105. All other borrowing costs are also expensed.

1.22 Provisions

Provisions for legal claims are recognised when the Group has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events, it is probable that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation and the amount has been reliably estimated. Provisions are not recognised for future operating losses.

Where there are a number of similar obligations, the likelihood that an outflow will be required in settlement is determined by considering the class of obligations as a whole. A provision is recognised even if the likelihood of an outflow with respect to any one item included in the same class of obligations may be small.

Provisions are measured at the present value of management's best estimate of the expenditure required to settle the present obligation at the balance sheet date. The discount rate used to determine the present value reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the liability. The increase in the provision due to the passage of time is recognised as a finance cost.

1.23 Employee benefits

Provision is made for employee benefits and on-costs accumulated as a result of employees rendering services up to the reporting date. These benefits include wages and salaries, annual leave and long service leave.

(i) Wages and salaries, annual leave and sick leave

Liabilities for wages and salaries, including non-monetary benefits and annual leave expected to be settled within 12 months of the reporting date are recognised in provisions in respect of employees' services up to the reporting date and are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled using the remuneration rates expected to apply at the time of settlement. Liabilities for non-accumulating sick leave are recognised when the leave is taken and measured at the rates paid or payable.

Amounts expected to be settled more than 12 months after the reporting date are measured at the present value of amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement.

Annual leave has been calculated on an individual liability basis based on salary rates when the leave is expected to be taken as per AASB 119 'Employee Benefits' and includes related on-costs. Provisions made in respect of annual leave expected to be settled within 12 months are measured at their nominal values using the salary rate and related on-cost expected to apply at the time of settlement. Provisions made in respect of annual leave which are not expected to be settled within 12 months are measured at their present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made by the University in respect of services provided by employees up to the balance date.

1 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

1.23 Employee benefits (continued)

(ii) Long service leave

The provision for employee entitlements to long service leave represents the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made by the employer resulting from employees' services provided up to the balance date. Provisions for employee entitlements which are not expected to be settled within 12 months are discounted using interest rates applicable to Australian Government Securities at balance date, which most closely match the terms of maturity of the related liabilities. In determining the provision for employee entitlements, consideration has been given to future increases in wage and salary rates, and the consolidated entity's experience with staff departures. Related on-costs have also been included in the liability.

Where an employee is presently entitled to payment of their long service leave entitlement and the group has no right to defer payment, the provision is shown as a current liability.

(iii) Retirement benefit obligations

All employees of the Group are entitled to benefits on retirement, disability or death from the Group's superannuation plans. The Group plans are either a defined benefit scheme or a defined contribution scheme. The defined benefit scheme provides defined lump sum benefits based on years of service and final average salary. The defined contribution scheme receives fixed contributions from Group and the Group's legal or constructive obligation is limited to these contributions.

A liability or asset in respect of defined benefit superannuation plans is recognised in the balance sheet, and is measured as the present value of the defined benefit obligation at the reporting date less the fair value of the superannuation fund's assets at that date and any unrecognised past service cost. The present value of the defined benefit obligation is based on expected future payments which arise from membership of the fund to the reporting date, calculated annually by independent actuaries using the projected unit credit method. Consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures and periods of service.

Expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the reporting date on national government bonds with terms to maturity and currency that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

Actuarial gains and losses arising from experience and adjustments and changes in actuarial assumptions are recognised in the period in which they occur, outside the income statement directly in the statement of changes in equity.

Past service costs are recognised immediately in income, unless the changes to the superannuation fund are conditional on the employees remaining in service for a specified period of time (the vesting period). In this case, the past service costs are amortised on a straight-line basis over the vesting period.

Contributions to the defined contribution fund are recognised as an expense as they become payable. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that a cash refund or a reduction in the future payments is available.

Further details are provided in Note 38.

(iv) Termination Benefits

Termination benefits are payable when employment is terminated before the normal retirement date, or when an employee accepts voluntary redundancy in exchange for these benefits. The Group recognises termination benefits when it is demonstrably committed to either terminating the employment of current employees according to a detailed formal plan without possibility of withdrawal or providing termination benefits as a result of an offer made to encourage voluntary redundancy. Benefits falling due more than 12 months after balance date are discounted to present value.

(v) Employee benefit on-costs

Employee benefit on-costs, including payroll tax and workcover, are recognised and included in employee benefit liabilities and costs when the employee benefits to which they relate are recognised as liabilities.

1.24 Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of associated GST, unless the GST incurred is not recoverable from the taxation authority. In this case it is recognised as part of the cost acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense.

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included with other receivables or payables in the balance sheet.

Cash flows are included in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority are classified as operating cash flows.

Commitments are recorded inclusive of GST — refer note 34.

1.25 Insurance

The RMIT Consolidated Group specifically carries the following types of insurance:

- property;
- fidelity (crime);
- professional indemnity;
- general liability;
- travel/personal accident;
- directors and officers;
- workers' compensation; and
- other insurance from time to time.

For those risks where RMIT Consolidated Group has no insurance, any losses are charged to the operating statement in the year in which the loss is reported.

1 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

1.26 Rounding of amounts

The Group is of a kind referred to in Class order 98/0100 as amended by Class order 04/667, issued by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission, relating to the 'rounding off' of amounts in the financial report. Amounts in the financial report have been rounded off in accordance with that Class Order to the nearest thousand dollars, or in certain cases, the nearest dollar.

1.27 New Accounting Standards and Interpretations

At the date of authorisation of the financial report, the Standards and Interpretations listed below were issued but not yet effective.

Initial application of the following Standards and Interpretations is not expected to have any material impact on the financial report of the Group and the Company:

Standard/Interpretation	Effective for annual reporting period beginning on or after	Expected to be initially applied in the financial year ending
AASB 3 'Business Combinations' (revised)	1 July 2009	31 December 2010
AASB 127 'Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements' (revised)	1 July 2009	31 December 2010
AASB 2008-3 'Amendments arising from the revisions to AASB 3 and AASB 127'	1 July 2009	31 December 2010
AASB 2008-11 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standard – Business Combinations Among Not-for-Profit Entities'	1 July 2009	31 December 2010

2 Disaggregation information

(a) Industries

Operating revenue and expenses for the Higher Education and TAFE divisions of the university are shown in the following tables. The figures refer only to the RMIT University – consolidated totals are not included.

	Higher Education 2009 \$'000	TAFE 2009 \$'000	Total RMIT 2009 \$'000	Higher Education 2008 \$'000	TAFE 2008 \$'000	Total RMIT 2008 \$'000
(i) Income Statement						
Income from continuing operations						
Australian Government financial assistance						
Australian Government grants	238,227	190	238,417	209,634	199	209,833
HECS-HELP – Australian Government payments	80,340	–	80,340	75,686	–	75,686
FEE-HELP	21,604	–	21,604	19,068	–	19,068
VET FEE-HELP	–	113	113	–	–	–
State and Local Government financial assistance	25	72,276	72,301	1,100	67,248	68,348
HECS-HELP – Student Payments	14,914	–	14,914	14,432	–	14,432
Fees and charges	209,193	45,571	254,764	183,182	42,292	225,474
Investment income	5,060	1,436	6,496	7,592	1,149	8,741
Consultancy and contracts	29,633	2,519	32,152	29,045	2,033	31,078
Other revenue and income	21,169	4,644	25,813	12,228	1,650	13,878
Total revenue from continuing operations	620,165	126,749	746,914	551,967	114,571	666,538
Deferred government superannuation contributions	38,642	–	38,642	11,971	–	11,971
Total revenue from continuing operations	658,807	126,749	785,556	563,938	114,571	678,509
Expenses from continuing operations						
Employee related expenses	335,667	86,213	421,880	310,740	77,314	388,054
Depreciation and amortisation	31,731	5,753	37,484	26,034	4,923	30,957
Repairs and maintenance	8,593	1,930	10,523	7,994	1,626	9,620
Finance costs	821	–	821	1,151	172	1,323
Bad and doubtful debts	5,016	982	5,998	3,355	(40)	3,315
Other expenses	162,865	29,860	192,725	149,811	26,796	176,607
Total expenses from continuing operations	544,693	124,738	669,431	499,085	110,791	609,876
Deferred employee benefits for superannuation	38,642	–	38,642	11,971	–	11,971
Total expenses from continuing operations	583,335	124,738	708,073	511,056	110,791	621,847
Operating result before income tax	75,472	2,011	77,483	52,882	3,780	56,662
Income tax expense	550	121	671	1,826	298	2,124
Operating result after income tax for the period	74,922	1,890	76,812	51,056	3,482	54,538
(ii) Statement of Comprehensive Income						
Operating result after income tax for the period	74,922	1,890	76,812	51,056	3,482	54,538
Gain/(loss) on revaluation of land and building, net of tax			–	38,548	18,351	56,899
Total comprehensive income	74,922	1,890	76,812	89,604	21,833	111,437

	Higher Education 2009 \$'000	TAFE 2009 \$'000	Total RMIT 2009 \$'000	Higher Education 2008 \$'000	TAFE 2008 \$'000	Total RMIT 2008 \$'000
(iii) Balance sheet						
ASSETS						
Current assets						
Cash and cash equivalents	68,267	16,949	85,216	86,795	15,890	102,685
Receivables	61,042	4,616	65,658	57,325	5,360	62,685
Other non-financial assets	5,151	839	5,990	5,720	987	6,707
Total current assets	134,460	22,404	156,864	149,840	22,237	172,077
Non-current assets						
Receivables	298,000	–	298,000	257,395	–	257,395
Property, plant and equipment	1,056,486	273,577	1,330,063	964,003	264,625	1,228,628
Deferred tax asset	–	–	–	–	–	–
Other financial assets	2,494	–	2,494	2,694	–	2,694
Total non-current assets	1,356,980	273,577	1,630,557	1,224,092	264,625	1,488,717
Total assets	1,491,440	295,981	1,787,421	1,373,932	286,862	1,660,794
LIABILITIES						
Current liabilities						
Trade and other payables	51,168	11,670	62,838	68,757	10,154	78,911
Borrowings	28,699	–	28,699	27,208	–	27,208
Provisions	81,364	14,861	96,225	80,244	11,365	91,609
Current tax liabilities	3,477	131	3,608	3,738	–	3,738
Other liabilities	45,364	7,156	52,520	26,336	4,412	30,748
Total current liabilities	210,072	33,818	243,890	206,283	25,931	232,214
Non-current liabilities						
Provisions	303,990	1,933	305,923	265,201	2,583	267,784
Total non-current liabilities	303,990	1,933	305,923	265,201	2,583	267,784
Total liabilities	514,062	35,751	549,813	471,484	28,514	499,998
Net assets	977,378	260,230	1,237,608	902,448	258,348	1,160,796
EQUITY						
RMIT entity interest						
Reserves	392,027	156,527	548,554	392,027	156,527	548,554
Retained surplus	585,351	103,703	689,054	510,421	101,821	612,242
Total equity	977,378	260,230	1,237,608	902,448	258,348	1,160,796

The allocation of assets and liabilities to the Higher Education or TAFE Divisions is made on the following basis:

Cash assets

Bank accounts specifically established for either the Higher Education or TAFE Division have been so allocated to that Division, with all other account balances allocated on a proportional basis.

Receivables

Receivables directly attributable to either Higher Education or TAFE Division have been so applied and all other trade debtors have been allocated on a proportional basis.

Other financial assets

These are allocated between either the Higher Education or TAFE Division based on their direct relationship to the Division established at the time of acquisition of the asset.

Other assets

These are allocated to either the Higher Education or TAFE Division based on the nature of the asset and its relevance to the Division.

Property, plant and equipment

These are attributed to either the Higher Education or TAFE Division based on RMIT's fixed asset register and their direct relationship to the Division established at the time of acquisition.

Payables

Accounts payable directly attributable to either Higher Education or TAFE Division have been so applied. All other accounts payable have been allocated on a proportional basis.

Interest bearing liabilities

The interest bearing loan facility solely relates to the Higher Education Division.

Provisions

Provisions have been attributed to either the Higher Education or TAFE Division as follows:

- directly to the appropriate Division in relation to the teaching and administrative staff operating within each Division;
- administrative support staff not directly operating within the teaching departments have been allocated on a proportional basis; and
- a small number of teaching and administrative staff who operate across the two divisions within the teaching departments have been solely allocated to the area in which they predominantly operate, as it is impractical to determine their proportional contribution to each division.

Revenue in advance

Revenue in advance directly attributable to either Higher Education or TAFE Division has been so applied, while all other revenue in advance has been allocated on a proportional basis.

(b) RMIT Consolidated Entity	Total Revenue		Net Operating Results		Total Assets	
Geographical	2009	2009	2009	2008	2008	2008
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Australia	811,490	712,753	76,132	62,750	1,822,842	1,698,026
South East Asia	40,270	34,788	8,893	8,177	44,318	47,815
	815,760	747,541	85,025	70,927	1,867,160	1,745,841

	Note	Consolidated		RMIT	
		2009	2008	2009	2008
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
3	Australian Government financial assistance				
	including HECS-HELP and FEE-HELP				
	(a) Commonwealth Grants Scheme and Other Grants	41.1			
	Commonwealth Grants Scheme	142,076	135,016	142,076	135,016
	Indigenous Support Program	310	273	310	273
	Equity Support Program	191	242	191	242
	Disability Support Program	184	190	184	190
	Workplace Reform Program	1,613	1,587	1,613	1,587
	Workplace Productivity Program	667	567	667	567
	Learning and Teaching Performance Fund	1,951	—	1,951	—
	Capital Development Pool	1,021	—	1,021	—
	Diversity and Structural Adjustment Fund	285	256	285	256
	Improving the Practical Component of Teacher Education Initiative	340	369	340	369
	Transitional Cost Program	1,138	1,453	1,138	1,453
	Total Commonwealth Grants Scheme and Other Grants	149,776	139,953	149,776	139,953
	(b) Higher Education Loan Programs	41.2			
	HECS-HELP	80,340	75,686	80,340	75,686
	FEE-HELP	21,604	19,068	21,604	19,068
	VET FEE-HELP	113	—	113	—
	Total Higher Education Loan Programs	102,057	94,754	102,057	94,754
	(c) Scholarships	41.3			
	Australian Postgraduate Awards	2,944	2,439	2,944	2,439
	International Postgraduate Research Scholarships	462	592	462	592
	Commonwealth Education Cost Scholarships	1,574	1,295	1,574	1,295
	Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarships	1,632	1,379	1,632	1,379
	Indigenous Access Scholarships	50	29	50	29
	Total Scholarships	6,662	5,734	6,662	5,734
	(d) DIISR – Research	41.4			
	Institutional Grants Scheme	5,243	5,224	5,243	5,224
	Research Training Scheme	14,187	13,963	14,187	13,963
	Research Infrastructure Block Grants	1,669	1,650	1,669	1,650
	Implementation Assistance Program	139	140	139	140
	Australian Scheme for Higher Education Repositories	244	320	244	320
	Commercialisation Training Scheme	131	127	131	127
	Total DIISR – Research Grants	21,613	21,424	21,613	21,424
	(e) Voluntary Student Unionism	41.5			
	VSU Transition Fund	267	233	267	233
	Total VSU	267	233	267	233
	(f) Other Capital Funding	41.6			
	Better Universities Renewal Funding	—	14,430	—	14,430
	Teaching and Learning Capital Fund	16,721	—	16,721	—
	Total Other Capital Funding	16,721	14,430	16,721	14,430

		Consolidated		RMIT	
	Note	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
(g) Australian Research Council	41.7				
(i) Discovery	41.7(a)				
Project		3,325	2,124	3,325	2,124
Fellowships		620	329	620	329
Total Discovery		3,945	2,453	3,945	2,453
(ii) Linkages	41.7(b)				
Infrastructure		550	–	550	–
International		6	106	6	106
Projects		3,425	3,622	3,425	3,622
Total Linkages		3,981	3,728	3,981	3,728
(h) Other Australian Government financial assistance					
Superannuation Supplementation		20,343	21,348	20,343	21,348
Other		15,109	530	15,109	530
Total other Australian Government financial assistance		35,452	21,878	35,452	21,878
Total Australian Government financial assistance		340,474	304,587	340,474	304,587
Reconciliation					
Australian Government grants [a + c + d + e + f + g + h]		238,417	209,833	238,417	209,833
HECS-HELP – Australian Government payments		80,340	75,686	80,340	75,686
FEE-HELP payments		21,604	19,068	21,604	19,068
VET FEE-HELP payments		113	–	113	–
Total Australian Government financial assistance		340,474	304,587	340,474	304,587
(i) Australian Government Grants received – cash basis					
CGS and Other DEEWR Grants		149,167	137,570	149,167	135,570
Higher Education Loan Programs		102,719	92,611	102,719	92,611
Scholarships		6,662	5,705	6,662	5,705
DIIISR research		21,613	21,424	21,613	21,424
Voluntary Student Unionism		267	233	267	233
Other Capital Funding		16,721	–	16,721	–
ARC grants – Discovery		3,945	2,453	3,945	2,453
ARC grants – Linkages		3,981	3,728	3,981	3,728
Other Australian Government Grants		23,871	1,984	23,871	1,984
Total Australian Government Grants received – cash basis		328,946	263,708	328,946	263,708
OS-Help (Net)		350	67	350	67
Superannuation Supplementation		19,910	23,648	19,910	23,648
Total Australian Government funding received – cash basis		349,206	287,423	349,206	287,423
4 State and Local Government financial assistance					
Recurrent grants		66,760	61,707	66,760	61,707
Capital grants		4,314	2,997	4,314	2,997
Other grants		1,227	3,732	1,227	3,644
Total State and Local Government financial assistance		72,301	68,436	72,301	68,348

	Note	Consolidated		RMIT	
		2009	2008	2009	2008
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
5 Fees and charges					
Course fees and charges					
Fee paying overseas students		259,901	226,128	203,664	178,092
Continuing education		16,531	12,478	16,538	12,571
Fee paying domestic postgraduate students		10,091	8,239	10,091	8,239
Fee paying domestic undergraduate students		9,794	12,197	9,794	12,197
Fee paying domestic non-award students		3,018	3,764	3,018	3,764
Other domestic course fees and charges		3,610	2,706	2,127	2,038
Total course fees and charges		302,945	265,512	245,232	216,901
Other non-course fees and charges					
Amenities and service fees		4,548	4,412	4,117	4,023
Late fees		162	168	162	168
Library fines		60	83	60	83
Registration fees		329	285	329	285
Other fees and charges		2,183	4,210	4,864	4,014
Total other fees and charges		7,282	9,158	9,532	8,573
Total fees and charges		310,226	274,670	254,764	225,474
6 Investment revenue and income					
Interest		6,555	12,170	5,308	8,680
Dividends		1,592	793	1,188	61
Total investment revenue		8,147	12,963	6,496	8,741
7 Consultancy and contracts					
Consultancy		13,782	15,498	10,370	11,459
Contract research					
Commonwealth Government		10,682	8,669	10,661	8,669
Victorian State Government		1,922	1,976	1,881	1,976
Local Government		323	307	323	307
Industry and other		9,002	8,020	8,081	7,661
Total contract research		21,929	18,972	20,946	18,613
Other contract revenue					
Seminar and conference fees		704	903	704	902
Project management services		–	55	–	–
Service fees		545	498	132	104
Total other contract revenue		1,249	1,456	836	1,006
Total consultancy and contract		36,961	35,926	32,152	31,078
8 Other revenue					
Donations and bequests		3,267	1,106	5,944	879
Scholarships and prizes		1,252	1,003	1,252	1,003
Product sales		13,227	10,057	4,313	2,880
Property rental		5,978	5,706	7,079	6,180
Foreign exchange gains		368	2,606	332	400
Net gain on disposal of property, plant and equipment	16	–	85	–	92
Supplier rebate		240	182	240	182
Other		5,763	3,811	6,653	2,262
Total other revenue		30,095	24,556	25,813	13,878

	Note	Consolidated		RMIT	
		2009	2008	2009	2008
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
9	Employee related expenses				
	Academic				
	Salaries	201,616	182,619	176,075	164,191
	Contributions to superannuation and pension schemes:				
	Emerging cost	38 (i)	17,757	16,188	17,757
	Funded		24,273	22,079	24,058
	Payroll tax		10,712	8,443	10,461
	Workers compensation		1,127	1,739	1,079
	Long service leave expense		4,788	3,566	4,783
	Annual leave expense		13,569	11,507	13,547
	Total academic	273,842	246,141	247,760	227,230
	Non-academic				
	Salaries	137,102	123,844	125,791	113,907
	Contributions to superannuation and pension schemes:				
	Emerging cost	38 (i)	5,794	4,727	5,794
	Funded		21,514	19,525	20,183
	Payroll tax		8,410	7,790	7,775
	Workers' compensation		904	920	808
	Long service leave expense		3,275	2,962	3,137
	Annual leave expense		10,915	13,273	10,632
	Other		–	1	–
	Total non-academic	187,914	173,042	174,120	160,824
	Total employee related expenses	461,756	419,183	421,880	388,054
10	Depreciation and amortisation				
	Depreciation				
	Buildings	14,785	13,198	14,426	12,872
	Building plant and improvements	2,695	1,594	2,361	1,323
	Equipment, motor vehicles and furniture and fittings	18,209	14,805	16,568	13,345
	Library collection	4,129	3,417	4,129	3,417
	Total depreciation	23	39,818	33,014	37,484
	Amortisation				
	Intellectual property	375	328	–	–
	Total amortisation	24	375	328	–
	Total depreciation and amortisation				
		40,192	33,342	37,484	30,957
11	Repairs and maintenance				
	Buildings	9,393	7,975	9,366	7,970
	Equipment	1,187	1,660	1,157	1,650
	Total repairs and maintenance	10,580	9,635	10,523	9,620
12	Borrowing costs				
	Interest to related corporations	–	–	821	1,323
	Interest to other corporations	88	390	–	–
	Total borrowing costs	88	390	821	1,323

		Consolidated		RMIT	
	Note	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
13	Impairment of assets				
	Amounts set aside for impaired receivables				
	Trade debtors	(5)	134	–	134
	Student debtors	–	549	–	544
	Subsidiaries	–	–	(1,431)	1,431
	Other debtors	(153)	(2,391)	(153)	(2,391)
		(158)	(1,708)	(1,584)	(282)
	Bad debts written off in the Income Statement				
	Trade debtors	28	433	5	313
	Student debtors	3,691	2,599	3,691	2,599
	Subsidiaries	–	–	1,431	–
		3,719	3,032	5,127	2,912
	Amounts set aside for impaired investment				
	Subsidiaries	–	–	300	500
	Non-related companies	1,955	185	1,955	185
	Financial assets	8	1,871	–	–
		1,963	2,056	2,255	685
	Amounts written off in relation to investment				
	Subsidiaries	200	–	200	–
		200	–	200	–
	Total impairment of assets	5,724	3,380	5,998	3,315
14	Other expenses				
	Scholarships, grants and prizes	28,087	27,725	28,165	27,820
	Non-capitalised equipment	10,298	8,765	10,165	8,572
	Advertising, marketing and promotional expenses	13,011	14,939	9,251	9,546
	General consumables	10,848	10,692	10,281	9,945
	Printing and stationery	5,990	5,186	5,793	5,018
	Minimum lease payments on operating leases	27,725	24,008	26,211	22,805
	Telecommunications	8,360	5,540	7,786	5,053
	Travel, staff development and entertainment	18,506	19,156	17,252	17,552
	Net loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment	16	1,339	–	–
	Net loss on sale of available-for-sale financial assets	8	198	–	–
	Foreign exchange losses	4,206	1,985	547	260
	Occupancy expenses	20,901	18,894	19,384	17,477
	Audit fees, bank charges, legal costs, insurance and taxes	42	5,599	4,574	5,186
	Contractors and consultancy fees	25,955	29,656	24,844	26,534
	Patents, copyright and licences	11,090	9,158	11,073	9,137
	Memberships and subscription fees	3,405	2,552	3,325	2,503
	Computer software support and maintenance	7,730	6,890	7,400	6,604
	Other expenses	6,143	6,487	4,723	3,796
	Total other expenses	209,202	196,405	192,725	176,607
15	Significant items of revenue and expenditure				
	Revenue				
	Reversal of impairment provision	–	2,391	1,431	2,391
	Donation from related party	–	–	5,000	–
	Expenditure				
	Staff separation payments	6,037	4,119	5,916	4,007
	Amortisation or diminution in respect of investments	2,155	185	2,455	685
	Impairment of receivables	–	–	–	1,431
	Impairment in respect of financial assets	–	1,871	–	–

		Consolidated		RMIT	
	Note	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
16	Sales of assets				
	Proceeds from disposal of assets				
	Property, plant and equipment	532	561	532	576
	Total proceeds from sale of assets	532	561	532	576
	Carrying amount of assets disposed				
	Property, plant and equipment	1,871	476	1,871	484
	Total carrying amount of assets sold	1,871	476	1,871	484
	Net gain/(loss) on sale of assets	(1,339)	85	(1,339)	92
17	Income tax				
	(a) Income tax expense				
	Current tax	1,373	1,990	1,350	1,866
	Deferred tax expense	(70)	(41)	–	–
	Adjustment for current tax of prior periods	(706)	252	(679)	258
		597	2,201	671	2,124
	Income tax expense is attributable to:				
	Operating result from continuing operations	597	2,201	671	2,124
	Aggregate income tax expense	597	2,201	671	2,124
	(b) Numerical reconciliation of income tax expense to prima facie tax payable				
	Operating result from continuing operations	7,363	3,142	7,524	2,867
	Tax at the Australian tax rate of 30% (2008 – 30%)	2,209	943	2,257	860
	Tax effect of amounts which are not deductible (taxable) in calculating taxable income:				
	Entertainment	1	–	–	–
	Difference in overseas tax rates	(907)	1,006	(907)	1,006
	Adjustment for current tax of prior periods	(706)	253	(679)	258
	Previously unrecognised tax losses now recouped to reduce current tax expense	597	2,201	671	2,124
	(c) Deferred tax				
	Deferred tax assets				
	Non-current	416	159	–	–
		416	159	–	–
	Deferred tax liabilities				
	Current	3,608	3,738	3,608	3,738
	Non-current	6	33	–	–
		3,614	3,771	3,608	3,738
	Net deferred tax liabilities	(3,198)	(3,612)	(3,608)	(3,738)
	The following subsidiaries are subject to income tax in Australia:				
	Spatial Vision Innovations Pty Ltd				
	RMIT Drug Discovery Technologies Pty Ltd				
	In addition, RMIT's foreign operations are subject to income tax in the following jurisdictions:				
	Hong Kong, Malaysia and Singapore.				
18	Cash and cash equivalents				
	Cash at bank and on hand #	3,793	11,341	354	7,089
	Deposits at call	98,636	112,297	84,862	94,978
	Foreign currency bank accounts	25,142	39,314	–	618
	Total cash assets	127,570	162,952	85,216	102,685
	(a) Cash at bank				
	The cash at bank is bearing floating interest rates between 0% and 1.85% (2008 – 0% and 3.00%).				
	(b) Cash on deposit				
	The deposits are bearing floating interest rates between 3.75% and 5.70% (2008 – 7.00% and 10.20%). These deposits have an average maturity of 45 days.				

Refer to note 33a(i) for information on a Debt Service Reserve Account as guarantee for the borrowings of a subsidiary.

19	Note	Consolidated		RMIT	
		2009	2008	2009	2008
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Receivables					
Current					
Trade receivables		20,984	16,362	16,437	11,757
Less provision for impaired receivables		(426)	(431)	(426)	(426)
		20,558	15,931	16,011	11,331
Student loans and student receivables		6,026	8,585	6,026	8,585
Less provision for impaired receivables		(3,761)	(3,761)	(3,761)	(3,761)
		2,265	4,824	2,265	4,824
Loans and advances		–	9	–	9
Government grants receivable		12,913	8,995	12,913	8,995
Deferred government contributions for superannuation *		18,695	20,663	18,695	20,663
Interest receivable		974	2,253	895	2,016
Other debtors and accrued income		7,510	6,654	7,729	7,575
Related parties receivable:					
Amounts receivable from subsidiaries		–	–	7,150	8,703
Provision for impairment		–	–	–	(1,431)
		40,092	38,574	47,382	46,530
Total current receivables		62,914	59,329	65,658	62,685
Non-current					
Other debtors		1,463	1,621	1,463	1,621
Provision for impairment		(221)	(374)	(221)	(374)
Deferred government contributions for superannuation *		296,758	256,148	296,758	256,148
Related parties receivable:					
Other related parties		52	52	–	–
Total non-current receivables		298,052	257,447	298,000	257,395
Total receivables		360,967	316,776	363,658	320,080
* RMIT recognises a receivable for the amount expected to be received from the Commonwealth Government in respect of unfunded superannuation schemes operated by the State Government. The total consolidated amount owing in respect of these at 30 June 2009 amounted to \$315.45m (2008 – \$276.81m). Refer Note 28.					
(a) Impaired receivables					
Nominal value of impaired receivables					
Trade receivables		426	431	426	426
Student loans and student receivables		3,761	3,761	3,761	3,761
Amounts receivable from subsidiaries		–	–	–	1,431
		4,187	4,192	4,187	5,618
Amount of provision for impaired receivable set aside					
Trade receivables		426	431	426	426
Student loans and student receivables		3,761	3,761	3,761	3,761
Amounts receivable from subsidiaries		–	–	–	1,431
		4,187	4,192	4,187	5,618
The ageing of these receivables is as follows:					
3 to 6 months		–	5	–	–
Over 6 months		4,187	4,187	4,187	5,618
		4,187	4,192	4,187	5,618

Note	Consolidated		RMIT	
	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Receivables which were past due but not impaired				
These relate to a number of independent customers for whom there is no recent history of default. The ageing analysis of these receivables is as follows:				
3 to 6 months	3	2	–	–
Over 6 months	2	2,393	–	2,378
	5	2,395	–	2,378
No provision is made for receivables from government, education and trading sectors.				
Movements in the provision for impaired receivables are as follows:				
At 1 January	4,192	5,900	5,618	5,900
Provision for impairment recognised during the year	10	867	–	678
Write back of provision for impairment	(15)	(2,575)	(1,431)	(960)
At 31 December	4,187	4,192	4,187	5,618
The creation and release of the provision for impaired receivables has been included in 'Bad and doubtful debts' in the income statement. Amounts charged to the provision are generally written off when there is no expectation of recovering further cash flows.				
The other amounts within receivables do not contain impaired assets and are not past due. Based on credit history, it is expected that these amounts will be received when due.				
(b) Foreign exchange and interest rate risk				
The carrying amounts of current and non-current receivables are denominated in the following currencies:				
Australian dollar	359,929	314,343	363,539	318,940
American dollar	796	2,182	31	1,079
British pound	52	6	52	6
Euro	90	59	–	–
Hong Kong dollar	5	8	5	8
Japanese yen	27	32	27	32
Malaysian ringgit	–	–	–	–
New Zealand dollar	4	1	4	1
Singapore dollar	–	14	–	14
Vietnam dong	63	131	–	–
Total receivables	360,967	316,776	363,658	320,080
Current receivables	62,914	59,329	65,658	62,685
Non-current receivables	298,052	257,447	298,000	257,395
Total receivables	360,967	316,776	363,658	320,080

A summarised analysis of the sensitivity of receivables to foreign exchange and interest rate risk can be found in note 39.

	Note	Consolidated		RMIT	
		2009	2008	2009	2008
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
20	Inventories				
	Current				
	Trading stock	530	812	–	–
	Work in progress	258	–	–	–
	Total inventories	788	812	–	–
21	Available for sale financial assets				
	Non-current				
	Investments in managed trust funds – at fair value	8,604	5,690	–	–
	Total available for sale financial assets	8,604	5,690	–	–
	Balance 1 January	5,690	10,909	–	–
	Additions	1,173	1,430	–	–
	Disposals (sale and redemption)	(449)	(2,892)	–	–
	Revaluation	2,190	(3,757)	–	–
	Balance 31 December	8,604	5,690	–	–
	Represented by:				
	Financial assets under funds management – pooled equity holdings	8,236	5,131	–	–
	Financial assets under funds management – direct equity holdings	368	559	–	–
	Financial assets under funds management – fixed interest	–	–	–	–
		8,604	5,690	–	–
	Impairment and risk exposure				
	None of the financial assets are either past due or impaired.				
	All available-for-sale financial assets are denominated in Australian currency. For an analysis of the sensitivity of available-for-sale financial assets to price and interest rate risk refer to note 39.				
22	Other financial assets				
	Non-current				
	Investments traded on organised markets				
	Government stocks and bonds	13	17	–	–
	Other (non-traded) investments – held-to-maturity				
	Unlisted shares in subsidiaries	–	–	7,644	7,544
	Less Provision for diminution in value of investment	–	–	(5,271)	(4,971)
	Unlisted shares in non-related companies	9,220	7,272	9,183	7,228
	Less Provision for diminution in value of investment	(9,062)	(7,107)	(9,062)	(7,107)
	Total non-current other financial assets	171	182	2,494	2,694
	Total other financial assets	171	182	2,494	2,694
	Net fair values of investments				
	Traded securities are listed and other securities which are readily traded on organised markets. The aggregate net fair values of these securities are:				
	Non-current				
	Government stocks and bonds	13	17	–	–
	Unlisted investments	158	165	2,494	2,694
	Total non-current other financial assets	171	182	2,494	2,694
	Total other financial assets	171	182	2,494	2,694

Open University Australia has changed its status from non-for-profit to for-profit in 2009.

		Land	Buildings	Construction in progress	Leasehold improvements	Equipment, motor vehicles, furniture and fittings	Library collection	Artworks	Total
	Note	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
23	Property, plant and equipment								
RMIT Consolidated Entity									
1 January 2008									
Cost		5,052	27,182	29,967	–	179,089	45,645	1,207	288,142
Valuation		251,612	721,265	–	18,907	–	–	–	991,784
Accumulated depreciation		–	(25,111)	–	(10,923)	(128,123)	(23,964)	–	(188,121)
Net book amount		256,664	723,336	29,967	7,984	50,966	21,681	1,207	1,091,805
Year ended 31 December 2008									
Opening net book amount		256,664	723,336	29,967	7,984	50,966	21,681	1,207	1,091,805
Revaluation		26,263	30,636	–	–	–	–	–	56,899
Additions		4,513	13,594	77,038	279	28,563	7,068	74	131,129
Transfer out of capital works in progress		–	13,518	(17,503)	3,178	808	–	–	1
Disposals		–	–	(1)	–	(498)	–	–	(499)
Depreciation		–	(13,197)	–	(1,645)	(14,755)	(3,417)	–	(33,014)
Reclassification		–	(753)	–	1,135	(417)	–	–	(35)
Foreign currency translation gain/(loss)		1,989	959	66	1,006	–	–	–	4,020
Closing net book amount		287,440	769,123	90,460	10,997	65,673	25,332	1,281	1,250,306
31 December 2008									
Cost		–	10,801	90,460	–	197,731	52,713	1,281	352,986
Valuation		287,440	759,907	–	15,679	–	–	–	1,063,026
Accumulated depreciation		–	(1,585)	–	(4,682)	(132,058)	(27,381)	–	(165,706)
Net book amount		287,440	769,123	90,460	10,997	65,673	25,332	1,281	1,250,306
Year ended 31 December 2009									
Opening net book amount		287,440	769,123	90,460	10,997	65,673	25,332	1,281	1,250,306
Revaluation		–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Additions		–	34,772	94,487	1,608	20,411	6,400	8	157,686
Transfer out of capital works in progress		–	56,287	(69,483)	3,580	8,780	836	–	–
Disposals		–	–	–	–	(1,867)	–	(10)	(1,877)
Depreciation		–	(14,786)	–	(2,745)	(18,064)	(4,222)	–	(39,818)
Reclassification		–	–	7,374	–	(7,374)	–	–	–
Foreign currency translation gain/(loss)		–	(2,229)	(2,512)	(57)	(1,261)	(83)	–	(6,142)
Closing net book amount		287,440	843,167	120,326	13,383	66,298	28,263	1,279	1,360,156
31 December 2009									
Cost		–	9,872	120,326	–	–	59,855	–	190,053
Valuation		287,440	834,842	–	20,760	165,026	–	1,279	1,309,347
Accumulated depreciation		–	(1,547)	–	(7,377)	(98,728)	(31,592)	–	(139,244)
Net book amount		287,440	843,167	120,326	13,383	66,298	28,263	1,279	1,360,156
Parent entity									
1 January 2008									
Cost		5,052	18,832	28,416	–	170,158	45,645	1,207	269,310
Valuation		251,612	720,395	–	10,556	–	–	–	982,563
Accumulated depreciation		–	(24,156)	–	(2,306)	(123,945)	(23,964)	–	(174,371)
Net book amount		256,664	715,071	28,416	8,250	46,213	21,681	1,207	1,077,502

	Land Note	Buildings \$'000	Construction in progress \$'000	Leasehold improvements \$'000	Equipment, motor vehicles, furniture and fittings \$'000	Library collection \$'000	Artworks \$'000	Total \$'000
Year ended 31 December 2008								
Opening net book amount	256,664	715,071	28,416	8,250	46,213	21,681	1,207	1,077,502
Revaluation	26,263	30,636	–	–	–	–	–	56,899
Additions	4,513	13,592	72,144	–	28,278	7,066	74	125,667
Transfer out of capital works in progress	–	13,364	(16,543)	3,179	–	–	–	–
Disposals	–	–	–	–	(483)	–	–	(483)
Depreciation	–	(12,872)	–	(1,323)	(13,345)	(3,417)	–	(30,957)
Reclassification	–	117	–	–	(117)	–	–	–
Closing net book amount	287,440	759,908	84,017	10,106	60,546	25,330	1,281	1,228,628
31 December 2008								
Cost	–	–	84,017	–	186,478	52,711	1,281	324,487
Valuation	287,440	759,908	–	13,735	–	–	–	1,061,083
Accumulated depreciation	–	–	–	(3,629)	(125,932)	(27,381)	–	(156,942)
Net book amount	287,440	759,908	84,017	10,106	60,546	25,330	1,281	1,228,628
Year ended 31 December 2009								
Opening net book amount	287,440	759,908	84,017	10,106	60,546	25,330	1,281	1,228,628
Revaluation	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Additions	–	34,772	78,100	1,197	20,313	6,400	8	140,790
Transfer out of capital works in progress	–	54,588	(63,474)	3,580	5,306	–	–	–
Disposals	–	–	–	–	(1,861)	–	(10)	(1,871)
Depreciation	–	(14,426)	–	(2,361)	(16,568)	(4,129)	–	(37,483)
Reclassification	–	–	7,374	–	(7,374)	–	–	–
Closing net book amount	287,440	834,842	106,017	12,522	60,362	27,601	1,279	1,330,063
31 December 2009								
Cost	–	–	106,017	–	–	59,111	–	165,128
Valuation	287,440	834,842	–	18,512	153,294	–	1,279	1,295,367
Accumulated depreciation	–	–	–	(5,990)	(92,932)	(31,510)	–	(130,432)
Net book amount	287,440	834,842	106,017	12,522	60,362	27,601	1,279	1,330,063

(a) Valuations of land and buildings

An independent valuation of land and buildings was carried out as at 31 December 2008 by Cunningham Property Consultants Pty Ltd. The valuation has been determined on the following basis: Land at market value and Buildings at market value or depreciated replacement cost.

(b) Assets held in the name of the Minister

Land and buildings valued at \$281.125m (2008 – \$267.015m) is held by RMIT on behalf of the Minister. Upon disposal of any such properties, the application of the proceeds will be directed by the Minister.

	Note	Consolidated		RMIT	
		Intellectual property	Total	Intellectual property	Total
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
24	Intangible assets				
	1 January 2008				
	Cost	1,534	1,534	–	–
	Accumulated amortisation and impairment	(153)	(153)	–	–
	Net book amount	1,381	1,381	–	–
	Year Ended 31 December 2008				
	Opening net book amount	1,381	1,381	–	–
	Additions	153	153	–	–
	Transfer from equipment under construction	–	–	–	–
	Disposals	–	–	–	–
	Amortisation charge	10	(330)	(330)	–
	Reclassification		21	21	–
	Closing net book amount	1,225	1,225	–	–
	31 December 2008				
	Cost	1,763	1,763	–	–
	Accumulated amortisation	(538)	(538)	–	–
	Net book amount	1,225	1,225	–	–
	Year Ended 31 December 2009				
	Opening net book amount	1,225	1,225	–	–
	Additions	112	112	–	–
	Transfer from equipment under construction	–	–	–	–
	Disposals	–	–	–	–
	Amortisation charge	10	(335)	(335)	–
	Reclassification		–	–	–
	Net book amount	1,002	1,002	–	–
	31 December 2009				
	Cost	1,875	1,875	–	–
	Accumulated amortisation	(873)	(873)	–	–
	Net book amount	1,002	1,002	–	–

		Consolidated		RMIT	
	Note	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
25	Other non-financial assets				
	Current				
	Library subscriptions prepaid	2,050	2,560	2,143	2,560
	Other prepayments	5,435	5,179	3,847	4,147
	Total other non-financial assets	7,486	7,739	5,990	6,707
26	Trade and other payables				
	Current				
	Trade creditors	39,964	52,717	37,537	51,566
	Sundry creditor and operating accruals	36,536	38,378	24,988	26,699
	OS-HELP Liability to Australian Government	70	73	70	73
	Amounts payable to subsidiaries	–	–	243	573
	Total current trade and other payables	76,570	91,168	62,838	78,911
	Foreign currency risk				
	The carrying amounts of the Group's and parent entity's trade and other payables are denominated in the following currencies:				
	Australian dollar	66,469	78,912	61,941	76,412
	American dollar	775	2,089	775	2,089
	British pound	48	320	48	320
	Canadian dollar	1	–	1	–
	Chinese renminbi	1	14	1	14
	Euro	13	28	13	28
	Hong Kong dollar	2	–	2	–
	Indian rupee	1	3	1	3
	New Zealand dollar	2	–	2	–
	Norwegian krone	–	1	–	1
	Singapore dollar	1	39	1	39
	South Korean Won	–	5	–	5
	Thailand bhat	53	–	53	–
	Vietnam dong	9,204	9,757	–	–
	Total current trade and other payables	76,570	91,168	62,838	78,911
	For an analysis of the sensitivity of trade and other payables to foreign currency risk refer to Note 39.				
27	Borrowings				
	Current – unsecured				
	Amounts payable to subsidiaries	–	–	28,699	27,208
	Current – secured				
	Bank loan	27(b)	–	657	–
	Total current borrowings	–	657	28,699	27,208
	Non-current – secured				
	Bank loan	27(b)	–	4,395	–
	Total non-current borrowings	–	4,395	–	–
	Total borrowings	–	5,052	28,699	27,208

	Consolidated		RMIT	
Note	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
(a) Financing arrangements				
Unrestricted access was available at balance date to the following lines of credit:				
Credit standby arrangements				
Fixed term debt facility	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Working capital redraw facility	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Bank overdraft facility	250	50	–	–
Total facilities	40,250	40,050	40,000	40,000
Amount utilised	(87)	–	–	–
Unused credit facility	40,163	40,050	40,000	40,000
Bank loan facilities				
Long-term borrowing – ADB	–	10,465	–	–
Long-term borrowing – IFC	–	10,465	–	–
Total facilities	–	20,930	–	–
Amount utilised	–	(5,052)	–	–
Unused credit facility	–	15,878	–	–
Technology finance operating lease facility				
Lease facility available	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Amount utilised	(13,276)	(14,444)	(13,276)	(14,444)
Unused credit facility	11,724	10,556	11,724	10,556
Business credit card facility:				
Business credit facility available	7,600	7,600	7,600	7,600
Amount utilised	(1,301)	(1,437)	(1,301)	(1,437)
Unused credit facility	6,299	6,163	6,299	6,163

(b) Details of borrowings**Credit standby arrangements**

The fixed term debt facility with respect to \$40m expires on 23 November 2012. The working capital redraw facility is subject to annual review. A subsidiary has arranged an overdraft facility which is secured by a floating charge over its assets.

Long-term borrowing

The loans term is 10 years at an interest rate based on the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) on 6 months deposit plus 2.25% – equating to 4.89% (2008 – 5.79%) at 31 December 2009. These borrowings were fully repaid in 2009 (2008 – US\$3.5 million).

RMIT and RMIT Vietnam Holdings Pty. Ltd. have provided guarantees for the borrowings of the subsidiary. Refer to Note 33(a) for more details.

Bank loan facility

RMIT has entered into a conditional agreement with CBA for the provision of \$225m subject to agreeing satisfactory documentation by no later than 31 December 2010.

Credit card facility

RMIT has entered into an arrangement with its bankers for the provision of a corporate credit card facility. No interest has been paid during the year as all outstanding balances have been paid by the due dates.

Note	Consolidated		RMIT	
	2009	2008	2009	2008
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
(c) Risk exposures				
The exposure of the Group's and parent entity's borrowings to interest rate changes and the contractual repricing dates at the balance dates are as follows:				
Current borrowings				
12 month or less	–	657	–	–
Non-current borrowings				
more than 12 month	–	4,395	–	–
The carrying amounts of the Group's borrowings are denominated in the following currencies:				
US dollar	–	5,052	–	–

For an analysis of the sensitivity of borrowings to interest rate risk and foreign exchange risk refer to Note 39.

(d) Fair value

The carrying amounts and fair values of borrowings at balance date are:

	2009		2008	
	Carrying amount \$'000	Fair value \$'000	Carrying amount \$'000	Fair value \$'000
On-balance sheet				
Bank loans	–	–	5,052	5,052
Credit card borrowings	1,301	1,301	1,437	1,437
	1,301	1,301	6,489	6,489

The fair value of current borrowings equals their carrying amount, as the impact of discounting is not significant.

	Note	Consolidated		RMIT	
		2009	2008	2009	2008
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
28	Provisions				
	Current provisions expected to be settled within 12 months				
	Provision for restructuring costs	1,976	2,323	1,976	2,323
	Employee benefits and oncosts				
	Annual leave – at nominal value	21,502	21,290	21,259	21,109
	Long service leave – at nominal value	5,687	2,896	5,581	2,896
	Deferred benefits for superannuation #	18,695	20,663	18,695	20,663
		45,883	44,849	45,535	44,668
	Current provisions expected to be settled later than 12 months				
	Employee benefits and oncosts				
	Annual leave – at net present value	6,348	6,757	5,718	6,256
	Long service leave – at net present value	43,441	39,310	42,996	38,362
		49,789	46,067	48,714	44,618
	Total current provisions	97,648	93,239	96,225	91,609
	Non-current				
	Employee benefits and oncosts				
	Long service leave – at net present value	9,887	11,854	9,165	11,636
	Deferred benefits for superannuation #	296,758	256,148	296,758	256,148
	Total non-current provisions	306,645	268,002	305,923	267,784
	Total provisions	404,293	361,241	402,148	359,393
	Movements in provisions				
	Movements in each class of provision during the financial year, other than employee benefits, are set out below:				
	Carrying amount at start of year	2,323	2,107	2,323	2,107
	Additional provisions recognised	(347)	216	(347)	216
	Carrying amount at end of year	1,976	2,323	1,976	2,323
	Employee benefits				
	Provision for employee benefits and oncosts – current	95,672	90,916	94,249	89,286
	Provision for employee benefits and oncosts – non-current	306,645	268,002	305,923	267,784
	Aggregate employee benefits	402,317	358,918	400,172	357,070

A total consolidated unfunded liability for retirement benefits of \$315.45m (2008 – \$276.81m) accruing to beneficiaries of the State Superannuation Scheme has been recorded in the Balance Sheet as a liability. Refer Notes 1.18 and 38.

	Restructuring costs \$'000	Annual leave \$'000	Long service leave \$'000	Deferred benefits for superannuation \$'000	Total \$'000
RMIT Consolidated Entity					
2008					
Carrying amount at start of year	2,107	24,600	50,030	264,840	341,577
Net additional provisions recognised/(used)	216	3,447	4,030	11,971	19,664
Carrying amount at end of year	2,323	28,047	54,060	276,811	361,241
2009					
Carrying amount at start of year	2,323	28,047	54,060	276,811	361,241
Net additional provisions recognised/(used)	(347)	(198)	4,954	38,642	43,052
Carrying amount at end of year	1,976	27,849	59,014	315,453	404,293
Parent entity					
2008					
Carrying amount at start of year	2,107	23,940	49,097	264,840	339,984
Net additional provisions recognised/(used)	216	3,425	3,797	11,971	19,409
Carrying amount at end of year	2,323	27,365	52,894	276,811	359,393
2009					
Carrying amount at start of year	2,323	27,365	52,894	276,811	359,393
Net additional provisions recognised/(used)	(347)	(388)	4,848	38,642	42,755
Carrying amount at end of year	1,976	26,977	57,742	315,453	402,148

29		Consolidated		RMIT	
		2009 Note \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Other liabilities					
Current					
Australian Government unspent financial assistance		3,263	3,108	3,263	3,108
Monies held in trust		2,024	2,709	—	—
Research grants		7,588	5,495	7,588	5,495
Student fees		49,540	34,128	37,957	20,741
Projects fees		264	365	—	—
Other		3,712	1,404	3,712	1,404
Total current other liabilities		66,391	47,209	52,520	30,748
Non-current					
Revenue in advance		25	—	—	—
Total non-current other liabilities		25	—	—	—
Total other liabilities		66,416	47,209	52,520	30,748

	Note	Consolidated		RMIT	
		2009	2008	2009	2008
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
30 Reserves					
Consolidated reserves					
Balance at beginning of year		595,572	534,707	548,554	491,655
Transfers from/(to) retained surplus		–	(518)	–	–
Revaluation of land and buildings		–	56,899	–	56,899
Foreign exchange gains/(losses)		(8,156)	6,175	–	–
Disposals through revaluation reserve		–	195	–	–
Unrealised valuation gain/(losses) taken to equity		2,190	(3,757)	–	–
Impairment Loss transferred to income statement		–	1,871	–	–
Balance at end of year		589,606	595,572	548,554	548,554
Represented by:					
Asset revaluation reserve		588,406	588,406	548,554	548,554
Fixed asset replacement reserve		119	119	–	–
Capital projects reserve		10,000	10,000	–	–
Foreign currency translation reserve		(11,133)	(2,977)	–	–
Share premium reserve		24	24	–	–
Available for sale revaluation reserve		2,190	–	–	–
		589,606	595,572	548,554	548,554
Movements in reserves during the year were:					
Asset revaluation reserve					
Balance at beginning of year		588,406	531,507	548,554	491,655
Transfers from/(to) retained surplus		–	–	–	–
Revaluation of land		–	26,263	–	26,263
Revaluation of buildings		–	30,636	–	30,636
Balance at end of year		588,406	588,406	548,554	548,554
Fixed asset replacement reserve					
Balance at beginning of year		119	637	–	–
Transfers from/(to) retained surplus	31	–	(518)	–	–
Balance at end of year		119	119	–	–
Capital projects reserve					
Balance at beginning of year		10,000	10,000	–	–
Transfers from/(to) retained surplus		–	–	–	–
Balance at end of year		10,000	10,000	–	–
Foreign currency translation reserve					
Balance at beginning of year		(2,977)	(9,152)	–	–
Transfers from/(to) retained surplus		–	–	–	–
Foreign currency translation gains/(losses)		(8,119)	6,175	–	–
Prior year adjustment	45	(37)	–	–	–
Balance at end of year		(11,133)	(2,977)	–	–
Share premium reserve					
Balance at beginning of year		24	24	–	–
Premium received on issued shares		–	–	–	–
Balance at end of year		24	24	–	–
Available for sale revaluation reserve					
Balance at beginning of year		–	1,691	–	–
Realised gains/(losses) through income statement		–	195	–	–
Unrealised valuation gains/(losses) taken to equity		2,190	(3,757)	–	–
Impairment losses transferred to income statement		–	1,871	–	–
Balance at end of year		2,190	–	–	–

		Consolidated		RMIT	
	Note	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Nature and purpose of reserves					
Asset revaluation reserve					
The asset revaluation reserve is used to record asset revaluation increments and decrements in the value of non-current physical assets.					
Fixed asset replacement reserve					
The fixed asset replacement reserve sets aside retained earnings to be used for replacing assets that exist on the asset register.					
Capital projects reserve					
The capital projects reserve sets aside retained earnings to be used for major projects over \$10,000.					
Foreign currency translation reserve					
Exchange differences arising on translation of the foreign controlled entity are taken to the foreign currency translation reserve. The reserve is recognised in the profit and loss when the net investment is disposed of.					
Share premium reserve					
Amount paid by shareholders for shares in excess of their nominal value					
Available for sale revaluation reserve					
Changes in fair value are taken to available for sale revaluation reserve, as described in Note 1.14.					
31	Retained surplus				
	Retained surplus at beginning of year	641,320	569,875	612,242	557,703
	Operating result attributable to RMIT entity	85,025	70,927	76,812	54,538
	Transfers from/(to) reserves	30	–	518	–
	Return of unspent funds to donor	(66)	–	–	–
	Deregistration of RMIT International	200	–	–	–
	Other adjustments	(280)	–	–	1
	Retained surplus at end of year	726,199	641,320	689,054	612,242
32	Minority interest				
	Outside equity interest in subsidiaries comprises:				
	Interest in accumulated funds at the beginning of the year	360	312	–	–
	Interest in net operating result	(47)	107	–	–
	Dividends received	–	(59)	–	–
	Adjustment as a result in change in equity holdings	1	–	–	–
	Interest in accumulated funds at the end of the year	314	360	–	–
	Interest in share capital	120	120	–	–
	Interest in reserves	28	28	–	–
	Total outside equity interests in controlled entities	462	508	–	–

	Note	Consolidated		RMIT	
		2009	2008	2009	2008
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
33	Contingencies				
	(a) Contingent liabilities				
	The RMIT Consolidated Entity and RMIT have contingent liabilities at 31 December 2009 in respect of:				
	Guarantees				
	Guarantees for contract performance	200	100	159	59
	Guarantees for the borrowings of a subsidiary – Note 27				
	(i) security over a bank account designated as a Debt Service Reserve Account established and maintained by RMIT in Australia; Refer to Note 18 for more information.	–	1,516	–	1,516
	(ii) a limited recourse share mortgage pursuant to which RMIT created a first priority mortgage in favour of the lenders over all of the share capital directly or indirectly owned by RMIT in its subsidiary (refer Note 40); and				
	(iii) a limited recourse guarantee and pledge of legal capital agreement pursuant to which a subsidiary of RMIT has pledges in favour of the lenders, all of the legal capital it has contributed to the company.	–	5,052	–	–
	Litigation				
	There are no current outstanding claims which have the potential to impact adversely on the business of RMIT or its subsidiaries.				
	(b) Contingent assets				
	Quantifiable contingent liabilities and assets				
	In 2009 RMIT Vietnam Holdings Pty. Ltd. received the last instalment (USD1.5m) of grant totalling USD6.5m from philanthropic organisation to assist with the construction of a gym and dormitory facility at its controlled entity RMIT International University Vietnam's (RIUV) South Saigon campus. The funds form part of the entity cash balance and will be invested in RIUV in the form of legal capital at RIUV request. Accordingly the entity has disclosed a contingent liability reflecting the obligations of the grant with respect to the intended grants usage and equal and offsetting contingent assets reflecting the future investment the entity will make in RIUV when the funds are transferred.				
	The financial impact of the above is as follows:				
	Contingent assets				
	Due within one year	7,267	2,165	–	–
	Contingent liabilities				
	Due within one year	7,267	7,217	–	–
	Due after one year but within five years	–	2,165	–	–
		7,267	9,382	–	–
34	Commitments				
	(a) Capital commitments				
	Capital expenditure contracted for at the reporting date but not recognised as liabilities is as follows:				
	Plant and equipment				
	Due within one year	4,692	1,813	3,681	1,813
	GST reclaimable on the above	427	165	334	165
	Net Commitment	4,265	1,648	3,348	1,648
	Building works				
	Due within one year	110,339	59,198	109,121	58,287
	GST reclaimable on the above	10,031	5,382	9,920	5,299
	Net Commitment	100,308	53,816	99,201	52,988

	Consolidated		RMIT	
	2009 Note	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
(b) Operating leases – as lessee				
Commitments in relation to leases contracted for at the reporting date but not recognised as liabilities payable:				
Future minimum rental payments for leased premises				
Due within one year	8,781	7,114	8,535	7,114
Due after one year but within five years	24,622	12,473	24,306	12,473
Due after five years	12,144	4,619	12,144	4,619
	45,547	24,206	44,985	24,206
GST reclaimable on the above	4,141	2,201	4,090	2,201
Net Commitment	41,407	22,005	40,896	22,005
Future minimum rental payments for leased equipment				
Due within one year	8,494	8,394	8,494	8,200
Due after one year but within five years	6,508	10,906	6,508	10,582
	15,002	19,300	15,002	18,782
GST reclaimable on the above	1,364	1,755	1,364	1,707
Net Commitment	13,638	17,545	13,638	17,075
Operating leases – as lessor				
Leases contracted for at the reporting date but not recognised as assets				
Future minimum rental receivable				
Due within one year	3,538	3,467	3,520	3,569
Due after one year but within five years	4,956	8,003	4,939	8,003
Due after five years	478	1,589	478	1,589
	8,973	13,059	8,938	13,161
GST reclaimable on the above	816	1,187	813	1,196
Net Commitment	8,157	11,872	8,125	11,964
(c) Other expenditure commitments				
Commitments relate to CRC research and other non capital expenditure				
Due within one year	6,410	9,134	6,364	9,117
Due after one year but within five years	5,397	8,690	5,397	8,690
Due after five years	–	75	–	75
	11,807	17,899	11,761	17,882
GST reclaimable on the above	235	368	231	366
Net Commitment	11,572	17,531	11,530	17,516
The University has entered into research contracts with the National Health and Medical Research Council and the Australian Research Council, the revenues from which are recognised in the year of receipt. Under these contracts and as at balance date the University is committed to further expenditures to complete the relevant research and satisfy those commitments.	13,270	10,106	13,270	10,106
(d) Remuneration commitments				
Commitments for the payment of salaries and other remuneration under long-term employment contracts in existence at the reporting date but not recognised as liabilities.				
Due within one year	44,026	38,994	43,420	38,308
Due after one year but within five years	36,529	37,137	35,717	36,708
Due after five years	337	124	119	124
	80,893	76,255	79,256	75,140

	Note	Consolidated		RMIT	
		2009	2008	2009	2008
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
35 Notes to statement of cash flows					
(a) Reconciliation of cash					
For the purpose of the statement of cash flows, cash represents:					
Cash on hand, at bank, short-term money market deposits, short dated bills of exchange and outstanding bank overdrafts.					
Cash at the end of the reporting period is shown in the Statement of Cash Flows and is reconciled to the related items in the financial statements as follows:					
Cash at the beginning of year					
Cash at bank and at hand		11,341	11,524	7,089	2,970
Short-term money market deposits		112,297	102,685	94,978	66,659
Foreign currency bank accounts		39,314	2,013	618	576
		162,952	116,222	102,685	70,205
Cash at the end of year					
Cash at bank and at hand		3,793	11,341	354	7,089
Short-term money market deposits		98,636	112,297	84,862	94,978
Foreign currency bank accounts		25,142	39,314	–	618
		127,570	162,952	85,216	102,685
Cash movement for the year		(35,382)	46,730	(17,469)	32,480
(b) Reconciliation of operating result after income tax to net cash inflow from operating activities					
Operating result for the period after income tax		84,978	71,034	76,812	54,538
Eliminate non-cash flows in net result					
Loss/(gain) on sale of property, plant and equipment	14	1,339	(85)	1,339	(92)
Loss/(gain) on sale of available-for-sale financial asset	8	–	198	–	–
Loss/(gain) on revaluation of available for sale financial assets at fair value	13	8	3,757	–	–
Depreciation on property plant and equipment	10	39,818	33,014	37,484	30,957
Amortisation of intangible assets	10	375	328	–	–
Net diminution/(increase) in value of investments	13	1,963	2,056	2,255	685
Provision for doubtful debts	13	(158)	(1,708)	(1,584)	(282)
Investment written off/(written back)	13	200	–	200	–
Foreign exchange (gain)/loss		3,150	(2,908)	–	–
Change in assets and liabilities					
Net (increase)/decrease in receivables		(4,929)	39,828	(2,192)	48,373
Net (increase)/decrease in inventories		24	(124)	–	–
Net (increase)/decrease in other non-financial assets		253	(3,559)	717	(3,374)
Net increase/(decrease) in payables		(14,898)	19,277	(16,373)	11,361
Net increase/(decrease) in other liabilities		19,182	9,413	21,772	8,069
Net increase/(decrease) in current tax liability		(414)	447	(130)	583
Net increase/(decrease) in employee entitlements (excluding deferred superannuation)		2,656	7,693	2,488	7,438
Net cash flows from operating activities		133,547	178,661	122,789	158,256

	Note	Consolidated		RMIT	
		2009	2008	2009	2008
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
36 Economic dependency					
The RMIT Consolidated Entity is reliant on a significant volume of its revenue being derived from:					
Commonwealth Government financial assistance		389,777	325,227	389,777	325,227
Victorian State Government financial assistance		74,182	70,324	74,182	70,324
		463,959	395,551	463,959	395,551
The percentage of the RMIT consolidated entity revenue was sourced from:					
Commonwealth Government financial assistance		45.76%	43.51%	49.62%	47.93%
Victorian State Government financial assistance		8.71%	9.41%	9.44%	10.36%
37 Events occurring after the balance sheet date					
No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the reporting period which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the RMIT consolidated entity or parent entity, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the RMIT consolidated entity or parent entity in future financial years.					
38 Superannuation					
Funds to which RMIT or any controlled entity contributed during the financial year:					
(a) Defined benefit schemes					
ESSSUPER – State Superannuation Fund – closed	41.9	23,551	20,915	23,551	20,915
ESSSUPER – State Employees Retirement Benefits Scheme – closed		–	829	–	829
UniSuper		–	11	–	–
(b) Defined contribution schemes					
Victorian Superannuation Fund		2,706	2,422	2,746	2,343
UniSuper		39,441	36,910	39,208	36,670
Other Superannuation Funds		3,640	1,432	2,287	350
		69,338	62,519	67,792	61,107

ESSUPER

ESSSuper is the dedicated super fund for emergency services employees and state employees. RMIT has in its staffing profile a number of employees who are members of ESSSuper (formerly called the Victorian State Superannuation Fund or the State Employees Retirement Benefit Scheme) and in respect of whom defined benefits are payable on termination of employment.

As at 30 June 2009, ESSSuper were carrying total liabilities for member benefits in excess of the value of the fund's assets. Hence, unfunded superannuation liabilities exist which are recognised in the financial statements of the funds.

The notional share of this public sector employee superannuation funds unfunded liabilities attributable to RMIT, as assessed by the funds as at 30 June 2009, amounted to \$315.453m (2008 – \$276.811m). Unfunded liabilities are met by the Australian Government.

There was no other unfunded superannuation liability for any other scheme.

(i) Defined benefit schemes**ESSUPER – State Superannuation Fund**

RMIT is required to contribute as and when the Higher Education Sector contributors become beneficiaries under the scheme (Emerging cost). The employer's contribution is that which is required to meet the defined benefit.

RMIT is required to contribute on a fortnightly basis for TAFE employees in respect of:

- Revised Scheme 17.3%
- New Scheme 7.3%, 8.6%, 9.4% or 10.2% based on members election.

ESSUPER – State Employees Retirement Benefit Scheme

RMIT contributes 100% of pensions paid in respect of former employees.

(ii) Defined contribution schemes

Victorian Superannuation Fund

RMIT is required to contribute on account of members of the fund at the rate required to meet the "Superannuation Guarantee" – currently 9%.

UniSuper Plans

UniSuper is a multi employer superannuation fund operated by UniSuper Limited as the Corporate Trustee and administered by UniSuper Management Pty Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of UniSuper Limited. The operations of UniSuper are regulated by the Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Act 1993.

(i) UniSuper offers eligible members the choice of two schemes known as the Defined Benefit Division (DBD) (previously referred to as Defined Benefit Plan) or Accumulation Super (2) (previously referred to as Investment Choice Plan). The contribution rate to the scheme is 21% of member's salary of which the member contributes 7% and the University 14%. From 1 July 2006, members can elect to reduce the level of member contributions with corresponding reductions in benefits.

In 2005, UniSuper advised that the Defined Benefits Plan should be disclosed under the multi employer provisions of AASB 119 Employee Benefits which allowed for defined benefit obligations to be reported on a defined contribution basis with some additional information. AASB 119 Employee Benefits states that this is an appropriate solution for a Defined Benefit Plan where the employer does not have access to the information required and there is no reliable basis for allocating the benefits, liabilities, assets and costs between employers.

As a consequence of changes to the UniSuper Trust deed in December 2006, UniSuper has advised that the foregoing no longer applies and that both the Defined Benefit Division and Accumulation Super (2) plans are defined as Multi Employer Defined Contribution Schemes in accordance with AASB 119 Employee Benefits.

(ii) UniSuper also offers a cash accumulation productivity scheme known as Accumulation Super (1) (previously referred to as the Award Plus Plan (APP)). University employees have no requirement to contribute to the scheme. The University contributes the equivalent of 3% of the base salary in respect of those employees who were members of the Defined Benefits Division or the Accumulation Super (2) Plan. Employees who do not qualify for membership of the Defined Benefits Division or the Accumulation Super (2) Plan will have a minimum contribution 9% of their annual salary contributed by the University to Accumulation Super (1) prescribed under the Superannuation Guarantee Charges Act 1992.

Casual and non-permanent employees who do not qualify for membership of the Defined Benefit Division or Accumulation Super (2) are eligible for Accumulation Super (1).

The employer is required to contribute on account of eligible employees at a minimum rate of 9% to all superannuation funds.

No contribution remained unpaid at the end of the year except to the extent of normal and current terms of payment.

The amount payable at 31 December 2009 was \$4.550m (2008 – \$3.587m).

39 Financial risk management

Details of the significant accounting policies and methods adopted, including the criteria for recognition, the basis of measurement and the basis on which income and expenses are recognised, in respect of each class of financial asset, financial liability and equity instrument is disclosed in note 1 of the financial statements.

(i) Financial risk management objectives

The Group's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks: market risk (including currency risk, fair value interest rate risk, cash flow interest rate risk and price risk), credit risk and liquidity risk. The Group's overall risk management program focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the financial performance of the Group by adhering to principles on foreign exchange risk, interest rate risk, credit risk, the use of financial derivatives and non-derivative financial instruments, and the investment of excess liquidity. Compliance with policies and exposure limits is reviewed by management on a continuous basis. The Consolidated Entity does not enter into or trade financial instruments, including derivative financial instruments, for speculative purposes.

The Group uses different methods to measure different types of risk to which it is exposed. These methods include sensitivity analysis in the case of interest rate, foreign exchange and other price risks, ageing analysis for credit risk and data analysis in respect of investment portfolios to determine market risk.

(ii) Foreign currency risk

The RMIT Consolidated Entity undertakes certain transactions denominated in foreign currencies. Hence, exposures to exchange rate fluctuations arise. Exchange rate exposures are managed within approved policy parameters so as to minimise the total exposure to exchange rate risk.

The group is mainly exposed to the currency of the United States of America (USD).

The following table details the group's sensitivity to a 25% increase or decrease in the Australian Dollar (AUD) against the relevant foreign currencies. 25% is the sensitivity rates used when reporting foreign currency risk internally to key management personnel and represents management's assessment of the possible change in foreign exchange rates. The sensitivity analysis includes only outstanding foreign currency denominated monetary items and adjusts their translation at the period end for a 25% change in foreign currency rates.

31 December 2009	Carrying Amount \$'000	Currency rate risk			
		-25.0%		10.0%	
		Result \$'000	Equity \$'000	Result \$'000	Equity \$'000
Financial Assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	25,142	(6,286)	(6,286)	(2,514)	(2,514)
Receivables	1,037	(259)	(259)	104	104
Financial Liabilities					
Payables	10,101	(2,525)	(2,525)	1,010	1,010

(iii) Interest rate risk

Interest rate exposures arise predominantly from assets bearing variable interest rates. The group's exposure to interest rates on financial assets are detailed in the liquidity risk management section of this note.

The sensitivity analyses below have been determined based on the exposure to price adjustments at the reporting date and the stipulated change taking place at the beginning of the financial year and held constant throughout the reporting period. A 50 basis point increase or decrease is used when reporting interest rate risk as this represents management's assessment of the possible change in interest rates:

31 December 2009	Carrying Amount \$'000	Interest rate risk			
		-1.0%		2.0%	
		Result \$'000	Equity \$'000	Result \$'000	Equity \$'000
Financial Assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	127,570	(1,276)	(1,276)	2,551	2,551
Receivables	360,966	—	—	—	—
Financial Liabilities					
Payables	76,570	—	—	—	—

(iv) Price Risk

The sensitivity analyses below have been determined based on the exposure to interest rates at the reporting date and the stipulated change taking place at the beginning of the financial year and held constant throughout the reporting period. A 30% increase or decrease is used when reporting on price risk as this represents management's assessment of the possible change in prices:

31 December 2009	Carrying Amount \$'000	Price risk			
		-30.0%		30.0%	
		Result \$'000	Equity \$'000	Result \$'000	Equity \$'000
Financial Assets					
Available for sale financial assets – equity	8,604	(2,581)	(2,581)	2,581	2,581

(v) Liquidity risk

Ultimate responsibility for liquidity risk management rests with the entity's governing body, which has built an appropriate liquidity risk management framework for the management of the group's short, medium and long-term funding and liquidity management requirements. The entity manages liquidity risk by maintaining adequate reserves and banking facilities by continuously monitoring forecast and actual cash flows and matching the maturity profiles of financial assets and liabilities.

The entity does not have any significant credit risk exposure to any single counterparty or any group of counterparties having similar characteristics. The credit risk on liquid funds is limited because the counterparties are banks with high credit-ratings assigned by international credit-rating agencies.

The Entity has also established a standby facility of \$10 million to provide short-term cash should the need arise. Exposure to liquidity risk and the effective weighted average interest rate for each class of financial assets and financial liabilities is set out in the following table.

	Note	Floating interest rate	Fixed Interest Maturing			Non Interest Bearing	Total				
			\$'000	\$'000	\$'000						
31 December 2009											
Assets											
Cash at bank and on hand #	18	3,793	–	–	–	–	3,793				
Deposits at call	18	98,636	–	–	–	–	98,639				
Foreign currency bank accounts	18	25,142	–	–	–	–	25,142				
Receivables	19	–	–	–	–	360,996	360,966				
Available for sale financial assets	21	–	–	–	–	8,604	8,604				
Deferred tax asset	17	–	–	–	–	416	416				
Government stocks – short-term	22	–	13	–	–	–	13				
Shares in non-related companies	22	–	–	–	–	158	158				
		127,570	13	–	–	370,145	497,728				
Weighted average interest rate		3.56%	0.14%								
Liabilities											
Trade and other payables	26	–	–	–	–	76,570	76,570				
Current tax liabilities	17	–	–	–	–	3,608	3,608				
Deferred tax liabilities	17	–	–	–	–	6	6				
		–	–	–	–	80,184	80,184				
Net financial assets (liabilities)		127,570	13	–	–	289,960	417,544				
31 December 2008											
Assets											
Cash at bank and on hand	18	11,341	–	–	–	–	11,341				
Deposits at call	18	112,297	–	–	–	–	112,297				
Foreign currency bank accounts	18	39,314	–	–	–	–	39,314				
Receivables	19	–	–	–	–	316,776	316,776				
Available for sale financial assets	21	–	–	–	–	5,690	5,690				
Deferred tax assets	17	–	–	–	–	159	159				
Government stocks – short-term	22	–	17	–	–	–	17				
Shares in non-related companies	22	–	–	–	–	165	165				
		162,952	17	–	–	322,790	485,759				
Weighted average interest rate		5.78%	0.14%								
Liabilities											
Trade and other payables	26	–	–	–	–	91,168	91,168				
Current tax liabilities	17	–	–	–	–	3,738	3,738				
Deferred tax liabilities	17	–	–	–	–	33	33				
Borrowings	27	5,052	–	–	–	–	5,052				
		5,052	–	–	–	94,939	99,991				
Weighted average interest rate		5.79%									
Net financial assets (liabilities)		157,900	17	–	–	227,851	385,768				

(vi) Credit risk

Credit risk refers to the risk that a counterparty will default on its contractual obligations resulting in financial loss to the entity. The entity has adopted a policy of only dealing with creditworthy counterparties and obtaining sufficient collateral where appropriate, as a means of mitigating the risk of financial loss from defaults. The entity's exposure and the credit ratings of its counterparties are continuously monitored and the aggregate value of transactions concluded is spread amongst approved counterparty limits that are reviewed and approved by management regularly.

The entity minimises concentrations of credit risk by undertaking transactions with a large number of customers and counterparties, spread across diverse industries and geographical areas and by performing extensive due diligence procedures on major new customers. Ongoing credit evaluation is performed on the financial condition of accounts receivable.

The carrying amount of financial assets recorded in the financial statements, grossed up for any allowances for losses, represents the entity's maximum exposure to credit without taking account of the value of any collateral obtained.

The Entity has not obtained any collateral or other security for its financial assets.

(vii) Market risk

RMIT Consolidated Entity's exposure to market risk is borne by the borrowings placed in bank accepted commercial bills and bank short-term deposits.

Note	Consolidated	
	2009	2008
	\$'000	\$'000
(viii) Reconciliation of net financial assets to net assets		
Net financial assets as above	417,544	385,768
Non-financial assets and liabilities		
Inventories	20	788
Other non-financial assets	25	7,486
Property, plant and equipment	23	1,360,156
Intangible assets	24	1,002
Provisions	28	(404,293)
Other liabilities	29	(66,416)
Net assets per balance sheet	1,316,267	1,237,400

(ix) Net fair values

The aggregate net fair values and carrying amounts of financial assets and financial liabilities at balance date are as follows:

Note	2009		2008	
	Carrying Amount \$'000	Net Fair Value \$'000	Carrying Amount \$'000	Net Fair Value \$'000
Financial assets				
Cash at bank and on hand #	18	3,793	3,793	11,341
Deposits at call	18	98,636	98,636	112,297
Foreign currency bank accounts	18	25,142	25,142	39,314
Receivables	19	360,966	360,966	316,776
Government stocks and bonds	22	13	13	17
Available for sale financial assets	21	8,604	8,604	5,690
Unlisted shares in non-related companies	22	158	158	165
Deferred tax assets	17	416	416	159
	497,728	497,728	485,759	485,759
Financial liabilities				
Trade and other payables	26	76,570	76,570	91,168
Current tax liabilities	17	3,608	3,608	3,738
Deferred tax liabilities	17	6	6	33
Borrowings	27	-	-	5,052
	80,184	80,184	99,991	99,991

The net fair value of cash and cash equivalents and non-interest bearing monetary financial assets and financial liabilities of the consolidated entity approximates their carrying amounts.

Due to the short-term nature of the current receivables, their carrying value is assumed to approximate their fair value and based on credit history it is expected that the receivables that are neither past due nor impaired will be received when due.

The net fair value of other monetary financial assets and financial liabilities is based upon market prices where a market exists or by discounting the expected future cash flows by the current interest rates for assets and liabilities with similar risk profiles.

Fair value measurements recognised in the balance sheet are categorised into the following levels:

	2009 \$'000	Level 1 \$'000	Level 3 \$'000	2008 \$'000	Level 1 \$'000	Level 3 \$'000
Financial assets						
Cash at bank and on hand	3,793	3,793	–	15,876	15,876	–
Deposits at call	98,636	98,636	–	146,458	146,458	–
Foreign currency bank accounts	25,142	25,142	–	618	618	–
Receivables	360,966	360,966	–	316,776	316,776	–
Government stocks and bonds	13	13	–	17	17	–
Available for sale financial assets	8,604	8,604	–	5,690	5,690	–
Unlisted shares in non-related companies	158	–	158	165	–	165
Deferred tax assets	416	416	–	159	159	–
	497,728	497,570	158	485,759	485,594	165
Financial liabilities						
Trade and other payables	76,570	76,570	–	91,168	91,168	–
Current tax liabilities	3,608	3,608	–	3,738	3,738	–
Deferred tax liabilities	6	6	–	33	33	–
	80,184	80,184	–	94,939	94,939	–

40 Subsidiaries

The consolidated financial statements incorporate the assets, liabilities and results of the following controlled entities in accordance with the accounting policy described in Note 1.02:

Notes	Class of Shares	Place of Incorporation	Ownership		Shares Held		Net equity		
			2009 %	2008 %	2009 No.	2008 No.	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	
Controlled entities – corporate									
RMIT International Pty Ltd	(a)	Ordinary	Australia	100	100	–	200,000	–	4
RMIT Training Pty Ltd	(b)	Ordinary	Australia	100	100	502,000	502,000	13,129	12,885
Spatial Vision Innovations Pty Ltd	(c)	Ordinary	Australia	45.90	45.90	102,000	102,000	744	830
RMIT Vietnam Holdings Pty Ltd	(d)	Ordinary	Australia	100	100	1,225,373	1,225,373	26,812	27,340
RMIT International University Vietnam	(e)	Licence	Vietnam	100	100	–	–	33,124	32,923
Meltech Services Ltd	(f)	Limited by guarantee	Australia	100	100	–	–	–	–
RMIT Drug Discovery Technologies Pty Ltd	(g)	Ordinary	Australia	100	100	5,270,563	4,971,000	1,594	2,367
Controlled entities – other									
RMIT Union	(h)	Unincorporated body						7,541	7,374
RMIT Foundation	(i)	Unincorporated body						22,172	19,691
								105,116	103,414

- (a) RMIT International Pty Ltd's deregistration was approved by Council in December 2008 and subsequent application forms lodged with ASIC were approved in late December 2008. Final confirmation of deregistration was received from ASIC in 2009.
- (b) RMIT Training Pty Ltd is a company incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001 with share capital of 502,000 ordinary shares of \$1 each.
- (c) Spatial Vision Innovations Pty Ltd is a company incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001 with ordinary shares of 222,222 (2008 – 222,222) of \$1 each. The company is a subsidiary of RMIT by virtue of its financial control and the power to appoint the board.
- (d) RMIT Vietnam Holdings Pty Ltd (RVH) is a wholly owned entity of RMIT. The company's principal activity is holding RMIT's investment in RMIT International University Vietnam (RIUV) and to hold funds for distribution to operations at the RIUV campus and RMIT's investment in RIUV. Each year the RVH results will be affected by a timing difference between receipt of grants and the subsequent payment of those grants to RIUV.
- (e) RMIT International University Vietnam is a wholly owned entity of RMIT Vietnam Holdings Pty Ltd. Its purpose is to provide advanced education to the Vietnamese community in Vietnam.
- (f) Meltech Services Ltd is a company incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001, limited by guarantee and without share capital. The liability of members at balance date was limited to \$120, being six members with a liability limited to \$20 each. Three directors, being a majority of directors, are nominees of RMIT. Accordingly, Meltech Services Ltd is a controlled entity of RMIT. This entity did not trade in 2009 and is in the process of being deregistered.
- (g) RMIT Drug Discovery Technologies Pty Ltd was incorporated on 9 January 2007 and is wholly owned by RMIT. The company's principal activity is to develop and provide OECD Principles of Good Laboratory Practice preclinical toxicology and bio-analytical testing services for national and global biotechnology, pharmaceutical and chemical industry clients progressing products for human health care through development.
- (h) RMIT Union is an unincorporated body. Its principal purpose is to provide support services to RMIT students.
- (i) RMIT Foundation is a trust. Its principal purpose is to raise funds, provide grants to RMIT for the conduct of research, construction of teaching facilities, provide for scholarships and to engage visiting scholars.

41 Acquittal of Australian Government financial assistance**41.1 DEEWR – CGS and Other DEEWR Grants**

Note	Parent entity (RMIT) ONLY							
	Commonwealth Grants Scheme#		Indigenous Support Program		Equity Support Program		Disability Support Program	
	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008
Note	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Financial assistance received in cash during the reporting period (total cash received from the Australian Government for the Programs)	141,467	132,086	310	273	191	242	184	190
Net accrual adjustments	609	2,930	–	–	–	–	–	–
Revenue for the period	3(a) 142,076	135,016	310	273	191	242	184	190
Surplus/(deficit) from the previous year	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total revenue including accrued revenue	142,076	135,016	310	273	191	242	184	190
Less expenses including accrued expenses	142,076	135,016	338	273	384	242	160	190
Surplus/(deficit) for reporting period	–	–	(28)	–	(193)	–	24	–

Includes the basic CGS grant amount, CGS-Regional Loading and CGS-Enabling Loading.

* Includes Higher Education Disability Support Program and Equity Support Program

Note	Parent entity (RMIT) ONLY							
	Workplace Reform Program		Workplace Productivity Program		Learning and Teaching Performance Fund		Capital Development Pool	
	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008
Note	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Financial assistance received in cash during the reporting period (total cash received from the Australian Government for the Programs)	1,613	1,587	667	567	1,951	–	1,021	–
Net accrual adjustments	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Revenue for the period	3(a) 1,613	1,587	667	567	1,951	–	1,021	–
Surplus/(deficit) from the previous year	–	–	–	–	–	–	946	946
Total revenue including accrued revenue	1,613	1,587	667	567	1,951	–	1,967	946
Less expenses including accrued expenses	1,613	1,587	642	567	1,951	–	1,967	–
Surplus/(deficit) for reporting period	–	–	25	–	–	–	–	946

Note	Parent entity (RMIT) ONLY							
	Diversity and Structural Adjustment Fund		Improving Practical Comp of Teach Ed		Transitional Cost Program		Total	
	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008
Note	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Financial assistance received in cash during the reporting period (total cash received from the Australian Government for the Programs)	285	256	340	369	1,138	1,453	149,167	137,023
Net accrual adjustments	–	–	–	–	–	–	609	2,930
Revenue for the period	3(a) 285	256	340	369	1,138	1,453	149,776	139,953
Surplus/(deficit) from the previous year	438	221	–	–	–	–	1,384	1,167
Total revenue including accrued revenue	723	477	340	369	1,138	1,453	151,160	141,120
Less expenses including accrued expenses	154	39	323	369	1,138	1,453	150,746	139,736
Surplus/(deficit) for reporting period	569	438	17	–	–	–	414	1,384

41 Acquittal of Australian Government financial assistance (continued)**41.2 Higher Education Loan Programs (excl OS-HELP)**

Note	Parent entity (RMIT) ONLY							
	HECS-HELP (Australian Government payments only)		FEE-HELP		VET FEE-HELP		Total	
	2009	2008	\$'000	\$'000	2009	2008	\$'000	\$'000
Financial assistance received in cash during the reporting period (total cash received from the Australian Government for the Programs)	83,152	75,726	19,454	16,885	113	–	102,719	92,611
Net accrual adjustments	(2,812)	(40)	2,150	2,183	–	–	(662)	2,143
Revenue for the period	3(b)	80,340	75,686	21,604	19,068	113	–	102,057
Surplus/(deficit) from the previous year	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total revenue including accrued revenue	80,340	75,686	21,604	19,068	113	–	102,057	94,754
Less expenses including accrued expenses	80,340	75,686	21,604	19,068	113	–	102,057	94,754
Surplus/(deficit) for reporting period	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

41.3 Scholarships

Note	Parent entity (RMIT) ONLY							
	Australian Postgraduate Awards		International Postgraduate Research Scholarships		Commonwealth Education Costs Scholarships		Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarships	
	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008
Financial assistance received in cash during the reporting period (total cash received from the Australian Government for the Programs)	2,944	2,439	462	592	1,574	1,295	1,632	1,379
Revenue for the period	3(c)	2,944	2,439	462	592	1,574	1,295	1,632
Surplus/(deficit) from the previous year	894	737	(234)	(225)	19	19	58	59
Total revenue including accrued revenue	3,838	3,176	228	367	1,593	1,314	1,690	1,438
Less expenses including accrued expenses	3,838	2,283	405	601	1,553	1,295	1,652	1,380
Surplus/(deficit) for reporting period	–	893	(177)	(234)	40	19	38	58

Note	Parent entity (RMIT) ONLY				
	Indigenous Access Scholarships		Total		
	2009	2008	2009	2008	\$'000
Financial assistance received in cash during the reporting period (total cash received from the Australian Government for the Programs)	50	29	6,662	5,734	
Revenue for the period	3(c)	50	29	6,662	5,734
Surplus/(deficit) from the previous year	(1)	–	736	590	
Total revenue including accrued revenue	49	29	7,398	6,324	
Less expenses including accrued expenses	49	30	7,497	5,589	
Surplus/(deficit) for reporting period	–	(1)	(99)	735	

41 Acquittal of Australian Government financial assistance (continued)**41.4 DIISR Research**

		Parent entity (RMIT) ONLY							
		Institutional Grants Scheme		Research Training Scheme		Research Infrastructure Block Grants		Implementation Assistance Program	
		2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008
Note		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Financial assistance received in cash during the reporting period (total cash received from the Australian Government for the Programs)		5,243	5,224	14,187	13,963	1,669	1,650	139	140
Revenue for the period	3(d)	5,243	5,224	14,187	13,963	1,669	1,650	139	140
Surplus/(deficit) from the previous year		–	1,416	–	–	–	–	127	64
Total revenue including accrued revenue		5,243	6,640	14,187	13,963	1,669	1,777	203	150
Less expenses including accrued expenses		5,243	6,640	14,187	13,963	1,669	1,777	204	86
Surplus/(deficit) for reporting period		–	–	–	–	–	–	(1)	64
		Parent entity (RMIT) ONLY							
		Australian Scheme for Higher Education Repositories		Commercialisation Training Scheme		Total			
		2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008
Note		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Financial assistance received in cash during the reporting period (total cash received from the Australian Government for the Programs)		244	320	131	127	21,613	21,424		
Revenue for the period	3(d)	244	320	131	127	21,613	21,424		
Surplus/(deficit) from the previous year		277	170	41	3	382	1,726		
Total revenue including accrued revenue		521	490	172	130	21,995	23,150		
Less expenses including accrued expenses		328	213	207	89	21,838	22,768		
Surplus/(deficit) for reporting period		193	277	(35)	41	157	382		

41.5 Voluntary Student Unionism and Better Universities Renewal Funding

		Parent entity (RMIT) ONLY	
		VSU Transition Fund	
		2009	2008
Note		\$'000	\$'000
Financial assistance received in cash during the reporting period (total cash received from the Australian Government for the Programs)		267	233
Revenue for the period	3(e)	267	233
Surplus/(deficit) from the previous year		–	–
Total revenue including accrued revenue		267	233
Less expenses including accrued expenses		267	233
Surplus/(deficit) for reporting period		–	–

41 Acquittal of Australian Government financial assistance (continued)**41.6 Other Capital Funding**

	Note	Parent entity (RMIT) ONLY					
		Better Universities Renewal Fund		Teaching and Learning Capital Fund		Total	
		2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008
	Note	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Financial assistance received in cash during the reporting period (total cash received from the Australian Government for the Programs)		–	14,430	16,721	–	16,721	14,430
Revenue for the period	3(f)	–	14,430	16,721	–	16,721	14,430
Surplus/(deficit) from the previous year		–	–	–	–	–	–
Total revenue including accrued revenue		–	14,430	16,721	–	16,721	14,430
Less expenses including accrued expenses		–	14,430	16,721	–	16,721	14,430
Surplus/(deficit) for reporting period		–	–	–	–	–	–

41.7 Australian Research Council Grants**(a) Discovery**

	Note	Parent entity (RMIT) ONLY					
		Projects		Fellowships		Total	
		2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008
	Note	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Financial assistance received in cash during the reporting period (total cash received from the Australian Government for the Programs)		3,325	2,124	620	329	3,945	2,453
Revenue for the period	3(g)(i)	3,325	2,124	620	329	3,945	2,453
Surplus/(deficit) from the previous year		922	1,134	175	139	1,097	1,273
Total revenue including accrued revenue		4,247	3,258	795	468	5,042	3,726
Less expenses including accrued expenses		2,627	2,336	326	293	2,953	2,629
Surplus/(deficit) for reporting period		1,620	922	469	175	2,089	1,097

(b) Linkages

	Note	Parent entity (RMIT) ONLY							
		Infrastructure		International		Projects		Total	
		2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008
	Note	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Financial assistance received in cash during the reporting period (total cash received from the Australian Government for the Programs)		550	–	6	106	3,425	3,622	3,981	3,728
Revenue for the period	3(g)(ii)	550	–	6	106	3,425	3,622	3,981	3,728
Surplus/(deficit) from the previous year		–	700	107	108	2,264	1,789	2,371	2,597
Total revenue including accrued revenue		550	700	113	214	5,689	5,411	6,352	6,325
Less expenses including accrued expenses		803	700	115	107	3,764	3,147	4,682	3,954
Surplus/(deficit) for reporting period		(253)	–	(2)	107	1,925	2,264	1,670	2,371

41.8 OS-HELP

	Note	Parent entity (RMIT) ONLY	
		2009	2008
		\$'000	\$'000
Cash Received during the reporting period	3(j)	350	344
Cash Spent during the reporting period		353	277
Cash available		(3)	67
Cash Surplus/(deficit) from the previous period		73	6
Cash Surplus/(deficit) for reporting period		70	73

41 Acquittal of Australian Government financial assistance (continued)**41.9 Superannuation Supplementation**

	Note	Parent entity (RMIT) ONLY	
		2009	2008
		\$'000	\$'000
Cash Received during the reporting period	3(i)	19,910	23,648
University contribution in respect of current employees		(23,551)	(20,915)
Cash available		(3,641)	2,733
Cash Surplus/(deficit) from previous period		433	(2,300)
Cash available for current period		20,343	21,348
Contribution to specified defined benefit funds	38	23,551	20,915
Cash surplus/(deficit) this period		(3,208)	433

	Note	Consolidated		RMIT	
		2009	2008	2009	2008
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
42 Remuneration of auditors					
Auditing or reviewing the financial reports of the entity or any entity in the consolidated entity					
Auditor-General of Victoria		335	303	237	216
Total accounting and auditing services		335	303	237	216

43 Key management personnel disclosures**(a) Responsible persons related disclosures**

In accordance with the directions of the Minister for Finance under the Financial Management Act 1994, the following disclosures are made for the responsible Ministers and responsible Members of Council.

(i) Minister

The relevant Minister is The Hon. Jacinta Allan MP, Minister for Skills and Workforce Participation. Remuneration of the Minister is disclosed in the financial report of the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

The Premier announced new portfolio responsibilities with effect from 20 January 2010, with the new minister being The Hon. Bronwyn Pike MP.

Other relevant interests are declared in the Register of Members interests which is completed by each member of Parliament.

(ii) Names of responsible persons and executive officers

The following persons were responsible persons and executive officers of RMIT during the year:

Council Members

Awcock, F.	McKenzie, E.
Ayers, T. (Commenced on 15 June 2009)	Nieuwenhuysen, J.
Ballagh, A.	O'Donnell, R.
Coloe, P.	Pekarek, H.
Dalton, A.	Robinson, N.
Francis, T.	Schulze, M.
Gardner, M.	Tappenden, T.
Gibson, D.	Thompson-Gordon, L.
Gilmour, J.	Thorn, F.
Hall, J. (Term concluded on 31 December 2009 and replaced by Henderson, E.)	Wulff, R
Lever, R.	Young, D.

All council members have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise noted above.

43 Key management personnel disclosures (continued)**Executive Officers**

Alcorn, D.	Kirk, J.
Ballagh, A.	Liddell, M. (commenced on 1 July 2009)
Barber, J.	Palmer, G.
Coloe, P.	Reeve, M.
Fudge, C.	Somogyi, S.
Gardner, M.	Wells, J. (commenced on 23 March 2009)
Hoodbhoy, M. (commenced on 1 October 2009)	

All executive officers have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise noted above.

(b) Remuneration of responsible persons	Consolidated		RMIT	
	2009	2008	2009	2008
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Income paid or payable, or otherwise made available, to Councillors and/or directors by entities in the RMIT consolidated entity and related parties in connection with the management of affairs of the RMIT entity or its subsidiaries.	4,866	5,239	1,901	1,598
Number of RMIT Councillors whose total remuneration from RMIT and any related bodies corporate was within the following bands:	2009 No.	2008 No.	2009 No.	2008 No.
\$ 0	6	5	2	3
Less than \$10,000	4	3	1	–
\$ 10,000 – \$ 19,999	10	12	10	12
\$ 20,000 – \$ 29,999	2	–	2	–
\$ 70,000 – \$ 79,999	1	2	1	2
\$ 80,000 – \$ 89,999	1	–	1	–
\$ 90,000 – \$ 99,999	–	1	–	1
\$100,000 – \$109,999	–	2	–	1
\$110,000 – \$119,999	1	2	1	–
\$120,000 – \$129,999	3	1	–	–
\$130,000 – \$139,999	2	–	1	–
\$140,000 – \$149,999	–	–	–	–
\$160,000 – \$169,999	–	1	–	–
\$170,000 – \$179,999	–	1	–	–
\$180,000 – \$189,999	1	–	–	–
\$210,000 – \$219,999	–	1	–	1
\$220,000 – \$229,999	–	1	–	–
\$230,000 – \$239,999	–	1	–	1
\$250,000 – \$259,999	–	1	–	–
\$260,000 – \$269,999	1	–	–	–
\$270,000 – \$279,999	1	1	1	–
\$280,000 – \$289,999	–	1	–	–
\$290,000 – \$299,999	–	1	–	–
\$300,000 – \$309,999	1	1	–	–
\$320,000 – \$329,999	1	1	1	–
\$330,000 – \$339,999	–	–	–	–
\$350,000 – \$359,999	–	1	–	–
\$390,000 – \$399,999	2	–	–	–
\$400,000 – \$409,999	–	–	–	–
\$420,000 – \$429,999	1	–	–	–
\$480,000 – \$489,999	1	–	–	–
\$500,000 – \$509,999	–	1	–	–
\$600,000 – \$609,999	–	1	–	1
\$680,000 – \$689,999	1	–	1	–
	40	42	22	22

43 Key management personnel disclosures (continued)**(c) Remuneration of executive officers**

Income received or due and receivable from entities in the consolidated entity and related parties by Australian-based executive officers occupying a senior management role except for responsible persons whose remuneration was at least \$100,000.

In addition to the senior executive officers reported under Note 43 (a) (ii) for RMIT, the consolidated disclosures below include executives of controlled entities.

Note	Consolidated		RMIT	
	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
	Base remuneration of executive officers	3,085	3,321	2,522
Total remuneration of executive officers#	4,209	3,646	3,506	2,686
The number of executive officers whose total remuneration was within the following bands:	2009 No.	2008 No.	2009 No.	2008 No.
\$100,000 – \$109,999	–	1	–	1
\$190,000 – \$199,999	1	1	–	–
\$200,000 – \$209,999	–	1	–	–
\$210,000 – \$219,999	–	1	–	1
\$220,000 – \$229,999	1	1	1	1
\$230,000 – \$239,999	–	1	–	–
\$240,000 – \$249,999	2	–	–	–
\$250,000 – \$259,999	2	1	2	1
\$260,000 – \$269,999	–	–	–	–
\$270,000 – \$279,999	–	1	–	1
\$290,000 – \$299,000	–	2	–	2
\$300,000 – \$309,999	1	1	1	1
\$330,000 – \$339,999	–	1	–	–
\$350,000 – \$359,999	1	2	1	2
\$360,000 – \$369,999	–	–	–	–
\$390,000 – \$399,999	2	–	2	–
\$400,000 – \$409,999	–	–	–	–
\$420,000 – \$429,999	2	–	2	–
\$480,000 – \$489,999	1	–	1	–
	13	14	10	10

Total remuneration of executive officers includes basic salary, bonus, annual leave, long service leave, termination payments, motor vehicle and other non-monetary benefits received or due and receivable by executive officers.

44 Related parties

The following related party transactions occurred during the financial year and were conducted on normal terms and conditions unless otherwise stated:

(a) Responsible persons and specified executives

The names, remuneration and retirement benefits of persons who were Councillors of RMIT and specified executives at any time during the financial year are set out in Note 43.

(b) Controlled entities

Interests in subsidiaries are set out in Note 40.

(c) Transactions with related parties

The following transactions occurred with related parties:

Aggregate amounts included in the determination of operating result from ordinary activities that resulted from transactions with each class of other related parties within the group:

Note	Consolidated		RMIT	
	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Sale of services				
Fees and charges	–	–	6,198	1,680
Donations and bequests	–	–	624	642
Rental income	–	–	1,058	784
Purchase of services				
Expenditure in relation to delivery of programs	–	–	673	–
Materials expense	–	–	–	1
Grants, scholarships and prizes	–	–	1,541	2,501
Expenditure incurred on behalf of related parties				
Audit fees	–	–	8	9
Investment of capital				
Loans advanced to/(repaid by) subsidiaries	–	–	(1,553)	8,087
Interest expense				
–	–	–	820	1,323
(d) Outstanding balances				
The following balances are outstanding at the reporting date in relation to transactions with related parties:				
Current Receivables				
Subsidiaries	–	–	7,150	8,703
Current Payables				
Subsidiaries	–	–	243	573
Interest bearing liabilities				
Subsidiaries	–	–	28,699	27,208
(e) Forgiveness of debts				
In 2008, RMIT fully impaired its receivable from RMIT International (as this company was to cease operations and be deregistered). At 31/12/08, this debt was reported as forgiven in the books of RMIT International. Subsequently in 2009 this debt was written off by RMIT University.	–	–	1,431	1,431
(f) Terms and conditions				
All transactions were made on normal commercial terms and conditions and at market rates, except that there are no fixed terms for repayment of loans between the parties. The average interest rate on loans during the year was 3.28% (2008 – 6.76%).				
Outstanding balances are unsecured and are repayable in cash.				
Certain administrative services are provided by RMIT to a number of entities within the wholly owned group at no charge.				

Balance Sheet for the years 2009 to 2005 inclusive

	Consolidated AIFRS					RMIT AIFRS				
	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
ASSETS										
Current assets										
Cash and cash equivalents	127,570	162,952	116,222	89,798	59,557	85,216	102,685	70,205	59,006	31,814
Receivables	62,914	59,329	98,516	88,349	46,434	65,658	62,685	104,631	90,354	49,380
Inventories	788	812	688	543	888	—	—	—	—	—
Non-current assets classified as held for sale	—	—	—	—	29,875	—	—	—	—	29,875
Other non-financial assets	7,486	7,739	4,180	4,436	3,500	5,990	6,707	3,333	3,908	2,947
Total current assets	198,758	230,832	219,606	183,126	140,254	156,864	172,077	178,169	153,268	114,016
Non-current assets										
Receivables	298,052	257,447	243,534	270,509	285,463	298,000	257,395	243,482	270,509	285,463
Available for sale financial assets through equity	8,604	5,690	10,909	8,447	6,956	—	—	—	—	—
Other financial assets	172	182	176	173	174	2,494	2,694	2,694	823	822
Property, plant and equipment	1,360,156	1,250,306	1,091,805	1,044,799	1,040,994	1,330,063	1,228,628	1,077,502	1,030,443	1,021,486
Deferred tax asset	416	159	126	484	66	—	—	—	387	—
Intangible assets	1,002	1,225	1,381	46	2,140	—	—	—	—	2,093
Total non-current assets	1,668,402	1,515,009	1,347,931	1,324,458	1,335,793	1,630,557	1,488,717	1,323,678	1,302,162	1,309,864
Total assets	1,867,160	1,745,841	1,567,537	1,507,584	1,476,047	1,787,421	1,660,794	1,501,847	1,455,430	1,423,880
LIABILITIES										
Current liabilities										
Trade and other payables	76,570	91,168	71,891	58,830	58,284	62,838	78,911	67,550	48,040	51,571
Borrowings	—	657	—	—	—	28,699	27,208	19,121	21,156	13,724
Provisions	97,648	93,239	93,295	81,826	89,064	96,225	91,609	91,921	80,497	87,516
Current tax liabilities	3,608	3,738	3,249	224	239	3,608	3,738	3,155	130	239
Other liabilities	66,391	47,209	37,796	27,795	30,531	52,520	30,748	22,679	17,280	22,016
Total current liabilities	244,217	236,011	206,231	168,675	178,118	243,890	232,214	204,426	167,103	175,066
Non-current liabilities										
Borrowings	—	4,395	7,940	8,825	9,541	—	—	—	—	—
Provisions	306,645	268,002	248,282	274,467	286,124	305,923	267,784	248,063	274,174	284,800
Deferred tax liabilities	6	33	42	32	21	—	—	—	—	—
Other liabilities	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total non-current liabilities	306,676	272,430	256,264	283,324	295,686	305,923	267,784	248,063	274,174	284,800
Total liabilities	550,893	508,441	462,495	451,999	473,804	549,813	499,998	452,489	441,277	459,866
Net assets	1,316,267	1,237,400	1,105,042	1,055,585	1,002,243	1,237,608	1,160,796	1,049,358	1,014,153	964,014
EQUITY										
RMIT entity interest										
Reserves	589,606	595,572	534,707	547,287	557,548	548,554	548,554	491,655	501,497	510,154
Accumulated funds	726,199	641,320	569,875	507,926	444,463	689,054	612,242	557,703	512,656	453,860
Total RMIT entity interest	1,315,805	1,236,892	1,104,582	1,055,213	1,002,011	1,237,608	1,160,796	1,049,358	1,014,153	964,014
Outside equity interest in controlled entities	462	508	460	372	232	—	—	—	—	—
Total equity	1,316,267	1,237,400	1,105,042	1,055,585	1,002,243	1,237,608	1,160,796	1,049,358	1,014,153	964,014

Income Statement for the years 2009 to 2005 inclusive

	Consolidated AIFRS					RMIT AIFRS				
	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Income from continuing operations										
Australian Government financial assistance										
Australian Government grants	238,417	209,833	182,807	170,468	160,587	238,417	209,833	182,807	170,468	160,587
HECS-HELP – Australian Government payments	80,340	75,686	69,721	64,815	55,870	80,340	75,686	69,721	64,815	55,870
FEE-HELP	21,604	19,068	16,373	14,607	12,441	21,604	19,068	16,373	14,607	12,441
VET FEE-HELP	113	–	–	–	–	113	–	–	–	–
State and Local Government financial assistance	72,301	68,436	66,588	65,235	60,042	72,301	68,348	66,588	65,235	60,042
HECS-HELP – Student Payments	14,914	14,432	12,750	12,769	11,452	14,914	14,432	12,750	12,769	11,452
Fees and charges	310,226	274,670	236,371	206,592	187,977	254,764	225,474	201,907	182,434	170,729
Investment income	8,147	12,963	8,046	5,342	4,034	6,496	8,741	6,038	3,745	2,906
Consultancy and contracts	36,961	35,926	33,875	37,959	39,091	32,152	31,078	25,654	24,988	23,103
Other revenue and income	30,095	24,556	24,664	31,892	29,722	25,813	13,878	12,703	14,639	13,595
	813,118	735,570	651,195	609,679	561,216	746,914	666,538	594,541	553,700	510,725
Deferred government superannuation contributions	38,642	11,971	(22,777)	(14,851)	29,466	38,642	11,971	(22,777)	(14,851)	29,466
Total revenue from continuing operations	851,760	747,541	628,418	594,828	590,682	785,556	678,509	571,764	538,849	540,191
Expenses from continuing operations										
Employee related expenses	461,756	419,183	379,428	343,691	344,301	421,880	388,054	355,060	316,316	319,332
Depreciation and amortisation	40,192	33,342	28,423	28,131	26,506	37,484	30,957	26,544	25,302	23,574
Repairs and maintenance	10,580	21,244	16,235	15,937	13,558	10,523	20,966	16,063	15,578	13,157
Finance costs	88	390	1	22	914	821	1,323	1,347	446	973
Impairment of assets	5,724	3,380	4,222	976	1,255	5,998	3,315	8,738	1,451	1,309
Other expenses	209,202	184,796	165,334	164,482	146,432	192,725	165,261	147,822	143,156	129,456
	727,543	662,335	593,643	553,239	532,966	669,431	609,876	555,574	502,249	487,801
Deferred employee benefits for superannuation	38,642	11,971	(22,777)	(14,851)	29,466	38,642	11,971	(22,777)	(14,851)	29,466
Total expenses from continuing operations	766,185	674,306	570,866	538,388	562,432	708,073	621,847	532,797	487,398	517,267
Operating result before income tax	85,575	73,235	57,552	56,440	28,250	77,483	56,662	38,967	51,451	22,924
Income tax expense	597	2,201	3,882	1,437	(543)	671	2,124	3,762	1,312	(319)
Operating result from continuing operations	84,978	71,034	53,670	55,003	28,793	76,812	54,538	35,205	50,139	23,243
Operating result attributable to minority interest	47	(107)	(149)	(146)	(114)	–	–	–	–	–
Operating result attributed to RMIT entity	85,025	70,927	53,521	54,857	28,679	76,812	54,538	35,205	50,139	23,243

OBJECTS OF RMIT UNIVERSITY

Extract from the RMIT Act

The objects of the University include:

- (a) The development of an institution with excellence in teaching, training, scholarship, research, consultancy, community service and other educational services and products, with emphasis on technology and its development, impact and application;
- (b) The provision of a multi-level system of post-secondary education programs relevant to the needs of the community covering a wide range of fields and levels from basic trade to post-doctoral studies with provision for recognition of prior learning and flexibility of transition between programs;
- (c) The provision of high quality educational, research, residential, commercial, cultural, social, recreational, sporting and other facilities;
- (d) The advancement of knowledge and its practical application by research and other means, the dissemination by various means of the outcomes of research and the commercial exploitation of the results of such research;
- (da) To promote critical enquiry within the university and in the general community;
- (e) The participation in commercial ventures and activities;
- (f) The fostering of the general welfare and development of all enrolled students;
- (g) The conferring of prescribed degrees and the granting of prescribed diplomas, certificates and other awards;
- (h) The provision of opportunities for development and further training for staff of the university;
- (i) The development and provision of educational, cultural, professional, technical and vocational services to the community and in particular the fostering of participation in a university of technology of persons living or working in the northern metropolitan region of Melbourne;
- (j) The provision of programs, products and services in ways that take account of the principles of equity and social justice;
- (k) The maintenance of close interaction with industry and the community and the development of associations or agreements with any other educational, commercial, governmental or other institution;
- (l) The development of a strong international dimension to the university's teaching, research, consultancy, development, service and other activities;
- (m) Generally the development and operation of a university providing appropriate academic and other programs, courses of study, educational products and research activity such as the council considers necessary for the attainment of the foregoing within Victoria and elsewhere.

GLOSSARY

AASB	Australian Accounting Standards Board
ALTC	Australian Learning and Teaching Council
ARC	Australian Research Council
ATN	Australian Technology Network of Universities
ATSI	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
AUQA	Australian Universities Quality Agency
CEQ	Course Experience Questionnaire
CRC	Cooperative Research Centre
DEEWR	Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
DHS	Victorian Department of Human Services
DSC	RMIT College of Design and Social Context
EFT	Equivalent full-time
EFTSL	Equivalent full-time study load
ELICOS	English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students
ENTER	Equivalent National Tertiary Entrance Rank
ESOS	Education Services for Overseas Students
EOWA	Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency
GCA	Graduate Careers Australia
GDS	Graduate Destination Survey
HDR	Higher Degree by Research
HE	Higher Education
HECS	Higher Education Contribution Scheme
IELTS	International English Language Testing System
IT	Information technology
LTIF	RMIT Learning and Teaching Investment Fund
MBA	Master of Business Administration
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NAIDOC	National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee
NCVER	National Centre for Vocational Education Research
NEIS	New Enterprise Incentive Scheme
NHMRC	National Health and Medical Research Council
NTEU	National Tertiary Education Union
OHS	Occupational health and safety
Program	A collection of courses leading to a University award
PVC	Pro Vice-Chancellor
RMIT	RMIT University
SCH	Student contact hour
SEH	RMIT College of Science, Engineering and Health
SOS	Student Outcomes Survey
TAFE	Technical and Further Education
VCAL	Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning
VCE	Victorian Certificate of Education
VET	Vocational Education and Training

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