

Principal's Newsletter

Sustainability and Impact

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RMIT's Swanston Academic Building (RMIT's Business Hub) is one of many that is committed to sustainability. With reduced energy and water use, it has been accredited with a 5-star green rating.

Womin Djeka!

We are pleased to present our December issue of the Principal's Newsletter with a theme of RMIT's Global Sustainability and Impact.

RMIT is committed to the practice of incorporating sustainability principles and practices into our learning and teaching, research and operational activities, to empower our students, staff, community and industry.

The University aims to demonstrate global leadership through the initiatives we undertake and in the way we empower our students, staff, community and industry.

RMIT wins Melbourne Achiever Award

RMIT University was recently awarded the [Committee for Melbourne's 2020 Melbourne Achiever Award](#), for an outstanding organisation.

The Award celebrates contributions to Melbourne that will leave a lasting legacy, with the University being recognised for its significant contribution and commitment to the design, cultural offerings, accessibility, greening, and sustainability of Melbourne as a global city.

"The people of RMIT are passionate about Melbourne and about creating a legacy of education, inclusion and innovation," he said.

"As a University we're committed to improving the lived experience of our urban environment and I'm proud that this is evidenced in so many of our projects and initiatives. It's an honour to be recognised by the Committee for Melbourne,"

says RMIT Vice-Chancellor and President Martin Bean CBE.

We hope you enjoy reading this edition and find it a helpful way of keeping in touch.

Kind regards,

RMIT University

RMIT would like to thank you for your contributions and interactions this year.

We wish you and your school communities a safe and happy holiday period, and we look forward to all that 2021 has to bring.

What's next...

Leading the way in

Sustainability



RMIT is # 1 in the world for Sustainable Development Goals 10

RMIT has been ranked number one in the world for its efforts to reduce inequality within and among countries in the Times Higher Education (THE) SDGs Impact Rankings, which assess universities' contributions to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

RMIT was also the first university to instate a dedicated SDGs role, currently held by Chief Operating Officer and Sustainability Committee Champion Dionne Higgins.

[Read more](#)



Shaping the future of fashion

Switching high-waste, high-carbon practices for sustainable methods is arguably the most prominent change facing the fashion industry currently.

Luckily, tomorrow's fashion professionals are already discovering innovative new ways to minimise the impact of fashion consumption on the environment, said Professor Robyn Healy, RMIT's Dean of School, Fashion and Textiles.

[Read more](#)



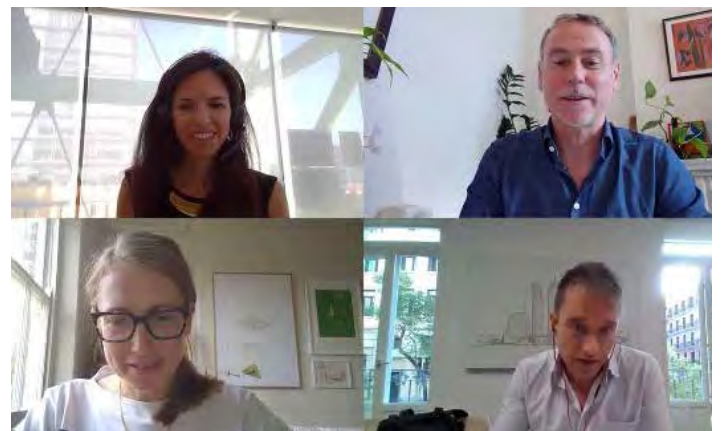
Senior Lecturer Dr Meg Elkins

Tackling real world challenges

Business graduates need to be able to tackle real-world, complex issues that don't necessarily have a simple solution. Senior lecturer Dr Meg Elkins gives her students projects that allow them to engage deeply in topics that will have a direct impact on their future.

In 2020, the topic is a broad range of sustainability projects working towards achieving Melbourne's 2030 sustainability goals, taking active steps to scope out environmentally sustainable business plans," Elkins says.

[Read more](#)



Experts in Spain and the UK shared their views at RMIT's global webinar on the Transformation for a Sustainable Built Environment.

Rebuilding our world in a sustainable way

According to RMIT experts, now is not only the time for the sector to think about addressing climate change and energy challenges, but also the right moment to apply an inclusive human-centric approach.

"We must take this opportunity to transform, be proactive and encourage the next generation of industry professionals to push the boundaries and deliver regenerative sustainability in our buildings and cities," said Marta Fernandez, Executive Director at RMIT Europe.

[Read more](#)



Shaping the future of landscape architecture

The environmental impact of dense urban development brings with it a need to reduce its footprint, by creating diverse outdoor environments and public open spaces.

Students frequently choose to study landscape architectural design because they have a strong commitment to both environmental wellbeing and social justice, says Katrina Simon, Associate Dean of Landscape Architecture.

[Read more](#)

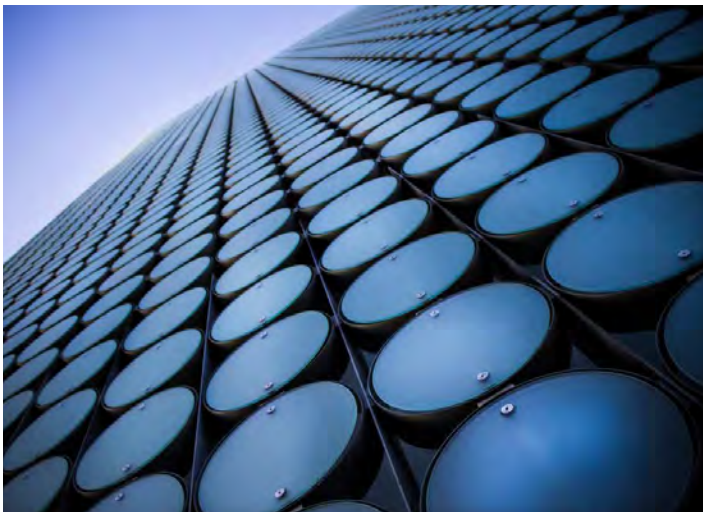


Global leader in Carbon and climate action

RMIT is a global leader in climate action, taking practical steps and innovative projects to become carbon neutral by 2030 and adapting to climate risks. The University also supports our local and international communities and partners to transition to a low carbon future.

RMIT achieves this by focusing on energy efficiency and emissions reduction in by demonstrating a commitment to environmentally-friendly design elements.

[Read more](#)



RMIT's Sustainable Urban Precincts Program (SUPP) - largest program of its kind in the southern hemisphere.

RMIT is strongly committed to transforming its own built environment to create sustainable and resilient cities.

To realise this vision, RMIT committed to a \$128 million plan to reduce energy and water use, significantly lowering greenhouse gas emissions associated with campus operations. The Sustainable Urban Precincts Program (SUPP) is the largest program of its kind in the southern hemisphere and the results have been amazing!

[Read more](#)

2020 Green Gown Award Highly Commended - Staff Award for Michael Anderson (Manager, Carbon & Sustainability) for work on our carbon-neutral commitment

2020 Green Gown Award Highly Commended - Benefitting Society category for the TIMeR app by the School of Media and Communication

2020 Green Gown Award Australasian Award for Creating Impact for Sustainability Engagement at RMIT

2019 Green Gown Award International Awards Highly Commended - Institution of the Year

44,000
LED LED light fittings installed

SUPP initiatives resulted in
30,000
tCO₂-emissions reduction per annum

+53%
grid electricity saved through direct savings and embedded generation

52 million
litres of water saved per annum

Meet some of our

Sustainability Champions



Energy @RMIT

RMIT has a long and rich history of cutting-edge, industrial relevant research in the energy sector. Energy@RMIT has brought together all the researcher capabilities to form a team with expertise that spans the complete research space required to understand, lead and support the energy transition.

Innovative approaches to generate, convert and distribute electrical energy, underpinning the transition to a renewable energy based 21st century smart electrical grid from a centralised fossil-fuel approach.

[Meet our champions working on energy research at RMIT University.](#)



When Trash Becomes Fashion

RMIT graduate Koky Saly is the founder of BeeKeeper Parade. The sustainable fashion brand's mission is to create products that change the world, do no harm to the environment, nourish and support the people and animals that dwell on our planet, to seek solutions to our environmental crisis, to use business to inspire people to consume less, to do more and BEE MORE and to support BabyTree Projects in its fight for quality education for all children.

[Learn more](#)



Novus has developed a multi-purpose transparent face mask, with rear-facing cork filters and a bite valve for drinking.

Student's eco-friendly face mask impresses in global competition

An impending waste-crisis from disposable masks has driven second-year Biomedical Engineering student Arya Pawar, to design a prototype next-generation face mask, which has been shortlisted in the global XPRIZE Next-Gen Mask challenge.

The Novus prototype mask's transparent design, rear-filters and sustainability focus saw it named in the top 25 teams from over 900 submissions. The team has collaborated with industry partners 3M, Honeywell, Lydall, and Under Armour.

[Read more](#)



Student creativity astounds during Melbourne Fashion Week

From striking 3D digital avatars, to burqas, bikinis and sustainable garments, RMIT fashion students have risen above COVID-19 restrictions to show their incredible talents during Melbourne Fashion Week.

Associate Dean Fashion and Textiles and Design, Ricarda Bigolin said she's been blown away by the 2020 cohort and what they've achieved.

"We've never seen anything like this before, these students have created amazing work, taught themselves new digital skills and shown outstanding agility and resilience," she said.

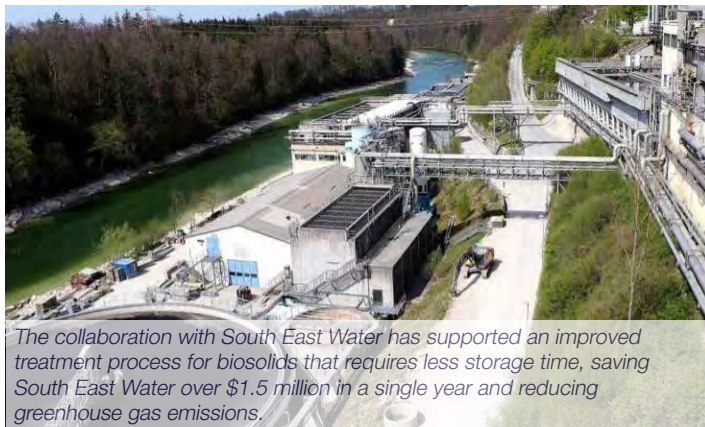
[Read more](#)

RMIT's cutting-edge sustainability research

How to mix old tyres and building rubble to make sustainable roads

Our researchers have shown how a blend of old tyres and building rubble could be used as a sustainable road-making material, in a zero-waste solution to boost recycling and support the circular economy. The new material, developed by researchers at RMIT University, is the first to combine recycled rubble and rubber in a mix that is precisely optimised to meet road engineering safety standards.

[Read more](#)



The collaboration with South East Water has supported an improved treatment process for biosolids that requires less storage time, saving South East Water over \$1.5 million in a single year and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Working with the Water Industry to Recycle Biosolids

Distinguished Professor Andy Ball's research into pathogen survival and treatment has delivered savings to the water industry and influenced a change in regulation. Ball is Director of RMIT's Centre for Environment, Sustainability and Remediation, which brings together environmental scientists, social scientists and engineers to understand and solve environmental and sustainability problems.

[Read more](#)

New butterfly-inspired hydrogen sensor is powered by light

Inspired by the surface of butterfly wings, researchers have developed a light-activated hydrogen sensor that produces ultra-precise results at room temperature.

“By delivering precise and reliable sensing technology that can detect the tiniest of leaks, well before they become dangerous, we hope to contribute to advancing a hydrogen economy that can transform energy supplies around the world,” says RMIT's co-lead researcher Dr Ahmad Kandjani.

[Read more](#)



The new method could help reduce reliance on fossil fuel-derived diesel in the future.

Making biodiesel from dirty old cooking oil just got way easier

Researchers have developed a powerful, low-cost method for recycling used cooking oil and agricultural waste into biodiesel, and turning food scraps and plastic rubbish into high-value products.

[Read more](#)

Engagement update with

Secondary Schools

2020 has been a year where exploration, innovation and resilience have been more important than ever.

The RMIT Student Recruitment team were able to rethink the 85% of work impacted by restrictions to bring our university to students virtually in many different offerings.

Here are some of our achievements:



350+ digital recruitment events and expos.

Pivot to **85% digitally enabled outreach** during COVID-19.



100+ virtual presentations to schools in VIC, TAS, NT and New Zealand.

Discover What's Next webinar series:
40 webinars with 3600+ registrations.



1200+ schools received physical resources in the mail for Open Day.

Global connectivity with schools located in 60+ different countries.



Tripled Career Advisers and Principals databases from VIC, Interstate, New Zealand and global schools.



Change of Preference

RMIT are prepared and ready to assist students through the Change of Preference period this year. We have a dedicated channels for students and parents as well as a dedicated hotline for Career Advisers.

[Read more about Change of Preference at RMIT.](#)

Find your pathway to study at RMIT

Explore your study options with RMIT, through individual or packaged pathways, to reach your study goals.

Use our tool to find the right pathway to your dream degree.

[Explore courses](#)

[or use search to find your course](#)

RMIT Pathways Tool

RMIT is the first tertiary institution in Victoria to offer packaged pathways as preferences in VTAC through our Guaranteed Pathways programs.

[Check out the RMIT Pathways tool here.](#)

Contact Us

We hope you enjoyed this edition.

If you have any feedback, suggestions or would like further information about RMIT, please contact us:

Email: student.recruitment@rmit.edu.au

Phone: (03) 9925 2555

Website: www.rmit.edu.au/study-with-us/career-advisers/contact-us

Acknowledgement of Country

RMIT University acknowledges the people of the Woi wurrung and Boon wurrung language groups of the eastern Kulin Nation on whose unceded lands we conduct the business of the University. RMIT University respectfully acknowledges their Ancestors and Elders, past and present. RMIT also acknowledges the Traditional Custodians and their Ancestors of the lands and waters across Australia where we conduct our business.

Artwork created by Louisa Bloomer

> **Respect for Australian Indigenous Cultures**