

Summary of Linkage Projects Proposals for Funding to Commence in 2008

Victoria

RMIT University

LP0882780 Dr SA Bekessy; Dr MA McCarthy; Dr BA Wintle

Approved Project Title **Biodiversity planning in the urban fringe: multiple actors, multiple conservation actions, multiple uncertainties**

2008 : \$ 150,000

2009 : \$ 135,000

2010 : \$ 145,000

Primary RFCD 2707 ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTION

APA(I) Award(s): 1

Collaborating/Partner Organisation(s)

Department of Sustainability and Environment

Hume City Council

Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority

Stockland

Mornington Peninsula Shire

Parks Victoria

Administering Organisation RMIT University

Project Summary

Accelerating urbanisation in Australia is considered one of the greatest threats to biodiversity, with over 50% of threatened species occurring in urban fringe areas. Conservation planners in the urban fringe lack tools that can simultaneously prioritize multiple conservation actions by multiple actors and reconcile complicated tradeoffs. This project addresses the important gap between conservation theory and real world practice, providing tools for managers to develop optimal strategies given real-world constraints. It will result in better theories and models for designing and evaluating conservation policy and plans to ensure good biodiversity outcomes. Results will be generalisable to any complex conservation planning scenario.

LP0882475 Dr S Charlesworth; Dr IG Campbell; Dr MP Baird

Approved Project Title **A Regional Perspective on Work & Family Balance and Changes in Employment Regulation**

2008 : \$ 50,000

2009 : \$ 115,000

2010 : \$ 65,000

Primary RFCD 3701 SOCIOLOGY

Collaborating/Partner Organisation(s)

Industrial Relations Victoria

Regional Development Victoria

Administering Organisation RMIT University

Project Summary

Work/family balance is a focus of significant attention at the community, national and international level. This project will generate new knowledge about the ways in which employment regulation directly and indirectly impacts on employee work/family balance outcomes within different regional and industry contexts. A growing body of research recognises the linkages between employment regulation and effects on child and parent well-being and health, labour force supply and economic outcomes. However, little is known about how geographical location shapes work/family balance. The research will thus contribute to improved understandings and to better social policy at the local, state and federal levels.

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LP0882346 Prof EM Grierson; Dr P Samartzis; Dr KE Macarow; Prof G Jelinek; A/Prof AW Dent; Dr T Weiland

Approved Project Title **Designing sound for health and wellbeing**

2008 : \$ 40,000

2009 : \$ 32,800

2010 : \$ 30,000

Primary RFCD 4199 OTHER ARTS

APA(I) Award(s): 1

Collaborating/Partner Organisation(s)

St Vincent's Hospital - Melbourne

Administering Organisation RMIT University

Project Summary

Up to 5 million Australian Emergency patients per annum may benefit from research to be conducted by composers and musicians from the School of Art, RMIT University and medical practitioners and clinical health psychologists based in the Emergency Department at St. Vincent's Hospital - Melbourne. Researchers will investigate whether soundtracks and musical compositions developed for Emergency patients can lower levels of anxiety. Outcomes from the study could lead to reductions in patients' stress and unnecessary nursing and medical attention - all of which could lead to less anxiety in Emergency patients and potential savings in Hospital budgets.

LP0882872 Mr LJ Harvey; A/Prof DL Forrest; Prof RJ Barrett

Approved Project Title **The spatial ensemble: scaling instrumental resonance and morphology for spatialised performance**

2008 : \$ 76,881

2009 : \$ 76,881

2010 : \$ 76,881

Primary RFCD 4101 PERFORMING ARTS

APA(I) Award(s): 3

Collaborating/Partner Organisation(s)

ELISION

Judith Wright Centre for Contemporary Art

Administering Organisation RMIT University

Project Summary

This project will lead to a series of new cultural experiences for Australian audiences based on extended instrumental research integrated with new sound spatialisation techniques. The project will ensure that industry partner ELISION's contribution to Australian culture for over 20 years via innovative performances, installations, broadcasts and recordings is reinforced by new research with flow-on effects to their other relationships and activities. The interim and final outcomes of this partnership will lead to a model for university-arts research collaborations that will be tested in international contexts, thus ensuring a wider exposure for Australian cultural research.

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LP0882877 Prof PW James; Prof MB Steger; Mr PD Phipps

Approved Project Title **Globalizing Indigeneity: Indigenous Cultural Festivals and Wellbeing in Australia and the Asia-Pacific**

2008 : \$ 80,000
2009 : \$ 75,000
2010 : \$ 25,627

Primary RFCD 4203 CULTURAL STUDIES

APA(I) Award(s): 1

Collaborating/Partner Organisation(s)
Telstra Foundation Limited

Administering Organisation RMIT University

Project Summary

Indigenous communities in Australia (and elsewhere) suffer from extreme disadvantage. Northern Australia and many other places in the region, face a demographic time-bomb of alienated, self-destructive and culturally-disoriented youth. This manifests as violence in places like Wadeye, Palm Island and Port Moresby. Cultural festivals are one of the few consistently positive spaces for indigenous communities to assert a more constructive view of themselves both intergenerationally, and as part of their struggle for respect as distinct cultures in the broader national community. Cultural festivals also provide a rare space for novel intercultural accommodations to be negotiated on indigenous terrain.

LP0882035 Dr HC Lingard; Ms VE Francis

Approved Project Title **Fluctuating demands and unexpected events: An action research approach to improving work-family interaction in project-based construction work**

2008 : \$ 58,000
2009 : \$ 105,000
2010 : \$ 80,000

Primary RFCD 3102 BUILDING

Collaborating/Partner Organisation(s)
Industrial Relations Victoria
Contexx Pty Ltd
Boulderstone Hornibrook

Administering Organisation RMIT University

Project Summary

Construction workers, who comprise 8.5% of Australia's workforce, are a high risk group for work-family conflict (WFC), which is linked to negative outcomes for individuals, families and organizations. The construction industry is facing a skills shortage but remains unattractive to young workers and those with family/care responsibilities. The research will help the construction industry to re-think cultural expectations about work hours and design jobs that reduce WFC and promote work-family interaction. The research will help the industry improve its ability to attract and retain a diverse workforce and contribute to a reduction in the social and economic costs of WFC.

LP0882013 Prof L Padgham; A/Prof MD Winikoff; Dr L Cavedon; Dr BF Kelly; Dr F Zambetta; Dr RB Wesson

Approved Project Title **A Framework for Adaptive Extensible Personae for Interactive Toys**

2008 : \$ 110,000
2009 : \$ 100,000
2010 : \$ 100,000

Primary RFCD 2802 ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND SIGNAL AND IMAGE PROCESSING

Collaborating/Partner Organisation(s)
XSIVE Pty Ltd.

Administering Organisation RMIT University

Project Summary

This project will be of benefit in that it will facilitate the development of quality toys, based on sound psychological foundations. These toys will have a long life since they can be extended over time, growing with the child. There is also potential to be used for children with psychological difficulties, and applications in health and aged-care. This project will provide opportunities for Australian business, and will also help to keep Australia at the forefront in the area of intelligent agent technology. It is an example of a project that helps create a culture of innovation in Australian industry.

Summary of Linkage Projects Proposals for Funding to Commence in 2008

LP0882234 Prof L Padgham; Dr AC Lucas

Approved Project Title **Complex Decision Making in Intelligent Agent Systems**

2008 : \$ 70,000

2009 : \$ 75,000

2010 : \$ 50,000

Primary RFCD 2802 ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND SIGNAL AND IMAGE PROCESSING

Collaborating/Partner Organisation(s)

Agent Oriented Software

Administering Organisation RMIT University

Project Summary

This project will bring benefit in that it will increase the ability of autonomous computer systems to make complex decisions in dynamic environments. As the use of intelligent autonomous technology is increasing, from smart air-traffic control systems to personal digital assistants to internet software agents, there is also increased demand for more sophisticated reasoning. This is showing in a range of applications such as autonomous vehicles and equipment, scheduling and resourcing, and business processing. This project will contribute to provide such capabilities to existing technology. It will also assist the Australian Partner Organisation to stay at the forefront internationally in this fast moving area.

LP0882413 Prof JY Tu; Dr C Cheung; Dr S Lo; Prof RK Yuen; Dr GH Yeoh

Approved Project Title **Development of an Integrated Platform for Performance-Based Safety Assessment**

2008 : \$ 78,648

2009 : \$ 78,648

2010 : \$ 78,648

Primary RFCD 2802 ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND SIGNAL AND IMAGE PROCESSING

APDI Dr C Cheung

Collaborating/Partner Organisation(s)

Dynamics Energy Technologies Pty Ltd

Arch & Fire Professional (International) Limited

Administering Organisation RMIT University

Project Summary

Building fires are the cause of major fatalities and injuries amongst all types of accidental fires in Australia. With significant advancement in numerical simulation technique, computer models are becoming acceptable tools for fire safety designs. Nonetheless, these methods still suffer from large amount of manual inputs and lengthy computational times. This research project will address the prevalent deficiency in many of these computer models and develop a novel and innovative design methodology. The success of this project will revolutionize the computational tools for the industry realizing a convenient, robust and time-saving integrated platform catering for increasing future market demand.

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LP0882883 Prof RW Watts; Mr M Salvaris; Ms L Basser; Prof SD Weir; Prof MH Rioux

Approved Project Title **Auditing the Victorian Charter: Australian and international perspectives on applied human rights**

2008 : \$ 60,214
2009 : \$ 68,000
2010 : \$ 65,779

Primary RFCD 3701 SOCIOLOGY

Collaborating/Partner Organisation(s)

Helen Macpherson Smith Trust

VCOSS

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Human Rights Law Resource Centre

Administering Organisation RMIT University

Project Summary

This project is a detailed legal, government and policy case study of the most important human rights initiative in recent Australian history. It will provide research and new knowledge in key areas of human rights: the operation of human rights Bills, links between human rights and social disadvantage, education and community attitudes, and strategic government implementation. The project will develop a new policy tool (a national Audit) to monitor, plan and strengthen human rights in government and the community, and contribute to better social wellbeing and stronger democracy in Australia.