



2005 B-HERT Awards for Outstanding Achievement in Collaboration in Research & Development and Education & Training



Applications were sought earlier this year and were judged by an experienced panel of judges comprising:



- ❖ Professor Leon Mann, Director, Centre for R&D Leadership, The University of Melbourne (*Chairman*)
- ❖ Dr Annabelle Duncan, Associate Director and Chief Operating Officer, Bio21 Institute
- ❖ Dr Bob Frater AO, Vice-President - Innovation, ResMed Ltd
- ❖ Mr Peter Laver, Chairman, Australian Building Codes Board
- ❖ Associate Professor Jane Munro, Head of College & CEO, International House, The University of Melbourne
- ❖ Dr Peter Scaife, Director, Centre for Sustainable Technology, The University of Newcastle



The criteria for evaluation included:



1. Innovativeness
2. Strength of the relationship between collaborating partners
3. Outreach inclusion (e.g. overseas - to other groups, companies)
4. National benefits
5. Cultural impact on the partner/organisation.



The Hon Dr Brendan Nelson MP, Minister for Education, Science and Training, presented the Awards at a gala dinner at the Shangri-la Hotel in Sydney on Tuesday, 22 November 2005.

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Winning entries are:

Best Research & Development Collaboration

Winner: University of Newcastle and Ludowici MPE

Title: **Particle Size and Density Separations using the Reflux Classifier**

There is a considerable need by industry for efficient separation of particles either on the basis of size or density. This need is especially evident in the coal and minerals industries where it is increasingly necessary to recover valuable product from lower quality deposits. This program of research has been concerned with the development of the Reflux Classifier, a fluidised bed technology that incorporates parallel inclined plates to effect a significant increase in the solids processing rate, while also increasing the efficiency of the separation. Following the establishment of an R&D agreement between the University of Newcastle and Ludowici MPE, a parallel program of fundamental and applied research was undertaken, resulting in the trial of a pilot plant and full scale proto-type. This collaboration has culminated in the export of five full-scale 120 tph separators, and considerable on-going national and international interest from industry.

Best Education & Training Collaboration

Winner: Victorian Department of Human Services, La Trobe University, Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research & Public Health, Melbourne Health, Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth), Monash University, The University of Melbourne, National Public Health Partnership, Victorian Public Health Education & Research Council and Jesuit Social Services

Title: **Victorian Public Health Training Scheme**

The Victorian Public Health Training Scheme (VPHTS) is a work-based education and training collaboration which has made a unique contribution to capacity building within the public health system. The five participants selected each year, are given four-month placements over a two year period in a wide range of public health settings: the Victorian Department of Human Services, public health agencies, research institutions, non government service providers and academic research institutions. All partners in the collaboration are involved from day one in the selection, placements, supervision and examination of academic work of participants. VPHTS equips the participants with the skills to access and evaluate relevant information and advice in order to make sound, informed policy decisions and to make the economic case for public health research and practice. It also prepares them to potentially become the decision makers and public health leaders of tomorrow who will have to deal with the changes and uncertainties confronting Australian society.

Honourable Mention:

Australian Catholic University, St Vincent de Paul Society – Archdiocese of Sydney and Mission Australia

Title: The ‘Clemente’ Program

The ‘Clemente’ program, delivered in a community setting, is the first tertiary education program offered in Australia for homeless people. Participation assists those who are isolated and living in poverty to become more active community participants with a view to exiting homelessness. The program seeks to improve the quality of life for homeless people who normally live in conditions that adversely affect their mental and physical health. The benefits for the homeless people include an increased sense of self-efficacy, achievement and autonomy and potentially overcoming their sense of isolation and frustration. The collaboration created as a result of this unique partnership between a community (St Vincent de Paul Society) and an educational service (Australian Catholic University) provides an innovative opportunity to enhance the well-being and social connectedness for homeless people. Other community and educational services are learning from the inter-organisational capacity developed through the implementation of this program.

Honourable Mention:

La Trobe University and Godden Mackay Logan Pty Ltd

Title: Heritage Archaeology in Australia

Heritage Archaeology in Australia is about building long-term collaborations in teaching and research between university departments, state and Federal heritage agencies, and private heritage consultancies so that we can develop and deliver world’s best practice outcomes in the Australian heritage management industry. In its initial iteration, the Archaeology Program at La Trobe University (a nationally significant provider of undergraduate and postgraduate teaching, and of internationally significant research) and Godden Mackay Logan Pty Ltd (a major heritage consultancy) have collaborated on two major urban archaeological excavations to produce management and training outcomes that have attracted international interest. They have also created innovative subjects in heritage archaeology at the tertiary level and produced (in collaboration with Heritage Victoria) a teaching kit to support school teaching in Australian history, and both museum and private sector exhibitions.

**Best Collaboration involving a CRC –
Research & Development or Education & Training**

Winner: Charles Darwin University, Northern Territory Department of Health and Community Services, Co-operative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health and Banbins Productions

Title: Sharing the True Stories

High morbidity and mortality among Aboriginal people in north-central Australia give urgency to the need to improve inner-cultural communication and education in health services delivery. Sharing the True Stories (STTS) research project (2001-2005) involved collaboration between the Co-operative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health, Charles Darwin University, Northern Territory Department of Health and Community Services,

other stakeholders, industry agents, and client and community groups. Aboriginal client groups, Aboriginal interpreters, health staff, and research consultants worked together within a Participatory Action Research framework, to identify and address problems in communication and education in NT renal and hospital services.

Best International Collaboration – Research & Development or Education & Training

Winner: Cooperative Research Centre for Advanced Composite Structures, RMIT University and Airbus Deutschland GmbH

Title: **Composite Defect Modelling Project (CDMP)**

Commercial aircraft manufacturers face the competing demands of increasing performance while reducing costs. To meet this challenge, advanced fibre composite materials are being more widely applied, comprising up to 50% of the structure of the latest aircraft. In addition to weight savings, composites offer many advantages, such as increased fatigue and corrosion resistance, but are susceptible to defects and damage introduced during manufacture or service. In this project, a suite of “next generation” modelling tools were developed to simulate the effect of common defects and damage experienced over the lifespan of an aircraft. The tools are now being used by Airbus to improve design confidence and safety, while reducing the cost of manufacture and testing. This will lead to dramatic reductions in design and certification time and cost, establishing commercial advantage for the partners, with the savings ultimately passed onto airlines and their customers.

Best Collaboration with a Regional Focus

Winner: La Trobe University, Bendigo, OlivOz, Alfa Laval and Corporazione del Mastri Oleari

Title: **Aggregated Olive Processing and Research Cluster**

Businesses in regional areas tend to be small and do not maximise value chain opportunities. La Trobe University has actively collaborated with businesses to establish and support networks, clusters and new businesses to identify and develop import-replacement and value-adding opportunities to grow businesses and the region; provide opportunities for applied research and commercialisation; provide employment/placement opportunities for graduates and undergraduates.

One program has resulted in an olive processing cluster that locally value-adds, and has established a \$33 000 per annum R&D fund to seed fund business-university collaborative research. Over 160 local olive growers have clustered with La Trobe University and Alfa Laval to locally produce high quality extra virgin olive oil, with one label being Latitude 37. The program provides research, teaching and student placement opportunities in marketing; business; supply chain; food technology and agribusiness.

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Note your diary – applications for next year’s Awards for Outstanding Achievement in Collaboration in Research & Development and Education & Training will be called in **May 2006**.

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