



News Bulletin for Research Staff

Bulletin 14/2004

(20 October 2004)

Items for inclusion in this bulletin

Please forward any items to Matt Randall (matt.randall@sci.monash.edu.au).

Requests should include full information on application / nomination procedures, dates and deadlines, and contact details or web links to further information.

Previous copies of this bulletin

Previous copies are archived on the Faculty of Science website at

<http://www.sci.monash.edu.au/staff/research/index.html>

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Part A – News

1. New Faculty of Science OHSE Consultant

Ms Sharon Lockhart is the new faculty OSHE Consultant. She has a background in scientific research and was formerly with the Department of Medicine at The University of Melbourne.

Ms Sharon Lockhart

Telephone: (03) 990 51627

Email: Sharon.Lockhart@sci.monash.edu.au

Office location: Room 156, Building 19N, Clayton campus

2. Monash Research Fund (MRF) 2005

The Research Grants and Ethics Branch (RGEB) has advised that applications for Project Grants and New Research Areas will not be invited for the 2005 round. Applications for new Postdoctoral Fellowships to commence in 2005 will be invited subject to budget finalisation. An announcement will be made later this year.

Further information

<http://www.monash.edu.au/resgrant/grantinfo/monash/mrf/mrf.html>

3. Are you on the Synchrotron news email list?

Professor Rob Lewis, Director of the Monash Centre for Synchrotron Science (MCSS), asks all synchrotron users (including potential users) who are not already on the Monash University Centre for Synchrotron Science email list to provide their names and contact details to Ms Nancy Place (Nancy.Place@sync.monash.edu.au) so that they may be kept informed of Synchrotron-related news, and fellowship and scholarship programs.

4. Science Meets Parliament (SmP) 2005

Many parliamentarians appreciate the importance of science in general terms, but not the degree to which science is crucial in many of the issues they have to deal with on an almost daily basis. SmP alerts them to these issues, and invites parliamentarians to nominate matters they would like to discuss from a list mailed out in advance of the event. They can select as many issues as they like, ranging from water and salinity, to science education. In previous Science meets Parliament (SmP) events, politicians have been offered a range of 12 - 18 topics from which they can nominate preferred issues to talk about with scientists.

The Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies (FASTS) invites you to suggest a number of broad topics to discuss with politicians, particularly with a regional / state focus such as rainforest and reef issues for politicians in Far North Queensland, disease in Tasmanian Devil populations for Tasmanian politicians, and so forth.

Please email suggestions by Friday, 22 October 2004 to:

Mr Bradley Smith

Executive Director, FASTS

Email: fasts@anu.edu.au

Website: <http://www.fast.org/Fsite/SmP/AboutSmP.htm>

Part B - Events

5. Research Supervisor Training Workshop

The Monash Research Graduate School (MRGS) invites intending supervisors of doctoral candidates to register for a Research Supervisor Training Workshop.

Date

Thursday, 2 December 2004 from 8:30 am – 5:00 pm (with social drinks from 5:00 – 6:00 pm)

Venue

Bayview Conference Centre (near the Clayton campus)

About the Research Supervisor Training Program

Monash University has developed a fast-track approach to research supervisor training which will act as an alternative to the existing apprenticeship model.

Under the apprenticeship model, trainee supervisors need to first undertake the role of associate supervisor for the duration of a candidature, from admission through to submission of a thesis, before they are eligible to be a main supervisor in their own right.

In the new fast-track model, intending supervisors need to complete a series of nine modules. Approximately 90 per cent of the requirements of these nine modules can be covered by attendance at a research supervisor training workshop.

Registration

The registration form can be downloaded from
<http://www.monash.edu.au/phdschol/forms/trainprog.html>

A registration fee of \$90 per person will apply.

Registrants will need to have a mentor allocated to them by their faculty, school, or centre.

The deadline for registrations is **Friday, 5 November 2004** and places will be allocated the following week. Submission of a registration form does not guarantee a place.

Further information

<http://www.monash.edu.au/phdschol/forms/trainprog.html>

6. National Committee on Antarctic Research (NCAR) symposium: "The Role of Antarctic Research in Australian Science and Policy Advice"

The National Committee on Antarctic Research (NCAR) is to hold a symposium in Canberra in November on "The Role of Antarctic Research in Australian Science and Policy Advice".

The first day reviews the past performance of the scientific research program and looks forward to the future, while the second day examines the manner in which Antarctic research helps policy development in a number of areas.

Registration is free and you are invited to attend one, or both days.

Date

Thursday-Friday, 11-12 November 2004

Venue

Shine Dome, Australian Academy of Science, Canberra

Further information / registration

<http://www.aad.gov.au/default.asp?casid=14460>

7. Research Grants and Ethics Branch (RGEb): 'What's coming up?' web page

The Research Grants and Ethics Branch (RGEb) maintains a page of upcoming news and events for researchers at www.monash.edu.au/resgrant/general/latestnews/index.html

Part C - Funding opportunities

8. Business Plan Competition Grants

The Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources manages the Australian Government's National Innovation Awareness Strategy, aimed at promoting innovation and entrepreneurial activity in Australia. One element of the initiative provides funding of up to \$15,000 for Australian tertiary education institutions to deliver a student business plan competition in their institution.

Business plan competitions give tertiary institutions an opportunity to provide their students with entrepreneurial experience, develop their commercial ideas, broaden their skills base, and apply relevant learning.

Further information

www.industry.gov.au/nias

Deadline for applications

Friday, 29 October 2004

9. Opportunities for Research Collaboration with Parks Victoria

A message from Professor Margaret Clayton, Associate Dean (Research):

Professor Barry Hart, Associate Professor Gerry Quinn and I met with two representatives from Parks Victoria: Mr Tony Varcoe (Manager, National Parks and Conservation Research) and Dr Anthony Boxshall (Manager, Marine National Parks Research Programs) on 5 October 2004. The purpose of the meeting was for Parks Victoria to explain their new model for research collaboration with Victorian universities. The model, when finalised and approved, is likely to be flexible and will include collaborative as well as commissioned research. (The previous program involved a cash commitment of around \$1.3 million over three - four years). They are very positive about the value and possibility of supporting ARC Linkage proposals.

Parks Victoria anticipates that expressions of interest will be sought from potential research partners around mid-November. (These will be advertised in the press, but we will receive direct notification.) They will be requesting a consolidated response from each institution. They will advertise a suite of research themes, and university / research partners will be invited to submit an expression of interest covering some or all of the themes. The likely duration of the partnerships is between three and five years. They anticipate a meeting in March to allow detailed discussion of the proposed themes and research questions and to deal with allocation of projects.

I am happy to coordinate a Monash University response and to facilitate this I will collate a list of all researchers who have a potential interest in becoming involved in research collaboration with Parks Victoria. Please email me (Margaret.Clayton@sci.monash.edu.au) with the following details by Sunday, 31 October 2004:

- 1) Name
- 2) Monash appointment and school / faculty
- 3) Indicate which research themes (see the following draft list) you might be interested in
- 4) List up to five relevant areas of research expertise

I would especially welcome coordinated responses from schools and / or research centres. Please note that there are opportunities for a variety of discipline areas!

PARKS VICTORIA: DRAFT 5-Year research themes

1. Integration of research and monitoring

- Adaptive Experimental Management and the use of on-ground management as a research tool (e.g. weeds, fox, grazing)
- Evolution of the marine monitoring program beyond baseline information collection

2. Parks in the landscape

- Management of Box-Ironbark ecosystems
- Fire ecology and developing appropriate fire regimes for ecological objectives
- Fragmentation and connection
- Management and connectivity in the marine system

3. Performance evaluation

- Effectiveness of pest and other management programs (especially weeds, predators, deer, horses) through application of standard monitoring protocols
- Understanding, assessing and reporting on ecosystem condition (using variables appropriate for assessing achievement of management objectives and understanding link to management actions)
- Development of systems and tools to enable park staff and the community to undertake comparable and repeatable monitoring of park values and threats
- Development of ecologically relevant performance measures for marine protected areas

4. Establishing inventory of park attributes and threats

- Targeting inventory to address management needs (e.g., new park estate, park management plans)
- Completion of habitat mapping and baseline monitoring programs (including extensions to additional habitats)

5. Impacts and management of over-abundant native fauna populations

- Population management of koalas, kangaroos and other locally overabundant fauna such as Grey-headed Flying Foxes
- Maintain a watching brief for the overabundance of other fauna.

6. Understanding and managing the environmental impacts of visitors

- Greater integration of Natural Values Management and Visitor Services research and monitoring programs, particularly in the area of ecological impacts

7. Emerging risks

- Understanding potential risks and changes associated with climate change
- Research and monitoring of new and emerging pests
- Respond to results from threat assessments in marine national parks and sanctuaries

10. Monash Synchrotron Fellowships

The Monash Centre for Synchrotron Science (MCSS) has been created to encourage and promote cross faculty and interdepartmental research programs in synchrotron related fields at Monash University, prior to the Australian Synchrotron coming on line in 2007.

The Monash Synchrotron Fellowships have been established to attract individuals to undertake synchrotron-based research of international significance. The scheme is open both to experienced synchrotron researchers, as well as those who wish to utilise and develop synchrotron-based science as part of their research.

Each Fellow is expected to promote the use of synchrotrons to others within the university and to foster collaborative and cross-disciplinary research programs. Evidence of a collaborative and cross-disciplinary research record will also be viewed favourably.

Number of awards

Up to six (6) awards will be made and each award will be for a three year fixed period. The Synchrotron Fellowships are tenable only at Monash University and it is expected that most of the time will be spent working at Monash, ideally located at the Clayton campus, and collaborating with Synchrotron-based researchers.

Eligibility

Applicants should have a PhD and demonstrated excellent research outcomes at international level, or potential to achieve such outcomes. Applications are invited from all medical, engineering and science disciplines. Applicants are invited to contact the MCSS prior to submitting the application to discuss eligibility requirements.

Salary

Appointments will be offered within the Research Fellow / Senior Research Fellow Level A to C range, currently AUD \$49,525 - \$79,046 per annum. The starting salary will be dependent upon experience, up to a maximum within the appropriate range.

Research and travel budget

In addition, the Fellow will have access to a research and travel budget of up to \$40,000 per annum for synchrotron related research activities, at the discretion of the Director of MCSS.

Sponsor

Applicants should approach potential supervisors and departments within Monash University before applying for the Fellowship, as support from the proposed supervisor and sponsoring school or department is necessary.

Further information

<http://www.monash.edu.au/resgrant/grantinfo/monash/synchrotron.html>

Submission requirements

An electronic copy of the application (PDF or Word format) must be emailed to Nancy.Place@sync.monash.edu.au

A signed original application (in hard copy) must also be sent to:

Ms Nancy Place
Monash Centre for Synchrotron Science (MCSS)
PO Box 27

Monash University 3800

or faxed to (03) 9905 3637

Deadline for applications

Friday, 19 November 2004 with the Monash Centre for Synchrotron Science

11. Ray & Joyce Uebergang Foundation: Research Grants

The Ray & Joyce Uebergang Foundation supports research that will advance Victoria in any one or more public scientific, public educational or other public charitable purpose in particular if the focus is on the Warrnambool area. Priorities include the housing and maintenance of historical records, preservation of flora and fauna, the environment and heritage matters, particularly in the Western District of Victoria.

Further information

Further information is available in hard copy format only from RGEB.

Application requirements

There is no set form of application. Applicants should provide as much information as necessary to support the application but avoid large quantities of material. Please send the original plus two copies to RGEB.

Deadline for applications

Tuesday, 30 November 2004 with RGEB

12. Taft Fellowships

The Taft Fellowship has been made possible by the generous gift of Emeritus Professor Ron and Mrs Ellen Taft, who have a long association with Monash University. The purpose of this fellowship is for Monash University to:

- provide an early-career researcher the opportunity to conduct research for three years, of which at least two years in total must be spent at an Israeli university; and
- build sustainable collaboration between Monash and Israeli scholars.

At this stage you are invited to:

- express interest in hosting and supervising a Taft Fellow;
- suggest research programs or disciplines; and
- suggest potential partners in Israel.

Further information

Mr Matt Randall

Manager, Research and Research Training

Faculty of Science

Email: matt.randall@sci.monash.edu.au

Deadline for expressions of interest

Tuesday, 30 November 2004 with RGEB

13. The LSB Leakey Foundation: Research Grants

The LSB Leakey Foundation general grants support research into human origins. Advanced doctoral students as well as established scientists are eligible to apply. Priority for funding is given to the exploratory phases of promising new research projects that meet the stated purpose of the Foundation. Recent priorities include research into:

- the environments, archaeology, and human palaeontology of the Miocene, Pliocene, and Pleistocene;
- the behaviour, morphology, and ecology of the great apes and other primate species; and
- the behavioural ecology of contemporary hunter-gatherers.

The funding for doctoral students are between US\$3,000 to US\$12,000 range, however, postdoctoral students and senior scientists may be funded up to US\$20,000.

Further information

<http://www.leakeyfoundation.org/>

Application requirements

Original plus one copy with attachments to RGEB. The relevance of your project to understanding human origins must be explicit throughout your application.

Deadline for applications

Wednesday, 15 December 2004 with RGEB

14. Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute (AMSI) and ARC Centre Of Excellence For Mathematics And Statistics of Complex Systems (MASCOS) AMSI / MASCOS Fellowships

AMSI funds a number of fellowships each year to enable workers in Complex Systems from within Australia to work full-time for a period of up to 3-4 months with MASCOS Chief Investigators and others already employed by MASCOS.

A MASCOS Fellowship provides research-intensive time either as part of or separate from usual outside studies programs. Please note that fellowships are not restricted to staff of university mathematics and statistics departments.

The fellowships are tenable at the site of the Chief Investigator with whom the fellow proposes to collaborate. The MASCOS sites are The University of Melbourne, La Trobe University, ANU, UNSW and The University of Queensland. A flexible financial assistance package will be negotiated with each successful applicant. This may include travel and accommodation costs if the fellow is not already based at one of the MASCOS node universities.

Further information

www.complex.org.au

Application requirements

Applications, including the proposed scientific program, an endorsement from the nominated collaborating Chief Investigator, a CV of the applicant, and a requested budget should be forwarded to:

Professor Garth Gaudry
Director, AMSI
111 Barry Street
C/o The University of Melbourne, Victoria 3010

Deadline for applications

Any time

15. Research Grants and Ethics Branch (RGEB): funding opportunities web page

The Research Grants and Ethics Branch (RGEB) maintains monthly lists of research grant funding opportunities on its website at

<http://www.monash.edu.au/resgrant/grantinfo/digest/indexes/rgmonth.html>

Part D –Dates and deadlines

October

Friday, 29 October 2004

- Deadline to apply for Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources Business Plan Competition Grants [item 8]

Sunday, 31 October 2004

- Deadline to email expressions of interest for opportunities for research collaboration with Parks Victoria [item 9]

November

Friday, 5 November 2004

- Deadline to register for MRGS Research Supervisor Training Workshop [item 5]

Thursday – Friday, 11-12 November 2004

- National Committee on Antarctic Research (NCAR) symposium: "The Role of Antarctic Research in Australian Science and Policy Advice" [item 6]

Friday, 19 November 2004

- Deadline for applications for Monash Synchrotron Fellowships [item 10]

Tuesday, 30 November 2004

- Deadline for Ray & Joyce Uebergang Foundation Research Grants [item 11]
- Deadline for expressions of interest for Taft Fellowships [item 12]

December

Wednesday, 15 December 2004

- Deadline for applications for The LSB Leakey Foundation: Research Grants [item 13]