

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- For a chance to win a prize enter the photo caption competition on page 7.
- Which staff member is an expert on the spectral analysis of surface catalysis and adsorbed pollutants? Find out on page 5 in our new 'Past Lives' section'.

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Daffodil Day

A convoy of semi-trailers (well, at least two utes) delivered the catering for the Daffodil Day morning tea held Friday 27 August in the building 88 level 10 kitchen. Contributors including Wendy Gillard, Allan Jennings, Linda Schalken, Teresa Cimino, Barbara Davey, Cassandra O'Brien and Amanda Jones certainly provided a very generous spread for the annual Cancer Council event.

The Daffodil symbolises hope to the thousands of cancer patients diagnosed each year. Funds raised from this event assist with research, education and support services.

Daffodil Day themed merchandise including pens, pins, wrist bands, soccer balls and teddy bears was sold as part of the event. Together with donations, over \$700 was raised for the Cancer Council.

Sincere thanks to the caterers who provided the largely home-baked and colourful spread. While no statistics are available, it is speculated the productivity of attendees was quadrupled in the hour immediately following the event due to the stimulating effects of excessive food colouring and sugar.



Michael Yates, Bashir Abbasszadeh, Sharon Chang & Seema Rajashri Rao



Brian Kealy, Andrew McClaren and Matthew Gracey sample the wares



Grand Final Friday Pie Day - 24 August

Staff are encouraged to get into the spirit of the upcoming AFL Grand Final with this annual lunchtime event. Hot pies (well 'warmish' anyway judging by the temperature at which pies have been delivered in previous years) and quiches will be provided followed by a hotly contested handball competition. A prize is on offer to the winner.

Date: Friday 24 August

Time: 12.30 pm

Where: Building 88, level 10 kitchen

Cost: \$3 pies and quiches, \$1 cans of soft drink

RSVP: Email its.social@rmit.edu.au by 17 September with your food order. A GroupWise appointment will be circulated if you elect to attend.

NOTE: For catering purposes, pre-ordering of pies/quiches is required. Payment is requested at the event.



Ghostly gossip

Rumours of paranormal activity in building 155 were filtering back to other sections of ITS in recent months. Not long after the building was occupied by Application Services and Testing staff, a number of staff reported the existence of a supernatural presence in the B155 kitchen, imaginatively dubbed the 'Kitchen Ghost'. Renowned for its investigative journalism, Roving Eye has managed to uncover the following two 'leaked' emails from Bernie Broom who was targeted by the alleged B155 ghost:

>>> Bernard Broom 19/07/10 7:02 pm >>>

Dear All,

Many of you will have heard of the 'kitchen ghost' in B155. Well, he's moved into my office and his whiny American-accented, tinny, recorded query "Hey, can you hear me?" emanating from the vicinity of the ceiling duct every few minutes is really, really irritating. It is a clever joke and I congratulate the technical acumen of the perpetrator but if he were here now I would be giving a demonstration of the rather nasty fighting skills I learned while being raised in downtown Dorking, one of the more savage parts of England's green and pleasant land.

If the prankster is one of you, please cease and desist. If the audio apparition continues I shall assume it is the work of an external party and get the building owner to investigate.

Yours truly,
Bernie

>>> Bernard Broom 20/07/2010 18:59 >>>

Dear All,

Thank you all for your kind solicitations in respect of the ghost in my office. I can advise those who expressed concern for my mental well being and wondered at a possible indulgence in hallucinogenic substances that I am very well, thank you, and am quite capable of hallucinating without imbibing any drugs. On this occasion, how-

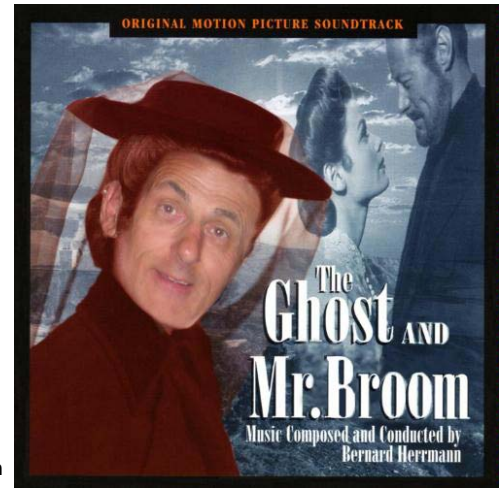
ever, my hearing was in perfectly good order and the ghost was a cunningly concealed electronic device, which was removed by the perpetrator, without the aid of the priest I had summoned to perform an exorcism. The guilty party was severely admonished and, clearly repentant, went off with the priest for counselling and further confession. Under earlier questioning he revealed the existence of a female accomplice who, since she continues to deny her complicity, will be leaving our employ in the near future.

I do wish to take this opportunity to fully retract everything I said about Dorking which, contrary to my statement yesterday, is a peaceful and exquisitely beautiful town nestled in the valley of the river Mole, overlooked by the North Downs, at the junction of two ancient roadways that date back beyond Roman times. It is not a place in which one would expect to find violence of any sort, not now and not fifty years ago either. I apologise unreservedly to the gentle folk of Dorking and the Mole Valley District Council, trusting that it will now withdraw its writ.

Anyone wishing to know more of Dorking can visit <http://www.visitdorking.com/> or the Mole Valley web site <http://www.mole-valley.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=2189>

or ask Peter Sanders' Aunty, who lives there.

Yours truly,
Bernie



Bad photos of the week

After incessant nagging, Administrative Officer Wendy Gillard finally agreed to provide some old photos for scrutiny by her colleagues.

Pictured right, we see a sweet picture of Wendy as a fresh-faced teen taken circa 1984. Wendy smiles uncertainly at the camera, possibly regretting the decision to go with the all lilac ensemble, including taffeta dress, bow earrings and a tulle bow hair accessory. It was the 80's however, when nothing was considered too excessive when it came to fashion and styling.

At any rate, Wendy looks much more cheerful in the far right photograph, perhaps having discovered the timeless appeal of a classic black dress (or as it was her 21st, maybe it was the timeless appeal of champagne?). A glamorous, rather than bad photo, Wendy looks stunning in her black sweetheart neckline frock complemented by a sophisticated bouffant hair style.

If you have any celebrity look-a-like suggestions, please contact its.projectoffice@rmit.edu.au



Sweet Wendy—1984



Glam Wendy—1991

Bazza is not a dirty word

Has the ITS answer to Chris Lilley been uncovered in DSC? Aaron Jackson has been making quite a splash with his own YouTube channel <http://www.youtube.com/user/CurrentlyDisconnected> since making his first video, 'Cyberworms are in your office' around five months ago. Aaron began to make films as a way of familiarising himself with the wide variety of AV equipment and software used in the DSC area and in the process has garnered himself a

'Has the ITS answer to Chris Lilley been uncovered in DSC?'

cult following on YouTube. He has so far created and starred in 21 different videos, including some Vlogs and a video response and currently has over 700 subscribers to his channel.

Citing Monty Python and the Goodies as his influences, Aaron says his films follow the standard sitcom formula - slapstick, sexual innuendo with a good dose of stupidity thrown in for good measure. A number of the videos have an IT slant and even a few well

known ITS faces spring up including Laurie Davis in the highly entertaining 'Urgent Assistance Required' (http://www.youtube.com/user/CurrentlyDisconnected#p/lu/7/oe2s_Vi8Bj0) video.

Two recurring characters that appear are Sir Gigidy, a gentleman from the 1920's who has found himself transported to the 21 century and the mullet-haired, handlebar moustachioed, Bazza. Aaron claims Bazza is an amalgamation of various friends and family members.

Aaron normally takes around 2 -3 hours to make around a 2 minute video and uses a variety of software including Adobe Premiere, iMovie, Final Cut Studio, Avid and Sony Vegas Pro. He also provides his own music using the program GarageBand. He has received numerous YouTube awards since commencing video making and is currently sitting at 83rd most viewed comedian this month. In addition, he has featured on the Aust YouTube channel, a group of YouTube partners who encourage and support new talent and has been invited to their gathering in the Gold Coast in



Bazza in action

November. Aaron has also been approached to provide voices for some animation as a result of his work.



Intrepid time traveller, Sir Gigidy

Celebrity look-a-like

Our celebrity look-a-like this edition is Senior Systems Administrator, Adrian Smith who was suggested as a look-like for Better Homes and Gardens celebrity chef 'Fast' Ed Halmagyi. Fast Ed and Adrian share similar physiques, facial features and closely cropped hair styles. While one of Ed's signature dishes is a roast angus fillet with green split pea puree and whisky-black sausage tortellini, Adrian is known to make a mean Black Douglas whiskey and Coke.

The greatest disparity between our two subjects is most likely the quality of the knives they are photographed with. While Fast Ed is grasping a razor-sharp knife most likely of German or Japanese origin, Adrian had to make do with a knife from the building 88 kitchen that would struggle to cut through jelly.

Roving Eye is currently in discussions with Adrian to provide some lunchtime cooking demonstrations of his own signature dish, micro-waved baked beans.

If you have any celebrity look-a-like suggestions, please contact its.projectoffice@rmit.edu.au



Fast Ed



Fast Ad

Computer Charity Vietnam

By David Hadley

RMIT Vietnam has successfully achieved its goal of giving away 250 second-hand computers and laptops to charity. The demand was overwhelming and RMIT Vietnam is hoping to give more away in the future. The last batch of 100 was distributed via the Hanoi NGO (Non Government Organisation) mailing list a few months ago. Within a day, requests already exceeded 1000!

The requirements were quite stringent and included visits to the charities after delivery to verify correct usage. On one visit to a kindergarten associated with the Loreto Vietnam Australia Program, the children could not be removed from the computers. At least three would gather around each one, using basic programs to help with maths, English, memory, etc. It was the first computer contact that these children experienced and is an integral part of their education and development.

In a recent visit in August, Allan Morris and Bernard Broom had the opportunity to accompany me to Koto Hanoi and witness the training facilities first hand. Koto teaches poor and underprivileged children how to cook and serve food. At the training centre we witnessed how students benefited from the computers and were fortunate enough to tour to tour the whole complex. On the top

floor we participated in cocktail making training. We rated the cocktails (mostly non-alcoholic) with Allan giving his student an impressive "11 out of 10"! Bernie and I were not impressed after giving already seemingly top marks.

Next we wandered down to visit the chefs in training and sweated while enjoying the experience. The students were so interested in meeting us, that most of the food they were cooking got burnt. There were no "11 out of 10" in this section. We then headed over to the Koto restaurant for a quick visit.

The computers for charity program has been a very fulfilling project. The project could not have occurred without the logistical help of Crown Worldwide who coordinated the transportation of computers within HCMC and Hanoi as well as delivering to far away places such as Danang Hospital in the middle of the country. Fiona Terry, Community Relations Manager, made sure the computers got the best homes for retirement they could.



Bernard Broom, Allan Morris and David Hadley with the training Chefs from class I6, Koto training centre, Hanoi



David Hadley and kindergarten children associated with the Loreto Vietnam Australia Program learning their ABCs

Past Lives - Peter Tsai

This new segment looks at the lives of staff members before they joined ITS. Featured this edition is Project Office Manager, Peter Tsai.

Before gantt charts, process flows and PM methodology, Peter was a Research Chemist. He is pictured here in a CSIRO annual report with a Micro flow reactor simulating what occurs in a chemical plant. As well as working at CSIRO, Peter later worked in a styrene plant run by Monsanto. His research was published in a number of scientific journals including Chemistry Australia. If you have any questions about the spectral analysis of surface catalysis and adsorbed* pollutants, Dr Peter Tsai is your man as his PhD was on this very topic.

*Yes, this is the correct spelling



Rabble Report

ITS Netball Team, RMIT Rabble are almost half-way through the current season of the Melbourne City Sports mixed netball competition. Games are held at Flagstaff Gardens during Monday lunch-times. Performance so far has been fairly strong with only one loss recorded to date (and several rain-outs).

Despite having a few weeks off for injury and taking out an umpire in the final round, our congratulations go out to RMIT Rabble Goal Defence, Dave Robinson who once again was awarded the Most Valuable Player for the previous netball season which finished in July. He was closely followed by Goal Attack, Paul White, who came in fourth place (and still managed to take some time off for paternity leave).

Supporters are always welcome to come along to watch the games. If you would like any further information contact megan.campbell@rmit.edu.au



Swan song - An update on the Vietnam-based Aussie rules team

By David Hadley

There have been many highlights since the last Vietnam Swans update, with the team succeeding very well off the ground, even if there has not been much success on the field.

2010 has seen three away matches against Hong Kong, Cambodia and Laos. Laos was our first international away win since I have been playing. The Laos Elephants had a "doctor" and we did not have any medical help with us. After the match the doctor also came to attend to our wounds. She started rubbing a liquid into one of our players scraped knees and he started crying out in pain. We thought he was being weak and asked what kind of medical kit it was. It turned out to be an elephant medi-

cal kit that she supplied to elephant keepers for her work with ElefantAsia. No wonder it hurt so much—it was industrial elephant strength! She then went on to explain the plight of the poor disappearing elephants in Laos and we all bought T-shirts that would buy a keeper a medical kit.

The month of April saw Gary O'Donnell, Essendon legend, visit with a channel 7 news crew. A dud from Collingwood also attended. He said his name was Nathan. Nathan Buckley I think he said? Nobody paid much attention to him (just like when he played). They trained the Koto children's charity recruits with us as they passed through.

The Swans held the first ANZAC Friendship match in Vung Tau. As part of the long weekend, Swans players took part in a coaching clinic for kids from a local orphanage on Friday; a tour of the sites of Australian wartime bases in Vung Tau and Nui Dat; visited memorials to Vietnamese soldiers; took part in the dawn service at Long Tan along with about 650 attendees and raised money for swimming lessons for Vietnamese children in the central region. There was a football game as well and 400 people turned out to watch the Hanoi Hawks beat the Saigon Swans by 1 point.



In two months time, the Vietnam Swans fly to China to play in the Asian Champs. There are about 10 teams from Asia that play against each other for the ultimate prize. Dubai play too—apparently the management think they are part of Asia! The Vietnam Swans have never won a game at the champs (and probably never will).

Follow the Swan's exploits on the website <http://vietnamswans.com/>. It is the most active website in Asian football. As we can not win a game, we might as well win something.



Vietnam Swans sing the national anthem on Anzac Day after someone forgot the CD.

The baby files

Kade Graeme Lucas

Parents:

David Lucas and Britt

Date of Birth:

1 June 2010

Weight:

7 lb 13 oz



Ruby May White

Parents:

Paul White and Helen

Date of Birth:

3 June 2010

Weight:

8 lb 2 oz



Go to the following link to watch Ruby in action

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PsVq4aLOFN4>

Siobhan Brodie Dyson Kane

Parents:

Sheri Dyson and Fraser (and sister Myf)

Date of Birth:

27 July 2010

Weight:

8lbs 1 oz



Wedding bells



The happy couple in front of old Parliament house

Congratulations to Paul Snow who married Peggy on 25 July. The ceremony was held in the Old Treasury Building, followed by a reception for a small gathering of close friends and family.

Peggy wore a stunning white embossed satin and lace wedding frock featuring a sweet-heart neckline and cap sleeves. Paul looked dapper in a traditional black suit, with white shirt and white tie with silver stripes.

At the reception, Peggy wore a traditional Chinese qipao*. The knee-length qipao was made of red silk, threaded with gold and featured an embroidered peacock.



Paul and Peggy at the reception

* Qipao (also known as chipao) is the mandarin version of the cheongsam

Photo Caption Comp

Come up with a witty caption for this photo, and you will be in the running to win a prize!

Photographed here is Trainer, Joe Lambe and Benjamin Rogan son of Senior Advisor Communications, Jane Cameron. Four year old Benji was recently visiting ITS after a tough day in child care.



Entries should be emailed to its.projectoffice@rmit.edu.au no later than Friday 17 September.



Celebrity Corner

By Cassandra O'Brien

Spring is here!! No, it's not a hangover and it's not your eyesight – the calendar is saying September and Spring is here (the daffodils are a dead giveaway). Of course, I am not going to resist my normal September warning and say that Christmas is just around the corner. If you listen very carefully on those cold frosty evenings which we have been having, you actually can hear the faint tinkle of reindeer bells. Now this should be sufficient warning to start planning for Christmas if you have not already done so! By this time, I already have most of my Christmas presents wrapped and labelled and I am already organising my Christmas card list. If I intend having Christmas at my place, I would already have a rough sketch of how the Christmas table would be looking and the decorations I would be either making or buying. Some simple planning saves an awful lot of stress.

Naturally, the Project Office has again been swamped with queries about my Auntie Shirl and her cooking career on the telly. Thank you to all those who continue to ask after Shirl. There is a DVD coming out soon and I will prevail on Shirl to send down a favourite recipe which we can print in this newsletter.

Alert readers will recall that the last Australia Day was quite a celebration with Shirl organising the biggest cupcake bake in the country. The highlight was the forming of the Australian flag made up of cupcakes.

I must say that since then, cupcakes seem to be featuring at every family celebration. Readers may recall my Auntie Mavis and my Uncle Harold. Well, just a few months ago, one of their sons, Bill got married and Shirl insisted on doing the wedding cake. It was a rendition of the Eiffel Tower made up of cupcakes and it nearly reached the ceiling of the local community hall. The local newspaper was on the scene quick smart and Shirl's cupcake splendour got front page coverage (as did the ceiling which had recently been refurbished after a severe storm). In fact, people are still talking about "the cake". If Shirl ever leaves the lofty heights of the silver screen, I am sure that she could run a cake shop specialising in wedding cakes. Bill and his new wife Patsy were actually going to Paris for their honeymoon, so Shirl's thoughtfulness was really touching. The only jarring note was the comment from Auntie Molly who said that "nothing can substitute for a good solid white wedding cake". Naturally, the family, as usual, ignored all comments. I noticed that this did not stop Molly from enjoying her piece of the Eiffel Tower cake.

Looking at the large cake, it's no wonder that Shirl and Uncle Pete had to extend their chook house. Readers will recall that the newly extended chook house has piped music and I must admit that not only is the egg production second-to-none, the eggs are large and Shirl swears that they "beat up beautifully and make the best cupcakes". Shirl should know.

Uncle Pete insists that he is going to immortalise Shirl's Eiffel Tower cake in song but he is having trouble rhyming Eiffel with anything worthwhile – trifle comes to mind, but then the images of a wine trifle and a cupcake don't quite match. While Uncle Pete is working on his song, the family is being spared the musical accompaniment.

The extended family is not quite sure about Christmas arrangements this year as Shirl's telly commitments are mounting up as more and more fans are demanding that Shirl guides them through Christmas dishes. I have offered to have part of Christmas at my house, but obviously I can't accommodate everyone. We did have a lot of fun at Shirl's just recently, but she is becoming over-committed. And then the local shopping mall has also booked Shirl in for some demonstrations – not to mention Shirl's obligations to the CWA! Anyway, the collective family brain will work out something before long.

Enjoy Spring and start that Christmas planning NOW!!!! Now here's someone who probably won't be starring in Shirl's upcoming DVD after seeing her answer regarding her favourite food, but it's a pleasure to have 10 minutes with Linda Schalken regardless (cont. over page)

Celebrity Corner continued

10 minutes with Linda Schalken



My current position involves communications and web publishing.

I have been working at RMIT on and off since 2005.

When I was a child I wanted to be a writer. Now I write about IT outages :-/

My interests outside of work/ITS are going to gigs, playing sport and travelling.

My hidden talents include salsa dancing. Probably shouldn't admit that.

PC or Mac? PC.

When I log in each morning, the application I immediately run is GroupWise.

I'm currently reading Twilight. Had to do it, even if I am about 2 years behind it being cool.

It's not MasterChef, but my favourite food is vegemite on raisin toast.

I wish I'd never worn...platform runners (think Spice Girls) or worn my hair in a side pony tail (thanks, Mum!)

My previous jobs have included being a music publicist and working at The Football Association (FA) in London.

If I could travel through time, I would go to the 1800's so I could wear a cool dress.

My favourite destination in the world is a tie between Nice in France, and London.

If I had a year off, I would go back to Europe and the UK.

My favourite bands/artists are metal ones that people prob wouldn't know!

Credits

Thanks to Paul Snow (for the great photos), Adrian Smith, Wendy Gillard, Aaron Jackson, David Lucas, Sheri Dyson, Jane Cameron, Joe Lambe, Barbara Davey, Bernie Broom, David Hadley, Peter Tsai, Paul White (for photoshopping as well as having a baby), Cassandra O'Brien and Linda Schalken for editing.