

LAUNCH OF VESKI

The Hon John Brumby MP, Minister for Innovation, officially launched VESKI at a function held at The Ian Potter Centre, Federation Square, Melbourne on 10 May.

Over 80 people from the business, academic and philanthropic communities attended the launch.



Some of the Board of VESKI with The Hon John Brumby MP at the launch

The flow-on effects will benefit Victorians and the Victorian economy.

The Minister thanked VESKI's Chairman and Board for undertaking their roles in this initiative.

INAUGURAL VESKI VICTORIAN INNOVATION FELLOWSHIP

One of the brightest lights in international polymer chemistry, Professor Andrew Holmes, is relocating his Cambridge University research team to Melbourne.

Minister for Innovation John Brumby announced Victoria's success in attracting Professor Holmes back to Melbourne at the University of Melbourne's \$100 million Bio21 Molecular Biology and Biotechnology Institute - the base for Holmes's future research.

Holmes and his team have developed the technology for a future generation of ultra thin and light video screens; 'molecular fishhooks' for medical research; and for the use of carbon dioxide to replace toxic solvents. The

team bridges the gap between biology, material science and industry.

"We hope Professor Holmes will be the first of many expatriates to return home with our support," says Dr Greg Trainor, Executive Director of the Victorian Endowment for Science, Knowledge and Innovation.

"We've worked with the University of Melbourne, CSIRO and the Federation Fellowship program to put together the package to attract Professor Holmes," Dr Trainor says.



The Hon John Brumby MP at the launch

VESKI, the Victorian Endowment for Science, Knowledge and Innovation, is a company established in September last year with a \$10 million endowment from the Victorian Treasury.

The annual \$433,000 in interest from the endowment is transferred to VESKI to help fund the return to Victoria of successful Australian expatriates with outstanding skills in fields such as science, technology and design.



Professor Andrew Holmes, inaugural VESKI Victorian Innovation Fellowship recipient

A graduate of the University of Melbourne, Professor Holmes made international headlines in the 1990s as the co-inventor of the world's first light-emitting polymers.

The electrically semi conductive plastics emit bright, pure colours of light when an electrical current is

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passed through them. They promise to transform display technology for televisions, computers and electronic devices, with lightweight, super-thin, flexible video screens bright enough to be viewed even in direct sunlight.

Coloured red-green-blue dots can be “printed” onto transistors on silicon chips with an ordinary inkjet printer to create flat, super-bright video screens viewable almost through 180 degrees – even in daylight. Japan’s Seiko-Epson has recently demonstrated a 12½ inch diagonal full-colour video screen produced in this way.

Potential applications include TV and computer screens (the low power consumption of polymer screens is well suited to laptops), alphanumeric displays for electronic devices, and advertising signs. Single-colour, alphanumeric displays have already been commercialised in a shaver battery readout as used by James Bond to shave off his beard in the most recent movie *Die Another Day*.

In accepting the Award, Professor Holmes said he hoped Victoria would play a key role in developing the technology. “Small screens using our technology are already in use. The next generation will be bigger, brighter and developed here in Melbourne”, he says.

“My research at Cambridge has already resulted in commercial applications for our technology. Now that we are relocating our research team to the Bio21 Institute, I hope to realise quite different opportunities through collaborations and partnerships with the world-class biological sciences groups working here in Melbourne. We come to this with open minds, a willingness to collaborate with many disciplines,

and to share our science. The real future is in multidisciplinary science on a global scale,” says Professor Holmes.

INTERNATIONAL MEDIA HEADLINES

Excellent media coverage resulted from the launch and the award of the first Fellowship, both locally and in the UK.



The Times newspaper, London



Campus Review, Cambridge

INTEREST GROWS IN VESKI VICTORIAN INNOVATION FELLOWSHIPS

A great response was received to advertisements calling for nominations for the second VESKI Victorian Innovation Fellowship.

Applications are currently being processed and it is anticipated an announcement of the second VESKI Victorian Innovation Fellowship recipient will be made in June/July 2004.

If you’re an expatriate Australian with an outstanding record of achievement in science, technology or design, you may be eligible for a VESKI Victorian Innovation Fellowship. This Fellowship would allow you to undertake research in Victoria, Australia, for up to five years.

Successful applicants will receive up to AUD\$100,000 a year against matching funding.

For further information visit www.veski.com.au

VESKI BOARD

The Board of VESKI recently welcomed two new members, Mr Brian Jamieson who will also chair the Audit Committee and Mr John Denton who brings expertise in design to the Board. The Board and management are separate.

Members of the Board are:

- Professor Adrienne Clarke AC (Chairman)
- Mr John Denton
- Professor Peter Doherty AC
- Mr Brian Jamieson
- Ms Janine Kirk
- Mr Greg Sword
- Dr Greg Trainor
- Professor Alan Trounson.

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