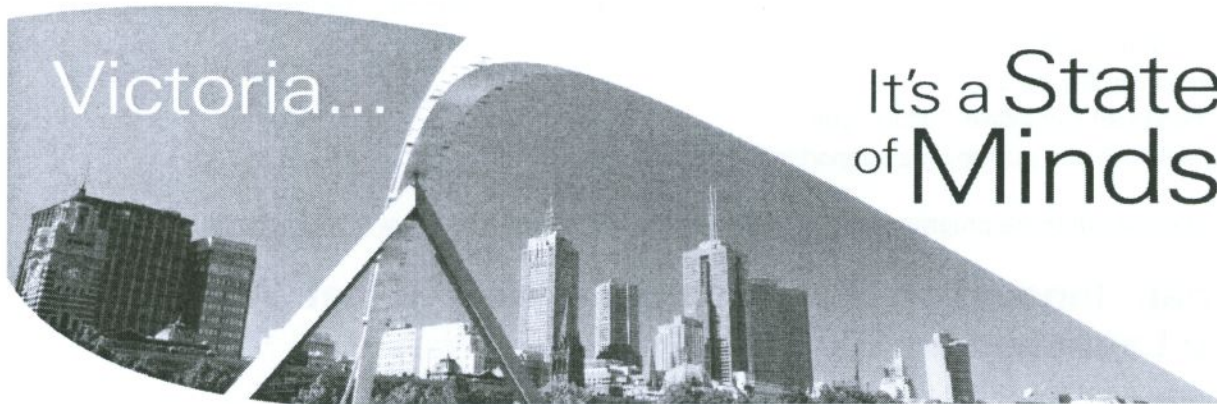


veski Victorian Endowment for
Science, Knowledge & Innovation



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VESKI (Victorian Endowment for Science, Knowledge and Innovation) has had a busy time of consolidation in the second half of 2004. It is with pleasure that the VESKI Board and Management can update you on our activities and wish you all the best for the Festive Season.

In this edition we cover the following topics:

- What is VESKI?
- Victorian Innovation Fellowships – New Expat Application Round Launched for 2005-06;
- New VESKI Fellows:

The annual interest earned is used by VESKI to help fund its principal objective of enhancing Victoria's intellectual capital in science, knowledge and innovation for the benefit of the Victorian public.

VESKI seeks to achieve this aim in 2004-05 by developing programs addressing the following:

- Expatriate Focus;
- Community Awareness;
- Fostering an Innovative Culture; and
- Establishing and managing a support infrastructure.

Further details about these programs can be found on the VESKI website at www.veski.com.au

Victorian Innovation Fellowships – New Expat Application Round Launched for 2005-06

Victoria took the VESKI message to Cambridge University in England recently to launch the 2005-06 call for applications for the VESKI Victorian Innovation Fellowships.

Inaugural VESKI Victorian Innovation Fellowship recipient Professor Andrew Holmes joined the Victorian Minister for Innovation, The Hon. John Brumby MP, to target and attract high calibre Australian expatriates back to Victoria.

"Everyone agrees that Australian expatriates are a valuable resource and that we need to do more to connect with them," Mr. Brumby said.

VESKI Victorian Innovation Fellowships are awarded annually to outstanding Australian expatriates in the fields of science, technology or design.

New VESKI Fellows

October and November 2004 saw VESKI welcome back to Victoria its successful second and third Fellowship recipients in Professor Marcus Pandy and Dr. Gareth Forde.

Professor Marcus Pandy returned in November from the University of Texas at Austin. Professor Pandy will take up the Chair of Mechanical and Biomedical Engineering at the University of Melbourne.



His research involves finding new non-invasive methods for evaluating people's musculoskeletal health. The VESKI Fellowship of \$400,000 is over five years.



Dr Gareth Forde is researching commercially viable ways to safely deliver vaccines and gene therapy products to patients via self-replicating molecules consisting of DNA fragments called plasmids.

He returned to Victoria in October relocating from Cambridge University to join the Monash University Department of Chemical Engineering as a lecturer. The VESKI Fellowship of \$200,000 is over three years.

These successful Fellows join VESKI's inaugural recipient **Professor Andrew Holmes**. Professor Holmes has returned from Cambridge University and together with his research team will relocate to the Bio21 Molecular Biology and Biotechnology Institute.

Professor Holmes and his research team were the first in the world to discover polymeric light-emitting diodes. The material shows great promise as low voltage, lightweight light sources with a variety of applications in emergency lighting, static display panels and screens for laptops and portable televisions. The VESKI Fellowship is for \$500,000 over five years.

With the recent launch of our design initiative, we are supporting two projects, both of which involve a travelling exhibition of outstanding global design excellence, coming to Victoria in 2005.

Firstly, award winning Melbourne architect Kerstin Thompson is representing Australia at an international exhibition, New Trends of Architecture in Europe and Asia Pacific 2004-06 with the support of a VESKI Award.

VESKI also contributed \$15,000 to assist with Victoria's involvement in this unique travelling exhibition ensuring that it visits Melbourne in 2005. The exhibition includes architects from Australia, Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, China, Hong Kong, Korea, Malaysia and Japan.

The exhibition commenced in France in October. It then travels to Hong Kong in January, to Cork, Ireland in June, before arriving in Melbourne on 1 August 2005 for a month-long stay. It then continues on to Korea.

It is the first time Australia has been invited to participate in this significant showcase for innovative architecture.

As part of the VESKI Award, Kerstin Thompson will take part in a schools program to share her experiences to help foster an innovative culture. She will also extend that experience in a symposium that will demonstrate the learning from the exhibition to the Victorian design community.

You can view some of Kerstin's award winning designs at: <http://www.kerstinthompson.com>

The second design event that VESKI is supporting is also supported by the City of Milan and the City of Melbourne. This project is a celebration of the work of young Australian designers at the design museum, the Triennale de Milan during the Milan Furniture Fair.

VESKI's financial involvement will ensure the return of this exhibition for a season in Melbourne in July 2005.

Four Nobel Prize winners, five Pulitzer Prize winners and senior editors and journalists from major publications, including *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, *New Scientist*, *Scientific American*, *The Times*, *Time*, *Reader's Digest* and *Le Monde* also attended.

The World Conference of Science Journalists is a biannual event overseen by the World Federation of Science Journalists.

The successful bid for 2006 was put together under the auspices of the Australian Science Communicators with the help of funding from VESKI.

The four-day event is likely to attract a number of high profile science journalists from major publications such as *Scientific American*, *Nature*, *Science* and *New Scientist*.

It will offer a unique opportunity to showcase Australian and, in particular, Victorian science and technology to many of the world's leading science journalists.

You can view the bid documents online at www.scienceinmelbourne2006.org

VESKI “In Kind” Support

VESKI Board Members and our Innovation Fellows are in demand on the Victorian speakers circuit.

Professor Adrienne Clarke AC, VESKI's Chair and Laureate Professor at the University of Melbourne will be joined by the VESKI Fellows in taking part in the 2004-2005 Alfred Deakin Innovation Lectures.

At the Lecture Series curtain raiser in Federation Square in July, Professor Clarke took part via satellite and spoke on the topic of the emerging themes of innovation. The full lecture program will resume in May 2005.

She was joined by Dr. Robert A. Eisenstein from the USA who is the president of the Santa Fe Institute, John Wynn Owen CB from the UK who is Director of the Nuffield Trust and Australian Evan Thornley, the