



From the Head of Department

Hi Colleague,

Welcome to our new format eNewsletter. Over the coming months we hope to further develop and improve our communications so that you can keep up to date with the work and research in the Department. To ensure that you receive our newsletter on a regular basis please subscribe [here](#).

What a year this has been, we could not have imagined that in 2020 we would be experiencing a global pandemic, causing such upheaval and uncertainty. Yet despite all of the challenges, we have continued to achieve many milestones this year. In particular, I am considerably proud of the team and how quickly everyone adapted to working from home and transforming our teaching into online learning for our students. The transition of all our final assessments to online was a huge undertaking but the days of sitting in cold gyms in the middle of winter are now gone for good. Options for our students ranged from remotely proctored exams to 24-hour take home exams.

There have been many staff achievements within the Department, too many to list them all here, however, you can view these successes on our [website](#).

Our student teams have also been busy. The newly formed Connected Autonomous Vehicles Team has been working with the Universities first autonomous vehicle to help prepare Australia for when this technology hits the streets. The Monash Solar Decathlon Team took part in the US Department of Energy Solar Decathlon Design Challenge, winning first place in the Suburban Single-Family home division and finishing finalists in the Attached Housing and Mixed-Use Multifamily divisions.

You can read more about the competition in the article below.

2020 has seen us perform extremely well in the academic rankings. We are now ranked #21 in the world in the area of Civil and Structural Engineering and #7 in the world in the area of mining and minerals, according to the recent QS World Rankings. The US News and World Report (USNWR) 2021 Best Global Universities Rankings, places Civil Engineering #18 globally and #2 Nationally, and the Shanghai Ranking's Global Ranking of Academic Subjects, lists Mineral & Mining, Remote Sensing, Water Resources and Civil Engineering all in the global top 40.

On the education front, we have seen progress in a number of areas. Our jointly badged Masters programs with South East University in China and our Civil Engineering offering at the Sunway Campus in Malaysia are now highly respected. Our 2+2 program with Central South University continues to meet its student quota with many of these students transitioning to the Clayton campus. An important new initiative for the Department is the introduction of Minors in Environmental Engineering, Mining, Renewable Energy and Civil Engineering. These Minors, noted on the academic transcript, have four units studied over at least two years and provide our students with a depth and breadth of study in an adjacent field of Engineering. Despite the difficult year, the domestic demand for our undergraduate programs is positive and our postgraduate research student numbers has also remained strong.

I am pleased to report that there have been many achievements in research across the Department this year. You can read more about the wider impact of some of our research below.

Other significant advancements include investment in our physical infrastructure. The Faculty's new Woodside Technology Education and Design building was completed in March this year. Not only is this a state-of-

the-art teaching building, it is also one of the world's smartest buildings, fitted with more than one million dollars' worth of sensing equipment. The Faculty's new maker-space was also completed earlier this year. It is a wonderful workspace for our student teams and a launchpad for our entrepreneurial activities. The Faculty is also developing a robotics centre that will enable us to expand our new robotic construction facility. We are looking forward to welcoming staff and students into these amazing facilities very soon.

This year's Department of Civil Engineering Annual Awards event took on a very different format and I'm proud to report, was a huge success. Going virtual did have some advantages and we were able to open the invitation to staff, students, industry, family and friends from near and far. We acknowledged the great work of our staff and students and presented our Alumnus of the Year Award to Professor Rebekah Brown. You can read more about the event and watch a recording of the proceedings below.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very happy, peaceful and safe holiday period. I look forward to being back on campus and seeing many of you again in person in 2021.

Best wishes,
Professor Jeffrey Walker
Head of Department
Civil Engineering



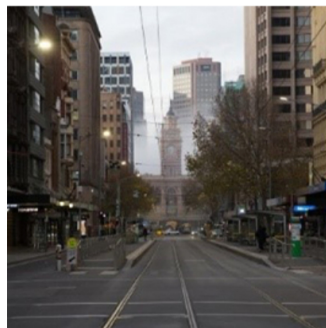
LATEST NEWS



Student Teams success

We are proud of our students working to solve real world problems impacting our daily lives. We have been overwhelmed by the success of our students competing in student teams on the international stage. The Monash Solar Decathlon Team entered the US Department of Energy Solar Decathlon Design Challenge, held virtually across the weekend of 17-19 April 2020. Despite competing in the middle of the night, the team won first place in the Suburban Single-Family home division and finished as finalists in the Attached Housing and Mixed-Use Multifamily divisions.

[Read more](#)



The Melbourne Experiment, assessing the impacts of COVID and travel

The Melbourne Experiment is a landmark interdisciplinary research collaboration to study the effects of the COVID-19 restrictions on the functions of the city. Professor Graham Currie, Director, Public Transport Research Group, Civil Engineering, is working with senior researchers across the University, to examine key activities and elements of the urban environment before, during and after the COVID-19 shutdown.

[Read more](#)

[Read more](#)



Rehabilitation opportunities: How Victoria can repurpose its abandoned mines

Associate Professor Mohan Yellishetty received global media attention for his research impacting the rehabilitation of abandoned mine sites across Australia; 19,000 of which are in Victoria. Professor Yellishetty and his research team have created an Australian-first geospatial database of all known active and inactive hard rock mine sites across the country.

[Read more](#)



50 years after the collapse of the West Gate Bridge

In October this year we remembered the collapse of the West Gate Bridge 50 years on. Led by Professor Noel Murray, the University's founding head of the Department of Civil Engineering, the Monash team of Civil Engineers contributed to the royal commission's technical understanding of what had gone wrong at the time. Associate Professor Colin Caprani, reflects on what has and has not been learnt from this terrible catastrophe.

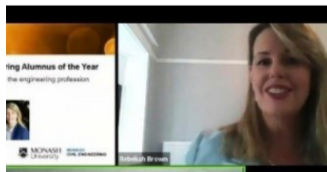
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Transforming the design and production of buildings in Australia

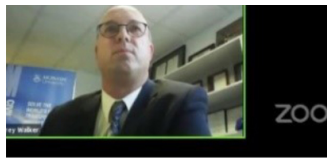
Led by Monash University, the Building 4.0 CRC research initiative is funded by the Australian Government Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) Program. The \$28 million grant brings the combined research budget to \$131 million over seven years. Set to transform Australia's building industry, the research initiative has the potential to boost the economy through job creation and position Australia as a leader in the advanced manufacture of buildings.

[Read more](#)



Annual Awards 2020 goes virtual

The annual Departmental awards event is an important date where we recognise the great achievements of staff and students. Thank you



our staff and students, thank our industry sponsors for their ongoing support, and present our Alumni of the Year Award. This year we celebrated virtually!

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