

REPORT FROM DEPUTY DEAN RESEARCH



□ PROFESSOR MICHAEL GILDING

The highlight of 2004 was the establishment of two Tier One Research Centres (the Institute for Social Research and the Brain Sciences Institute) and two Tier Two Research Centres (the Environment and Biotechnology Centre and the Australian Centre for Emerging Technologies and Society) in the Faculty of Life and Social Sciences. It is expected that the Research Centres will be the hubs of research activity in the Faculty. This research report includes reports from our four Research Centres. It also includes a report from the Swinburne Psychological Clinical Health and Evaluation Research Unit (PsyCHE), which expects to apply for Tier Two status in the next few years.

Other highlights included:

- Twenty-eight completed doctorates, 1 Masters by research and 55 Honours theses
- Two books, 13 book chapters, 111 journal articles, and 33 refereed conference papers, amounting to 121 DEST points
- Research income of \$3,321,181, including 143 current grants, including 47 National Competitive Grants worth more than \$6.5 million
- Heavy media coverage of 858 media items, almost half of the media coverage for the Higher Education Division (1828 items)
- A vigorous seminar program, in particular the cross-disciplinary DataBlitz series

Twenty-eight completed doctorates is a big advance upon the 16 doctorates completed in 2004. The major contributors were Psychology (10 completions), Social and Policy Studies (7 completions) and the EBC (5 completions).

Publications and research income were steady in 2005. This reflects a year of consolidation in the wake of the Faculty restructure and formation of the Research Centres. The major publishers were PsyCHE (21 DEST points), ACETS (19 DEST points) and ISR (17 DEST points). Research staff not located in Research Centres published the equivalent of 35 DEST points, a reminder of the importance of research activity located outside the Research Centres. The big earners in the Faculty were ISR (\$1,466,056), BSI (\$646,243) and EBC (\$449,350).

Our media coverage was outstanding in 2005. LSS staff and postgraduates featured in 858 media items in the course of the year, almost half of the total media coverage for the Higher Education Division. Of these 858 items, 595 were about research and 195 were expert commentary. In turn, the big performers were the PsyCHE Unit (103 items), ISR (86 items), BSI (77 items), and ACETS (70 items).

The year also marked the inaugural DataBlitz program, where staff from across the Faculty came together to talk about their research on various themes, from Digital Games, to Memory, to Biotechnology. The series attracted on-going media interest and was consistently well attended. It also highlighted research synergies across the Faculty, providing a foundation for cooperation and collaboration in the future.

Thanks to the Dean Professor Russell Crawford and the Faculty Research Committee for their efforts and commitment in creating a robust platform for research in the University's most complex and innovative Faculty!