



MELBOURNE SUSTAINABLE
SOCIETY INSTITUTE

2015 | ANNUAL
REPORT





Credits

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Cover image: (Clockwise from top left) Billie Giles-Corti, image by Peter Casamento; Tim Flannery, Clare Walker, image by Peter Casamento; Don Henry, Brendan Gleeson and the Hon Al Gore, image by Paul Burston; Cathy Alexander.

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Photograph by Peter Casamento

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Photograph by Peter Bennetts

Background

The Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute (MSSI) is an interdisciplinary research unit at the University of Melbourne and is part of the strategic portfolio of Melbourne Research Institutes [www.ri.unimelb.edu.au] led by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor Jim McCluskey. The Institute is located administratively within the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning.

MSSI functions as a portal to sustainability-related research at the University and it serves as a platform on which to base research personnel and their projects. The Institute facilitates and supports interdisciplinary sustainability research within the University, but it also establishes and enhances linkages with Australian and international partners. The findings of this research activity are produced and disseminated as high impact publications. MSSI also supports research higher degree students and graduate training. Another core activity is to engage with the public. MSSI is committed to setting the research agenda and leading discussion and debate on key sustainability issues relevant to its city, the state of Victoria, Australia, and the world.

MSSI uses the findings of current biophysical, health or technical sciences and draws on the social sciences and humanities to help understand sustainability trends and challenges. People and values are of central importance in creating integrated sustainable solutions. MSSI therefore engages with community, industry, policy makers and research units to collaborate on solving particular problems while contributing to societal transformation. This work is drawn together into a set of programs that seek to make our economy and practices sustainable while not only maintaining our standard of living but enhancing our quality of life and regenerating natural systems.

MSSI maintains a strong commitment to working with researchers across the full spectrum of sustainability related research disciplines and issues. Particular focus is currently placed on these research clusters:

- Climate Transformations
- Future Cities
- Sustainability In The Anthropocene

Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute Organisational Chart 2015

Dean of Host Faculty

Prof Tom Kvan
(until end of June)
Prof Daryl Le Grew
(from July)
Faculty of Architecture,
Building and Planning

MSSI ADVISORY BOARD

15 experts and leaders
in sustainability, plus
Chair, Prof Kate Auty

ASSOCIATES OF MSSI

23 eminent sustainability
researchers and leaders
external to the University
of Melbourne

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Prof James McCluskey

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research Collaboration and Infrastructure) Prof Liz Sonenberg

MSSI CORE STAFF

MSSI Director Prof Brendan Gleeson

MSSI Deputy Director Prof John Wiseman

Executive Officer Craig Prebble

Executive Assistant Rebecca Johnson; Maria Lawlor (from December)

Communications and Events Coordinator Claire Denby

Administrative Officer Simone Robinson

MSSI PROJECT STAFF

14 fixed-term, casual or honorary staff members
working on sustainability projects at MSSI

MSSI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

20 University of
Melbourne sustainability
researchers, plus Chair,
Prof Brendan Gleeson
and Executive Officer,
Craig Prebble



Message from the Director

Engagement and research translation were each a key focus for MSSI in 2015. MSSI participates in the vision of the Research at Melbourne: Ensuring Excellence and Impact to 2025 strategy (released in 2013), particularly in tackling the grand challenges of 'sustainability and resilience'. This year, the University released its Engagement at Melbourne 2015–2020 strategy. MSSI has been investing significant time, expertise, and resources in engagement programs. We believe that sustainability research must be made vivid and useful for the benefit of the society that academia rightly serves. With its partners, MSSI produced Sustainability At Melbourne, a research brochure showcasing 15 sustainability projects from across the University. MSSI also coordinated the research for an environmentally conscious cook book, Planet to Plate, published by the World Wildlife Fund. MSSI launched Atmosphere of Hope, the new book by Tim Flannery, Professorial Fellow at MSSI, in which he outlines the climate crisis and offers some bold solutions.

In July, MSSI brought former US Vice President and Nobel Laureate, the Hon. Al Gore, to the University. To a packed Wilson Hall, Mr Gore delivered an update of his famous slideshow on the 'inconvenient truth' of climate change. He also attended a special roundtable of senior Melbourne researchers. In the lead-up to the watershed UNFCCC Paris COP21 climate change conference in December, MSSI completed a rich program of activities led by Prof Don Henry and Prof John Wiseman. The team produced Briefing Papers on the climate change challenges faced by key nations and launched a web facility showing the respective 'mitigation contributions' each nation should be making to the global effort to reduce warming. A number of MSSI staff and Committee members attended the Paris

Conference, and their learnings and linkages will invigorate climate change research at the University.

2015 was also a year of consolidating key strategic partnerships. Deputy Director, John Wiseman, took on the role of Climate Change Advisor to State Government agency, Sustainability Victoria. The University and the City of Melbourne agreed to co-fund a 'Chair in Resilient Cities', to be hosted by MSSI and its host Faculty. This will be an engagement, leadership and research role with a focus on climate change. We also announced the successful bid to host the 'Ecocity World Summit' (12–14 July 2017), with our partners the Victorian Government.

New research fellows joined the Institute in 2015. Dr Fjalar de Haan has been investigating how societies respond and change to meet challenges. A/Prof Janet Stanley works on transport access, climate adaptation, and bushfire risk. Dr Ben Parr is the Research Fellow assisting Professor Don Henry with MSSI's program examining international climate change policy. The social theorist, political economist and cultural critic, A/Prof Boris Frankel, became an Honorary Principal Fellow. Dr Wouter Bervoets, AUSMIP Visiting Scholar, completed his visit to Melbourne and returned to Belgium with key insights into urban consolidation.

I recognise the fine support and enthusiasm that outgoing Dean, Prof Tom Kvan, has given the Institute over the years. MSSI's expanding scope of activities has called for added capacity to our Professional staff. And so we welcomed Simone Robinson to the team. We bid a fond farewell to Rebecca Johnson, an MSSI stalwart over the past three years, and we said hello to Maria Lawlor as our new Executive Assistant.

I invite you, then, to read about the Institute's initiatives and achievements.

Professor Brendan Gleeson

MSSI team (above) from left: John Wiseman, Fjalar de Haan, Claire Denby, Don Henry, Brendan Gleeson, Ben Parr, Craig Prebble, Samuel Alexander, Maria Lawlor and Janet Stanley.



Core Team, Executive Committee and Advisory Board

Core Team

Prof Brendan Gleeson, Director
Prof John Wiseman, Deputy Director
Craig Prebble, Executive Officer
Claire Denby, Communications and Events Coordinator
Rebecca Johnson, Executive Assistant
Maria Lawlor (from Dec), Executive Assistant
Simone Robinson, Administrative Officer
Cathy Alexander, Research Fellow – Translation and Development
Dr Samuel Alexander, Research Fellow – Sustainable Economy and Consumption
Dr Fjalar de Haan, Research Fellow – Sustainability Transitions
Prof Don Henry, Public Policy Fellow – Environmentalism
Dr Benjamin Parr, Research Fellow – Climate Change Policy
A/Prof Janet Stanley, Principal Fellow – Urban Social Resilience
Dr Graham Turner, Principal Research Fellow, Australian Stocks and Flows
Prof Jim Falk, Honorary Professorial Fellow
Prof Tim Flannery, Honorary Professorial Fellow
A/Prof Boris Frankel, Honorary Principal Fellow
Carl Obst, Honorary Fellow

Executive Committee

The MSSI Executive Committee provides advice to the Director and acts as conduit for communication across the University. The Committee in 2015 consisted of 21 academic staff members hailing from six of the University's 10 faculties.

Professor Brendan Gleeson, Director, Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute; Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning

Dr Hannah Badland, Future Cities convenor. Senior Research Fellow, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health; Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences

Mr Jeremy Baskin, Sustainability In The Anthropocene convenor. PhD candidate, School of Social and Political Sciences; Faculty of Arts

Professor Mark Burry, Future Cities convenor. Professor of Urban Futures, Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning

Associate Professor Peter Christoff, Sustainability In The Anthropocene and Climate Transformations convenor. School of Geography; Faculty of Science

Mr Andrew Dingjan, Director, Australian Urban Research Infrastructure Network (AURIN); Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning

Professor Richard Eckard, Climate Transformations convenor. Director, Primary Industries Climate Challenges Centre; Faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences

Professor Robyn Eckersley, Sustainability In The Anthropocene convenor. School of Social and Political Sciences; Faculty of Arts

Dr Thomas Ford, Sustainability In The Anthropocene convenor. School of Culture and Communication; Faculty of Arts

Professor Billie Giles-Corti, Future Cities convenor. Director, McCaughey VicHealth Community Wellbeing Unit, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health; Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences

Associate Professor Justyna Karakiewicz, Future Cities convenor. Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning

Professor David Karoly, Climate Transformations convenor. School of Earth Sciences; Faculty of Science

Professor Yoshihisa Kashima, Melbourne School of Psychological Sciences; Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences



Ms Fiona Armstrong

Fiona is a leading voice in advocating for concern about the health implications of environmental and climate policy. Her background is in health and public policy analysis. She is founder and convenor of the Climate And Health Alliance.

Associate Professor Malte Meinshausen, Director, Australia-German Climate and Energy College Transitions, School of Earth Sciences; Faculty of Science

Craig Prebble, Executive Officer (ex officio)

Professor Chris Ryan, Future Cities convenor. Director, Victorian Eco-Innovation Lab; Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning

Professor Anne Steinemann, Future Cities convenor. Chair of Sustainable Cities, Department of Infrastructure Engineering, Melbourne School of Engineering

Professor Bob Stimson, Senior Academic Advisor, Australian Urban Research Infrastructure Network (AURIN); Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning

Professor Helen Sullivan, Director, Melbourne School of Government; School of Social and Political Sciences; Faculty of Arts

Associate Professor Kathryn Williams, Director, Office for Environmental Programs; Faculty of Science

Professor Stephan Winter, Future Cities convenor. Department of Infrastructure Engineering; Melbourne School of Engineering

Professor John Wiseman, Deputy Director, Climate Transformations convenor. Deputy Director, Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute; Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning

Advisory Board

MSSI enjoys the support of a diverse and vibrant Advisory Board of experts, leaders and champions of sustainability. The 2015 Board was comprised of 6 representatives from industry and business, 4 distinguished figures from academia, 3 senior leaders of the non-government/community sector, a councillor from the City of Melbourne, a senior member of a State government agency, and a State Government departmental secretary.

The Advisory Board provides assistance with strategic planning for the Institute and gives advice on areas in which MSSI can create linkages with external stakeholders in

order to grow the research program and attract funding. The Board also reviews key MSSI strategic documents.

This year, the Board met three times. The Board also met with the representatives of the University's Sustainability Executive to provide advice and counsel on the 'Sustainability Charter', released in March 2016. This statement of principles will guide the University and it will be operationalised, with targets and timelines, by the 'Sustainability Plan (2016-2020)'.

Professor Kate Auty, Chair of MSSI Advisory Board; Vice-Chancellor's Fellow, University of Melbourne

Ms Anne Barker, Managing Director, City West Water

Mr Rueben Berg, Director, Indigenous Architecture and Design Victoria; Managing Director, RJHB Consulting

Ms Rosemary Bissett, Head of Sustainability Governance and Risk, National Australia Bank

Professor David de Kretser AC, Sir John Monash Distinguished Professor, Monash University

Professor Peter Doherty AC, Laureate Professor, University of Melbourne

Mr Adam Fennessy, Secretary, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Victoria

Professor Ruth Fincher AM, Redmond Barry Distinguished Professor Emeritus, University of Melbourne

Ms Megan Flynn, Group Manager – Environment and Carbon Strategy Office, Qantas Airways Ltd

Mr Rob Gell AM, Principal, World Wind for Change Pty Ltd

Mr Jeremy Hobbs, Hobbs Consulting, former Executive Director, Oxfam International

Ms Kelly O'Shanassy, CEO, Australian Conservation Foundation

Ms Annie Volkering, Director of Applied Science, Environment Protection Authority, Victoria

Mr Mark Wakeham, CEO, Environment Victoria

Mr Bob Welsh, Executive Director, Sustainability Advisers

Mr Arron Wood, Councillor, Chair – Environment Portfolio, Deputy Chair – Economic Development Portfolio, City of Melbourne



Research Clusters

Climate Transformations

The Climate Transformations research cluster aims to facilitate research and policy linkages and projects leading to increased understanding of climate change trends and responses with a particular focus on:

- climate change trends, impacts and implications;
- climate change adaptation and resilience;
- strategies for accelerating the transition to a just and resilient zero-carbon future.

The cluster works closely with a number of units at the University, including: the Post-Carbon Pathways project (hosted by MSSl); the ARC Centre of Excellence for Climate System Science (CoE CSS); the Melbourne Energy Institute; the Australian-German Climate and Energy College; the EU Centre on Shared Complex Challenges; the Victorian Eco-Innovation Lab (VEIL); Visions and Pathways 2040 (Co-operative Research Centre for Low Carbon Living); and the Primary Industries Climate Challenges Centre (PICCCC).

Convenors for 2015:

- A/Prof Peter Christoff, School of Geography, Faculty of Science
- Prof Richard Eckard, PICCCC, Agriculture and Food Systems, Faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences
- Prof Robyn Eckersley, School of Social and Political Sciences, Faculty of Arts
- Prof David Karoly, School of Earth Sciences, Faculty of Science; CoE CSS
- Prof John Wiseman, MSSl

2015 highlights

In 2015 the cluster was instrumental in bringing the Hon. Al Gore to the University. In the wake of his visit, the major focus was on the 'Paris and Beyond' project which aims to strengthen informed public discussion and applied research on international climate negotiation issues and debates before, during and after the UNFCCC 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) in Paris. The cluster also brought the 'Art+Climate=Change' program of art exhibitions and talks to the University in April and May.

Future Cities

The Future Cities research cluster is an interdisciplinary research group that seeks to investigate and generate best-practice, policy-relevant evidence to understand and effectively respond to the challenges facing urban environments.

It explores the core topics of:

- theoretical and conceptual debates about urban futures, especially at the metropolitan scale in developed countries;
- urban sustainability, resilience, smart cities and physical and social connectedness;
- planning, design, and governance for sustainability, health and wellbeing, equity, and inclusion.

Research programs connected to this cluster include: the Australian Urban Research Infrastructure Network (AURIN); the Victorian Eco Innovation Lab (VEIL); the Melbourne Research Cluster on Urban Connectedness; the CRC for Low Carbon Living; VEIL; the NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in Healthy, Liveable Communities; the Australian Prevention Partnership Centre; and 'Getting to Yes: Overcoming barriers to affordable family friendly housing in the central city'. Certain projects receiving Carlton Connect Initiative funding are also championed by this cluster.



Mr Guy Abrahams

Guy is CEO and co-founder of CLIMARTE: Arts for a Safe Climate. With Bronwyn Johnson, he was the instigator of the Art+Climate=Change Festival in 2015. He has been actively involved in the visual arts and environment fields for over 30 years.

Convenors for 2015:

- Dr Hannah Badland, McCaughey VicHealth Centre for Community Wellbeing, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, Faculty of MDHS
- Prof Billie Giles-Corti, McCaughey VicHealth Centre for Community Wellbeing, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, Faculty of MDHS
- A/Prof Justyna Karakiewicz, Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning
- Prof Chris Ryan, Victorian Eco-Innovation Lab
- Prof Anne Steinemann, Melbourne School of Engineering
- Prof Stephan Winter, Melbourne School of Engineering

2015 highlights

Throughout the year the Future Cities Research Cluster hosts and supports a range of activities, including public lectures and lunchtime seminars, collaborative workshops and Australasian Early Career Urban Research Network (AECURN) Forum and mentoring opportunities.

Sustainability In The Anthropocene

The Sustainability in the Anthropocene (SITA) research cluster facilitates research and dialogue on the character of the Anthropocene (the idea that we have entered a new historical and geological era in which human activity has become the dominant influence on the Earth's ecology and climate) and its implications for sustainability. SITA places a particular focus on:

- conceptual and political debates about the Anthropocene – implications for sustainability visions, paradigms and initiatives;
- the meaning and purpose in the Anthropocene – narratives, aesthetics and ethics;

- measuring and modeling the Anthropocene – tracking, communicating and debating sustainability and wellbeing trends and impacts.

The SITA cluster has a wide membership of senior academics, early career researchers, and graduate students from the Faculty of Arts (Social and Political Sciences; Culture and Communication), the Faculty of Science (Earth Sciences; Social and Environmental Change; Biodiversity, Ecology and Conservation), and from a range of other areas across the University.

Convenors for 2015:

- A/Prof Peter Christoff, School of Geography, Faculty of Science
- Prof Robyn Eckersley, School of Social and Political Sciences, Faculty of Arts
- Dr Tom Ford, School of Culture and Communication, Faculty of Arts
- Jeremy Baskin, PhD student, School of Social and Political Sciences, Faculty of Arts

2015 highlights

The SITA cluster conducted a series of research seminars during the year. It also held a regular interdisciplinary reading group which studied key texts about the Anthropocene from the perspectives of both the sciences and the humanities. In September, the SITA cluster was visited by Prof Trevor Hancock, the University of Victoria, Canada, who gave a public lecture on 'Population Health in the Anthropocene'.



Ms Anita Talberg

Anita is writing her thesis, 'The policy and governance of climate engineering', at the Australian-German Climate and Energy College. She previously worked for the Australian Parliamentary Library, providing analysis for parliamentarians on climate change and renewable energy.

Key Research Projects

MSSI serves as a platform for developing and managing research projects, whether hosted on site or located within the University's faculties and schools. The scholarship and engagement work of these projects add expertise and build capacity in key areas of sustainability research. The projects also provide employment and experience for research fellows, many of whom are early career researchers.

Sustainability At Melbourne project

The research brochure, 'Sustainability At Melbourne', presents the work of 15 sustainability scholars and students from the University's diverse and deep pool. MSSI understands the value of research translation. In order to share this knowledge as widely as possible, the brochure was written for a general readership including the interested public, the business community, government staff, and leaders in the community and NGO sphere. There are an estimated 1,300 researchers working in fields relevant to sustainability and resilience, with an annual research expenditure of about \$218 million. Weblink: www.sustainable.unimelb.edu.au/our-stories

Paris and Beyond program

A major focus during 2015 was a program of work in the lead-up to the watershed 21st UN Framework Convention on Climate Change 'Conference of Parties' (COP21) in Paris, 30 November to 11 December. All academic and professional staff at MSSI contributed, along with a number of Executive Committee members, with senior leadership coming from Prof John Wiseman and Prof Don Henry. MSSI's multi-team 'Road to Paris and Beyond' program aimed to strengthen the quality of informed public discussion and applied research on these crucial international climate negotiation issues and debates. The program produced a number of outputs, each specifically tailored for a different target audience. Information about these can be found in the sections 'Events' and 'Publications and Communications' of this Annual Report. Just prior to COP21, MSSI hosted a 'Business Climate Workshop' which was attended by

senior representatives of 20 major corporations, along with personnel from leading Australian climate change institutes. The Institute also participated in the symposium, 'Paris and Beyond', presented by MSSI's partners the EU Centre on Shared Complex Challenges. The University's official UNFCCC delegation to COP21 was led by MSSI Climate Transformations co-convenor, Prof Robyn Eckersley. This delegation included around 11 current academics and students who are either MSSI personnel or closely aligned to MSSI, and another 5 attendees were also associated with MSSI.

Climate Change Impacts and Policy Options project

In 2015, Professor John Wiseman, Deputy Director of MSSI, was appointed Climate Change Policy Adviser to State Government agency, Sustainability Victoria (SV). He provides high-level strategic policy advice on the ways in which SV can help the Victorian Government achieve its aim of providing leadership in responding to the risks and challenges of climate change. In this work, Prof Wiseman has contributed advice on key topics of concern for the State, including:

- The case for action, demonstrating the importance of addressing climate change risks and the potential opportunities for a rapid transition to a post carbon economy;
- climate change policy options and priorities for the Victorian context;
- examples of integrated and strategic climate change responses at national and subnational levels.



Southern Cities Research Centre

Sustainability Transitions program

MSSI has had a long-standing interest in how societies can transform their practices and cultures in order to transition to a sustainable future. In 2015, Dr Fjalar de Haan, an expert in the cutting-edge field of 'transitions studies', joined MSSI. Dr Haan has developed a 'Multi-Pattern Approach' which breaks down complex transition pathways into sequences of patterns. He has also developed a 'Societal Needs Framework' which explains how service-provision systems are intimately related with the societal needs they meet. In this work he has conducted modelling in a variety of sectoral contexts, including health care, urban water management and energy. Affiliated with the Dutch Research Institute For Transitions (DRIFT) and eager to foster a community of scholars, Fjalar established the Australia-Based Transitions Research Alliance (ASTRA). ASTRA aims to provide a platform for collaboration and sharing and dissemination of research. During 2015, MSSI and ASTRA presented or co-hosted a series of four workshops, including research visits by DRIFT scientists Prof Jan Rotmans and Prof Derk Loorbach.

Sustainable Economy and Consumption program

Dr Samuel Alexander, Research Fellow at MSSI, leads this innovative program exploring the problematic of our current growth-premised economy, identifying the limits to this growth (such as resource scarcity and climate change), and proposing instead a 'degrowth economics'. Transitioning to sustainable patterns of consumption requires an understanding of past thinkers and practices, other cultural perspectives, and alternative lifestyles. In 2015, Dr Alexander released a two-volume

set of his collected essays on these topics: *Prosperous Descent: Crisis as Opportunity in an Age of Limits* (Vol. 1); and *Sufficiency Economy: Enough, For Everyone, Forever* (Vol. 2). He is also the course coordinator of the Office of Environmental Program's Masters subject, 'Consumerism and the Growth Economy: Interdisciplinary Perspectives'. Dr Alexander is co-producer of a documentary filmed in 2015 and due for release in May 2016, *A Simpler Way: Crisis as Opportunity*. He is also part of the Wurruk'an project based in rural Victoria, which is a demonstration of 'simpler living' based on permaculture principles.

Southern Cities Research Centre

MSSI has supported the development of a research network of academics, industry and government representatives, and students to help develop a multi-institutional, multi-disciplinary centre on improving urban outcomes in key cities in the southern hemisphere. With hubs in Brazil and Australia, the Centre aims to explain complex urban problems and trends shared by many cities and to communicate transformative research findings to academic and practice-based audiences. This research privileges the twin principles of equity and sustainability in order to address widening inequality and pressing environmental concerns that impact southern cities. The work is also underscored by analytics and design methodologies that promote critical and propositional exploration of alternative urban futures. The project team consists of Prof Mark Burry, Prof Tom Kvan, and A/Prof Justyna Karakiewicz, all from the Faculty of ABP, with A/Prof Adrian Hearn of the Faculty of Arts. The project officer is Hayley Henderson, a PhD student at the Faculty of ABP.



Dr Stephen Bygrave

Stephen has worked on climate change for 20 years, across renewable energy, energy efficiency, transport, agriculture and forestry. He is CEO of Beyond Zero Emissions, a think tank devoted to demonstrating that a zero carbon future is possible in these and other sectors.

Environmental-Economic Accounting project

Carl Obst is an MSSI honorary fellow whose research aims to better understand how societies and economies interact with the environment and its 'natural capital'. This year Carl continued work on linking national level ecosystem measurement with corporate accounting initiatives that are developing standards for integrating natural capital into business reporting and decision-making processes. To this end, he published a paper on 'National Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Assets and Their Services'. 2015 also saw his work with the UN/World Bank reach fruition with the release of the report, System of Environmental – Economic Accounting [SEEA] 2012 – Experimental Ecosystem Accounting. He also forged key links between the UN's SEEA Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries framework and the selection of indicators to monitor the Sustainable Development Goals the UN codified in 2015. In September, Carl designed and presented a series of three high-level workshops on 'Adding Value through Natural Capital Accounting', held in Sydney, Melbourne, and Canberra.

Urban Social Resilience program

A/Prof Janet Stanley joined MSSI in 2015 and holds the position of 'Principal Research Fellow – Urban Social Resilience'. With a focus on children, youth, and community, A/Prof Stanley explores systems, policy and governance solutions that interlace social, economic and environmental sustainability. By discerning the causes and effects of disadvantage, she has been able to apply this to a range of research questions arising from the needs of communities. Her current work is concerned with transport and how people gain access to it. She is also examining the ideal and reality of the "20 minute city" and how such projects can be evaluated. A/Prof Stanley has collaborated closely with government at the federal, state and local levels. She is Director of the 'National Centre for Research in Bushfire and Arson', studying how such arson behaviour, and its social causes, can be better understood and therefore prevented. The Centre collaborates with fire authorities, the police, Crime Stoppers, the Australian Institute of Criminology, business and local communities. From April to June, A/Prof Stanley held a three month Visiting Professorship at the Graduate School for International Development and Cooperation, Hiroshima University, Japan.



Dr Hannah Badland

Hannah is Senior Research Fellow at McCaughey VicHealth Community Wellbeing Unit. Her research focuses on examining and evaluating associations between health behaviours and outcomes, the physical urban environment, and transport at the neighbourhood-level.

Associates

MSSI benefits from the interest and involvement of leading academics, senior bureaucrats, innovative business people, and heads of NGO/community organisations. The Associates are innovative thought leaders and change agents, striving for a sustainable society for all. They help promote MSSI externally and transfer knowledge back into the Institute. There are currently 23 Associates with six new appointments in 2015: Guy Abrahams, Fiona Armstrong, Dr Stephen Bygrave, Tanya Ha, Carolyn Ingvarson, and Dr Lauren Rickards.

Mr Guy Abrahams, CEO and Co-Founder of NGO, CLIMARTE: Arts for a Safe Climate

Ms Fiona Armstrong, Convenor of NGO, the Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA)

Professor Kate Auty, Vice-Chancellor's Professorial Fellow, The University of Melbourne

Mr Jeremy Baskin, PhD Student, School of Social and Political Sciences, The University of Melbourne (Formerly: Australian Director of the University of Cambridge Programme for Sustainability Leadership)

Dr Kathryn Bowen, Research Fellow, Australian National University; Research Fellow, Earth System Governance Project; Advisory Committee Member, City of Melbourne

Dr Iain Butterworth, Manager, Public Health and Western Area, North and West Metropolitan Region, Victorian Department of Health

Dr Stephen Bygrave, CEO of climate change think tank, Beyond Zero Emissions

Mr Ian Dunlop, Governance and Sustainability Advisor, Chairman, Safe Climate Australia; Member, Club of Rome; Director, Australia 21

Associate Professor Robert Faggian, Researcher in climate change adaptation, Centre for Regional and Rural Futures, Deakin University

Tanya Ha, Environmentalist, broadcaster, writer and science and sustainability engagement specialist

Dr Steven Henderson, Geographer of urban regeneration, regional development, and sustainable development

Ms Carolyn Ingvarson, Convenor of NGO, Lighter Footprints Climate Change Action Community Group

Professor Lyndsay Neilson, Management consultant and strategic planner

Dr Brett Parris, Sustainability economist; Adjunct Research Fellow, Monash University

Professor Craig Pearson, Professorial Fellow, School of Geography, The University of Melbourne; Foundation Director, MSSI (2009 – 2012)

Mr Rod Quantock, Comedian, activist and climate change consciousness-raiser

Dr Lauren Rickards, Senior Lecturer, School of Global, Urban and Social Studies, RMIT University

Professor Allan Rodger, Professor Emeritus, The University of Melbourne; Chairman of the Board of the Habitat Trust

Ms Simran Sethi, Sustainability journalist, strategist, educator

Ms Meredith Sussex, Strategic Adviser, Office of Living Victoria; Non-Executive Director, Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute

Dr Helen Sykes AM, Founder, Future Leaders, a philanthropic initiative about leadership and the future of Australia

Dr Chris Taylor, Research Fellow, Department of Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences, The University of Melbourne

Professor Patrick Troy AO, Visiting Fellow, Fenner School of Environment and Society, ANU; Adjunct Professor Urban Research Program, Griffith University; Visiting Professor City Futures Research Centre, UNSW



Research Facilitation

A key function MSSI is tasked with is to facilitate sustainability research, especially by fostering the development and enhancement of interdisciplinary teams. MSSI is committed to its role of enabler and internal partner within the University's community of scholars. The Institute has particular carriage of research falling within its cluster areas of expertise, but it lends its support and capacity to a wide set of sustainability research and engagement endeavours.

Seed Funding

'Market forces or forcing markets: Questioning the viability of a consumer-based choice approach to sustain innovation and value in accessible housing.'

This proposal was submitted to the Hallmark Disability Research Initiative grant scheme and was subsequently funded by MSSI. The project tests the key assumption underpinning the National Disability Insurance Scheme's housing strategy. It asks, is this market-based mechanism able to initiate and support the innovation in residential design and construction required to make mainstream residential dwellings accessible and usable by occupants living with a disability? The project examines how innovation is developed in the housing industry currently, and the prospects for industry transformation. The Coordinating Investigator is Dr Andrew Martel, Lecturer in Construction Management and Housing, Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning, and the project team includes his colleague Dr Georgia Warren-Myers, Lecturer in Property. The project has secured industry partners from the development industry and disability support service providers.

Sponsorship and Co-funding

Internal:

- Prof Don Henry, Public Policy Fellow – Environmentalism: 50% salary co-funded from May 2015 – April 2016: \$75,899
- Co-funding of distribution of *The Handbook of Road Ecology*, R. Van Der Ree: \$2,500

- Contribution to 'Mitigation Contributions' website (M. Meinshausen, Dylan McConnell web work): \$3,000
- Ms Anita Talberg, Project: producing MSSI Briefing Paper, 'What does climate leadership and a 'fair share' look like?': \$3,961
- Australian-German College of Climate and Energy Transitions, Core funding: \$54,000; Top-up scholarship: \$18,000
- Dr Hannah Badland, McCaughey VicHealth Community Wellbeing Unit, MDHS, MSSI Cluster 'Future Cities': \$10,000
- Meenakshi Arora, travel to Indian Smart Cities Conference, Delhi, 20-22 May 2015, Infrastructure Engineering, Melbourne School of Engineering: \$1,500

External:

- Sponsorship of Transitions Film Festival 17 February – 6 March 2015

Proudly sponsored by MSSI, the Transitions Film Festival is Australia's largest sustainability film festival, dedicated to showcasing inspirational documentaries about the social and technological innovations, revolutionary ideas and trailblazing change-makers that are leading the way to a better world. The 4th annual festival featured over 20 dynamic and inspiring documentaries and a wide range of shorts. \$2,000



Ms Tanya Ha

Tanya is an influential environmental campaigner, science journalist, best-selling author, broadcaster and sustainability engagement consultant. Her work currently focuses on science and environmental communication, and 'mainstreaming' sustainable behaviour change.

- Co-funding of Art+Climate=Change book (with Ian Potter Museum of Art, and CLIMARTE): \$5,000

- Post-Doctoral Research Fellows Supported, Fixed-Term

Dr Wouter Bervoets, Visiting Post-Doctoral Fellow;
project: 'The interaction between anti-suburban criticism and suburban transformation projects': \$1,438

Bids and Grant Writing

MSSI is a strong ally for University teams and individuals making bids for research funding. The Institute has experience and skill in developing project proposals for national and international schemes, including the phases of planning, team-building, partnership-brokering, budgeting, and grant-writing.

In 2015, MSSI led or took a key partnership role in the facilitation of the following submitted bids:

- **ARC Centre of Excellence: three**

- Expression of Interest, 'ARC Centre of Excellence for Climate Extremes' [Climate Transformations Cluster]
- Expression of Interest, 'ARC Centre of Excellence for Social Transformations in the Anthropocene' [Sustainability In The Anthropocene Cluster]
- Expression of Interest, 'ARC Centre of Excellence in Compact City Science' [Future Cities Cluster]

- **ARC Discovery**

- 'Strategic Urban Planning: institutional learning and bushfire resilience' (DPI 60100758)

First Investigator: Prof Brendan Gleeson, MSSI

A/Prof Alan March, Faculty of ABP, Chief Investigator

Dr Diana MacCallum, Curtin University of Technology, Chief Investigator

Prof Darryl Low Choy, Griffith University, Chief Investigator

- 'Emerging Publics: new social spaces of train travel in two Australian metropolises' (DPI 60103791)

Lead Chief Investigator: Prof Ruth Fincher, School of Geography, UoM

Prof Brendan Gleeson, MSSI, Chief Investigator

A/Prof Kurt Iveson, Urban Geography, University of Sydney, Chief Investigator

- **ARC Linkage**

- 'The Dilemma of Urban Employment Land: An Inquiry into Small Urban Making' (LPI 60100122)

First Investigator: Dr Jennifer Day, Faculty of ABP

Prof Brendan Gleeson, MSSI, Chief Investigator

Prof Paul Jensen, Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research, Chief Investigator

Key Partners: Melbourne City Council; City of Port Phillip Final

- 'Building an integrated system for Australian bushfire prevention' (LPI 60100661)

First Investigator: Dr Janet Stanley

A/Prof Alan March, Faculty of ABP, Chief Investigator

Prof James Ogloff, Swinburne University of Technology, Victorian Institute of Forensic Mental Health, Chief Investigator

Key Partner: Crime Stoppers Victoria Ltd

- **European Commission COHERE Horizon2020 LCE-21-2015**

Dr Fjalar de Haan, 'Technology and coherence challenges of European energy transformation pathways'



Dr Ben Parr

Ben completed his PhD in 2015 on Australian climate policy and diplomacy from Howard to Rudd. He also worked for the Hon Gareth Evans AC. His current role at MSSI researches domestic politics, climate policies and climate diplomacy of key developing countries.

- **European Union Centre on Shared Complex Challenges: Scholar in Residence** (successful), Dr Fjalar de Haan, 'Addressing the shared, complex challenge of climate change requires transitioning of our systems of energy provision and consumption'.
- **2016 Miegunyah Distinguished Visiting Fellowship** (successful), Professor Sheila Sen Jasanoff (Harvard University), 'The Politics and Law of Risk in the Anthropocene' [visit scheduled for May 2016]

Prof Sundhya Pahuja, Director of the Law and Development Research Program, Melbourne Law School

A/Prof Peter Christoff, School of Geography, Faculty of Science
- **Endeavour Research Fellowship** (Commonwealth Department of Education and Training) (successful), Cathy Alexander, 'A comparative study of climate policy, comparing Australia with British Columbia'.
- **The City of Melbourne Chair in Resilient Cities** was approved for co-funding by the Melbourne City Council (28 April 2015)

5 years Level E position, co-funded by the City of Melbourne [\$687,350]; 2 year postdoc position, funded by the Faculty of ABP; 3 year PhD scholarship, allocated by MSSI

- **Ecocity World Summit 2017 bid** (successful), Melbourne will showcase its sustainability credentials to experts worldwide when the prestigious Ecocity World Summit comes to the city during 12–14 July 2017. Around 1,000 leading international urban planners, architects and environmental specialists will gather to discuss world-leading sustainable city initiatives. The MSSI at the University of Melbourne and the Institute for Culture and Society (ICS) at the University of Western Sydney are the two local champions of the Summit.
- **Wellcome Trust**
'Compact Urbanisation and Health'

Investigators: Prof Billie Giles-Corti, MDHS, UoM; Prof Mark Stevenson, Faculty of ABP; Prof Brendan Gleeson, MSSI, UoM; Dr Melanie Davern, MDHS, UoM; Prof Jago Dodson, RMIT

Consortium of Universities: University of Melbourne (UoM), University of New South Wales (UNSW), University of Wollongong (UoW), RMIT University, the University of Western Australia and Queensland University of Technology.

Partner Organisations: Federal Department of Infrastructure and Regional Departments; NSW and Victorian planning and roads agencies; Victoria's Metropolitan Planning Authority



Former US Vice-President Al Gore visits the University of Melbourne, and meets PhD students from the Australian-German Climate and Energy College.

Postgraduate Students

MSSI is committed to fulfilling its role of instilling and promoting interdisciplinary research training in sustainability themes. To this end, the Institute supports research higher degree student initiatives by providing significant funding, thesis supervision, mentorship, casual employment opportunities, and other support.

Australian-German Climate and Energy College

The Australian-German Climate and Energy College is an international graduate college jointly instituted by the University of Melbourne and a partnership of German universities in the Berlin-Potsdam area. The College offers PhD candidates the opportunity to pursue research in climate change and energy transitions at a world-class level, complemented by a six month exchange program at a partner institution overseas. There are currently 17 students. The College Director, A/Prof Malte Meinshausen, sits on MSSI Executive Committee. MSSI is a key supporter and co-funder of this innovative program. The Institute assists in recruiting high-achieving applicants, allocates postgraduate scholarships and funds top-ups. MSSI academics directly supervise a number of current College students. For instance, MSSI Research Fellow, Cathy Alexander, is writing her thesis at the College on 'The policy and politics of climate change in Australia'. In addition, MSSI is increasingly collaborating with these students on projects where their expertise is valuable.

Office for Environmental Programs (OEP)

The OEP is a key partner of MSSI. It devises and administers the cross-faculty Graduate Environmental Program, which includes the highly-regarded Master of Environment. The flexible and innovative coursework

syllabus covers a broad range of topics, from food security, to environmental economics, climate change policy and more. A number of MSSI academics formally supervise OEP students as they tackle their 'Environmental Research Project' and its thesis. Prof Brendan Gleeson represents MSSI on OEP's Community and Industry Advisory Board. In turn, the Director of OEP, A/Prof Kathryn Williams sits on the MSSI Executive Committee.

Australasian Early Career Urban Research Network (AECURN)

In 2015, MSSI took on a more substantive role in supporting the work of AECURN, specifically the Victorian chapter. AECURN is a network of PhD candidates and Early Career Researchers from across Australia and New Zealand who are undertaking research on cities. It provides a productive environment for its members and links them to the Australian Cities Research Network. Dr Hannah Badland, convenor of MSSI's Future Cities cluster, took a lead role in coordinating the AECURN activities at the University. This included the MSSI-hosted seminar held on 6 August, 'Urban Research Career Pathways'. This event enabled junior researchers to meet and converse with experienced academics from the urban disciplines. In this way, AECURN can provide for its members with encouragement and mentorship.



Partnerships and Collaborations

Key External Partners

MSSI is charged with furthering the University's commitment to public value. By forming and deepening relationships with external partners, the Institute can enhance research and share advances according to this public-spirited ethos. MSSI has established partnerships with peak agencies, institutions, and organisations. For certain strategic partnerships, MSSI offers its expertise and capacity to serve as the coordinating unit on behalf of the University. Other linkages enable and add value to the work of MSSI's own project personnel and the activities of its clusters.

The following is a selection of some organisations currently working with MSSI.

- **Australian Council of Learned Academies (ACOLA)**
MSSI Director, Prof Brendan Gleeson, co-authored ACOLA's major report, *Delivering sustainable urban mobility*.
- **Australian Bureau of Statistics**
The ABS partnered with MSSI and the Carlton Connect Initiative to present a series of three workshops on 'Adding Value through Natural Capital Accounting' in Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra. Other partners included: the Commonwealth Department of the Environment, the Australian Business and Biodiversity Initiative, and the ANU Fenner School of Environment and Society.
- **Australian Conservation Foundation**
The ACF was a key partner for the visit by the Hon. Al Gore in July 2015.
- **Association of Pacific Rim Universities**
MSSI Professorial Fellow, Jim Falk, coordinates APRU's 'Sustainability and Climate Change Program'.
- **Banksia Foundation**
In 2015, MSSI became a partner of this environmental organisation which presents its annual Sustainability Awards, recognising leadership and innovation throughout Australia.
- **Beyond Zero Emissions**
MSSI supported the launch of the Renewable Energy Superpower report in October.
- **Carbon Market Institute**
MSSI's Prof John Wiseman chaired a session at the 'Spotlight on Australia' event held at COP21 in Paris. This workshop, featuring The Hon. Julie Bishop, Minister for Foreign Affairs, brought together industry and government leaders from around the world to discuss Australia's climate, goals, policies and expectations.
- **Centre for Policy Development**
A key partner for the public forum in June, 'Australia's longest conflict: our climate security challenge in the 21st century'
- **City of Melbourne**
MSSI has key links with the City on projects, initiatives, and, starting in 2016, the joint Chair in Resilient Cities.
- **CLIMARTE: Arts for a Safe Climate**
MSSI partnered with CLIMARTE and a range of other University of Melbourne units for the Art+Climate=Change festival of exhibitions and events.
- **Climate Council**
Prof Tim Flannery, MSSI Professorial Fellow, is the Chief Councillor.
- **The Climate Reality Project**
MSSI's Professor Don Henry is an International Board Member.



Speakers from the public forum 'Australia's longest conflict: our climate security challenge in the 21st century' (from left): Cathy Alexander (MSSI), Rear Admiral Neil Morissett (UK Government's former Climate and Energy Security Envoy), Robert Sturrock (Centre for Policy Development), Admiral Chris Barrie (former Chief of the Australian Defence Force), Travers McLeod (CEO, Centre for Policy Development).

- **Dutch Research Institute For Transitions (DRIFT)**

MSSI hosted visits by key research staff from this cutting-edge research institute based in the Netherlands.

- **Environment Protection Authority (Victoria)**

MSSI's Director sits on the Steering Committee of the 'Strategic Research and Development Partnership'.

- **Green Alliance of Universities for a Sustainable Future**

Professor John Wiseman represented the University at the 2014 Conference at the University of Beijing. There were ongoing discussions about future research collaborations.

- **Sustainability Victoria**

MSSI's Deputy Director, Prof John Wiseman, is a Climate Policy Advisor for Sustainability Victoria.

- **Transitions Film Festival**

MSSI sponsored this festival of world-changing documentaries on sustainability topics.

- **United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network**

MSSI represents the University of Melbourne on the Australia/Pacific Network of this global United Nations sustainability alliance and provides ongoing input into a range of SDSN projects including the 'Sustainable Development Goals' and 'Deep Decarbonisation Pathways'.

- **World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and Earth Hour Australia**

MSSI collaborated on the Planet to Plate cookbook and on the Appetite for Change research report.

Collaborators at the University

MSSI champions the great diversity of sustainability research at the University. This includes personnel and units working within MSSI's research clusters, but the interest and support extends to all sustainability work. MSSI therefore maintains collaborations with a large set of University institutes, centres and research units focusing on various aspects of sustainability inquiry.

Here is a selection of internal collaborators who worked prominently with MSSI in 2015.

- ARC Centre of Excellence for Climate System Science
- Australian-German Climate and Energy College
- Australian Research Centre for Urban Ecology
- Australian Urban Research Infrastructure Network
- Carlton Connect Initiative
- European Union Centre on Shared Complex Challenges
- McCaughey VicHealth Community Wellbeing Unit
- Melbourne Energy Institute
- Melbourne School of Government
- Melbourne Social Equity Institute
- NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in Healthy, Liveable Communities
- Office for Environmental Programs
- Primary Industries Climate Challenges Centre
- Sustainable Campus
- Victorian Eco-Innovation Lab and the Collaborative Research Centre for Low Carbon Living (Visions and Pathways 2040 project)



Dr Fjalar de Haan

Fjalar is working at the vanguard of the young, vibrant interdisciplinary area of transition studies. He develops theory and models for understanding sustainability transitions and societal transformations. He heads the Australia-Based Transitions Research Alliance.

Visits and Travel

The visits that MSSI organises, sponsors and hosts bring the world of sustainability research excellence to the University. These visitors are strategically chosen and invited so that they can collaborate with the research community and provide seminar presentations, roundtable discussions, masterclasses and mentoring for students, as well as free lectures for the general public.

Visits to MSSI

- **Delegation of Brazilian urban experts** (IBM, Samsung, University of São Paulo, etc.): attended the 'ABP Urban Research Think Tank'. 3 – 7 February 2014
- **Professor Robin Boyle** (19 January – 24 June 2015)
Prof Boyle is the Chair at the Department of Urban Studies and Planning, College of Liberal Art and Sciences, Wayne State University, USA. His visit was part of the Faculty of ABP's 'Dean's Visitors Program' and was sponsored by MSSI. On the 25 May, Prof Boyle delivered a public lecture entitled 'Detroit – Future City, Post Bankruptcy'. His lecture critically examined America's fractured political, policy and planning landscape and argued that this city offers a troubling vision of social division, spatial separation and urban exclusion.
- **Professor Neil Brenner** (16 – 20 March 2015)
Prof Brenner leads the Urban Theory Lab at the distinguished Harvard Graduate School of Design and is a captivating voice in urban studies. MSSI was pleased to host his visit, again as part of ABP's 'Dean's Visitors Program'. Prof Brenner's energy and critical acuity were on offer at a workshop for PhD students and a Dean's Public Lecture, 'The urban age in question: towards a new epistemology of the urban'. Our guest also recorded a long interview with MSSI Director, Prof Gleeson. Both agreed that urbanisation can and should encompass diverse patterns and pathways across the very planetary sociospatial landscape. This is a conversation MSSI continues through its Future Cities research cluster.

- **Dr Wouter Bervoets** (1 November 2014 – 30 June 2015)
A researcher travelling on an EU AUSMIP+ Post-Doc Mobility Scholarship, Dr Bervoets completed his eight month visit to MSSI at the end of June. His project compared strategies to transform residential neighbourhoods into more sustainable forms in Melbourne and Flanders in Belgium. He farewelled us with his seminar paper, 'The academic urban consolidation debate: an analysis of the conflicting views, values and ideologies', returning to the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven.
- **Professor Jan Bebbington and Dr Bob Frame** (3 – 5 June 2015)
Prof Bebbington is Director, St Andrews Sustainability Institute, UK, and Dr Frame is Principal Scientist in Sustainability and Society at Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research, New Zealand. These research collaborators visited in June and MSSI enjoyed sharing institutional insights during a seminar/roundtable discussion on 'Practically speaking: making sustainability science work'.



Dr Wouter Bervoets



Prof Don Henry addresses the audience at The Climate Reality Training in India with the Hon. Al Gore.

- **Professor Ortwin Renn** (15–17 July 2015)

Ortwin Renn is a renowned sociologist of 'risk' and is Chair of Environmental Sociology and Technology Assessment at the University of Stuttgart. He is primarily interested in the governance of risk and the role of political participation in the technical and social transition towards sustainability. Prof Renn has published more than 30 books and 250 articles, most prominently the book *Risk Governance* (2008). On 15 July, he gave a public lecture on the 'Challenges of Risk Governance'. His visit to the University was hosted by the School of Social and Political Sciences and was co-funded by MSSl.

- **Hon. Al Gore Visit** (26–28 July 2015)

In July 2015, MSSl organised a visit by the Hon. Al Gore, former US Vice President. Mr Gore is the Chair of the Climate Reality Project, an international climate change leadership initiative of which MSSl's Prof Don Henry is an international board member. A program of tailored events at the University was designed to maximise the impact of the visit. The Vice-Chancellor hosted a dinner attended by ministers and senior staff from Victorian Government and senior representatives of major corporations. He also hosted a VIP function where major philanthropists and friends of the University were able to mingle with Mr Gore. MSSl hosted a research roundtable involving environment/climate ministers and delegates from Australian states and territories. Mr Gore met separately with members of the Cabinet of the Victorian Government. A packed Wilson Hall was privileged to watch an update of Mr Gore's much lauded slideshow, 'The Climate Crisis and the Case for Hope'. This special visit did much to enthuse the University community on the pressing issue of climate change.

- **Professor Michael A. Smyer** (October 2015)

American professor of psychology, Michael A. Smyer, is co-director of the Center on Aging and Work at Boston College. In 2015 he was in Australia on a

fellowship at the Australian National University.

His latest project is called 'Graying Green', in which he explores the needs and modes of climate change communication for an ageing world.

Travel by MSSl personnel

Professor Brendan Gleeson

- University of Tasmania, Hobart [17–22 February 2015]: Prof Gleeson was keynote speaker at the Australasian Housing Researchers Conference, 'Housing Futures, Transforming Living, Changing Lives'.
- University of South Australia, Adelaide [26–27 March 2015]: Prof Gleeson participated in the invitation only workshop, 'New Catastrophism and Social Futures'.
- University of Seoul, South Korea [6–9 May 2015]: Prof Gleeson presented an invited keynote presentation at the 15th International Conference of the Institute for Urban Humanities. The conference, entitled 'The Commons and Communitality: Sharing City and Empathy in the City', was held at the University of Seoul. Brendan's lecture will also be published in the *Journal Studies in Urban Humanities*.
- Czech Technical University, Prague, Czech Republic [13–16 July 2015]: Prof Gleeson attended the Association of European Schools of Planners (AESOP) conference, 'Definite space – fuzzy responsibility'.
- Canberra, ACT [16–19 August 2015]: Prof Gleeson attended the Australian Research Council College of Experts Selection Panel Meeting for Discovery/Discovery Indigenous/Discovery Early Career Researcher Awards in the discipline grouping of Social, Behavioural and Economic Sciences.
- University of Exeter, UK. [26 August – 8 September 2015]: Prof Gleeson presented at the Annual International Conference of the Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers),



Prof Don Henry and the Hon. Al Gore at the COP21 Paris climate summit in December 2015.

Photograph by Cecelia Reifschneider

'Geographies of the Anthropocene'. He co-convened the sessions 'The field formerly known as Urban Studies?': '(1) "Planetary urbanisation" under scrutiny' and '(2) Rethinking the urban through its new manifestations', and presented a paper co-authored by Dr Lauren Rickards, 'Planetary urbanisation and the Anthropocene: paradoxical and intersecting'.

Professor John Wiseman

- Collège de France, Paris, France [5–6 November 2015]: Prof Wiseman was invited to a special conference held by the Fondation de l'Écologie Politique on 'How to think the Anthropocene: Anthropologists, philosophers and sociologists on climate change'. Following the COP21 Conference, which Prof Wiseman also attended, the Fondation published his piece 'We have to accelerate the transition' in its webpage 'What should we think of the Paris Accord?' (14 December 2015).

Professor Don Henry

Prof Henry's unique role at the University entails a significant travel program through which he establishes and enriches research linkages with peak environmental NGOs and key international civil society bodies, such as the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Don is a member of the International Board of Directors for The Climate Reality Project.

- Master of Ceremonies for The Climate Reality Project Leadership Corps Training Sessions, with the Hon. Al Gore:
 - February 2015: Delhi, India
 - May 2015: Iowa, USA
 - July 2015: Toronto, Canada
 - September 2015: Miami, USA (with trainees from 90 countries)

- The Climate Reality Project International Board Meeting
 - March 2015: San Francisco, USA
 - August 2015: Nashville, USA
- The Climate Reality Project Key Country Visits
 - September 2015: The Philippines
 - October 2015: The Philippines
- UNFCCC Climate Change Negotiations, representing The Climate Reality Project
 - 4–17 June 2015: Bonn, Germany
 - 19–24 October 2015: Bonn, Germany
 - 22 November–20 December 2015: COP21 Paris, France

COP 21 United Nations Climate Change Conference, Paris, France

- 30 November – 11 December 2015

A number of core MSSl staff attended the all-important COP21 Conference. The University's official delegation was headed by MSSl Executive member Prof Robyn Eckersley and it included Prof John Wiseman, Deputy Director, and Cathy Alexander, Research Fellow – Translation and Development. Prof Don Henry, Public Policy Fellow – Environmentalism, also attended, in his capacity as Board Member of The Climate Reality Project. Other MSSl personnel attending were Prof Tim Flannery, Professorial Fellow at MSSl, and Prof Kate Auty, Chair of the MSSl Advisory Board. The University's delegation also included academics and students associated with MSSl. On 12 December, the participating 195 countries agreed to the 'Paris Agreement' to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to keep global warming to below 2 degrees Celsius.



Prof Anne Steinemann

Anne is Chair of Sustainable Cities at the School of Engineering. She is an expert in the study of air quality in buildings and exposure to environmental pollutants. She works closely with industries, agencies, and the public to link science with decision-making and policy.

Dr Fjalar de Haan

- Helsinki, Finland [10 – 12 June 2015]: Dr de Haan attended the conference of the European Forum for Studies of Policies for Research and Innovation, 'Innovation policies for economic and social transitions: Developing strategies for knowledge, practices and organizations'.
- University of Sussex, Brighton, UK [25 – 28 August 2015]: Dr de Haan presented at the 6th International Sustainability Transitions Conference. With Prof Jan Rotmans, Fjalar presented the paper 'Beyond Current Transitions Theory – Facing the Next Great Transition'.

Cathy Alexander

- Canberra, ACT [28 – 30 September 2015]: Cathy presented her MSSI Briefing Paper, 'Outing the Invisible Academic: How researchers can get the hearing they deserve', to the Australian Political Studies Association Conference.



A/Prof Janet Stanley

- Hiroshima, Japan [1 April – 30 June 2015]: A/Prof Stanley, Principal Fellow – Urban Social Resilience, held a three month Visiting Professorship at the Graduate School for International Development and Cooperation, Hiroshima University.

Carl Obst

- Cascais, Portugal [4 – 5 June 2015]: World Ocean Summit 2015
- Rio de Janeiro, Brazil [26 – 31 July 2015]: 2nd conference of the Society of Economic Measurement, and 60th World Statistics Congress



The Hon. Al Gore delivers his presentation 'The Climate Crisis and The Case For Hope' to a full house of Melbourne University staff and students.

Events

In 2015, MSSl devised, hosted, sponsored or supported 56 events attended by over 4,500 people.

- 33 seminars, workshops, roundtables and high-level meetings;
- 13 public lectures, forums, and book launches;
- 5 presentations by MSSl research staff to University groups or to external audiences.

Event highlights

Sustainability at Melbourne launch (February)

On the 24 February an enthusiastic audience gathered at the Melbourne School of Design, to mark the release of *Sustainability at Melbourne*, a sampler of sustainability research from across the University. It was written for the general public, business, government and NGOs, to share these stories as widely as possible. Vice-Chancellor, Prof Glyn Davis, launched the 31 page brochure to an audience of sustainability professionals from business, government and NGOs along with university staff and researchers. As he wrote in his Forward, these stories are "informed by a quiet optimism: we can make a difference." From water, food and climate change to protecting wildlife and improving the way our cities work, the University is substantiating its commitment to excellent research on sustainability.

Decarbonise Asia-Pacific Roundtable (February)

This high-level roundtable on accelerating decarbonisation investment and innovation in the Asia-Pacific region was held at the Melbourne Town Hall. The project was led by Dr Adam Bumpus, Senior Lecturer in Environment, Innovation and Development at the University. MSSl, with the Faculty of Science, the Faculty of Business and Economics, and the Carlton Connect Initiative, convened this special event at which participants engaged in a facilitated discussion on how

to creatively think through these key challenges and opportunities, and to identify research and action priorities that will assist business in this crucial transition.

Keynote presentations: Prof Ross Garnaut (University of Melbourne), Prof Blas Pérez Henríquez (University of California, Berkeley, USA), Peter Castellás (CEO, Carbon Market Institute), Prof John Wiseman (MSSl, University of Melbourne).

International partners included the Center for Environmental Public Policy (CEPP), University of California Berkeley, USA, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), India, the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, China, and industry partner CleanTek Market. A final Briefing Report was produced and a website was created to serve as a resource for this project and its participants: www.decarbonise-asiapacific.net

Art+Climate=Change Festival (11 April – 17 May)

This Melbourne-wide festival of 25 Australian and international art exhibitions, as well as talks by international visitors, sought to harness the creative power of the arts to inform, engage and inspire action on climate change. MSSl was a principal knowledge partner and collaborated closely with CLIMARTE (lead partner), the Ian Potter Museum of Art, the Faculty of ABP, among others.

• **David Buckland exhibition, 'Discounting the Future'**

David Buckland is a British designer, artist and filmmaker whose lens-based works have been exhibited throughout the world. This exhibition showcased a decade of art that interrogates the future with rigor, thereby enabling and inspiring a cultural response to climate change.

• **Amy Balkin exhibition, 'Public Smog'**

American artist Amy Balkin investigates the geo-political and legal structures that define and claim the land and sky. Interested in the evolving issues around climate



The launch of MSSI's Sustainability at Melbourne publication (pictured from left): Adam Fennessy (Secretary, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning), Stan Krpan (CEO, Sustainability Victoria) and Prof Richard Eckard (Director, PICCCC, UoM).

change politics, Balkin's process-oriented work in this exhibition explored the attempt to have the Earth's atmosphere listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

- **Roundtable on Art and Climate Change**

A high-level meeting of 33 participants from across diverse scholarly and artistic fields met to discuss:

- a) the potential for arts and cultural practice to engage, inspire and inform public reflection and conversation about climate change;
- b) the highest priority actions which artists, museum directors and curators, scientists, activists and policy makers could take.

- **David Buckland lecture, 'Climate is Culture: the Cape Farewell project'**

Using the notion of expedition as a model to interrogate the future, David Buckland showcased some of the art produced by over 320 artists who

have risen to the challenge of climate change and visioned, through their creative endeavour, why we must engage in building transformative, dynamic and sustainable societies.

- **William L. Fox lecture, 'The Art of the Anthropocene'**

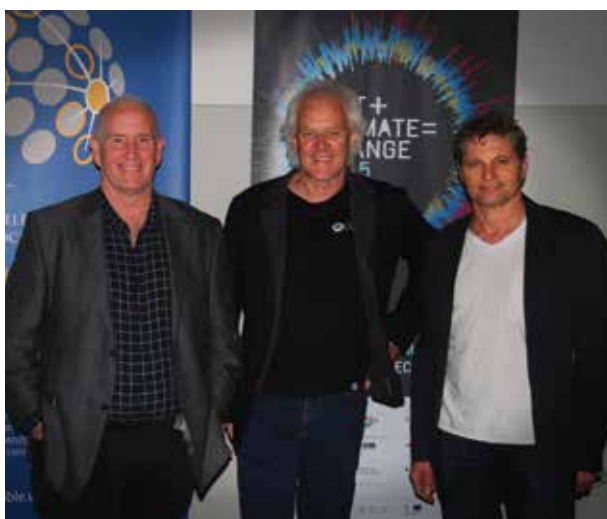
William L. Fox is the Director of the Center for Art + Environment, Nevada Museum of Art. He argued that without an archive of art thematising the evidence and extent of human activities having a significant global impact on the Earth's ecosystems, we will lose generational knowledge and undermine the very sustainability of cultures.

- **Book Launch: *The Handbook of Road Ecology* (July)**

MSSI supported and co-funded the launch of this ground-breaking book of research findings published by Wiley Blackwell. The co-editors are: Dr Rodney van der Ree (Australian Research Centre for Urban Ecology; School of Biosciences, UoM), Dr Daniel J. Smith (University of Central Florida, USA), and Dr Clara Grilo (Universidade de Aveiro, Portugal). The Handbook is a comprehensive volume featuring the work of over 100 authors from 25 countries. This is a landmark publication in the field of ecology. The research can help ensure that the linear infrastructure linking and traversing our cities is as sustainable as possible.

- **Book Launch: *Atmosphere of Hope* (August)**

Acclaimed scientist, author and MSSI Professorial Fellow, Tim Flannery, released his follow-up work on climate change: *Atmosphere of Hope: Searching for Solutions to the Climate Crisis*. In this book, Prof Flannery provides a snapshot of the trouble our species is in and an analysis of some of the new possibilities for mitigating climate change. In his speech, Prof Flannery outlined an array of innovative technologies which he believes can provide hope for mitigation progress.





A/Prof Janet Stanley

Janet works at the interface between social, environmental and economic issues. Her research focuses on sustainability issues for those people experiencing social exclusion and disadvantage. She is also Director of the National Centre for Research in Bushfire and Arson.

Research Cluster Events

Climate Transformations Cluster

- **'MSSI Business Climate Workshop'** (November)
This workshop brought together senior representatives of 20 major corporations and personnel from four of Australia's leading climate change institutes/think tanks, plus leaders from the City of Melbourne. The purpose was to discuss and share learnings from the actions leading companies are taking on greenhouse emission reductions and climate change adaptation, and to identify barriers to further, scaled-up action.
- **Public Forum, 'Australia's longest conflict: our climate security challenge in the 21st century'** (June)
Launching the Centre for Policy Development's report of the same name, speakers included: Rear Admiral

Neil Morisetti, UK Government's former Climate and Energy Security Envoy; Admiral Chris Barrie, former Chief of the Australian Defence Force.

- **Public Forum, 'Climate change: the greatest health threat or opportunity?'** (June)
Marking the global launch of 2015 Lancet Commission on *Health and Climate Change: policy responses to protect public health*, this event featured speakers Nobel Laureate Prof Peter Doherty, A/Prof Grant Blashki (Nossal Institute for Global Health), and Prof Billie Giles-Corti (McCaughy VicHealth Community Wellbeing Unit). External partners included the Climate And Health Alliance, the Australian Medical Association, the Public Health Association, and the Australian Medical Students' Association.

Climate Conversations Seminar Series

- 'The Road to Paris: priorities and opportunities' a panel discussion with Professors Tim Flannery, Don Henry, Robyn Eckersley and A/Prof Peter Christoff.
- 'International Climate Policy on the road to Paris' by Dr Ian Fry (Fenner School of Environment and Society, Australian National University).
- 'Australian and international emission reduction targets' by Kath Rowley (General Manager, Climate Change Authority).
- 'Global agriculture for climate sustainability' by Prof Richard Eckard (PICCC, UoM).
- 'Climate Change and Political Inertia: The Social Sciences in Search of an Explanation' by Prof Robert Manne (Vice-Chancellor's Fellow, Latrobe University),
- 'Climate change and mental health' with A/Prof Grant Blashki (Nossal Institute for Global Health, UoM).





Climate Conversations with (from left) Don Henry, Tim Flannery, Robyn Eckersley and Malte Meinshausen discussing the upcoming COP21 climate negotiations in Paris.

Future Cities Cluster

- **‘Cities Roundtable’** (October)

MSSI hosted this high-level event attended by the Hon. Jamie Briggs, Minister for Cities and the Built Environment, Dr Gordon De Brouwer, Secretary of the Department of Environment, and other senior bureaucrats. MSSI held this roundtable to provide access to academic expertise on the following key themes: financing sustainable cities; housing accessibility and affordability; sustainable urban mobility; and metropolitan governance and planning.

- **MSSI ‘Victorian Premier’s Liveability and Economic Growth Forum’** (December)

This special forum was convened by MSSI and the University to help inform a cities framework for Victoria. 10 research leaders provided the Premier’s Jobs and Investment Panel ‘Liveability Working Group’ with background information that can identify opportunities to address gaps in policy. It was attended by ten senior public servants, including: Chris Eccles, Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC); Richard Bolt, Secretary of the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources; Simon Phemister, Deputy Secretary of the DPC and Christine Wyatt, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

Seminars

- ‘Cellular automata modelling in urban planning’ by Francisco Escobar (University of Alcalá, Spain),
- ‘The academic urban consolidation debate: an analysis of the conflicting views, values and ideologies’ with Dr Wouter Bervoets (AUSMIP Visiting Scholar, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven).
- ‘Urban Research Career Pathways’, Australasian Early Career Urban Research Network (AECURN)

Seminar, Speakers were: Prof Carolyn Whitzman (UoM); Prof Graham Currie (Monash University); A/Prof Libbie Porter (RMIT University); Prof Billie Giles-Corti (UoM); Claire Boulange (PhD student, UoM), Dr Hannah Badland (UoM).

- ‘The Rise of Victoria: population boom and changing urban landscape’ with Matthew Deacon (Head of Population Forecasting Team, id).

Sustainability In The Anthropocene Cluster

- **The ‘Sustainability In The Anthropocene Reading Group’**, led by Jeremy Baskin and A/Prof Peter Christoff held 5 meetings throughout the year,

engaging thought-provoking discussions with students and academics across various faculties on the topic of the Anthropocene.

- **Public lecture: ‘Population Health in the Anthropocene: The implications of and responses to global ecological change’**

In his lecture, Prof Trevor Hancock (University of Victoria, Canada) argued that many of the impacts of human activity in this epoch of the Anthropocene are affecting the ecological determinants of health: clean air and water, food supply, materials, fuels, recycling and detoxification of wastes, and of course climate stability. To successfully meet these challenges, public health must adopt an “eco-social approach” and forge novel partnerships in order to build healthy, equitable and sustainable communities.

Seminars

- ‘Climate Change, Capitalism, and Corporations’ with Prof Christopher Wright (University of Sydney Business School) and Prof Daniel Nyberg (Newcastle Business School)
- ‘Negotiating nature in the Anthropocene’ by A/Prof Peter Christoff



Publications and Communications

Referring to the University 2015 Engagement Strategy, MSSI has devoted significant resources and expertise to the production and dissemination of research information for a diverse public and professional audience. MSSI's contribution to public policy and debate on matters of national priority now spans both the traditional and new media landscapes. In this way, the University's sustainability research is translated into the communication modes most suited to achieving impact. Above all, MSSI is committed to communicating the sustainability imperative and keeping it foremost in people's minds.

Key publications

Books

- *Promoting Sustainable Living: Sustainability as an Object of Desire* (2015), Justyna Karakiewicz, Audrey Yue and Angela Paladino, Routledge.
- *Planet to Plate, The Earth Hour Cookbook* (2015), WWF-Australia.
- *Designing for Hope: Pathways to Regenerative Sustainability* (2015), Dominique Hes and Chrisna Du Plessis, Earthscan, Routledge.
- *Prosperous Descent: Crisis as Opportunity in an Age of Limits* (Collected Essays, Volume 1) (2015), Samuel Alexander, Simplicity Institute Publishing.
- *Sufficiency Economy: Enough, For Everyone, Forever* (Collected Essays, Volume 2) (2015), Samuel Alexander, Simplicity Institute Publishing.
- *Atmosphere of Hope: Searching for Solutions to the Climate Crisis* (2015), Tim Flannery, Text Publishing.

Major Reports

- *Sustainability at Melbourne* (2015), University of Melbourne.
- *Appetite for Change: Global warming Impacts on food and farming regions in Australia* (2015), MSSI, University of Melbourne and World Wildlife Fund for Nature.

- *Delivering Sustainable Urban Mobility* (2015), Brendan Gleeson, et al., Australian Council of Learned Academies (ACOLA).
- *System of Environmental – Economic Accounting 2012 – Experimental Ecosystem Accounting*, (2015), Carl Obst, United Nations (New York).

MSSI Issues Papers

Each MSSI Issues Paper aims to encapsulate the insights of a thinker or practitioner on a particular issue of importance to society. Through this series, MSSI is committed to engaging with communities and fostering deeper debate and wider consultation on sustainability issues that matter.

- Issues Paper No. 5, 'Outing the Invisible Academic: how researchers can get the hearing they deserve', by Cathy Alexander (April 2015)

MSSI Briefings Papers

MSSI launched its Briefing Papers series in 2015. The papers are intended to translate research findings on a range of sustainability topics for a wide audience. The papers convey reliable and current knowledge in a clear, uncluttered fashion so that members of the public, civil society stakeholders, and students alike can all approach their content and gain insights from it. The series began with briefings written in the context of the COP21 climate negotiations.



- MSSI Briefing Paper No. 1, 'Peers and partners: How Australia compares on climate policy' Cathy Alexander (October 2015)
- MSSI Briefing Paper No. 2, 'What does climate leadership and a 'fair share' look like?' Anita Talberg (October 2015)
- MSSI Briefing Paper No. 3, 'India's rapid transition: The Modi government's climate change and development plan' Dr Benjamin Parr; Prof Don Henry (November 2015)

Communications highlights

2015 was a big year for MSSI communications and media. We launched an attractive new website in February, along with our *Sustainability at Melbourne* publication showcasing leaders in sustainability research at the University of Melbourne.

MSSI academics authored or were mentioned in 123 newspaper articles and news sites nationwide and internationally, including *SBS News*, *National Geographic*, *The Age*, *Australian Financial Review*, *The Guardian*, *International Press France*, *Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Australian*. MSSI featured in 40 radio interviews (including news headlines) broadcast over more than 320 stations nationwide. MSSI Director, Prof Brendan Gleeson, was also interviewed for two *Channel 7 News* reports.

MSSI communicates the Institute news regularly in our fortnightly e-newsletter, and this year subscribers to this email almost doubled from 1,720 to 3,336. The boost in MSSI subscribers was contributed to by our increased activity on social media, particularly Twitter with @MSSIMelb increasing to more than 1,000 followers.

MSSI hosted the visit of Prof Neil Brenner from the Urban Theory Lab, Harvard Graduate School of Design. His Faculty of ABP Dean's Public Lecture, 'The Urban Age in Question', was the most watched lecture on the Melbourne School of Design YouTube channel, with over 4,000 views.

Visit by the Hon. Al Gore

MSSI hosted a visit to the University by the Hon. Al Gore, former Vice-President of the United States, and arranged specific engagement opportunities. Media coverage was also achieved. Mr Gore spoke at a press conference with leading State Environmental Ministers to discuss the various initiatives and opportunities of sub-national climate policy. This made headline news on ABC television and radio, and also featured in *The Age* and *Sydney Morning Herald* newspapers.





A/Prof Boris Frankel

Social theorist, political economist and cultural critic, Boris has over 40 years teaching and research experience at universities in Australia, Europe and the USA. In 2015, he gave an MSSI seminar on the topic, 'Old Ideas, New Problems: political aspects of sustainability'.

'Appetite for Change'

A collaboration between Earth Hour, MSSI and University of Melbourne researchers, this report collated the latest research on the impact global warming is having on key farming regions across Australia and on different foods. The report had significant media outreach and has been mentioned on 208 radio stations worldwide (including news headlines), five ABC TV News programs, and in more than 25 newspapers nationwide. The information used for this report was used to compile a book aimed at the general public, *Planet to Plate: The Earth Hour Cookbook*.



Road to Paris and Beyond

MSSI led the University's ambitious program of research, engagement and outreach in the follow up to the United Nations 21st Conference of Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris (COP 21). MSSI researchers and Advisory Board members attended the summit to shape the global talks on climate action.

- Blog: Paris Climate Summit

A live Paris Climate Summit Blog gave real time updates on the COP21 negotiations. It featured 32 feature articles from leading sustainability thinkers including Tim Flannery, UoM climate researchers, MSSI researchers, PhD students from the Australian-German Climate and Energy College and external commentators. These blogs gave insights and analysis on the progress of negotiations and policy implications as talks unfolded.

During the two week period the MSSI website hits more than doubled, with the blog itself receiving over 20,000 unique hits and remaining the top (most viewed) page for the duration of the COP21. Ten of the blog articles were also re-run by *The Conversation*.

The blog also generated mainstream media coverage, increasing MSSI's exposure to an international audience. MSSI's articles featured in *Newsweek* (US, and Europe), and three blog posts were also translated into French. Blog authors were also interviewed by *ABC The Drum*, *ABC Triple J Hack*, *The Project Channel Ten*, and *The Guardian*.

- Paris and Beyond Web Resources

See this webpage: [www://sustainable.unimelb.edu.au/paris-and-beyond-resources](http://www.sustainable.unimelb.edu.au/paris-and-beyond-resources)

- 'Mitigation Contributions' webpage

This is an interactive website displaying the reductions in greenhouse gas emissions each nation should make, according to different models of fairness and responsibility. This enables comparisons between nations and between what each nation has committed and its own 'fair share'. Launched in November 2015, just prior to the COP21, this website received 2,500 page views in just one month, with the audience primarily from the United States, Australia and Germany.

Weblink: www.mitigation-contributions.org



Financial Statement

Income

Core funding from Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)	\$945,000
Space Charge Supplement, DVC-R	\$30,000
DVC-R Supplementary funding	\$50,000
Grants, internal	\$286,826
Incidental income, internal	\$811
Grants, external	\$66,145
Philanthropic donations	\$111,298
Incidental income, external	\$22,842
Total Income	\$1,512,922

Expenditure

Core staff salaries	\$498,595
Research project salaries	\$623,043
Research projects (non-salary)	\$15,303
Visitors	\$2,325
Staff travel	\$81,785
Research Higher Degree student initiatives	\$72,500
MSSI seed funding	\$19,000
Research sponsorships	\$6,000
Faculty space charge	\$30,000
Miscellaneous research-enabling expenditure	\$55,097
Total Expenditure	\$1,403,648
Unallocated surplus to be carried forward	\$109,274



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