

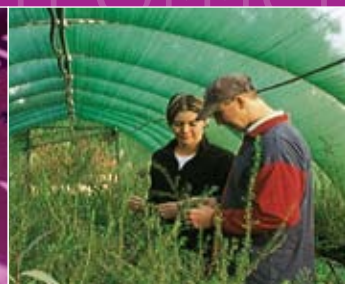
ARC LINKAGE PROJECTS

GUIDE FOR RESEARCHERS AND PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

MELBOURNE RESEARCH OFFICE

** Updated version - March 2009 **

MELBOURNE RESEARCH OFFICE



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THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

LINKAGE PROJECTS...

The ARC Linkage Projects scheme supports research and development projects that are undertaken to acquire new knowledge and that involve risk or innovation. The scheme provides opportunities for researchers to undertake research with Partner Organisations with funds also allocated for work on projects that benefit regional and rural communities. The scheme encourages the development of long-term strategic research alliances between higher education institutions and industry in order to apply advanced knowledge to problems, or to provide opportunities to obtain national economic, social, cultural or other benefits.

AT MELBOURNE

The interaction with actual or potential users of research outcomes is a critical element of Linkage Projects. They are not specifically aimed at creating commercially valuable intellectual property (IP).

The University of Melbourne is a strong supporter of the ARC Linkage Projects scheme.

Since 2002 the University has been engaged in over 200 Linkage Projects with over 300 Partner Organisations from federal, state and local governments and other public organisations, as well as the business and industry sectors. Total grant funding from the ARC has been in the order of \$50m with more than \$20m funding received from partner organisations. Around 130 postgraduate students have received Australian Postgraduate Awards (Industry) under the Linkage Projects scheme.

This brochure is intended to assist both researchers and partner organisations who might be considering applying for funding under the ARC Linkage Projects scheme.

Further details about the program may be found on our research grants website at: www.research.unimelb.edu.au/grants/ See under *Want Funding?* > ARC schemes.

Signing Linkage Agreement - July 2007

(front) Professor John McKenzie, Mr Dick Marquardt, Herma Projection Screen Technology Pty Ltd; *(back)* Mr Lyle Daymond and Dr David Cookson, Melbourne Research Office.

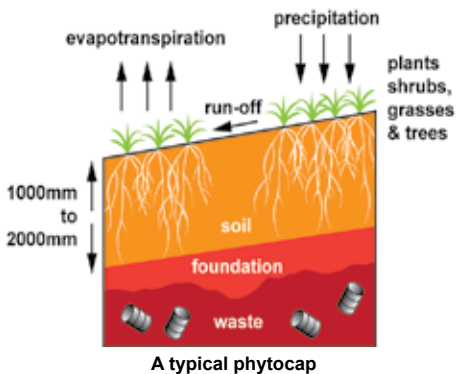


CURRENT PROJECTS

Phytocapping for sustainable waste containment systems and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and odour from waste disposal sites

Phytocapping is a new plant-based cover technique for protecting the environment from impacts of landfills.

Dr Sam Yuen (Civil and Environmental Engineering) with researchers from five universities and the CSIRO in partnership with the Waste Management Association of Australia is conducting full-scale experiments across Australia to test phytocapping as an alternative to conventional landfill covers.



Breeding for the future – alpaca genetics

Researchers led by Dr Belinda Appleton (Genetics) with partner organisation Alpaca Genomics Australia Pty Ltd are developing a novel molecular mapping approach to generate a genetic test for desirable Suri fleece - the single biggest factor in developing a purebreeding Suri line whilst retaining variation in other traits and avoiding inbreeding. This will increase the industry value, provide more opportunities for rural communities, and ensure that Australian alpaca breeders retain a competitive edge internationally.

Childhood, Tradition and Change: a national study of the historical and contemporary practices and significance of Australian children's playlore.



String games, 1950s. Image supplied courtesy of Museum Victoria (Australian Children's Folklore Collection)

Professor Kate-Darian Smith (Australian Centre) is leading a multidisciplinary team of researchers from the University of Melbourne, Deakin University, Curtin University, National Library of Australia and Museum Victoria, to produce the first comprehensive national analysis of the continuity and variation of Australian children's playlore from the 1950s to the present.



FUNDING RULES

The Linkage Projects scheme requires a specific minimum contribution from the Partner Organisations depending on the type and amount of funding sought from the ARC.

Partner Organisations are required to provide cash and in-kind support equal to and preferably greater than the amount sought from the ARC for project costs. The exception is when you are requesting an Australian Postgraduate Award Industry (APAI) Scholarship only (i.e. no project costs). In this case the combined partner organisation(s) cash contribution must be at least 20% of the total sought from the ARC and the combined partner organisation(s) in-kind contribution must be at least 20% of the total sought from the ARC.

There are also minimum amounts of cash that must be provided by Partner Organisations for Linkage Projects grants.

| Amount requested from ARC | Minimum total partner contributions (cash & in-kind) | Minimum in cash |
|-----------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| APAI only | In-kind must be at least 20% of total sought from the ARC | 20% of the total sought from the ARC |
| Less than \$500,000 in each year | Equal to ARC | 20% of the total sought from the ARC |
| \$500,000 or more in any one year | Equal to ARC | 50% of the total sought from the ARC |

In this scheme cash means funding that is provided by the Partner Organisations, placed in a University account and spent from that account. Any other contribution provided or paid by the Partner Organisation is considered an in-kind contribution. The sum of all the individual Partner Organisation contributions needs to meet these minimum requirements and Partner Organisations do not have to contribute equally to the project.



LINKAGE AGREEMENTS

Contractual arrangements with Partner Organisations are finalised once a grant application is successful and formally accepted by the University. These arrangements are dealt with by the Melbourne Research Office. Partner Organisations are encouraged to review the University's standard agreements and discuss any issues or concerns, even before an application is submitted.

The University has two standard Linkage Agreements depending on whether the project is for 'public good' or has a more 'commercial' focus. Public good projects are broadly defined as those where the desired outcome is public dissemination of information and free, unrestricted use of these outcomes by all parties involved in the project. Use of project outcomes in commercial projects tends to be restricted with issues around protection and commercialisation of project intellectual property needing to be considered.

The standard agreements deal with a broad range of issues, typical of any research contract, but in a manner that reflects the collaborative nature of the Linkage Project scheme.

These include:

- Rights to existing and project IP
- Protection of IP
- Project management
- Reporting requirements
- Confidentiality
- Publication (including a student thesis)
- Risk management

In some cases, the University's position is constrained by Statutes and/or externally imposed funding rules. Such is the case with publication of a student's thesis.

The University's position with regard to IP, as reflected in the standard agreements, is as follows:

- Project IP will be owned by the University.
- The Partner Organisation is granted an irrevocable, non-transferable, non-exclusive licence to use the project IP for internal purposes.
- For commercial projects, the Partner Organisation has an option to negotiate an exclusive licence to commercialise the project IP.
- Any research higher degree student involved in a project will retain copyright in their thesis.

The University may reconsider its standard IP position on a case-by-case basis. These negotiations must be done through the Melbourne Research Office.



CONTACTS

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Projects with the University of Melbourne:

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All information herein was correct at the time
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make changes as deemed appropriate.

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