



# Melbourne College of Divinity

## Postgraduate Research Newsletter

Summer 2009-10

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### 1. Introduction

As I sit at my desk to write this, the Windies are taking on Australia in the Third Test at the WACA, 774 ABC has started broadcasting emergency bulletins in case of bushfires, and the number of groups threatening strike action increases daily. Yes, it's surely close to Christmas for another year!

I am sure that, like me, you are all looking forward to the summer holiday season, after a long year of hard work. For all of us, I imagine, in different ways, it has been a year of ups and downs, of challenges and possibilities. Let me simply take this opportunity to wish you all the very best for Christmas. I trust and pray that it will be a time of safety and refreshment for you all, whether you travel interstate or overseas, or stay locally in Melbourne.

*'Loving Father, Help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.'*

(Robert Louis Stevenson)

### 2. Staff Changes

You will all now be aware that Dr Lindsay Hutchinson has started at the MCD in the role of Research Student Support Officer. Many of you will already have had opportunity to speak with him. Lindsay comes to us from the University of Melbourne, where he occupied a similar role in the Arts Faculty. He is an accomplished musician and scholar, and it has been a delight to welcome him into the fold.

Lindsay should be the first point of contact for you if you have queries or concerns about any aspect of your candidature, that cannot be resolved by speaking with your supervisors or Research Coordinators. He can be contacted at [HDRsupport@mcd.edu.au](mailto:HDRsupport@mcd.edu.au), or on the phone at 9853 3177.

In February, the MCD will also be welcoming a new Registrar to replace Liz Anderson, whose last day with us was 17 December. Mr Jeff Reaney will be coming to us from the Central Queensland University. Most of you will not have immediate cause to interact with him, but you will no doubt see him when it comes time for you to graduate!

### 3. Annual Report Forms, 2009

A final reminder that all *Higher Degree by Research Progress Report Forms* for 2009 were due on 25<sup>th</sup> September. There are some forms still outstanding. A copy of the form is attached, so if you have not been able to submit your form so far, would you please print off a copy, complete it and send it to the MCD Office as soon as possible. Please remember that the form needs to be signed off by your supervisor(s).

### 4. Re-enrolment, 2010

A reminder to all students who are planning to continue with their studies in 2010 that they need to complete a *Re-enrolment for 2010* form. The form can be found on the website at [http://www.mcd.edu.au/files/media/reenrolment\\_2010.rtf](http://www.mcd.edu.au/files/media/reenrolment_2010.rtf)

### 5. Forthcoming MCD Events and Research Dates for 2010

- 1 February: closing date for HDR re-enrolment. The form is on the website at [http://www.mcd.edu.au/files/media/reenrolment\\_2010.rtf](http://www.mcd.edu.au/files/media/reenrolment_2010.rtf)
- 5 February: closing date for Round One of Research Grants and Scholarships
- 15 February: closing date for HREC applications. HREC meeting will be on 1 March.
- 16, 18 February: postgraduate seminars, 5:30pm. Venues *tba*.
- 3 March: International Students' lunch, 12:30pm.
- 11 March: Information day for new HDR candidates.
- 17 March: HREC information seminar.
- 7-9 July: ANZATS Conference. *The Future of God. Eschatology and the Global Challenges of the Future*. See the ANZATS website for details and the Call for Papers, at <http://www.anzats.edu.au/conferences.html>

### 6. MCD Centenary Celebrations

As you no doubt know, 2010 is the MCD's centenary year. The whole year will be full of events and activities designed not only to celebrate 100 years of ecumenical theological education, but also to showcase what we are doing *now*. In particular, I draw your attention to the MCD Centenary Conference, which will be held from 4-7 July. This conference will be held in conjunction with ANZATS, ACBA and FBS conferences. Please see the website, at <http://www.mcd.edu.au/mcd-2010-centenary> for details on the Call for Papers.

### 7. HERDC Returns

As with other Higher Education Providers that receive Commonwealth Government research funding, publications are a key component in the method by which the Government decides how to distribute those funds. And of course, it is not only faculty members who publish, but also HDR students. Early in the new year, I will be calling for submissions from faculty and HDR students, with regards to any publications, or refereed conference papers, that have come out under your name during 2009. DEEWR points are an important source of funding for the MCD, and every contribution is greatly appreciated!

The due date for submission to MCD of 2008 publication data is **Friday 23 April 2010**.

Let me take this opportunity to remind you all that if you do publish anything while you are a candidate at the MCD, the by-line MUST list you as an MCD student, and not (primarily) as a student of your RTI.

The HERDC (Higher Education Research Data Collection) guidelines for the 2010 collection of 2009 data are available on the DEEWR website at:

<http://www.innovation.gov.au/Section/Research/Documents/Draft2010HERDCSpecification.pdf>

## 8. Postgraduate Seminars

The next round of postgraduate seminars will take place in mid-February, as follows:

- 16 February, 5:30pm
- 18 February, 5:30pm

The venues are still to be determined.

All HDR candidates are expected to present at least one seminar paper during the course of their candidature. Please let Lindsay Hutchinson know as soon as possible if you are interested in speaking at either of these two times.

## 9. Conferral 2010

The MCD conferral ceremony for 2010 will be held at Wilson Hall, the University of Melbourne, at 7:30pm on 22 April. The deadline for the submission of Application to Graduate forms is **15 March 2010**.

In order to be eligible to graduate, **you must**

- have received official notification that your thesis has been passed and that you have been recommended to Council for the awarding of your degree
- have made any changes to the thesis required by the Chair of Examiners and have had them certified by the person to whom that responsibility has been given (usually your supervisor)
- have lodged the 3 permanent bound copies of your thesis with the MCD by the last week of March.

Early in the new year letters will be sent to all students who are likely to be eligible to graduate. If you do not receive a letter by the end of February and believe that you are eligible to graduate, please contact me.

## 10. Grants and Scholarships

The Grants and Scholarships Working Group met recently to distribute funding for research grants, as well as to allocate Australian Postgraduate Award (APA) and International Postgraduate Research Student (IPRS) places. Successful applicants will be notified shortly.

The MCD is in the fortunate position of being able to provide funding for conference travel to those HDR candidates who have been invited to present papers.

Please be advised that the closing date for Round One is 5 February 2010.



## 11. RTI Research Coordinators 2010

RTI (Recognised Teaching Institution)	Research Coordinator	Email address
Catholic Theological College (CTC)	Rev Dr Shane Mackinlay	<a href="mailto:smackinlay@ctc.edu.au">smackinlay@ctc.edu.au</a>
Churches of Christ Theological College (CCTC)	Rev Dr Alan Niven	<a href="mailto:aniven@cctc.edu.au">aniven@cctc.edu.au</a>
ICS PF	Rev Dr Alan Niven	<a href="mailto:aniven@cctc.edu.au">aniven@cctc.edu.au</a>
United Faculty of Theology (UFT)	Dr Peter Sherlock	<a href="mailto:dean@uft.edu.au">dean@uft.edu.au</a>
Whitley College	Dr Mark Brett	<a href="mailto:mbrett@whitley.unimelb.edu.au">mbrett@whitley.unimelb.edu.au</a>
Yarra Theological Union (YTU)	Rev Dr Michael Kelly	<a href="mailto:m.kelly@ytu.edu.au">m.kelly@ytu.edu.au</a>
Melbourne College of Divinity (MCD)	<b>Dr Mark R. Lindsay</b>	<a href="mailto:directorofresearch@mcd.edu.au">directorofresearch@mcd.edu.au</a>

### Contact details

Dr Mark R. Lindsay  
 Director of Research  
 Melbourne College of Divinity  
 21 Highbury Grove, Kew VIC 3101  
 Phone: (03) 9853 3177 Fax: (03) 9853 6695  
 Email: [directorofresearch@mcd.edu.au](mailto:directorofresearch@mcd.edu.au)  
 Website: [www.mcd.edu.au](http://www.mcd.edu.au)