Inspiring Years
veski

JULY 2013 / JUNE 2014

annual review

Inspiring Innovation

veski's vision is to foster an innovation economy.

our mission is to identify globally competitive individuals and leading researchers and bring them to Victoria for the benefit of the Australian economy.

contents

achievements

July 2013

veski supported regional science school teachers to attend CONASTA, the annual conference of the Australian Science Teachers Association.

August

veski hosted students at Dr Brian Cox's evening of scientific phenomena at Hamer Hall, Melbourne.

veski innovation fellow Professor Michael Cowley interviewed on ABC TV's Catalyst about toxic sugar.

The Minister for Innovation the Hon Louise Asher MP announced three **veski** innovation fellows Professor Colette McKay, Dr Luke Connal and Dr Ethan Goddard-Borger.

October

veski and the Minster for Innovation the Hon Louise Asher MP hosted the 2013 Victoria Prize and Victoria Fellowships announcement at Parliament House, preceded by the first 'speed meet a scientist' activity with more than 50 students.

veski and the Minster for Innovation hosted a roundtable about women in science, research and innovation to determine priority areas for action.

veski innovation fellow Associate Professor Tiffany Walsh delivered an ICT for Life Sciences forum: Can we be smarter than a coccolithophore?

November

Inaugural **veski** innovation fellow Professor Andrew Holmes AM elected President of the Australian Academy of Science to commence from May 2014.

veski innovation fellow Professor Cameron Simmons awarded $13 million by the Wellcome Trust and named on 2013 Wired Smart List, UK.

December

veski partnered with Radio National's The Science Show to profile the work of students involved with **veski's** inspiring students (& teachers) pilot program.

February

veski appointed to deliver the Premier's Award for Health & Medical Research on behalf of the Victorian Government.

March

The Minister for Health the Hon David Davis MLC officially announced two **veski** innovation fellows Associate Professor Mark Dawson and Professor Kenneth Crozier. Professor Crozier became the 20th innovation fellow.

veski hosts a conversation with Dr Kees Eijkel, CEO of Kennispark Twente, about how to develop precincts to promote commercialisation.

May

Students from regional Victorian schools attend an inspiring schools forum at the Walter & Eliza Hall Institute with key members of the **veski** family sharing insights into life as a scientist and researcher.

veski symposium: Smart Australia 2030 brings together Victorian leaders across industry, academia, researchers and media to develop ideas for delivering Australia's future success.

10 May

The **veski** family gathers with senior representatives of government, science and innovation communities and industry for a gala event to mark the tenth anniversary.

June

For the fourth consecutive year **veski** hosted students and teachers at the Graeme Clark Oration, this year delivered by Dr Donald Ingber, Founding Director of the Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering at Harvard University. More than 70 students attended the Oration and 16 students and their teachers attended the official dinner.

The Premier presented the 20th Premier's Award for Health & Medical Research to Dr Jaclyn Pearson at Government House.

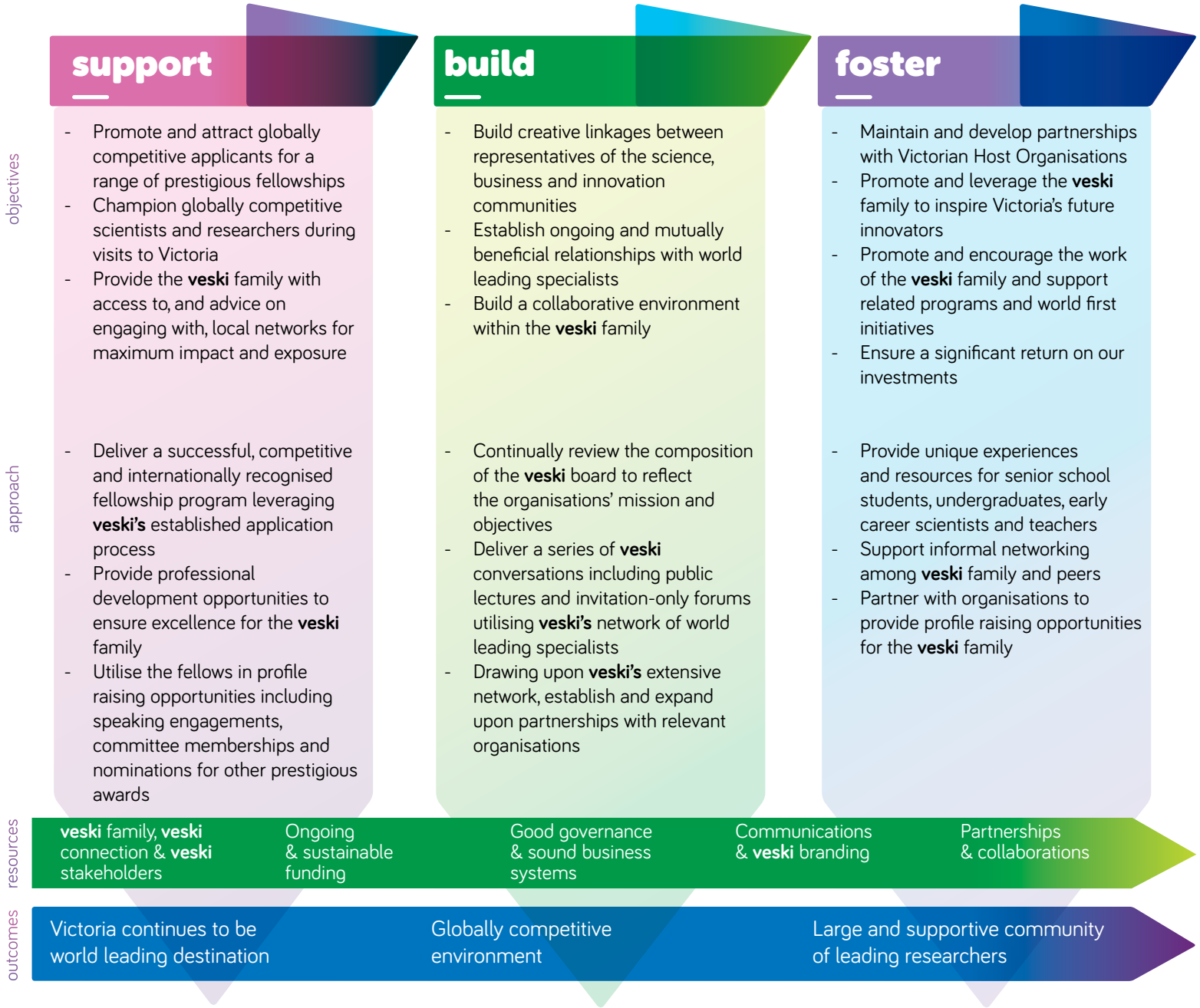
veski foundation pty ltd established.

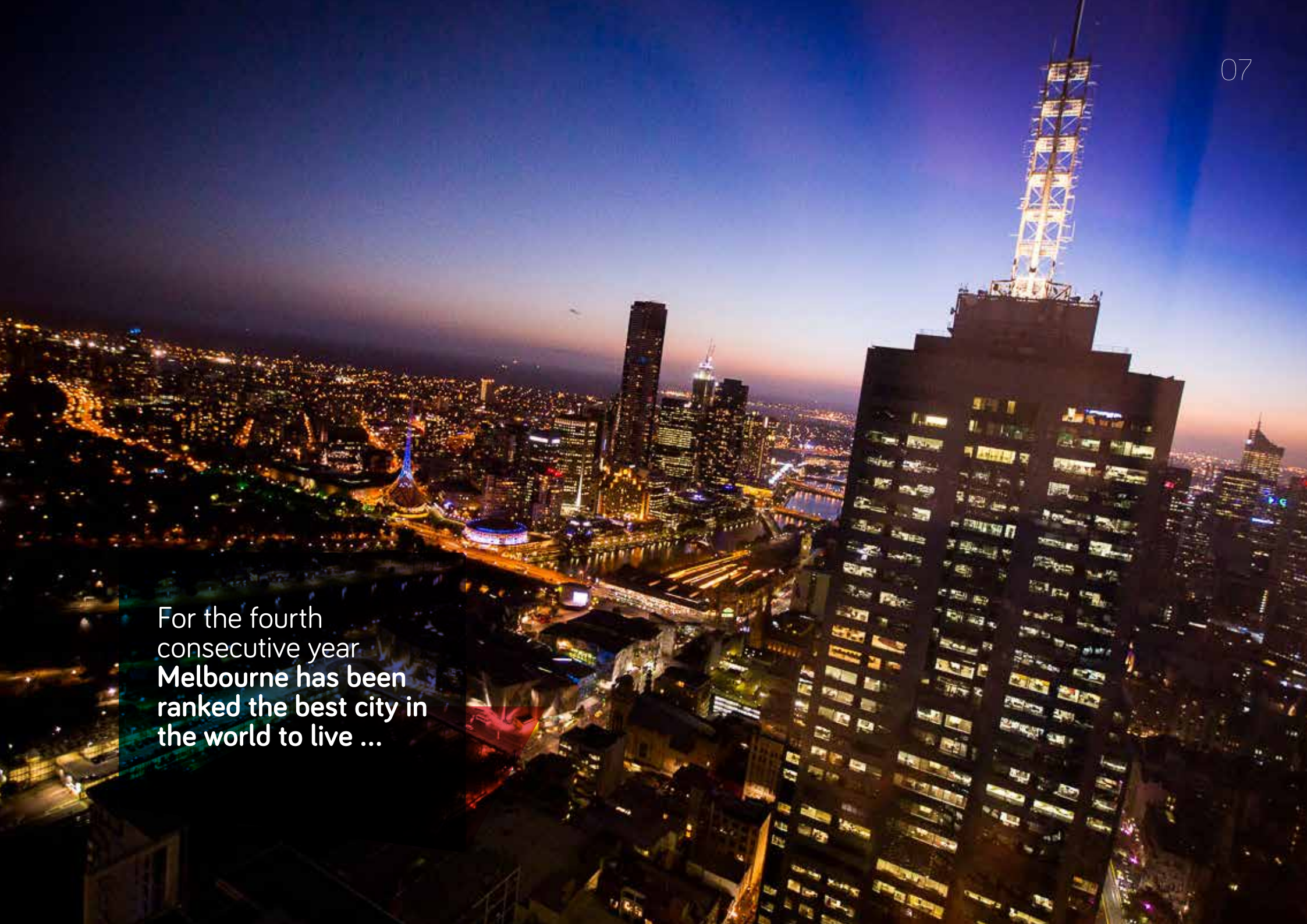
The panel for the
2014 **veski** symposium: Smart Australia 2030
at Deakin Edge, Federation Square

aims and objectives

veski's vision is to foster an innovation economy.

Our mission is to identify globally competitive individuals and leading researchers and bring them to Victoria for the benefit of the Australian economy.





For the fourth consecutive year **Melbourne has been ranked the best city in the world to live ...**

veski board

veski is governed by a board of directors who are also its members. They are responsible for veski's statutory and financial reporting obligations as well as ensuring the strategic direction, business planning, operating systems and veski programs are managed and administered effectively.

This includes full compliance with the terms and conditions of the Funding Agreement and subsequent Grant Agreement established between veski and the State Government of Victoria.

The **veski** board of directors comprises a breadth and depth of local and international experience in science, academia, industry and private and public sector management.

During 2013 / 2014, the **veski** board of directors comprised of:

- Professor Snow Barlow FTSE, Chairman
- Mr Ron Douglas
- Professor Andrew Holmes AM FRS FAA FTSE (retired May 2014)
- Mr Lewis Johnson (retired June 2014)
- Professor Patricia O'Rourke
- Dr Jane Ryan
- Professor Ian Smith
- Mr Tony Sweeney
- Mr Greg Sword AM
- Ms Julia Page, CEO & Company Secretary

Professor Patricia O'Rourke, Mr Ron Douglas, Ms Julia L Page, Professor Snow Barlow, Professor Ian Smith, Mr Tony Sweeney and Dr Jane Ryan
Seated at front: Mr Greg Sword and Mr Lewis Johnson

chairman's report

Professor Snow Barlow
FTSE

On numerous occasions during our 10 year anniversary celebrations, I had the opportunity to reflect on our achievements as an organisation, Not only was I able to celebrate our successes but I was also able to recognise the impact **veski** has had on Victoria's economy, on innovation more broadly, and on the 20 world-leading individuals who we have brought to Victoria as **veski** innovation fellows.

It was extremely encouraging to hear so many members of the veski family along with our key stakeholders from government, industry and academia share their personal experiences with our organisation. And I am delighted by the different ways we have supported these individuals in their work and their careers.

On the night of our official 10 year anniversary we were fortunate to hold a gala event with the support of our host organisations. This event, attended by leaders from government, industry, academia and the science and innovation communities, provided a fitting occasion to celebrate the 20 innovation fellows who had moved to Victoria since 2004 as well as thank the many people who have supported the organisation over the past decade.

There have been so many individuals and organisations who have supported **veski** over the past 10 years and I have no doubt from the discussions we have had over the past 12 months that the majority will continue to play important roles in our future.

To my fellow board members and our chief executive officer I offer you my sincere gratitude for your own innovation and support of our programs, our innovation fellows and your steerage of our reputation both in Australia and overseas.

A special mention of our long-serving board member Mr Lewis Johnson who retired from the board on 30 June 2014.

On the night of our official 10 year anniversary, we also released a commemorative publication with profiles and portraits of innovation featuring the 20 world-leading scientists and researchers who have become our innovation fellows. Page after page you are reminded of the depth of talent that exists across the **veski** family and the value of bringing this talent to Victoria.

During our 10 year celebrations, we also held the first-ever **veski** symposium with a number of eminent speakers focused on key priorities for Australia in order to remain a smart country heading towards 2030.

The topic of the **veski** symposium provided a wonderful opportunity to engage many past and present supporters of our organisation. It also informed the development of our plans for the future particularly the determination of several key priority areas.

As a board we have taken the chance to reflect on the past decade and determine key areas for improvement as well as those areas we are already making great inroads.

Much effort has been put into refining our existing programs to ensure they match the needs of Victoria in 2014 and beyond. We are also working closely with the growing number of people who have received fellowships and awards through programs delivered by **veski** to gain their input into our programs.

With the support of our host organisations and other partners including the Department of State Development, Business and Innovation and the City of Melbourne, we are also continuing to build our network of global innovators. In the past 12 months alone we have been fortunate to host several high-level **veski** conversations with visiting international experts, and attract the interest of numerous national and international organisations and programs.

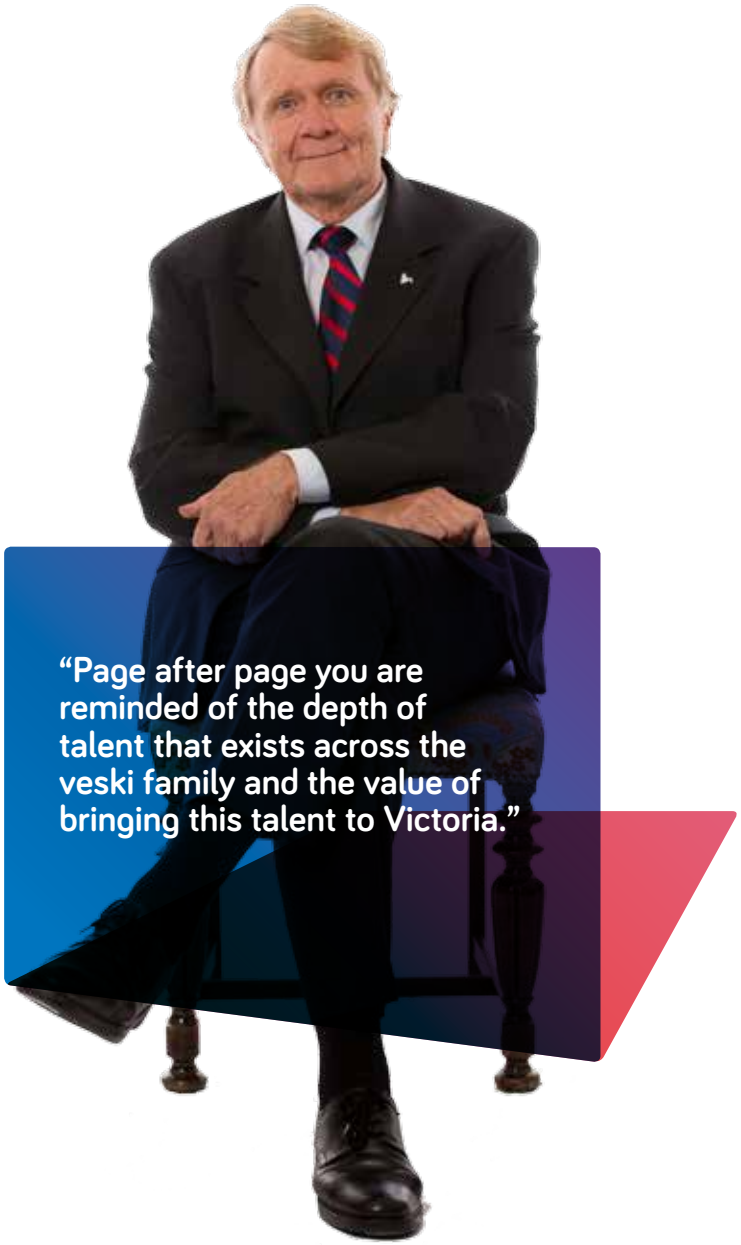
Our chief executive officer and her team have continued to deliver programs such as the **veski** conversations which complement and enhance our fellowships and networks. Their hard work has allowed **veski** to pursue a number of exciting new programs and partnerships which will come to fruition in the coming 12 months.

As we look to the future, never has it been more important to remember the factor that bonds us together: innovation.

Innovation does not occur in isolation. It does not occur without collaborations. And it is not limited to one country, one person or one place. For Victoria to continue to be leaders in innovation we must progress the culture of innovation we have established and claim our position in a truly innovative world.

And now we look to the next 10 years of inspiring innovation.

Professor Snow Barlow
veski chairman



chief executive officer's report

Ms Julia L Page

As we celebrate the significant strides we have made during the past 10 years of inspiring innovation, I am confident we are in a strong position to continue supporting innovation across the state as well as supporting the Victorians who drive innovation at all levels.

In the past 12 months we have continued to make great strides in our prestigious innovation fellowships program, in our partnerships with government and philanthropic organisations, and in our collaborations with Victorian host organisations.

We have brought a total of 20 **veski** innovation fellows to Victoria and all 20 remain connected through active projects and partnerships. Among a long list of success stories, we are able to claim the current President of the Australian Academy of Science: the inaugural **veski** innovation fellow Professor Andrew Holmes AM.

All of our fellows continue to make great strides in their own research endeavours, international collaborations and professional careers. Each is a shining example of the calibre of applicants we wish to attract and each reinforce the value of this prestigious program. Not only are they superstars in their own right, they are also tireless contributors to our programs and activities.

Alongside continuing to support of our **veski** innovation fellows and their partners through the **veski** family, we have established an exciting new community called the **veski** connection with invitations being extended to people who support **veski** and its work.

This new program forms part of the work we have carried out over the past 12 months at a strategic and operational level to build on our first 10 years of inspiring innovation.

We continue to recognise the importance of leading by example in the innovation space and have prioritised projects that deliver innovations to **veski's** own systems and processes. These include the development of online application systems and broader partnerships with groups across the state and the country.

We have also continued to build linkages with global collaborators and have hosted a number of international speakers at **veski** events in the past year including former **veski** chairman Professor Alan Trounson at our inaugural **veski** symposium and Dr Kees Eijkel, CEO of Kennispark Twente at a recent **veski** conversation.

Another key priority has been the maintenance and development of strong relationships with all sectors including government, academia, industry and philanthropic groups.

We have been actively working with philanthropic partners to partner on new programs. To support this work we have established the **veski** foundation and secured deductible gift recipient status, which will allow **veski** to access new funding sources alongside existing avenues.

We have also been working with Government to assume the delivery of a number of their fellowship and awards. Being asked to deliver some of Victoria’s most prestigious fellowship programs including the Premier’s Award for Health and Medical Research, which celebrated its 20th anniversary this year, is testament to our strong position in the Victorian science and innovation community.

Beyond the delivery of our innovation fellowships and other programs on behalf of Government, we have remained committed to delivering the inspiring students (& teachers) program and taking action to inspire women in science, innovation and research.

As we enter the third year of our inspiring students (& teachers) program there is much anecdotal evidence to show the influence this program is having on the next generation of bright young minds.

Above and beyond traditional classroom experiences and events, **veski** is able to deliver unique experiences. Whether it’s facilitating a behind-the-scenes lab tour with one of our innovation fellows or introducing 70 students to the Victoria Prize & Victoria Fellowship recipients ahead of their official announcement, we are encouraging more and more students to continue along STEM pathways.

With the inspiring students (& teachers) program and the inaugural **veski** symposium, we have also leveraged partnerships with ABC RN and saw promotion of **veski** and its activities via ABC RN’s The Science Show and Big Ideas programs.

The next 12 months will see the delivery of an exciting new inspiring women program in partnership with the Office of the Lead Scientist, the continued delivery of five prestigious fellowships and awards, the third year of our inspiring students (& teachers) program and new programs with industry and in the agricultural sector.

Julia L Page
veski chief executive officer

veski operations

veski continues to adapt its operations to support the delivery of a growing fellowships program as well as the inspiring students (& teachers) program and a range of complementary activities and events.

Tax Concession Charity (TCC) Status

veski continues to benefit from tax concession charity status on the grounds that it is a charitable institution.

Funding

The **veski** Funding Agreement concluded on 30 June 2013.

During 2013/14 **veski** funding from the Victorian Government was provided under a three-year Grant Agreement in the order of $3.824 million through the Department of State Development, Business and Innovation.

This Grant Agreement provides funding for **veski's** core activities (including fellowships) as well as additional funding committed by the Victorian Coalition Government for additional fellowships and to develop a schools engagement program from 2012 to 2015.

This Grant Agreement outlines how these funds are to be expended in line with **veski's** annual objectives and the implementation plans for additional fellowships and the schools engagement program from 2012 to 2015.

On 26 August 2014, the Minister for Innovation the Hon Louise Asher MP announced funding worth $700,000 for **veski** to deliver a suite of inspiring women initiatives including industry internships, career-interruption fellowships and a dedicated web portal.

veski gratefully acknowledges the support of its founding partner the State Government of Victoria.

Other support

veski continues to develop its relationship with the philanthropic and business sectors and is constantly pursuing opportunities to secure collaborative funding for our activities.

For the 2013/14 financial year, **veski** would like to thank all organisations, including host organisations, for their in-kind support and continued encouragement of **veski** and its programs.

veski foundation pty ltd

In 2013/14, **veski** established the **veski** foundation pty ltd as a deductible gift recipient (DGR) fund that can receive tax deductible gifts from philanthropic organisations and private donors.

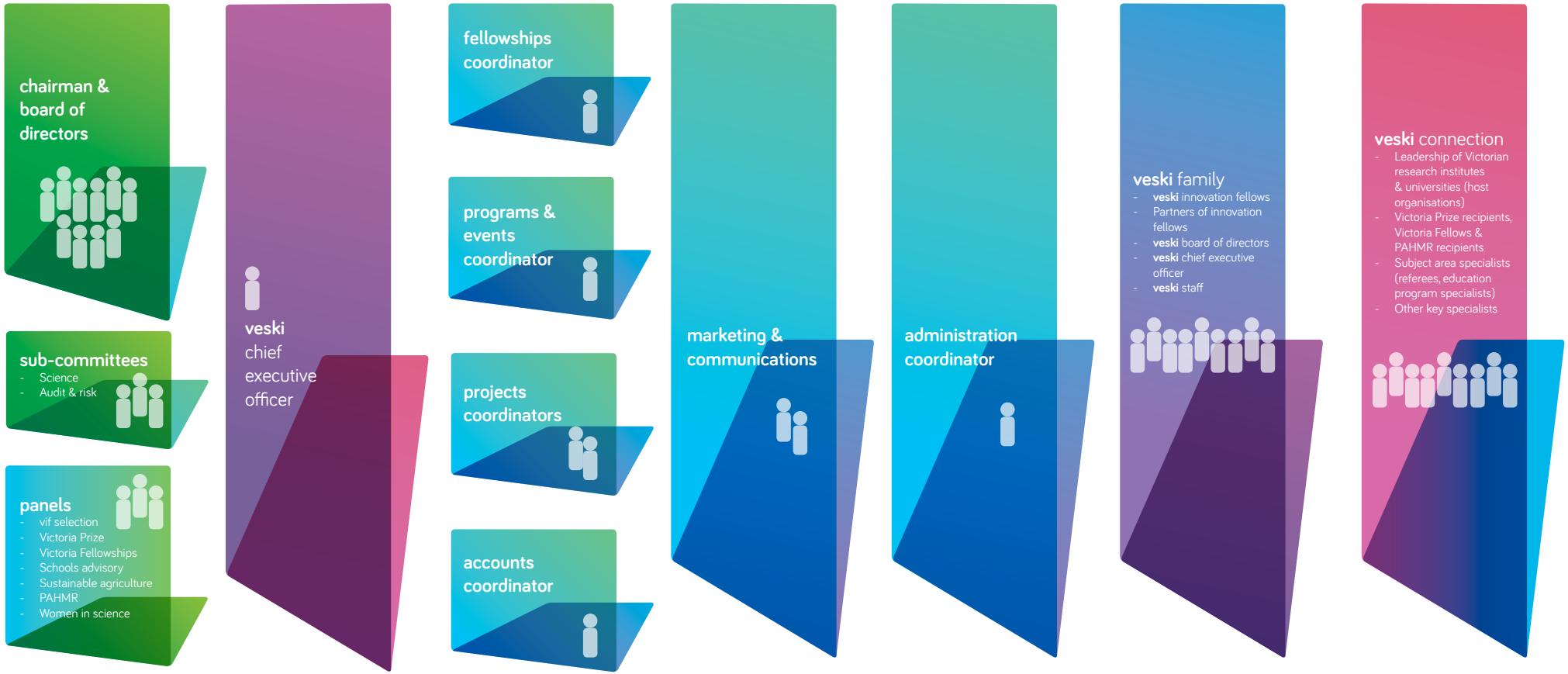
veski staff

veski's chief executive officer receives support from a small, dedicated team of staff with specific skills in administration, finance and project management.

The team supports the **veski** chief executive officer in delivering the **veski** innovation fellowship program along with a range of other activities and events delivered by **veski**.

The **veski** team is also responsible for supporting key programs and activities including the inspiring students (& teachers) program, **veski** conversations and **veski** awards.

veski's chief executive officer receives additional support from consultants as required including communications and information technology.



veski operations

veski marketing and communications

In 2013/14 **veski** embarked on a major communication project to celebrate 10 inspiring years for the organisation. A special 10 year logo was developed and incorporated across all online and offline publications for the 10 year anniversary period. In addition to 10 year related communications, **veski** also continued to promote innovation more broadly as well as promote the work of the 20 **veski** innovation fellows.

Commemorative publication

The most significant component of the 10 year communications project was a commemorative publication with articles about the 20 **veski** innovation fellows brought to Victoria since 2004. The major difference between this publication and similar publications was taking the researchers and scientists out of their laboratories and photographing them in their favourite parts of Melbourne. This focus on Melbourne was weaved into their individual stories and as a result the publication is not only a celebration of **veski** as an organisation, it is also a celebration of Melbourne and Victoria as innovative states.

The 10 year focus also included a feature article in the University of Melbourne's The Voice, a 10 year symposium at Federation Square and a gala event at 333 Collins Street.

Promotion of new veski innovation fellows

There were two key announcement events in 2013/14 welcoming five new **veski** innovation fellows to Victoria, and each attracted positive media coverage.

Professor Colette McKay was profiled in the Herald Sun and **veski** was mentioned on the front page and within the article focusing on bringing back a world leading specialists to support young children with deafness.

veski marketing and communication activities continued to strengthen relationships with host organisations and resulted in further profiling via their websites, newsletters and events.

veski website

The **veski** website continues to be the primary channel for disseminating information about **veski** and now includes 10 years worth of news articles, secure forms for accepting fellowship applications and a growing amount of multimedia content. The focus in 2013/14 has been celebrating the 10 year anniversary with a highlights video showcasing the past 10 years and an online version of the commemorative publication featuring behind the scenes videos.

veski has also continued to publish **veski** highlights, with the subscription list growing by more than 50 per cent in the past 12 months.

veski family communication activities

A range of communication activities were introduced to profile the members of the **veski** family including innovation fellows, board members and the chief executive officer and **veski** events and other organisations they are involved with.

The quarterly **veski** family news is now received by more than 70 members of the **veski** family including partners of **veski** innovation fellows.

veski office: Milton House

veski has established a strong presence at Milton House, 25 Flinders Lane, Melbourne. The space provides facilities for staff and board members to conduct the business of **veski** and for **veski** innovation fellows to visit while in the CBD.

veski continues to offset some of its annual office rental expense by sub-letting part of the **veski** office to other companies.

The entrance to **veski's** registered office; a central location for **veski** staff, **veski** board and **veski** innovation fellows to conduct the business of **veski**.

veski standard

veski continues to promote the **veski** standard - a set of best practice principles for host organisations and **veski** innovation fellows, to assist with their relocation to Australia, developed in conjunction with ICC Mercer.

veski pin

A unique **veski** pin is presented to members of the **veski** family upon joining. **veski** innovation fellows receive a 18 carrot gold **veski** pin while board members and other important stakeholders receive a white gold **veski** pin.

The **veski** pin features a design which demonstrates the inputs and outputs from **veski's** programs and activities.

The left hand side of the pin represents the people and opportunities **veski** brings to Victoria including innovation fellows, international speakers and a focus on important topics. The right hand side represents the various ways in which **veski** inspires innovation across the State of Victoria.

One
Preparatory research for the individual and family

Two
Pre-departure

Three
Remuneration relocation assistance package

Four
Employee commitment

Five
Transition

Six
Retention

2014 **veski** innovation fellow Professor Kenneth Crozier
with veski board member Dr Jane Ryan, Victorian Lead Scientist Ms Leonie Walsh,
Health Minister the Hon David Davis MLC
and 2014 **veski** innovation fellow Associate Professor Mark Dawson
at the official announcement event

veski family members Professor Ygal Haupt, Associate Professor Christopher McNeill, Associate Professor Mark Dawson and Dr Matthew Call with Associate Professor Dawson's son at the announcement of 2013/14 veski innovation fellows.

veski chairman Professor Snow Barlow, veski chief executive officer Ms Julia Page, former veski chairman Professor Alan Trounson and inaugural veski innovation fellow Professor Andrew Holmes at the first-ever veski symposium.

veski innovation fellow Professor Kenneth Crozier with veski chief executive officer Ms Julia Page and Boston University's Dr Jonathan Rosen.

veski family members Dr Jane Ryan, Dr Matthew Call, Dr Luke Connal, Ms Katia Connal, Dr Lisa Mielke and Dr Seth Masters at veski's 10 year anniversary gala event.

veski family

The **veski** family provides our innovation fellows with opportunities to network with other like-minded individuals and supports their evolving needs as they establish themselves in Victoria.

The group now includes our veski innovation fellows, our board members and veski fellows in an ambassadorial role. veski has a two way relationship with members of the veski family; drawing upon their skills and networks to support veski's programs and providing members with unique opportunities.

During the year, as part of our ongoing commitment to the **veski** family, **veski** hosted a number of events to encourage collaboration and networking among peers, like-minded colleagues, VIPs, and key policy makers, including:

- end of year celebration for **veski** innovation fellows and board members along with their partners and children
- a 10 year gala event where **veski** innovation fellows hosted representatives of host organisations, government, industry and academia
- networking event following the inaugural **veski** symposium
- several **veski** conversations.

veski also continued to publish the **veski** family news, exclusive to members of the **veski** family and providing them with a regular update on strategic activities being undertaken by the organisation as well as upcoming events and achievements across the **veski** family.

The **veski** family also provides informal networking opportunities with a number of **veski** innovation fellows requesting meetings with our board members to learn from their knowledge of business, government and media.

Another important part of the **veski** family is the collegiality that occurs among the innovation fellows. Bringing the fellows together at events and activities has resulted in a number of new collaborations within the **veski** family.

Activities also provide on opportunity for partners and children of the innovation fellows to engage with the **veski** family. Many of the partners of our innovation fellows are also key members of the science and innovation communities.

veski fellowships

veski delivers four of Victoria's most prestigious fellowship programs including the **veski** innovation fellowships which bring world-leading scientists and researchers back to Victoria, the Victoria Prize for Science & Innovation, Victoria Fellowships, and the Premier's Award for Health & Medical Research.

During 2013 / 2014, veski was able to award two veski innovation fellowships bringing the total veski innovation fellowships, as at 30 June 2014, to 20.

Over the ten year period in which **veski** has been awarding **veski** innovation fellowships, collectively, the innovation fellows have leveraged additional funds to the State of Victoria in excess of 18:1 to support their research efforts from federal and international funding bodies. That's a little under $45 million in return for a modest $4 million investment in Victorian research.

Recently awarded outstanding veski innovation fellows are Associate Professor Mark Dawson and Professor Kenneth Crozier.

In the past 12 months, **veski** was able to call for applications for the innovation fellowships on two separate occasions, which both attracted large numbers of high quality applications.

The announcement of the latest round of fellows was made by the Minister for Health The Hon David Davis at an event attended by representatives of business, government and the science and innovation communities at the Investment Centre Victoria.

The **veski** innovation fellowships continue to deliver value beyond the physical dollars with established networks, a series of complementary activities and support for fellows and their families upon their return to Victoria

veski also delivered the 2013 Victoria Prize for Science & Innovation and the 2013 Victoria Fellowships on behalf of the Victorian Government, as well as the 2014 Premier's Award for Health & Medical Research.

The Victoria Prize celebrates leadership, determination and creativity and highlights the many ways in which research and development of international significance are conducted in Victoria.

The Victoria Fellowships recognise the important role of innovation to Victoria's economic future and the need for Victorians to be skilled in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The Premier's Award recognises and celebrates the outstanding achievements of Victoria's early-career health and medical researchers.

2014 **veski** innovation fellow

Associate Professor Mark Dawson

Awarded a veski innovation fellowship worth $150,000 over three years for "Targeting epigenetic readers in acute myeloid leukaemia" at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.

Epigenetics is one of the most active topics in cancer research with the potential to deliver a significant impact on a disease like acute myeloid leukaemia (AML), which has a very poor prognosis.

Current chemotherapies and supportive care still fail to cure the majority of patients with AML, and more than 70 per cent of patients still succumb to the heterogeneous disease, which is driven by various acquired mutations in the DNA of blood cells. A new approach is urgently required.

Epigenetic therapies which target proteins that package and regulate DNA have shown remarkable promise in the treatment of AML. Associate Professor Mark Dawson's project aims to study the most common subtype of AML and establish a novel targeted epigenetic therapy against this disease.

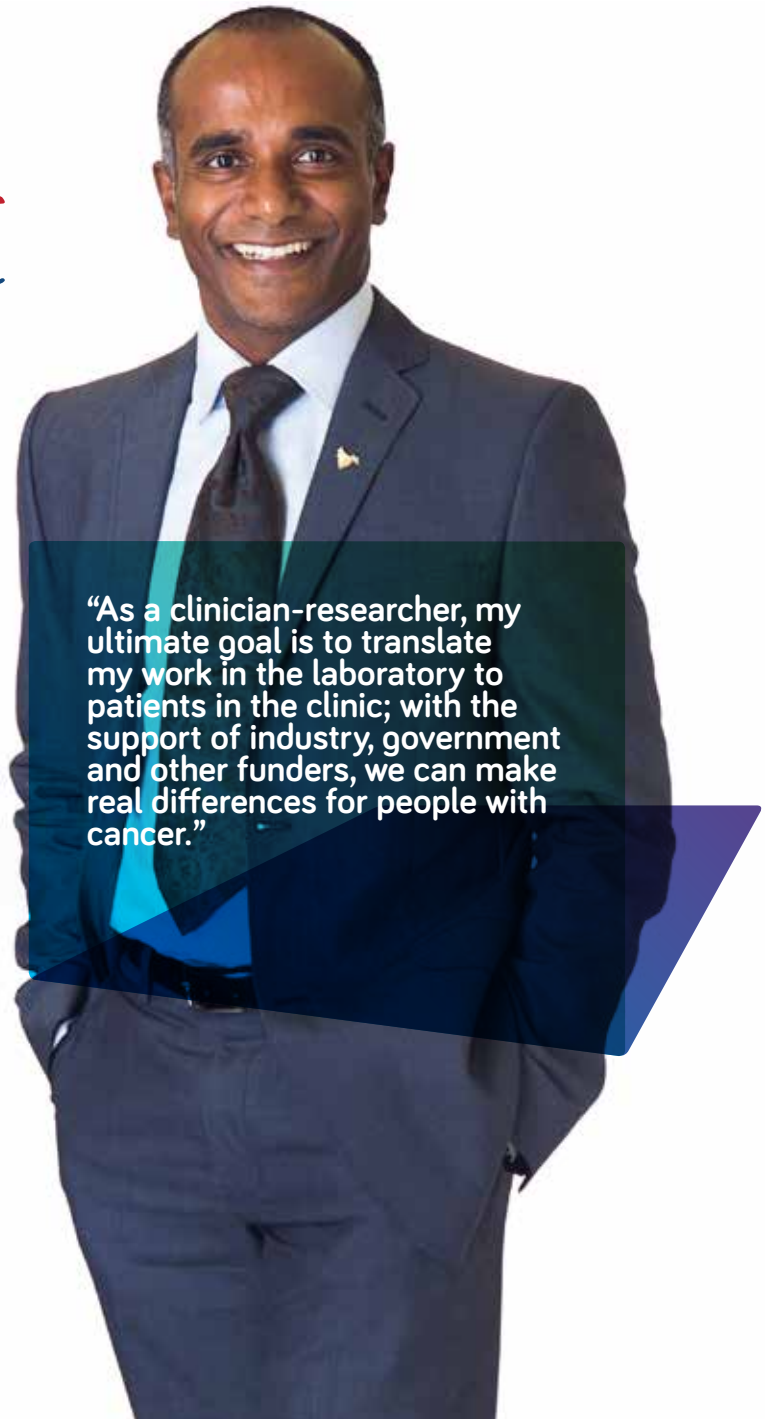
Epigenetics broadly describes the study of chromatin biology. Chromatin, a complex made up of DNA and histone proteins, provides the context for the regulation of all DNA templated processes such as transcription, repair and replication.

Therefore mutations in chromatin/epigenetic regulators may induce and/or maintain various cancers including AML.

The dynamic plasticity of the epigenome lends itself well to therapeutic manipulation and Associate Professor Dawson has recently demonstrated this process with a small molecule (IBET151) that inhibits the bromodomain and extra terminal (BET) family of proteins. These chromatin 'reader' proteins survey the epigenetic landscape and function as transcriptional co-activators.

Mark will build on these initial studies, aiming to translate important basic science discoveries made in the laboratory into innovative and targeted cancer therapies at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and will build on previous collaborations with international pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline.

Mark returned to Melbourne in early 2014 with his wife, Dr Sarah-Jane Dawson, who is also a leading clinician-researcher working at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.



"As a clinician-researcher, my ultimate goal is to translate my work in the laboratory to patients in the clinic; with the support of industry, government and other funders, we can make real differences for people with cancer."

2014 **veski** innovation fellow

Professor Kenneth Crozier

Awarded a veski innovation fellowship worth $150,000 over three years for "Advancing the frontiers of imaging through optical micro- and nanostructures" at the University of Melbourne.

Optical technologies play a key role in everyday Australian life from the lasers and optical fibres required for high-speed Internet, to the image sensors for digital photography, to the microscopes in research institutes across the country, and the lasers used for surgery.

Professor Kenneth Crozier will deliver an integrated program of research, education and commercialisation that will also involve training the next generation of Australian optical scientists.

Through this project he will develop optical technologies based on nanoscience that could enable digital cameras to 'see' more than colour, individual viruses and molecules to be held in place and observed, and large area biological samples to be imaged at high resolution with unprecedented speed.

Not only will the project benefit Australian society, it will also give industry access to cutting-edge breakthroughs in optical science.

With a combination of support from the **veski** innovation fellowship and the University of Melbourne, Professor Crozier will recruit a team of PhD students and research fellows, which will further enhance Victoria's knowledge economy.

Professor Crozier will also form close collaborations with industry. The goal will be for the technology developed in the program to be commercialised and deliver more benefits for Victorians.

Kenneth firmly believes that communicating the excitement and societal relevance of his work to the general public will have a beneficial impact upon fostering the next generation of innovators in Victoria.

He returned from Harvard University in June 2014 and has a joint appointment between the School of Physics and the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering.

veski innovation fellows

Professor Colette McKay

Awarded a senior veski innovation fellowship worth $200,000 over three years for "Objective programming of cochlear implants and other devices for electrical stimulation" at the Bionics Institute.

Professor Colette McKay has continued her research into measurements and analysis techniques for people with hearing impairment. Professor McKay has also been investigating Deep Brain Stimulation used for a range of medical conditions that don't respond to alternative therapies.

Since commencing her fellowship, Colette has formed a number of new collaborations to gather data and progress clinical trials. In December 2013, Colette and the Bionics Institute hosted Professor Wael El-Deredy from the University of Manchester, UK as part of building global collaborations.

Colette has also become the senior consultant on a National Institutes of Health (USA) grant for a Phase I safety study for a new auditory midbrain implant to restore hearing. This is an international collaboration between the Medical University Hannover, University of Minnesota and Cochlear Ltd. As a consultant she will travel to Hannover to work with the patients receiving an implant over the next five years.

Dr Ethan Goddard-Borger

Awarded a veski innovation fellowship worth $150,000 over three years for his research into "Targeting protein-glycosylation in apicomplexan parasites to treat malaria and other human and animal diseases" at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research.

Ethan's research has been focused on a range of apicomplexan parasites including the Plasmodium species, which cause malaria in humans, and Toxoplasma, which affects up to a third of the world's population and can cause very serious illness in people with compromised immune systems or expectant mothers.

His **veski** innovation fellowship is actively supporting this work and helping to initiate a Melbourne-centric drug-discovery research program. Ethan has been leveraging his established network of world-leading international collaborators in structural biology and microbiology to pursue treatments.

Ethan has been actively recruiting new researchers for his laboratory at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute, and has presented at a number of national conferences including a presentation for the Institute for Glycomics based at Griffith University in Queensland.

veski innovation fellows

Dr Luke Connal

Awarded a veski innovation fellowship worth $150,000 over three years for his research into "Design and synthesis of enzyme mimics: Materials of the future" at the University of Melbourne.

Dr Luke Connal has been exploring the development of enzyme mimicry technologies with applications including low temperature detergents, renewable production of biodiesel, and anti-bacterial coatings that stem the spread of disease.

Dr Connal's initial research efforts have been focused on one specific class of enzymes – protease mimics – through which Luke will develop methods similar to nature to control their primary, secondary and tertiary structure.

Luke has attended a number of international conferences and has also contributed to a number of high profile journals including Angewandte Chemie. In September 2013, Luke was one of 16 Australian researchers to participate in the Group of Eight's Australia-China Young Researchers Exchange. He had intensive discussions at Peking University and offered to perform super-high resolution microscopy using specialised equipment at the University of Melbourne. Results could provide his counterparts with new insights and assist with future international collaborations.

Dr Seth Masters

Awarded a veski innovation fellowship worth $150,000 over three years for his research into "Virus and host miRNA that target the innate immune system and inflammation" at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research.

Dr Seth Masters continued to establish himself as a leading researcher at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute. He has been particularly involved in mentoring undergraduate and postgraduate students from the University of Melbourne and other institutes.

Seth was one of five international scientists who received The Milstein Young Investigator Awards in 2014, and was identified as a young investigator to watch.

He has presented at a number of Australian conferences and seminars throughout the year including a special guest at an immunology and infectious diseases seminar at the Queensland Institute of Medical Research.

Using his additional funding from the Diabetes Australia Research Trust, awarded in 2013, Seth has been researching Necroptosis, pyroptosis and the inflammasome in pancreatic beta cells.

Seth has also been contributing to the Victorian Infection and Immunity Network.

Professor Tiffany Walsh

Awarded a veski innovation fellowship worth $150,000 over three years for her research into "Aiding Developments in Advanced Materials with Molecular Simulation" at Deakin University.

Professor Tiffany Walsh received $0.5 million over five years from the US Air Force Office for Scientific Research in collaboration with the State University of New York at Buffalo. They are collaborating on nanotechnology techniques so that aircraft might be rendered effectively invisible to the enemy.

Tiffany has been actively promoting this research as well as science more broadly with interviews on ABC TV and Radio, ABC RN's The Science Show and articles in newspapers. She has also presented at a range of national and international conferences including a presentation into advanced materials derived from nature at the ICT for Life Sciences Forum.

In August 2014, Tiffany was awarded a professorship for her work in BioNanotechnology. She has also been granted a position on the ARC Expert Panel.

Tiffany has continued to serve as a member of the Victoria Prize and Victoria Fellowships life sciences selection panel, reaffirming her position as a leader in this field. Tiffany is also a member of the **veski** inspiring women working group.

Professor Cameron Simmons

Awarded a veski innovation fellowship worth $150,000 over three years for his research into "Stop Dengue: Novel approaches to diagnose, treat and prevent dengue" at the Nossal Institute for Global Health and the University of Melbourne's Department of Microbiology and Immunology.

Professor Cameron Simmons received wide spread international media coverage throughout 2014 following the Ebola Outbreak in Africa. His expert knowledge of infectious disease was critical in informing international governments of the risks posed to communities across the world.

He was one of only 50 people named on the WIRED Smart List released with the United Kingdom's WIRED Magazine in 2013. The smart list aims to profile global leaders who are going to make a significant impact on our future.

Cameron continued his work as part of the global Eliminate Dengue Project, and in 2013, he and his colleagues launched a field test of their innovative project infecting mosquitoes with Wolbachia. He was also part of the study that defined the level of dengue virus needed for transmission.

Cameron has continued to lead collaborating scientists at the Oxford University Clinical Research Unit in Ho Chi Min city, Vietnam.

veski innovation fellows

Dr Matthew Call

Awarded a veski innovation fellowship worth $150,000 over three years for his research into the "Intramembrane mechanics of immunoreceptor activation", working alongside his wife, Dr Melissa Call, at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute.

Dr Matthew Call's research continued to yield positive results. The most important outcome to date has been the successful crystallisation of DAP12 TM complexes in lipidic cubic phase media. These efforts have produced two new crystal structures of oligomeric DAP12 complexes, which not only provide several novel structural observations and a rich source of testable hypotheses for further studies on this system, but also represent the very first structures of any isolated TM domains crystallised in a lipid membrane.

Matthew believes this development is major technical advancement for his laboratory group and expects it will set a precedent of general benefit across the field of membrane protein structural biology.

Matthew also played a significant role in overseeing veski's 10 year anniversary events. He was a member of the committee overseeing the gala event and helped organise the inspiring students (& teachers) symposium, providing students with a firsthand insight into his laboratory.

Associate Professor Christopher McNeill

Awarded a veski innovation fellowship worth $150,000 over three years for his research into "Nanostructuring and nanocharacterisation of organic semiconductor devices" at Monash University.

Associate Professor Christopher McNeill continued to develop his international reputation in the area of combined structural and device characterisation in organic electronics.

In 2013 he joined the Advisory Board of Energy and Environmental Science as well as continuing his position as Chair of Soft X-Ray Spectroscopy User Advisory Committee at the Australian Synchrotron

In June 2014, Christopher hosted and mentored undergraduate students from the University of Warwick as part of the Monash-Warwick alliance. This alliance is designed to respond to 21st century challenges that are global in scale and require international cooperation and new thinking.

Christopher has been well published over the past 12 months including contributing a chapter in Semiconducting Polymer Composites: Principles, Morphologies, Properties and Applications.

Dr Mark Shackleton

Awarded a veski innovation fellowship worth $150,000 over four years for his research into "Modelling human melanoma progression" at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.

Dr Mark Shackleton continued his vital research into breast cancer and melanoma and further developed our understanding of how cancers grow and resist treatment.

He has presented at a number of leading conferences including delivering The Millis Oration at the Ausbiotech National Conference in October 2013. His presentation included a fascinating discussion into the layers of molecular evaluation that are now being undertaken to diagnose and effectively treat cancer.

Mark was one of a number of **veski** innovation fellows to deliver presentations at the **veski** inspiring students (& teachers) symposium in May and captivated the students with a discussion about the importance of discovery, sharing some of history's most important breakthroughs to engage the imagination of the audience.

Mark was appointed to the **veski** board of directors in July 2014 as a representative of the **veski** alumni.

Dr Ross Dickins

Awarded a veski innovation fellowship worth $200,000 over four years for his research into "Modelling Cancer Therapy using RNA interference" at the Walter & Eliza Hall Institute.

In the past 12 months, Dr Ross Dickins has continued to make many research advances. He conducted ground breaking research which showed that switching off a gene called Pax5 could cause cancer in a model of B-ALL, while restoring its function could 'cure' the disease.

Dr Dickins led the study with Walter and Eliza Hall Institute colleagues and collaborators in Vienna. The study was published in the journal Genes & Development which received significant praise from the NHMRC, Leukaemia Foundation, **veski** and the State of Victoria.

In October 2013, Ross invited a group of students from the **veski** inspiring students (& teachers) program for an exclusive behind the scenes tour of his laboratory at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute.

veski innovation fellows

Dr Alyssa Barry

Awarded a veski innovation fellowship worth $80,000 over one year for her research into "Population genomics of major surface antigen genes of the malaria parasite" at the Burnet Institute.

Dr Alyssa Barry has been using 'protein microarray' technology to screen human blood serum samples for immunity to proteins produced by the malaria-causing Plasmodium Falciparum parasite.

Dr Barry continues to investigate how humans living in countries where malaria is prevalent, such as Papua New Guinea, establish immunity that protects them from developing malaria.

Her collaborations with colleagues at the Queensland Institute of Medical Research, the Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research, and the University of California in Irvine aim to adapt existing protein microarray technology to allow small samples of human serum (less than one hundredth of a millilitre) to be tested simultaneously against hundreds of variants of PfEMP1 to determine to which variants the person was immune.

Professor Ygal Haupt

Awarded a veski innovation fellowship worth $200,000 over four years for his research into "Regulation of Tumour Suppression" at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre where his wife, research scientist Dr Sue Haupt, is a key member of his team.

Since his relocation to Victoria, Professor Ygal Haupt has been instrumental in the development of Australia's p53 community.

Following the success of the first p53 workshop, which was supported by a veski award in science, Ygal has been invited to lead the organisation of the next Australian workshop in November 2014. He was also instrumental in a p53 workshop held in Sweden in June 2014.

His team has successfully received grants from the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) which will assist Ygal in continuing his research into the treatment of B-cell lymphoma.

Ygal has continued to support a range of **veski** programs in his new role as a veski fellow, and has also been an active contributor to Victoria's science and innovation communities including presenting at and attending the annual Lorne Cancer Conference.

Professor Marcus Pandy

Awarded a veski innovation fellowship worth $400,000 over four years for his research into "New Technologies for the Non-invasive Assessment of Musculoskeletal Health" at the University of Melbourne.

Professor Marcus Pandy's research has resulted in the production of a high-speed biplane mobile x-ray fluoroscopy system for 3D measurement of human joint motion in vivo. He is currently testing the novel system measuring bone motion in vivo at high speed.

Marcus has published research articles in top-tier journals and has delivered keynote addresses at a number of national and international conferences including the 16th International Conference on Climbing and Walking Robots held in Sydney.

Marcus has also continued several international collaborations including research with US scientists that determined physical activity during youth as well as throughout ageing significantly reduces age-related bone changes.

Marcus' funding from the **veski** innovation fellowship will conclude in 2014.

Professor Michael Cowley FTSE

Awarded a veski innovation fellowship worth $80,000 over one year for his research into "Re-establishing glucose sensing in a-MSH cells to treat diabetes" at Monash University as part of their Obesity Initiative.

As well as continuing his research and contributing to a range of journal articles, Professor Michael Cowley has been extremely active in the media.

In 2013, Michael was one of three global leaders interviewed for an episode of the ABC's science show Catalyst titled Toxic Sugar. He provided an explanation of why sugar can be so toxic to our health and generated significant coverage in social media and traditional media.

He has also been promoting his research through public forums, business lectures and participation in the Science Advisory Board of Obesity Australia.

Michael was one of the leading scientists at a Monash University breakfast focused on opportunities in the development of novel therapies for metabolic disease. He highlighted the collaborative opportunities available using new animal models and drug target discovery platforms.

veski innovation fellows

Professor Edwin van Leeuwen FTSE

Awarded a veski innovation fellowship worth $100,000 over one year to research "Geothermal base-load power options for Victoria" at the Melbourne Energy Institute.

Professor Edwin van Leeuwen continues to be involved with the veski family even though he is currently based overseas as a senior executive for an international mining company.

Edwin has been working with Norilsk Nickel in Perth, Moscow and Africa. In May 2013 has was transferred to the Norilsk head office in Moscow but returns to Melbourne regularly for family and work commitments.

He remains linked to Australia through the development of the giant Honey Moon Well nickel deposit in Western Australia.

During the past year he has maintained a strong interest in geothermal energy and maintained many international and Australian collaborations.

Dr Sarah Hosking

Awarded a veski innovation fellowship worth $150,000 over three years for her research into "Anatomy and Function of the Visual Cortex in Human Glaucoma" at the Centre for Eye Research Australia (CERA).

Dr Sarah Hosking was responsible for the clinical vision research unit at the Australian College of Optometry specifically targetting visual disorders such as glaucoma and lifecourse metabolic and circulatory retinal health.

She continues to be interested in studies of functional and anatomical changes to the visual cortex resulting from glaucoma-like nerve damage; intraocular pressure and gas perturbations to identify pre-clinical markers of vision loss and retinal damage in patients with age, glaucoma and diabetes; and epidemiological studies of ocular and vascular risk factors for retinopathy in patients with diabetes.

She has recently taken on the role of Chairman at the Australian Communities Foundations, and continues in her role as Chief Executive Officer at Very Special Kids and Chairman of the Victorian Paediatric Palliative Care Program.

Dr Gareth Forde

Awarded a veski innovation fellowship worth $200,000 over three years for his research into "Plasmid DNA Purification for Gene Therapy and Vaccine Applications" at Monash University.

The funding from **veski** contributed directly to enabling Dr Gareth Forde to continue the development of DNA vaccine ideas inspired by his work at Cambridge which led directly to two patents: one covering a high performance chromatographic monolith and the second covering an enhanced pDNA growth medium.

Gareth provides ongoing technical input to the group commercialising these patents. The creation of the patents would not have been possible without the **veski** innovation fellowship.

Gareth continues to be the National Sustainability Manager with Lycopodium Process Industries where he is currently working on projects in the areas of renewable energy, biofuels, energy efficiency and emissions reduction.

He also continues his role as Technical Policy Director on the IChemE Pty Ltd board.

Bionics institute

bio21 institute

CSIRO

DEAKIN UNIVERSITY AUSTRALIA

MONASH University

THE NOSSAL INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH
THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

Peter Mac

Walter+Eliza Hall
Institute of Medical Research

THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

Burnet Institute
Medical Research. Practical Action.

inaugural **veski** innovation fellow

Professor Andrew Holmes AM FRS FAA FTSE

Awarded the inaugural veski innovation fellowship worth $530,000 over five years for his research into "Organic Optoelectronic Materials: Next Generation Semiconductors" at the Bio21 Institute.

Professor Andrew Holmes is the inaugural **veski** Innovation Fellow and returned from Cambridge University to work in the new $100 million Bio21 Institute.

In May 2014, Andrew was elected President of the Australian Academy of Science. He carries a wealth of international accolades and honours into his role as the 18th president of the Academy with his predecessor, Professor Suzanne Cory stating that "his proven track record as a science leader and strong international reputation means the Academy will be in safe hands".

Andrew was instrumental in the success of **veski's** Smart Australia 2030 symposium which formed part of **veski's** 10 year anniversary celebrations. He called for collaboration, in the form of developmental research partnerships "to help us understand the major foreign markets in China, India, Japan and Singapore, and the products which need to be developed for these markets" which will greatly impact a Smarter Australia in 2030.

Andrew took an active role in securing Australia's sponsorship of the International Day at the 64th Lindau Nobel Laureates Meetings. Andrew also contributed to a collaboration between The Conversation and Australia's chief scientist Ian Chubb exploring Australia now and in the future. Written by luminaries and accompanied by two expert commentaries to ensure a broader perspective, these articles ran fortnightly and focused on each of the major scientific areas. Andrew explored how chemistry will shape our lives.

In 2011, Andrew became the first **veski** innovation fellow to join the **veski** board of directors. Andrew retired as the **veski** alumni representative on the board in May 2014 and was presented with an honorary **veski** ambassadorial fellowship.

In July 2012, Andrew was one of three recipients of the 2012 Royal Medal – the only Australian in 10 years to receive the award.

Andrew continues to lead the Victorian Organic Solar Cells Consortium involving the University of Melbourne, CSIRO and Monash University with industrial partners aiming to deliver efficient flexible printed solar cells for low cost applications in electricity generation. The Consortium also benefits from a strong collaboration with the Imperial College Doctoral Training Centre in Plastic Electronics.


veski innovation fellows
10
inspiring
years
veski
SHARP

veski programs

veski continues to deliver programs which provide community awareness and foster a culture of innovation across Victoria.

veski's inspiring students (& teachers) program

With funding from the Victorian Coalition Government, **veski** is delivering an inspiring students (& teachers) program focused on lifting the participation rates in the sciences among students.

In partnership with three regional Victorian schools (Neerim District, Mooroopna and Kyneton secondary colleges), the inspiring students (& teachers) program delivers:

- unique experiences for students including real world interaction with scientists
- professional development & resources for teachers
- career advice for students, parents and teachers promoting traditional and alternative career pathways

The activities have been delivered alongside the opening of refurbished science labs at each of the schools. The program inspires teachers and provides them with new tools and knowledge to take full advantage of their new facilities.

The schools, along with their surrounding feeder schools, play a critical role in the program. As such **veski** has focused on supporting this collaboration and has visited each of the schools to build relationships with the teachers and oversee the implementation of numerous educational programs and professional development workshops. These visits have included attending the unveiling of the refurbished science facilities and interacting with parents, students and teachers as well as local community members.

Teachers participate in a training session for the BioEyes program.

Mooroopna Secondary College teacher Ms Jessica McCrae with prize-winning students outside the ABC Southbank Studios following a recording session for ABC RN's The Science Show with host Robyn Williams.

2013 Victoria Fellow Dr Jennifer Pilgrim talks to students during the 'speed meet a scientist' session held before the official announcement event.

Students and teachers involved with the veski inspiring students (& teachers) program with 2013 Victoria Prize for Science & Innovation recipients and 2013 Victoria Fellows.

veski programs

Resources & professional development for teachers

veski engaged with a specialist in learning and organisational development to develop three professional development workshops per school being implemented across 2013-2015. Two of the three workshops, based on the Australian Academy of Science's Science by Doing professional learning program, which consists of five learning modules, have been delivered to science teachers from each school as well as surrounding secondary and primary feeder schools.

In collaboration with Monash University, **veski** delivered a professional development workshop to secondary college science teachers covering the BioEYES program. The workshop was developed to give teachers a deeper understanding of the program as well as instil confidence in hosting the inbound program at their respective schools.

veski is also developing a range of online resources for students, teachers and principals in conjunction with our regional schools. These resources will include videos featuring our **veski** innovation fellows to be used in the classroom alongside other activities and workshops.

Unique experiences for students including real world interaction with scientists

The principals, science teachers and students have taken advantage of a number of activities over the past 12 months and have shown great enthusiasm for future events and activities. **veski** is currently working with the science coordinators to schedule educational programs and professional development activities for the next 12 months.

veski students symposium

More than 200 secondary school students and science teachers attended, as part of **veski's** 10 year celebration, a student's symposium held on 6 May 2014 at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research.

Activities on the day included tours of the WEHI laboratories led by PhD students, presentations by 10 **veski** family members about what or who inspired them to pursue a career in research, the focus of their current research and the long term benefits or applications of their research. Other presentations included an inspiring speech from Drew Berry, a Biomedical Animator from WEHI who shared his fascinating animations. Students then participated in a meet and greet with the scientists, a video corner and a quiz to win a class trip to the ACMI DreamWorks Animation Exhibition.

"This was an inspiring day of science where students had an opportunity to see science in action and also talk to real life scientists about their journey into a science career".

– **Mr Ravinesh Chandra, Kyneton Secondary College**

Delivery of third-party programs

Neerim District Secondary College took part in Bug Blitz' The Big Dig Program on 30 April 2014. Mr John Caldow of Bug Blitz facilitated the visit which engaged 30 Year 7 students in 'hands on' biology and biodiversity. The program involved classroom activities such as making their own Berlese traps and setting them up ready to add samples. The students, teachers and facilitators then headed out on a field trip to a nearby swamp where they built quadrants and collected live samples as well as the collection of one square metre of leaf litter. Students observed and correctly labelled specimens before returning to school to examine and begin capturing images using a digital microscope. An exciting outcome from the program was the capture of a mystery insect which was sent to Dr Ken Walker at the Museum of Victoria and later identified as an aphid.

Benchmarking surveys

veski has benchmarked the literacy and scientific knowledge of students at the commencement of term 1 in 2014 and will assess these results against annual evaluations.

2014 Graeme Clark Oration, schools activity and oration dinner

veski sponsored, for the fourth consecutive year, the 2014 Graeme Clark Oration held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre with Dr Donald Ingber, Founding Director of the Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering at Harvard University. Almost 70 secondary school students and teachers attended the inaugural student engagement presentation and the Graeme Clark Oration, both presented by Dr Ingber.

Following the Oration **veski** innovation fellows, family members and board directors hosted 16 secondary students and three teachers at the Oration Dinner, also attended by leaders from the medical research, academic, business and government communities. The dinner gave the **veski** hosts the opportunity to engage directly and talk to the students about their areas of scientific research to help inspire the next generation of bright young scientists.

"Dr Ingber's incredible foray into using robotic cells to mimic how the body responds to treatment is awe inspiring. It was such an honour to be provided with the opportunity to hear about this exciting development in medicine."

– Ms Sarah Cameron, Mooroopna Secondary College

veski programs

'Speed Meet the scientist' with 2014 Victoria Prize for Science & Innovation recipients and Victoria Fellows

More than 40 students from Mooroopna and Kyneton Secondary Colleges were among the first Victorians to meet the leading researchers awarded the 2013 Victoria Prize for Science & Innovation and Victoria Fellowships.

The students were part of a unique 'speed meet the scientist' event before attending the official announcement. As part of **veski's** inspiring students (& teachers) program, each student had the opportunity to ask the leading researchers questions about their career, their research and the challenges they face.

There was extremely positive feedback from both students and teachers, who highlighted the unique opportunity the event provided to share ideas and experiences around the field of science that went far beyond the classroom.

Following the event, more than 50 students submitted articles for review by **veski** and the host of ABC Radio National's The Science Show Mr Robyn Williams.

Three of the articles were selected to be broadcast on ABC Radio National's The Science Show on Saturday 7 December 2013. Prior to the broadcast, the students attended the ABC Southbank studios and recorded the articles for radio with Robyn Williams.

"The 'speed meeting' stimulated student's interest in science as a career and was an excellent opportunity for students to ask questions about current topics such as CO_2 emissions".

– Ms Maria Cheesman, Neerim District Secondary College

veski conversations

veski conversations stimulate discussion and debate by bringing together the brightest minds from overseas, around the country and locally for the benefit of the State of Victoria.

These activities also provide an opportunity for **veski** innovation fellows to share their work and vision with the local and international community, and provide regular opportunities to engage the **veski** family.

In 2013/2014 **veski** delivered a number of **veski** conversations, with key national and international leaders and commentators.

Women in science, research and innovation roundtable

In October 2013, **veski** and the Minister for Innovation, the Hon Louise Asher MP hosted a solutions-focused **veski** conversation about women in science, research and innovation and the challenges they face. Attendees included key representatives of Victorian research institutions, early and mid-career female researchers, and national funding bodies.

Several national and international examples were discussed and elements identified that could be replicated in the Victorian environment starting with the investigation of a general gender equality policy.

The group identified the need for women to receive more support in areas such as leadership and personal development with a range of solutions proposed for implementation.

The direct outcome of this roundtable has been the development of the **veski** inspiring women program and the funding of a range of inspiring women initiatives which will be delivered by **veski** and supported by the Office of the Lead Scientist.

The development of commercialisation precincts

On 27 March 2014, **veski** hosted special guest Dr Kees Eijkel, CEO of Kennispark Twente, to share his insights on the development of precincts which foster and encourage commercialisation. Kennispark Twente is the shell for commercialisation in and around the University of Twente and Saxion University, in cooperation with the province of Overijssel and the city of Enschede on behalf of the cities in the region.

The intimate invite-only event allowed attendees to hear about Dr Eijkel's visions and experiences and learn about the Kennispark model of innovation and entrepreneurship. The roundtable discussion, hosted with the support of Monash University, also provided guests with the opportunity to share their ideas, knowledge and raise concerns surrounding commercialisation in Australia.

veski programs

veski symposium

Smart Australia 2030

As part of **veski's** 10 year anniversary celebration, leaders from research, industry, business, government and academia gathered at Federation Square to discuss key topics and formulate ideas for a Smart Australia in 2030.

The **veski** symposium was inspired by challenges facing Victoria which included the announcement by the National Commission of Audit recommending a drastic cut to a number of innovation funding programs, as well as the state's changing workforce, declining industries, and burgeoning population.

The event included a keynote presentation from former **veski** chairman Professor Alan Trounson.

The **veski** symposium, supported by the City of Melbourne and Federation Square, and moderated by Jonathan Green, presenter of ABC RN's Sunday Extra, sparked robust discussion and heated debate through **veski's** Twitter hashtag #veski2030.

The event was broadcast as part of ABC RN's Big Ideas program on 21 May 2014.

Smart Australia 2030 panel: Alastair Lucas, Chairman of Investment Banking, Goldman Sachs Australia; Madeleine McManus, Past Victorian President, Engineers Australia; Jonathan Green, MC & host of ABC RN's Sunday Extra; Snow Barlow, **veski** chairman; Andrew Holmes AM, inaugural **veski** innovation fellow and President of the Australian Academy of Science; Mary Harney, Chief Executive, Geoffrey Gardiner Dairy Foundation; Silviu Itescu, Chief Executive Officer, Mesoblast; and Alan Trounson, past **veski** chairman.

veski special events

10 year anniversary gala event

veski hosted 180 guests at The Dome, 333 Collins Street to celebrate **veski's** 10th anniversary and showcase **veski's** key achievements over the past 10 years as well as communicate the organisation's strategic vision and planned activities over the next 10 years.

Attendees included **veski** innovation fellows and their partners, distinguished guests of **veski** and key stakeholders as well as representatives of our Victorian host organisations.

The evening included the unveiling of a **veski** montage highlighting **veski's** key achievements over the past 10 years, a number of videos celebrating the **veski** innovation fellows and the research they are conducting, as well as the launch of **veski's** commemorative publication.

veski awards in science

veski awards in science provide individuals, groups or organisations with financial assistance for activities in science and innovative technologies. The **veski** awards in science build creative linkages between representatives of the science, business and innovation communities and establish ongoing and mutually beneficial relationships with world leading specialists.

During 2013/14, **veski** received several expressions of interest for **veski** awards in science, however there were no awards offered in this period.

veski in the community

veski co-sponsored RMIT Business Innovation Lectures

veski continues to build creative linkages between representatives of the science, business and innovation communities by supporting activities such as the long-running RMIT Business Innovation Lectures.

During the year, **veski** hosted in conjunction with RMIT University and EY: Mr Innes Willox, Chief Executive, Australian Industry Group; Professor Carlo Ratti, Director, SENSEable City Lab, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and Dame Julia Cleverdon, Vice Patron and former Chair of Teach First.

statement of financial position

veski as at 30 June 2014
ABN 93 104 711 275

	2014	2013
Current assets	**$**	**$**
Cash and cash equivalents	2,401,974	2,065,266
Receivables	1,754	1,019
Other assets	16,162	16,778
Total current assets	**2,419,890**	**2,083,063**
Non-current assets		
Investment in related entity	2	-
Property, plant and equipment	25,439	34,753
Total non-current assets	**25,441**	**34,753**
Total assets	**2,445,331**	**2,117,816**
Current liabilities		
Payables	44,688	48,442
Provisions	73,964	47,183
Other liabilities	2,304,773	1,971,373
Total current liabilities	**2,423,425**	**2,066,998**
Non-current liabilities		
Provisions	65	34
Total non-current liabilities	65	34
Total liabilities	**2,423,490**	**2,067,032**
Net assets	**21,841**	**50,784**
Equity		
Retained earnings	21,841	50,784
Total equity	**21,841**	**50,784**

Where necessary, comparative information has been reclassified and repositioned for consistency with current year disclosures.

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