



JULY 2014 /
JUNE 2015

annual review

Approved by the **veski** board of directors
on 23 September 2015

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.



Students from Kyneton Secondary College at the **veski** inspiring students (& teachers) event at Melbourne Museum

at a glance

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strategic framework

veski's vision is to foster a culture of innovation to support Australia's knowledge economy.

Our mission is to engage globally competitive individuals and develop a sustainable, world class program of activities/resources and collaborations to enhance our innovative society.

support

Engaging globally competitive individuals

Programs focused on engagement with the knowledge economy:

- Industry drives
- Faculty programs
- Scientific research (pure, applied & interdisciplinary)
- veski research education
- Part for service programs

Advancing cultural change activities through:

- Industry & awards
- Events
- A call for Best Practice
- An ongoing series of networking professional development initiatives

foster

Mechanisms for engagement

Operations

- veski research program management and delivery
- Coordination, activation and classification
- Employment, industry engagement and investment
- Cross sector leadership

Events & communication

- veski research education and the veski compass
- veski environment events, symposiums, lectures and public forums
- veski research and public engagement
- veski website and all communications

Visiting scholar engagement drawing on veski's support programs

- Industry focused activities
- Industry internships
- Entrepreneurial development
- STEM pathways

collaborate

veski stakeholders

veski funds

- Science, research and innovation
- Globally competitive individuals
- Research's research
- Government, industry, academia
- Government, industry, academia

Government, industry, academia

- The 30 companies who are veski
- Industry and industry groups
- Government, industry, academia
- Chief Executive Officers
- Chief Financial Officers
- Chief Marketing Officers
- Chief Human Resources Officers
- Chief Information Officers
- Chief Legal Officers
- Chief Sustainability Officers
- Chief Technology Officers
- Chief Innovation Officers
- Chief Learning Officers
- Chief Diversity Officers
- Chief Compliance Officers
- Chief Risk Officers
- Chief Security Officers
- Chief Information Security Officers
- Chief Privacy Officers
- Chief Ethics Officers
- Chief Governance Officers
- Chief Sustainability Officers
- Chief Innovation Officers
- Chief Learning Officers
- Chief Diversity Officers
- Chief Compliance Officers
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- Chief Security Officers
- Chief Information Security Officers
- Chief Privacy Officers
- Chief Ethics Officers
- Chief Governance Officers

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at a glance



July 2014

veski facilitated a professional development workshop on the BioEYES program for science teachers from Gippsland, Loddon Mallee and Greater Shepparton areas.

August

veski delivered a professional development workshop, facilitated by Ms Dina Pozzo of insium, for teachers from the Greater Shepparton region.

More than 60 students from Neerim District Secondary College participated in BioEYES.

The City of Melbourne, **veski** and the Melbourne Boston Sister Cities Association hosted a lecture by Dr Jonathan Rosen from Boston University. **veski** innovation fellow Professor Kenneth Crozier facilitated the audience Q&A.

More than 200 leaders, 55 students and five teachers from Victoria's science, business and innovation communities attended the announcement of the 2014 Victoria Prize for Science and Innovation and Victoria Fellowships at Parliament House.

In a unique speed 'meet a scientist' session, students interviewed recipients of the 2014 Victoria Prize for Science and Innovation, Victoria Fellowships and Premier's Award for Health and Medical Research.

veski attended the official opening of the refurbished science laboratory at Kyneton Secondary College.

September

veski briefed representatives from Victorian institutes about changes to the **veski** innovation fellowships. The event included a panel discussion with current fellows Professors Tiffany Walsh and Colette McKay and the heads of their host organisations.

veski attended the official opening of the refurbished science laboratory at Mooroopna Secondary College.

Bug Blitz - The Big Dig Program was delivered at Mooroopna Secondary College.

Members of the **veski** inspiring women program and key stakeholders involved with gender equality participated in a **veski** conversation with Professor Tim Wess.

Dr Alan Finkel AO, Professor Göran Roos and Professor Alan Trounson led a dynamic **veski** conversation about 'how can we stimulate innovation and commercialisation within the university sector'.

October

Bug Blitz - The Big Dig and BioEYES programs were both delivered at Kyneton Secondary College, and BioEYES was delivered at Mooroopna Secondary College.



November

The second of three professional development workshops delivered for science teachers from Gippsland.

December

Inaugural **veski** innovation fellow Professor Andrew Holmes AM delivered an inspiring address about a career powered by connections at the first-ever gathering of the **veski** connection.

As part of the **veski** inspiring women program, **veski** launched a quarterly professional development and networking event series with a sold-out event. Professor Sharon Bell delivered a keynote speech.

The second of three professional development workshops was delivered for science teachers from the Loddon Mallee Region.

January

The first masterclass was held as part of the **veski** inspiring women industry internship program.

March

veski sustainable agricultural fellowships launched in Shepparton by The Hon. Jaala Pulford MLC, Minister for Agriculture and Regional Development.

Students toured Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and the University Melbourne before attending the Graeme Clark Oration and official dinner. This was the fifth consecutive year **veski** has hosted students and teachers at this event.

The second **veski** inspiring women professional development and networking event on 'gender equality: it's not a female issue, it's an everybody issue'.

May

veski hosted a table at the seventh Connecting Women in Biotechnology Luncheon, which included the inaugural BioMelbourne Network Women in Leadership awards profiling outstanding women in biotech.

June 2015

The third inspiring women professional development and networking event focused on mentoring, with program specialists and industry-based peers sharing insights and their experience of maximising the effectiveness of mentoring relationships.



strategic framework

veski's vision is to foster a culture of innovation to support Australia's knowledge economy

Our mission is to engage globally competitive individuals and develop a sustainable, world-class program of activities, resources and collaborations to enhance our innovative society

support

Engaging globally competitive individuals

Programs focused on engagement with the knowledge economy

- Industry driven
- Equality
- Regional

Scientific research (pure, applied & multidisciplinary)

- **veski** innovation fellowships
- Fee for service programs

Addressing cultural change activities through fellowships & awards, internships, a Code for Best Practice, an ongoing series of networking, professional development, leadership and training activities, **veski** residencies, **veski** conversations and other projects

foster

Mechanisms for engagement

Operations

- **veski** standard, program management and delivery
- Certification, accreditation and classification
- Employment creation, industry engagement and investment
- Cross sector briefings

Events & communication

- **veski** conversations, roundtables and the **veski** symposium
- **veski** announcement events, symposiums, lectures and public forums
- Brand, reputation and media engagement
- **veski** website and all communications

Victorian schools engagement drawing on **veski's** support programs

- Student focused activities
- Online resources
- Professional development
- STEM pathways

collaborate

veski stakeholders

veski family and **veski** connection

Science, research and innovation communities

- Globally competitive researchers and scientists
- Research institutions & universities
- International innovation thought leaders
- SMEs and leading Australian innovators and entrepreneurs
- Academies, associations, networks and funding bodies

Government, business and industry

- Top 30 companies and their CEOs
- Unions and industry groups
- Governments – local, state, federal
- Chief/Lead scientists
- Fund Managers, VC and Private Equity Investors
- Philanthropic individuals and organisations

- Schools, DEECD and education service providers
- General public and media

resources

Financial, in-kind and fee for service support

- Government
- Institutions
- Philanthropic organisations
- Industry partners
- Individuals

veski board of directors

veski chief executive officer

veski staff members

veski board



visit our website for full profiles
on the veski board members

During 2014 / 2015, the **veski** board of directors comprised Professor Snow Barlow FTSE, Chairman, Mr Ron Douglas, Dr Keith McLean, Ms Patricia O'Rourke, Dr Jane Ryan, Dr Mark Shackleton, Professor Ian Smith, Mr Tony Sweeney (retired December 2014), Mr Greg Sword AM, Ms Julia Page, CEO & Company Secretary

chairman's report

—
Professor Snow Barlow
FTSE

Working with the business, government and philanthropic sectors, **veski** has continued to leverage the State Government's investment in innovation to attract more outstanding talent to Victoria, and support those already working across our state.

Through our flagship innovation fellowships, we have attracted another three outstanding global players to continue their research in Victorian institutes. As an indication of the prestige of the program, all three were non-Australian appointments bringing their research from Canada, UK and Denmark.

Their research is also reflective of **veski**'s emphasis on commercialisation. All three have a strong foundation for commercialisation with Associate Professor Roger Pocock exploring the secrets of the human brain, Professor Colby Zaph focused on the \$70 billion global drug market for chronic inflammatory diseases, and Professor Richard Sandberg working directly with industry to develop faster, greener and cheaper air travel.

None of this would be possible without the ongoing support of the Victorian institutes who host our 23 innovation fellows, including Monash University and the University of Melbourne who welcome Roger, Colby and Richard.

veski continues to benefit from the support of a broad community of stakeholders who are instrumental in our ongoing success.

We are working closely with a number of Ministers, as well as several Victorian Government departments, to continue to administer a number of prestigious prizes and awards including the Premier's Award for Health & Medical Research.

We continue to benefit from the vision and drive of our chief executive officer who recently celebrated 11 years with the organisation. Ms Julia L Page has helped make the board's vision a reality and helped direct **veski** into exciting new frontiers.

I am particularly proud of our innovative board and the courage my colleagues have to explore new arenas. However, we would be unable to explore these new areas without the support of our numerous working groups, philanthropic partners, and the specialists who work alongside our organisation.

With the support of the John T Reid Charitable Trusts, the board has established the **veski** sustainable agricultural fellowships. With a long-standing connection to the Australian agricultural communities, I was extremely proud to stand alongside the Hon. Jaala Pulford MLC, Minister for Agriculture and Regional Development, in March and launch this new program.

With support of Victoria's Lead Scientist Dr Leonie Walsh, and a dedicated working group, we have delivered a much needed and, most importantly, high impact inspiring women program.

We are making an extra effort to ensure all **veski** programs and activities have a strong focus on supporting and engaging women.



The Hon. Jaala Pulford MLC, Minister for Agriculture with **veski** chairman Professor Snow Barlow and local farmers Rocco and Santo Varapodio

Our board has continued to evolve to meet the changing needs of the organisation. Following the departure of Mr Tony Sweeney in late 2014, we welcomed Dr Keith McLean from CSIRO. I thank all directors for their continued support and their passion for innovation across Australia.

The board has undertaken a significant piece of strategic planning over the past 12 months. In partnership with our key stakeholders we have set an agenda for the next three years, which will allow us to continue fostering a culture of innovation to support Australia's knowledge economy while engaging with industry more directly.

While our priority remains attracting outstanding talent to Victoria, we will also continue to support the talent already here. Through our inspiring women, inspiring students and sustainable agricultural programs, we will be making a contribution across more sectors than ever before.

As I near the end of my term on the **veski** board, first as a board member and then as chairman, I have been reflecting on **veski's** achievements over the past eight years.

In that time, I am proud to report we have brought 19 innovation fellows, and their families and fellow researchers, to Victoria from Europe, Asia and North America. These fellows have leveraged their fellowships to raise millions of dollars in national and international grants. We have also inspired thousands of next generation scientists and innovators through formal and informal programs. And we have hosted more than 50 national and international speakers at events attended by some of Victoria's top leaders in science and innovation.

We now count more than 170 as members of our **veski** connection, including our **veski** family of innovation fellows and their partners.

I sincerely thank all of the members of our **veski** community for their continued support of our organisation.

Professor Snow Barlow
veski chairman

chief executive officer's report

—
Ms Julia L Page

At the announcement of our 2014 / 2015 **veski** innovation fellows, we heard about the difference the innovation fellowships make to a researcher moving to Victoria, further confirming the importance of **veski**, and the role we play in connecting them through our innovation community.

Well beyond the funds we are able to provide to support our innovation fellows in setting up their new laboratories, recruiting new team members or applying for grants; veski provides all 23 of innovation fellows with a strong connected network.

One of the new innovation fellows Professor Colby Zaph spoke eloquently about this network in his introductory video.

“Having a body like **veski** that provides funds, provides networking, and provides support, for me, as a new person in a new country trying to learn the system and trying to learn the ropes has been invaluable. They’ve made my family feel welcome, they’ve made me feel welcome, and they’ve opened doors I never even knew existed,” he said.

veski prides itself on having a holistic approach to supporting the arrival of talent in Victoria, and it’s heartening to learn that this program is giving our innovation fellows, and their families, the support they need.

With the arrival of Professors Colby Zaph and Richard Sandberg and Associate Professor Roger Pocock, the **veski** family is now even stronger with a wider range of disciplines and research focuses.

In addition to the **veski** innovation fellowships, we have continued to administer the calls for application on behalf of the Victorian Government for a number of prestigious awards and fellowships. In the past 12 months, we have played a critical role in the selection of five Victorian Postdoctoral Research Fellows, two Victoria Prize for Science and Innovation recipients, 12 Victoria Fellows, and a recipient and three commendees of the Premier’s Award for Health and Medical Research.

With the support of a large number of dedicated selection panel members, ongoing promotion of these programs by Victorian institutes, and **veski’s** experience, we have been able to deliver these prestigious programs.

In addition to fellowships, we have also continued to develop and deliver programs supporting talent in our state from the scientists of the future to the emerging leaders to the current generation of science leaders.

The **veski** inspiring women’s program has gone from idea to reality in less than 12 months. With the support of the Victorian Government’s Lead Scientist, and an extremely active working group, we have delivered a sold-out series of professional development and networking events; called for and received a large number of inspiring women fellowship

applications; and made significant inroads into putting the topic of gender equality on the agenda of Victorian institutes.

Our commitment to inspiring women in Victoria flows through all of our programs and activities, and the board maintains this as a strategic priority. We are also aware of the incredible need for this program, and the need to take action.

The inspiring students (& teachers) program has also continued to deliver results above and beyond the initial plans. This is largely as a result of the support our **veski** connection members freely giving of their time and opening the doors to their laboratories to deliver unique experiences for students and teachers.

Among our key achievements in the inspiring students (& teachers) arena, we marked the fifth year of hosting students at the Graeme Clark Oration. It was fitting that in our fifth year of hosting students, the Oration delivered a student-focused lecture and awarded its first school prize.

veski has also continued to explore new opportunities. I am extremely excited to be working on bringing more innovation to regional communities across Australia through **veski's** newly launched sustainable agricultural fellowships.

There have been numerous people involved in helping shape

this exciting new program, but we are particularly grateful for the support of the Trustees of the John T Reid Charitable Trusts who have provided important seed funding to the **veski** foundation.

In addition to our fellowships and programs, we have continued to deliver a world-class series of **veski** conversations attracting global speakers from a range of backgrounds. As part of our approach to the **veski** conversations, we continue to invest considerable time and effort into ensuring the right people are in the room to take the innovative thinking to new areas across the state and deliver real world action.

Now in our 11th year of operation, we are continuing the conversations about the role **veski** will play across Victoria. Over the past 12 months, I have had the opportunity to speak at numerous events, from university forums to local business breakfasts, and I continue to be grateful for the ideas and enthusiasm I receive back.



Julia L Page
veski chief executive officer



Victorian Lead Scientist Dr Leonie Walsh with Ms Julia L Page together for the launch of the inspiring women fellowships

veski operations

veski continues to adapt its operations to support the delivery of a growing fellowships program, a new inspiring womens program, and a range of complementary activities and events.

veski funding

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

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 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, funding worth \$700,000 was announced 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 2014/15 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 trust

In 2014/15, the **veski** foundation trust continued to operate as a deductible gift recipient (DGR) fund that can receive tax deductible gifts from philanthropic organisations and private donors.

A generous contribution was received from the John T Reid Charitable Trusts to support the establishment of the **veski** sustainable agricultural fellowships.

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**.



veski marketing and communications

Building on the momentum of communications from the 10th anniversary for **veski**, the organisation embraced a number of new communications channels over the past 12 months.

Social media @veskiorg

veski sent its first tweet in December 2014, ahead of the **veski** inspiring women professional development and networking event, and has already amassed more than 300 followers. At the same time, **veski** launched an exclusive LinkedIn group for members of the **veski** connection, which has been used to promote a range of **veski** events.

veski 10 year video

The **veski** 10 year video continues to be used for a wide range of purposes from briefing new stakeholders, including Ministers and partners, to introducing **veski** at conferences and events. In addition, the **veski** 10 year commemorative publication has been distributed around the world, and has been used by the board and staff to celebrate and promote **veski's** continued success.



watch the 10 year video and other videos
about veski programs and activities



Promotion of veski innovation fellows

The key announcement event in 2014/15 welcoming three new **veski** innovation fellows to Victoria attracted positive media coverage. Associate Professor Roger Pocock was profiled in The Age and all three fellows were given a warm welcome by their host organisations, Victorian tweeters and broader media.

veski innovation fellows continue to appear in print and broadcast media and their coverage is regularly collated on the **veski** website under the **veski** family in the media section.

veski website

veski's website has grown considerably since it was re-launched in 2012. It provides a growing range of multimedia content, a dynamic Twitter section, regular event listings, industry news articles, and a dedicated area focused on the first 10 years and the portraits of innovations.

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



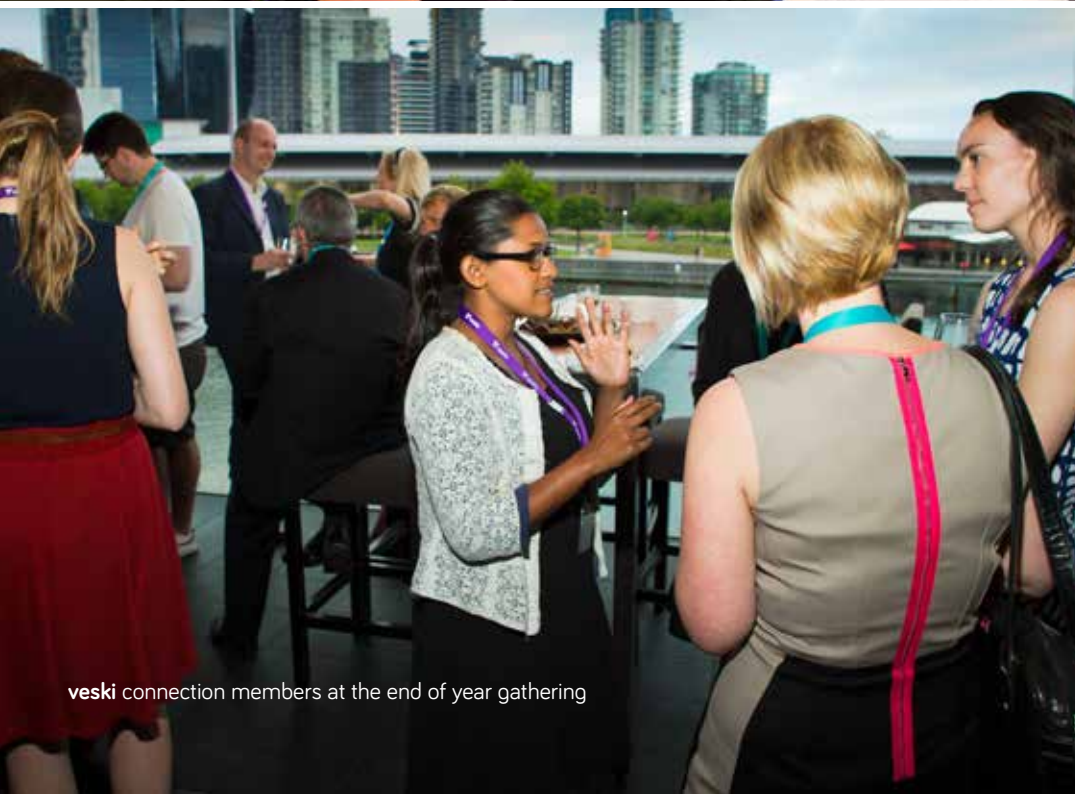
read what our veski innovation fellows
are saying in the media



Announcement of the 2014 / 2015 **veski** innovation fellows



veski connection members at the end of year gathering



veski connection members at the end of year gathering



Professor Snow Barlow presents Dr Seth Masters with an ambassadorial **veski** fellowship upon completion of his **veski** innovation fellowship

veski connection

The **veski** connection is an exclusive and prestigious group of world leading scientists, researchers and business leaders including our veski innovation fellows, veski board members and other leaders from a variety of fields.

The group now includes more than 170 members of the national and international science and innovation communities including industry, academia and government leaders and our veski innovation fellows, our board members and veski fellows in an ambassadorial role.

During the year, as part of our ongoing commitment to the veski connection, **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 gathering for **veski** connection
- a table at the seventh Connecting Women in Biotechnology Luncheon, which included the inaugural BioMelbourne Network Women in Leadership awards profiling outstanding women in biotech.
- **veski** in the community events including the RMIT Business Lecture series supported by **veski** and EY
- regular **veski** conversations.

veski family

The **veski** family is an exclusive sub-set of the **veski** connection, providing 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. Activities also provide an 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



VICTORIAN
RESEARCH
FELLOWSHIPS

veski delivers a number of Victoria's most prestigious fellowship programs including the veski innovation fellowships which bring world-leading scientists and researchers to Victoria.

During 2014 / 2015, veski announced three veski innovation fellowships bringing the total number of innovation fellows, as at 30 June 2015, to 23.

Over the 11 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.

veski's call for applications for the innovation fellowships continued to attract large numbers of high quality applications from around the world.

The latest veski innovation fellows were welcomed by the Deputy Premier, the Hon James Merlino at an event attended by representatives of business, government and the science and innovation communities at the Investment Centre Victoria.

Other fellowships

veski also administered a number of fellowship and award programs on behalf of the Victorian Government. These included the 2015 Victoria Prize for Science & Innovation, the 2015 Victoria Fellowships, the 2015 Premier's Award for Health & Medical Research, and the 2014 Victorian Postdoctoral Research Fellowships.



[read more about all the fellowships
delivered and administered by veski](#)

2014/15 veski innovation fellow



MONASH University

Professor Colby Zaph

Awarded a veski innovation fellowship worth \$150,000 over three years for “Biological Methylation: a new frontier in the regulation of immunity and inflammation” at Monash University.

Mucosal tissues such as the intestine and lung form a physical barrier between the body and the outside world. Cells must differentiate between what's good for the body, including innocuous food antigens and symbiotic bacteria, and what's bad, including viruses, parasites and infectious bacteria. A breakdown in this ability to differentiate between good and bad often leads to chronic inflammatory diseases including asthma, inflammatory bowel diseases, food allergies and cancer.

Chronic inflammatory diseases afflict millions of people and current treatments are less than ideal. With very few Victorian researchers are focused on mucosal immunology, Professor Colby Zaph will provide Victoria with a unique and cutting-edge approach in this important area.

The pharmaceutical market for the treatment of inflammatory diseases and immune deficiency is worth an estimated \$70 billion per year. None of the drugs in the pipeline provide a first line treatment for inflammatory

diseases. Professor Colby Zaph will continue to forge strong collaborations with key industry partners with the aim of developing new drugs.

The Zaph laboratory in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Monash University is focused on defining the cellular and molecular mechanisms that control immunity and inflammation at these mucosal sites. This understanding represents a potential target for identifying novel therapeutics for the treatment of these diseases. Colby and his team are focusing on both immune cells (T cells) as well as non-immune cells (epithelial cells) that respond to the inflammatory signals. They are defining the role of a class of enzymes that modify proteins to change their function by a process called methylation.

The results from his experiments will begin to identify candidate compounds to translate for use into human subjects. As these inhibitors are developed in partnership with industrial partners, there are immediate opportunities for translational studies in a wide variety of inflammatory disease settings.

Colby is a Canadian researcher, born in Regina, Saskatchewan, who moved to Australia in 2015 to become a **veski** innovation fellow at Monash University.

“Our research program is focused on working with industrial partners to develop novel therapeutics that will transform the treatment of chronic inflammatory diseases such as IBD.”



watch Colby talk about why he decided to move to Victoria and the benefits of being part of the veski family

2014/15 veski innovation fellow



MONASH University

“We’re at the ground level trying to find out how various genes in the brain are working and we’re going to use that information with industry links in the future to hopefully identify drug targets.”

Associate Professor Roger Pocock

Awarded a veski innovation fellowship worth \$150,000 over three years for “Deciphering the function of a schizophrenic-associated microRNA” at Monash University.

Associate Professor Roger Pocock is interested in discovering how the human brain forms and how it functions. Using worms as a model, specifically the nematode *Caenorhabditis elegans*, he injects them with a jellyfish protein with fluorescent properties. This allows his team to observe the worm nervous system in living animals.

Associate Professor Pocock uses this model as a discovery tool to study the functions of genes in the brain. One such gene called mir-137 is associated with schizophrenia; however, the biological role of mir-137 in brain development and function is not understood.

He hopes this model will provide a better understanding of the cause of schizophrenia and eventually lead to the production of novel therapies for this debilitating disorder.

Schizophrenia affects around 200,000 Australians, and starts in late teenage years or early adulthood affecting all races and both sexes. Schizophrenia is known to run in families and mutations in certain genes is thought to be causative.

Roger will study a direct relative of mir-137, called mir-234,

in the brain of the worms. The major product of his research program will be a better basic understanding of how mir-234 regulates brain development and function. This will hopefully enable researchers to ascertain how the human homolog mir-137 is associated with schizophrenia.

Roger has already initiated collaboration with a group within The Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health working on mir-137 in mice, and will use this collaboration and Victorian industrial contacts to push his findings towards clinical translation.

Roger and his team are at a very fundamental stage, but industry collaboration using their research will hopefully lead to new drug targets in the future.

With the support of **veski** and Monash University, Roger has also been able to bring six members of his team from Denmark to continue their research alongside him in Melbourne.

Roger was drawn to research, and specifically studying worms as a way to understand the human brain, after first having a career in banking. He moved to Australia from Denmark in 2015 to become a **veski** innovation fellow.

Roger was recently invited and sat on a NHMRC selection panel.



watch Roger talk about using worms to better understand the human brain

2014/15 veski innovation fellow



Professor Richard Sandberg

Awarded a veski innovation fellowship worth \$150,000 over three years for “Impacting industry by enabling a step-change in simulation fidelity for flow and noise problems” at the University of Melbourne.

Using a numerical code developed over the past seven years in the UK and US, Professor Richard Sandberg will harness the power of Australia's and the world's high-performance super computers to gain better understanding of turbulence and to develop new models for industry to reduce noise and predict turbulence.

Advances in fluid dynamics research, made possible through computer simulations, play a role in almost every aspect of Australian life. Professor Sandberg's research can lead to more efficient conventional and renewable power generation, more environmentally friendly and affordable plane travel, and improved heating and cooling systems.

Through an integrated research and education program, Professor Sandberg's research team will use modern supercomputers as 'time machines', enabling flow and noise predictions with unprecedented accuracy to help design the next generations of 'green' engineering devices decades earlier than otherwise possible..

The research will not only have a scientific and economic impact but will ultimately benefit Australian society by creating new knowledge and training for the next generation of engineers and scientists. This training is fundamental for future advances in engineering in Australia enabled by high-performance computing.

The project will also move Victoria, and the University of Melbourne, from a reliance on traditional experimentations with wind tunnels to a process of numerical validation using simulations that have already demonstrated potential.

As well as bringing the scientific and technical brilliance needed to simulate these experiments, Richard will focus on supporting greater industry and academic collaborations.

Richard is a world-leading expert in large-scale, high-fidelity simulation of turbulent flows and the associated noise generation. He moves to Australia from the UK to become a **veski** innovation fellow at the University of Melbourne.

“It's very important to see industry engaging in the fundamental research that we do ... ultimately, I want to see that it's having a design impact.”



watch Richard talk about creating models for faster, cheaper, greener air travel

veski innovation fellows

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 remains 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).

With the support of his **veski** innovation fellowship, Associate Professor Mark Dawson has established a research lab and continued to achieve significant research success with high profile publications, grants and mainstream media coverage.

Since his return, Associate Professor Dawson has secured more than \$2.5 million in grants including a Leukaemia and Lymphoma Society USA – Quest for Cures Grant. He has also been invited to speak at several prominent national and international events including a Wellcome Trust Advanced Course.

Mark’s work has attracted mainstream media attention with significant coverage in the Herald Sun about the first-in-human trials to cure leukaemia and multiple myeloma. He has also continued an active role with the General Sir John Monash Foundation as a member of their National Selection Panel.

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.

Professor Kenneth Crozier has continued to deliver an integrated program of research, education and commercialisation including training the next generation of Australian optical scientists.

He has already attracted two international research fellows to Melbourne: one from Northwestern University, USA and the other from Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Switzerland. Professor Crozier has also engaged several local students in his research.

During his first 12 months as a **veski** innovation fellow, Kenneth has contributed several papers to international publications, including Futurity, and presented at several prestigious conferences in the US.

Kenneth has leveraged his fellowship for additional funding in excess of \$1.5 million including an ARC Future Fellowship.

In addition, he has been actively engaged in the local research community with CSIRO Lab on a Chip Symposium in July 2014 and prestigious seminars at several Australian universities and institutions including the Shine Dome in Canberra.

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.

Collette has received more than \$50,000 in small grants and seed funding for projects in the past 12 months. In addition she has been part of a research group which has received \$US1.7 million in funding for a “Phase I safety study for a new two-shank auditory midbrain implant (AMI)”.

Among several local, national and international invitations to speak at conferences, Colette was the only person from Melbourne invited to present at the special 169th Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America (#ASA169) in the USA in May 2015.

Colette has also formed a number of new collaborations with electric and electronic engineering colleagues to support the planned clinical trial related to the **veski** project.

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.

In addition to his research under the veski innovation fellowship, Dr Ethan Goddard-Borger's group is focused on sugar molecules called glycans. These are complex and diverse molecules that cover the surface of every healthy human cell, cancer cell, pathogenic microbe and most viruses. They play central roles in how cells sense their environment and communicate with each other.

Dr Goddard-Borger has recruited a number of researchers to join his laboratory at the Walter & Eliza Hall Institute including a research assistant and PhD students. He has presented at a number of national conferences including a presentation for the Institute for Glycomics based at Griffith University in Queensland.

His current projects include Glycosylation in Apicomplexa, Targeting the fungal cell wall and Metabolic probes of glycosylation.

In July 2014, Ethan was a co-author of a paper published in the Chem Commun (Camb).



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 continues to explore 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 has made great inroads into attracting talent into his laboratory with the recruitment of a postdoctoral fellow, and several undergraduate and postgraduate students.

In addition, Luke has been successful in leveraging his **veski** innovation fellowship to secure more than \$300,000 in funding for a range of projects, and has developed a wide range of collaborations including strong partnerships with two multinational companies.

As a result of his research, Luke has been invited to participate in several national and international conferences including the second China Australia Polymer (CAP2) conference, held in Melbourne.

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 has established himself as a leading researcher at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute. He continues to actively mentor undergraduate and postgraduate students.

Dr Master’s laboratory studies inflammation generated by the innate immune system. This can happen in many different contexts, including during infection, when cells die, or when genetic mutations activate innate immune pathways. Inflammation contributes to the development of many chronic inflammatory diseases including rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn’s disease and type 2 diabetes.

They maintain close links to industry and the clinic to make sure their discoveries continue to have a direct effect on human health in the future.

In 2014, Seth was invited to present at two key conferences, the VIBes international PhD symposium in Antwerp, Belgium and the Asia Pacific Association for the study of Liver in Brisbane.

Seth is a committee member of Immunology Group Victoria.

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.

The findings by Professor Tiffany Walsh and her team into force-fields for gold, silver and graphene are being used by national and international research groups. Researchers at the University of Stockholm have used the developments as a platform technology for developing new ways of predicting non-linear response properties of bio-interfaces.

In addition, Professor Walsh’s innovations in developing replica-exchange based techniques for predicting the structure of biomolecules adsorbed on inorganic surfaces are now being adopted by several other research groups using the Victorian Life Sciences Computation Initiative (VLSCI).

Tiffany has co-edited the book ‘Bioinspired Nanotechnology: From Surface Analysis to Applications’, which focuses on the use of bioinspired and biomimetic methods for the fabrication and activation of nanomaterials.

She has served as a member of the Victoria Prize and Victoria Fellowships life sciences selection panel, the **veski** inspiring women working group, the ARC College of Experts, the VLSCI Advisory Board, and, since 2012, the VLSCI Resource Allocation Panel.

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 research has been published in the highest impact journals in the field including Nature Immunology, Nature Genetics and Science Translational Medicine.

His team’s research into the vector competence of Wolbachia carrying mosquitoes has been particularly important to funders and policy makers in endemic countries. Professor Simmons continues to attract industry links.

More generally, his expertise in emerging infectious diseases has resulted in numerous media interviews and public seminars regarding the trajectory of the ongoing Ebola outbreak in West Africa. During the Ebola outbreak in West Africa in late 2014, Cameron was a sought after expert for print and broadcast media locally and internationally.

He was invited to present at the Australian Institute of International Affairs in Melbourne, was Chair, WHO Consultation on Mathematical Modelling of Dengue Intervention Impact, Geneva and a Scientific Advisory Board member for Dengue vaccine, Sanofi Pasteur, Paris.



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 group, led cooperatively with his wife Dr Melissa Call, investigates how immune cells respond to external cues that control immune responses. Cells are enclosed in a thin fatty membrane. This is essential for compartmentalising chemical processes inside the cell, but poses a formidable barrier to the passage of information between the inside and outside of the cell.

Dr Call's laboratory studies the molecular structures and mechanisms used by sensors on the cell surface to pass information across this barrier. They aim to understand these communication pathways and identify new ways to therapeutically manipulate immune responses in cancer, infection and autoimmune diseases.

Matthew has continued to publish his research with a journal article in Cell Reports in 2014.

Matthew's research was also the focus of a number of videos developed as part of the inspiring student (& teachers) program.

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 has firmly established the McNeill Research Group, an organic electronics research group, within the Department of Materials Science and Engineering at Monash University.

Associate Professor McNeill continues to attract a range of students and researchers to join his team, which continues to be housed in the purpose-built research laboratories in the New Horizons building.

Christopher has remained a member of the Advisory Board of Energy and Environmental Science.

He continues to be well published with more than five journal articles in the first six months of 2015.

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.

Dr Shackleton has continued to take an active role in the strategy and direction of **veski** as a representative of the **veski** alumni on the **veski** board.

In October 2014, Mark was awarded more than \$800,000 from NHMRC for Deciphering mechanisms of disease evolution in melanoma.

Mark's involvement in a Melbourne-led trial with nearly 500 patients from 20 countries, which found attacking the melanoma in two places, with two drugs, extends the delay before the disease starts growing again, received widespread media coverage.

Associate Professor 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.

After more than five years as a **veski** innovation fellow in the molecular medicine division of The Walter & Eliza Hall Institute, Associate Professor Ross Dickins made the move to become a group leader at The Australian Centre for Blood Diseases, a Monash University department located at the Alfred Hospital in Melbourne.

The Dickins Group research the tumour suppressor gene function, focusing on several hematopoietic transcription factors recurrently mutated in acute lymphoblastic and acute myeloid leukaemias (ALL and AML). The research into why the loss of particular genes in leukaemias causes treatment resistance, conducted by Ross and his team, is vital to the development of future therapies for difficult to treat leukaemia subtypes.

The laboratory is funded by NHMRC, the Leukaemia Foundation of Australia, and the Sylvia and Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation.

Ross has also been awarded an Associate Professorship at Monash University.



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 is now a Laboratory Head within the Division of Population Health and Immunity at the Walter & Eliza Hall Institute (WEHI). In her work at WEHI, Alyssa continues to collaborate closely with researchers conducting malaria control programs in the Asia Pacific.

Her current projects include mapping malaria transmission patterns in the Pacific Region, Understanding the roles of polymorphism in leading malaria vaccine candidates, and Defining correlates of naturally acquired immunity to severe malaria.

Among these projects she is working with colleagues from the Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research (PNGIMR) to trace the spread of malaria through affected regions by looking at genetic diversity.

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.

Professor Ygal Haupt is the Group Leader, Tumour Suppression Laboratory at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre. 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 Australian p53 workshop in 2012, Professor Haupt and the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre hosted a national satellite Translational p53 workshop on November 2014. The workshop brought together clinicians, researchers, postdoctoral researchers and students to discuss contemporary, translational aspects of p53 in cancer therapy.

Ygal and his wife, Dr Sue Haupt, were key authors of Nature paper in 2015 ‘Regulation of nucleotide metabolism by mutant p53 contributes to its gain-of-function activities’.

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 including Medical Engineering and Physics. He was a member of the scientific committee for the 21st Congress of the European Society of Biomechanics, held in July 2015, Prague, in Czech Republic.

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 concluded 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.

The experimental research of **veski** innovation fellow Professor Michael Cowley FTSE was recognised with a prestigious science award from the Australian Academy of Science, and with the publication of a ground-breaking study in the prestigious journal *Cell*.

Professor Cowley, who remains the founding Director of the Monash Obesity and Diabetes Institute, was awarded the inaugural Jacques Miller Medal for Experimental Biomedicine recognising his work devising new drugs to treat obesity.

The Medal is one of three new awards recognising scientific excellence, from researchers in the early stage of their careers to those who have made life long achievements.

He has also been leading a ground-breaking study with researchers from Monash, Warwick, Cambridge and several American universities who discovered the link between obesity and hypertension was published in the prestigious journal, *Cell*.

Michael's research continues to attract significant media coverage with the **veski** innovation fellow being quoted nationally and internationally.



veski innovation fellows

Dr 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.

Dr Edwin van Leeuwen’s **veski** innovation fellowship was focused on addressing the question of how we meet future growth in power demand while reducing CO2 emissions is one the key challenges of our time.

Dr van Leeuwen continues to be involved with the **veski** family even though he is currently based overseas as a senior executive.

Edwin previously worked with Norilsk Nickel covering Africa, Australia, South America, Asia in copper, nickel, iron ore, coal, PGM’s and specialty minerals. He returns to Melbourne regularly for family and work commitments.

His current role is based in Malaysia as Managing Director of Base Load Energy.

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 Chairman at the Australian Communities Foundations, and Chief Executive Officer at Very Special Kids and Chairman of the Victorian Paediatric Palliative Care Program.

Her work continues to relate to the health of Victorians. In June 2015, Sarah was instrumental in securing funding from the Federal Government to fund a permanent home for the Very Special Kids Hospice.

Associate Professor 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** enabled Associate Professor Gareth Forde to develop DNA vaccine ideas, inspired by his work at Cambridge, which led directly to two patents. Associate Professor Forde provides ongoing technical input to the group commercialising these patents.

Gareth has recently been appointed to the board of the newly launched IChemE Energy Centre, which will give the chemical and process engineering community a coherent voice on energy policy issues.

In June 2014, Gareth was appointed Principal Engineer of All Energy in Queensland, providing engineering design and strategic advice on energy, water, clean tech, food processing, emissions abatement and energy efficiency projects. Gareth provides strategic direction on complex problems whilst bringing business acumen to solve technical industrial problems.

In late 2014, Gareth became an Associate Professor at the Queensland University of Technology. He also chaired a workshop at the CHEMECA 2014 conference on “The nexus between energy and water”.

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.

Since assuming the role of President of the Australian Academy of Science in May 2014, Professor Andrew Holmes has continued to be actively involved in science promotion across the country and around the world.

Andrew was instrumental in organising the Lindau Nobel Laureates Meeting with first Australian International Day.

He has taken a vocal role in contributing to the ongoing discussion about science funding in Australia, and has continued to continue to advocate for science and investment.

In November 2014 he was a key speaker at the Commonwealth Science Conference Bangalore 2014. For the first time in nearly 50 years, the Commonwealth’s best scientists came together for a groundbreaking conference.

Andrew retired as the first **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.



veski sustainable agricultural fellowships

Since 2004, **veski** has been attracting and bringing outstanding global talent to Australia to develop solutions to address modern challenges facing health and medicine, the environment, technology and society more broadly. The new **veski** sustainable agricultural fellowships draw on this experience to bring world leading scientists and researchers to Australia to work in collaboration with farmers, industry and government.

The new **veski** sustainable agricultural fellowships program, launched in Shepparton on Thursday, 5 March 2015 by The Hon. Jaala Pulford MLC, Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Regional Development will provide up to \$220,000 for successful projects to bring world leading specialists and researchers to Australia to work in collaboration with farmers, industry and government.

Expressions of interests sought from community stakeholders, educational institutions, industry, government and philanthropic groups with collaborations that will stimulate and further develop Australia's food and agricultural industries with innovative solutions to address critical issues in the agricultural sector across Australia and achieve prosperity and sustainability, outceeded expectation.

The funding will support research and development solutions tailored to suit local conditions and emerging international markets for food, fibre and agricultural services, and will address key areas such as sustainability, food security, traceability, innovative technologies and process improvement.



watch local farmers, researchers, industry leaders and suppliers talk about the sustainable agricultural fellowships

veski inspiring women

The **veski** inspiring women program is an action-focused, broad-ranging program to support, inspire and inform Victorian women through partnerships with government, industry, community and academia.

As part of the program, **veski** is delivering a suite of initiatives supported by the Office of the Lead Scientist including

- inspiring women fellowships to support our female future leaders juggling career and family or carer commitments
- inspiring women industry internships for female honours and masters students in STEM disciplines
- A dedicated inspiring women web portal assisting researchers to identify resources, information and opportunities that support their career progression

These funded initiatives complement **veski's** inspiring women program:

- Supporting **veski's** strategic goal to achieve 50 per cent participation by women in all **veski** programs and activities (including fellowships) by 2016
- Regular professional development and networking opportunities for women in science, research & innovation
- A women in science code and examples of best practice policies including templates (where appropriate) for adoption by institutions.

inspiring women fellowships

The inaugural inspiring women fellowships, funded by the Victorian Government, are designed to support outstanding female leaders who are planning for, experiencing, or returning from a career break. Candidates will be involved with research in STEM disciplines within a Victorian academic or research institution, and will be experiencing or anticipating difficulties juggling their career and family or carer commitments.

The inspiring women fellowships in 2015 will provide the opportunity to allow these female leaders to remain competitive in their field; enhancing the current talent pool and affecting cultural change.



watch the Lead Scientist talk about the
inspiring women fellowships

veski inspiring women

professional development and networking

The **veski** inspiring women program includes a series of four, large-scale open-invitation gatherings united under the umbrella of the **veski** inspiring women professional development and networking event series. The series is targeted at gender equity committee members, early-to-mid-career researchers, females with a background in STEM, research office administrative staff, and anyone interested in inspiring Victoria's future female leaders.

The event series commenced in December 2014 and concluded in September 2015. **veski** will gather a range of subject-matter specialists to illuminate the topic at hand and spark discussion. Following the formal proceedings, there are opportunities for networking. The events are held over approximately two hours, predominantly during a Monday lunchtime with the occasional evening event.

First event in December sets tone for 2015

At the first event, in December 2014, more than 200 women with a background in STEM came together to discuss: overcoming gender bias; planning for and managing career interruptions; transitioning from academia to industry; and supporting women in STEM.

Gender equality: It's not a female issue, it's an everybody issue

At the second event, in March 2015, a point shared by Professor Bob Williamson AO at the inaugural event was unpacked by a panel of speakers. The promotion of the session also focused on encouraging all attendees to 'bring a bloke'.

Mentoring: cultivating a network of mentors and maximising the relationships

At the third event, on 1 June 2015, **veski** focused on mentoring. The session included a panel discussion with specialists followed by a number of hands-on workshops.

Promoting yourself - marketing your talents

At the fourth event, on 14 September 2015, self-promotion was the theme. This topic was the most highly rated by the audience at the first event. Attendees heard from specialists in online and off-line media and communications, and personal branding, as well as industry-based peers sharing tips on storytelling and putting your best foot forward...



read about the inspiring women PD & networking sessions and watch videos from past events



Participants and speakers from the first series of **veski** inspiring women professional development and networking events



veski inspiring students (& teachers) program

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

In partnership with several regional Victorian schools, including Neerim District, Mooroopna and Kyneton secondary colleges, the inspiring students (& teachers) program has delivered:

- 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, which **veski** has been honoured to attend over the past 12 months.

Resources & professional development for teachers

veski delivered three professional development workshops per school across 2013-2015. These have been delivered to science teachers from each school as well as surrounding secondary and primary feeder schools.

veski has also delivered a range of online resources for students, teachers in conjunction with our **veski** connection.

These resources include videos featuring our **veski** innovation fellows and classroom activities.

Unique experiences for students including real world interaction with scientists

With visits to Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and the University of Melbourne, hosted by **veski** innovation fellows, there have been a number of activities over the past 12 months delivering unique, hands-on experiences.

Delivery of third-party programs

veski has continued to offer schools the opportunity to participate in Bug Blitz' The Big Dig Program. In addition, **veski** has provided the opportunity for all three schools to host a BioEYES visit.

Benchmarking surveys

veski has continued to benchmark the literacy and scientific knowledge of students and assess these results against annual evaluations.



Students and their teachers involved in a range of activities throughout the year



veski inspiring students

2014 Graeme Clark Oration, schools activity and oration dinner

As part of the **veski** inspiring students (& teachers) program more than 100 students and teachers from regional Victoria travelled to Melbourne for a day of inspiring activities including the Graeme Clark Oration. The 2015 Graeme Clark Oration, delivered by Sir Paul Nurse the President of the Royal Society in the UK, marked **veski's** fifth consecutive year of hosting students and teachers at the annual event.

'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 2014 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.

Students from across Victoria submitted posters about 2014 Victoria Fellows after meeting them at a speed meet a scientist session in August.



veski programs

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 2014/2015 **veski** delivered a number of **veski** conversations, with key national and international leaders and commentators.

Gender equality and the Athena SWAN model

On Monday, 22 September 2014, members of the **veski** inspiring women program and relevant stakeholders involved with gender equality within their institutions attended a **veski** conversation over luncheon with Professor Tim Wess at the Investment Centre Victoria. Professor Wess, the Executive Dean of Science at Charles Sturt University, delivered an inspiring presentation sharing his thoughts and experience of the Athena SWAN model and how he implemented, reported and managed change across Cardiff University and the broader UK science and technology marketplace.

how can we stimulate innovation and commercialisation within the university sector

On Tuesday, 30 September **veski** hosted a **veski** conversation over dinner at the Sofitel's restaurant N°35, on the topic of 'how can we stimulate innovation and commercialisation within the university sector?'. The intimate invite-only event brought 19 leaders from academia, government and industry together with the **veski** family to discuss shared insights and knowledge with Dr Alan Finkel AO.

veski awards

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

From 2015, the **veski** awards program has been re-developed as a program of **veski** activations.

veski in the community

veski co-sponsored RMIT Business Innovation Lectures

veski continued to support the long-running RMIT Business Innovation Lectures. During the year, **veski** hosted, in conjunction with RMIT University and EY, a number of lectures including a conversation about navigating the innovation journey hosted by RMIT's Entrepreneur in Residence.

Melbourne and Boston conversation with Dr Jonathan Rosen

On Wednesday, 20 August 2014 **veski** connection members, colleagues and friends had the distinct pleasure of spending an evening with Dr Jonathan Rosen from the College of Engineering, Boston University at the Melbourne Town Hall. Presented in partnership with **veski**, City of Melbourne and Melbourne Boston Sister Cities Association (MBSCA), Dr Rosen delivered an engaging lecture on "The Role of Societal Engineers in the Innovation Economy". **veski** innovation fellow, Professor Kenneth Crozier led a dynamic conversation between the audience and Dr Rosen.

statement of financial position

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veski as at 30 June 2015
ABN 93 104 711 275

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	3,056,772	2,401,974
Receivables	232,680	1,754
Other assets	16,469	16,162
Total current assets	3,305,921	2,419,890
Non current assets		
Investment in related entity	2	2
Property, plant and equipment	22,428	25,439
Total non current assets	22,430	25,441
Total assets	3,328,351	2,445,331
Current liabilities		
Payables	43,990	44,688
Provisions	90,938	73,964
Other liabilities	3,134,143	2,304,773
Total current liabilities	3,269,071	2,423,425
Non current liabilities		
Provisions	672	65
Total non current liabilities	672	65
Total liabilities	3,269,743	2,423,490
Net assets	58,608	21,841
Equity		
Retained earnings	58,608	21,841
Total equity	58,608	21,841

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





Inspiring
Innovation



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