Students of Spring Street is a story of success and achievement. It offers a unique glimpse into Australia's longest running parliamentary internship program. Now in its 26th year, the Victorian Parliamentary Internship Program has seen over one thousand interns pass through its doors with flying colours. The program has spawned a remarkable group of talent, ranging from the 49th Premier of Victoria to MPs, CEOs, football journalists, philanthropists, academics, lawyers, radio announcers and activists.

TOM HVALA
& JON BREUKEL
Victorian Parliamentary Library & Information Service
STUDENTS OF SPRING STREET
25 YEARS OF THE VICTORIAN PARLIAMENTARY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

TOM HVALA
& JON BREUKEL
Victorian Parliamentary Library & Information Service
# CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS 2  
VICE-CHANCELLORS’ LETTERS 4  
FOREWORD 7  
INTRODUCTION 8  
THE PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA 14  
History of the program 14  
Members of Parliament 20  
Parliamentary Library 22  
Presiding Officers 26  

UNIVERSITIES 36  
Reflections and experiences 36  
Academic supervisors 37  

INTERNS 40  
The internship experience 40  
From intern to Premier 60  
Former interns, now Members of Parliament 62  
Millennium Youth Parliament 66  
Bound for the USA 69  

REPORTS 74  
Tangible outcomes 74  
Report categories 76  

APPENDICES 82  
Bibliography 82  
Appendix 1: Interviews conducted 83  
Appendix 2: Academic supervisors and parliamentary coordinators 84  
Appendix 3: Intern statistics 85  
Appendix 4: Interns employed by the Victorian Parliament 86  
Appendix 5: Interns who became Members of Parliament 87  
Appendix 6: List of interns 88  
Appendix 7: Invitation 97
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We would also like to thank the following former interns for their honest and frank assessments of the program: the Member for Bentleigh, Nick Staikos; the Member for Southern Metropolitan, Philip Dalidakis; former Member for Frankston, Dr Alistair Harkness; Clerk of the Legislative Council, Andrew Young; ABC radio presenter, Rafael Epstein; Dr Jasmine-Kim Westendorf; Adam Delacorn; Rachel Macreadie; Trent Brickle; Kate Bartlett; Jesse Twomey; Melissa Gaddie; Aaron Hart; Joshua Knoop; Elizabeth Molan; Catherine Nadel; Roshena Campbell; Milli Allan and James Brooks.

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We must acknowledge those who have produced the excellent research papers written about the intern program over the years, and from which we drew on substantially, in some chapters of the book: Professor John Power, Dr Craig McInnis, Dr Greg Gardiner, Dr John Chesterman, Felicity Lane, Kathryn James, Prue Monument, Katrina Gorjanicyn and Laura Thompson. We have listed their research reports in the bibliography.

We thank the three participating universities (the University of Melbourne, Monash University and Victoria University) for their generous support in the form of a grant to employ two former interns, Grace McCoy (2013 cohort) and Tom Hvala (2014 cohort) as part-time research assistants in the Parliamentary Library & Information Service. Both have worked in the production of this book as well as the creation of the Parliamentary Internship Alumni.

Finally, and most importantly, the authors and all those involved in the program convey their thanks to all the Victorian Members of Parliament who have supported the program through their continued involvement and without whom this program would not be possible.

AUTHORS

Tom Hvala is a Research Assistant in the Victorian Parliamentary Library & Information Service. He is currently undertaking a Bachelor of Arts/Law at Monash University and he was a parliamentary intern in 2014.

Jon Breukel is the Coordinator of Research & Inquiries in the Victorian Parliamentary Library & Information Service and the current parliamentary coordinator of the internship program.
The Parliament of Victoria wishes to create a Parliamentary Internship Alumni for former interns.

If you are a former intern and interested in joining this alumni network, please contact the Parliamentary Library & Information Service or register your internship details online by following the links on this page: http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/about/parliamentary-internship-program

VICTORIAN PARLIAMENTARY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM: A COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP
The Hon. Telmo Languiller MLA
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Parliament of Victoria

The Hon. Bruce Atkinson MLC
President of the Legislative Council
Parliament of Victoria

Dear Presiding Officers,

Thank you for the opportunity to mark the special occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Victorian Parliamentary Internship Program. Might I begin by congratulating you most warmly on this significant achievement.

The 25th anniversary of the program gives us a welcome opportunity to reflect on the successes of the past quarter century. The groundwork for the internship program - the first such program of any state Parliament in the country - began in February 1989, under the expert guidance of University of Melbourne Professors John Power and Philomena Murray. Working in close collaboration with the Hon. Ken Coghill MLA and with the support of the Hon. Alan Hunt MLC, the internship’s inaugural cohort first graced Parliament’s halls in 1990. Since then, more than 560 interns from the University of Melbourne have successfully completed the program.

The University saw the internships as a unique opportunity to extend our students’ campus experience to the real life of applied policy research in a Parliamentary setting. The program proved instructive and empowering for these young high achievers; not only could they develop an understanding of the role the legislature plays in policy making, but they benefited from exposure to the challenging and energy-fuelled working environment of the State’s Members of Parliament. These students in turn contributed to their host electorate offices and indeed the State Parliament, producing valuable and substantial research which has furthered their respective Members’ political and legislative interests.

Victoria University and Monash University have since joined the program, to create an even more diverse and stimulating cohort. These highly motivated and capable young policy makers have benefitted greatly from this rewarding and memorable experience. The University is proud to note the progress of many of our internship program alumni – City of Melbourne CEO Ben Rimmer and 774 Melbourne’s Raphael Epstein are just two of our past students. Many others have gone on to join the senior ranks of the public service and the private sector – these graduates are the political leaders of the future.

On behalf of the University of Melbourne, I would like to congratulate you, the host Members and the Parliament of Victoria on this important anniversary. Special thanks must go to the Parliamentary Library and Information Service, whose staff have been so dedicated to the program’s success.

The University of Melbourne greatly looks forward to many more years of involvement in the Victorian Parliamentary Internship Program.

Yours,

Glyn Davis
Vice-Chancellor

31/7/2015

Office of the Vice-Chancellor
The University of Melbourne, Victoria 3010 Australia
T: +61 3 8344 6134   F: +61 3 9347 5904   E: vc@unimelb.edu.au
MONASH University

Professor Margaret Gardner AO
President and Vice-Chancellor

25th May, 2015

The Hon Telmo Languiller MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

The Hon Bruce Atkinson MLC
President of the Legislative Council

Parliament of Victoria

Dear Presiding Officers,

Let me begin by thanking the Parliament of Victoria for inviting me to reflect on Monash University’s participation in the Victorian Parliamentary Internship program on the special occasion of its 25th anniversary. I note that the program is the oldest, continuously running parliamentary internship program in Australia and its durability and success have been dependent on the Parliament of Victoria’s conscientious stewardship and the generosity of the many Members of Parliament who have hosted interns over the life of the program.

Monash University greatly values the partnership with the Parliament of Victoria and leading policy makers that our involvement in the program brings. Being part of the program has provided a unique experience for hundreds of the university’s high performing students. They have enjoyed a rare entrée into the domain of public policy making and the political process in this state, as well as exposure to the rich history and culture of the Parliament of Victoria. These students have been privileged to walk the halls of what is widely recognised as the most majestic Parliament House in Australia.

Our students have greatly benefited from the opportunity of being in the program and they have revelled in the experience. Upon completion of the program, they routinely report that it has been the most memorable and rewarding time in their undergraduate studies. Nor is it a coincidence that so many alumni of the program have gone on to occupy senior positions in the public and private sector in Victoria and beyond its borders. We are, of course, particularly proud that the current premier of Victoria, the Hon. Dan Andrews, is a graduate of the program having completed his internship in the first year of Monash’s involvement. In addition, there are three other current and past Members of Parliament who are Monash graduates of the program.

We are equally proud that the work of the hundreds of Monash students who have passed through the program has produced a voluminous body of public policy research and by doing so have made a practical and significant contribution to policy development in this state. This is another key to why the program has long prospered: the quality of the research generated by the interns. In other words, this is a program that yields abundant mutual benefits.

Let me then conclude by warmly congratulating the Parliament of Victoria on the anniversary. At Monash we look forward to many more productive years of engagement in the program.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Margaret Gardner AO
President and Vice-Chancellor

Postal - Monash University, VIC 3800, Australia
Building 3A, Clayton Campus, Wellington Road, Clayton
Telephone +61 3 9905 6141 Facsimile +61 3 9905 2096
Email margaret.gardner@monash.edu
www.monash.edu.au
CRICOS Provider No. 00006C ABN 12 377 614 012
25 May 2015

Dear Presiding Officers,

I am writing to congratulate you on the 25th Anniversary of the Parliamentary Internship Program. Victoria University joined the program in 2004 and has been an enthusiastic contributor to what is the oldest, continuously running Parliamentary Internship Program in Australia. The program is an exemplar of work-based learning at our university. It is also an outstanding example of how successful a collaborative partnership can be forged, in this case between Victoria University, the University of Melbourne, Monash University and the Parliament of Victoria.

Since our involvement in the internship program there have been 47 VU graduates. These students have highly valued what they have learned from their supervising Member of Parliament as well as the opportunity to conduct public policy research in a parliamentary context. These students have gained extraordinary insight into the workings of an electorate office, the history and processes of Parliament and the demanding roles and responsibilities of a parliamentarian.

Like all of the interns, VU students have also developed their research, writing and organisational skills in order to produce a 6000 word research report over a single semester. The fact that these reports are bound in hardcopy and held in the Parliamentary Library is a source of significant pride for our students and for the University as a whole. Some of these reports have been mentioned in Parliament and have contributed to real public policy outcomes, such as improved mental health funding for local residents in an electorate or the establishment of a botanical garden in Melton. These reports are of benefit to the supervising MPs, many who have been based in the West of Melbourne, and they also positively impact on students’ lives and their futures.

VU graduates of the Parliamentary Internship Program have gone on to occupy key roles in State and Federal government departments, in the private sector and in legal fields. These diverse graduate outcomes are testimony to the success of the internship experience.

Please convey my congratulations to the MPs in the program in this significant anniversary year, to the Parliamentary Library, the academic coordinators from the three universities and to the Parliament of Victoria.

Regards,

[Signature]

Professor Peter Dawkins
Vice-Chancellor and President
FOREWORD

As patrons of the Victorian Parliamentary Internship Program, now in its 26th year, we have great pleasure in celebrating this landmark occasion and presenting Students of Spring Street to you.

The Victorian Parliamentary Internship Program was the first program of its kind to be established in an Australian parliament, of which we are proud and honoured. In the past 25 years the fact that over one thousand interns have graduated from this program is testament to its worth. Many of these graduates have gone on to pursue prominent careers in the public and private sectors, reflecting the program’s significant contribution to the Victorian community.

We would like to acknowledge the work of various people central to the program.

Firstly, we thank the university supervisors and parliamentary coordinators who have supported this program since its establishment in 1990. We have seen the program flourish and grow in reputation over this time, due largely to their dedication towards striving for professional excellence in delivering the Victorian Parliamentary Internship Program.

Secondly, we thank the hundreds of Victorian Members of Parliament who have supervised an intern each year. Members have helped to guide their interns through often challenging and politically sensitive areas to complete highly valued research reports which have dealt with significant issues of the day. In some instances, the work of interns has actively guided the development of public policy in Victoria. The program benefits all participants – the Parliament, the universities, interns and the Victorian community.

Thirdly, we wish to thank the current academic supervisors of the internship program, Dr Paul Strangio from Monash University, Dr Lea Campbell from the University of Melbourne and Dr Julie Stephens from Victoria University as well as the parliamentary coordinator, Jon Breukel, from the Parliamentary Library & Information Service. Without their dedication and commitment the program would not exist.

Lastly, our gratitude would also not be complete without thanking the authors who chronicled this important history of our Victorian Parliamentary Internship Program.

Parliament of Victoria, September 2015

Hon. Bruce Atkinson MLC
President of the Legislative Council

Hon. Telmo Languiller MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
INTRODUCTION

A THOUSAND STORIES
This book is a story of success and achievement. It is a story of over one thousand personal achievements. Approximately 1047 parliamentary interns have been through the Victorian Parliamentary Internship Program since it began in 1990 (see Appendix 6). This is the story about a program that has given much joy to students, academics, parliamentary staff and Members of Parliament.

The experience of every intern who has walked through the doors of Parliament House, Spring Street, Melbourne, is a unique story about how the Victorian Parliamentary Internship Program has impacted upon their lives. Friendships have been established, romances have blossomed, careers have developed, policy has been formulated, and laws have been drafted.

This book has grown out of interviews and discussions conducted with interns, academics, parliamentary staff and Members of Parliament, who have all played a significant role, not only in documenting the quarter century of this remarkable program, but also in ensuring its ongoing success. This book is a tribute to them and we thank them for their candour and commitment.

POWER TO THE PEOPLE
In 1989 Professor John Power from the University of Melbourne proposed a pioneering plan, the first of its kind in Australia. He proposed that the Victorian Parliament introduce a new program involving third-year undergraduate students in political science to undertake an internship with Members of the Victorian Parliament.

Drawing from overseas experience, particularly from the United States of America, Power had no hesitation in approaching the President of the Legislative Council and the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly with an ambitious plan to place several Australian students alongside interns from the United States studying politics at the University of Melbourne, with Members of Parliament. This could only enrich their overall political experience. After all, it seemed to work well in the state legislatures that Power had recently visited in America, as well as in the United Kingdom House of Commons and the European Parliament.

Power was a keen advocate of experiential learning and saw an opportunity for the program to stimulate political research and offer real value to Members. The students would benefit by developing research and report writing skills, whilst gaining valuable insights into the political arena. Members would benefit by gaining a research report containing useful information and analysis on matters directly relating to their electorate or policy concerns. Power saw an opportunity to bridge the gap between the university and parliament. From this vision the Victorian Parliamentary Internship Program was born.

Power was the initiator, but several other key individuals played an important role in ensuring that this inaugural parliamentary internship thrived and prospered over the years to emerge as a pre-eminent model for parliamentary internships in Australia.
Now in its 26th year, the Victorian Parliamentary Internship Program has grown from strength to strength, due largely to a small group of dedicated individuals who have held the program together to ensure it remained vibrant and strong. They are the academic supervisors and parliamentary coordinators who have put in many long and hard working hours and, in many cases, years in support of this program. They are the glue which has kept the internship program together: John Power, Philomena Murray, Rosemary Kiss, Bruce Davidson, Brian Costar, John Chesterman, Greg Gardiner, Paul Strangio, Julie Stephens, Lea Campbell and Jon Breukel.

Of course many others have helped along the way. The staff of the Parliamentary Library & Information Service have constantly provided assistance to every intern who has come seeking help in their research. Whether it is a complex set of statistical data to add weight to their research or an obscure media report buried away in the newspaper archives, the Library has delivered on each occasion.

THE STALWARTS

The support of over 230 Members over the past 26 years has also been integral to the success of the program. A handful of Members have hosted over 20 interns during this period. Murray Thompson (current Member for Sandringham) tops the record at 27, followed by Don Nardella (current Member for Melton) with 25, Craig Langdon (former Member for Ivanhoe) with 24 interns and Martin Dixon (current Member for Nepean) with 23. Each Member has been supportive of the program and has clearly seen the benefits to be gained; not only to themselves, but also to the students they have mentored.

Interns have been hosted by former Premiers, Leaders of the Opposition, Presidents, Speakers, Ministers, Treasurers, Shadow Ministers and backbenchers. The current President, Bruce Atkinson, has hosted 13 interns during his term as a Member of the Legislative Council. Similarly, the current Speaker, Telmo Languiller, has hosted 11 interns. Former Premier John Brumby, hosted eight interns during his term as the Member for Broadmeadows.

Many other Members have hosted interns for more than ten years and remain committed to the program, seeing leadership potential in their interns.
The past two and a half decades have seen a stellar line-up of interns who now hold prominent positions in our community. Notably, 1994 Monash intern Daniel Andrews achieved the highest position in state executive government, becoming Premier of Victoria. Three other Monash interns have also been elected to the Victorian Parliament: Alistair Harkness, Philip Dalidakis and Nick Staikos.

Several others have gone on to pursue careers in the public arena. Tim Wilson was appointed Australia’s Human Rights Commissioner in 2014. Andrew Young is the Clerk of the Victorian Legislative Council. 1993 intern Ben Rimmer was appointed CEO for the City of Melbourne in 2015. 2001 intern Samantha Lane has pursued a prominent career as an AFL football journalist for The Age and Channel 7. Rafael Epstein is radio host for the ABC 774 Drive program.

Others have pursued PhDs and higher degrees in academia: Simon Obendorf – Lincoln University in the UK; Terry Macdonald – the University of Melbourne; Nick Dyrenfurth – Monash University; Joanne Wallis – Australian National University; Jasmine-Kim Westendorf – La Trobe University; Laura Stanley (nee Thompson) and Brendan McGloin – Victoria University; and Timothy Szlachetko – University of Oslo.

Luke Raffin (2003 University of Melbourne intern) created a venture philanthropy fund to support indigenous communities and young people in regional areas and was a RG Menzies Scholar to Harvard in 2011. Nick Allardice (2009 Monash intern) is a founder and director of Change.org Australia and co-founder of the Live Below the Line campaign.

Other interns have gone on to pursue careers as lawyers: Kate Bartlett, Roshena Campbell, Danijela Malesevic, Hilary Taylor and James Higgins, to name a few. A number have pursued careers in government, such as Claire Macdonald, Alexandra Horwood and Michael Lemieszek, each currently working in the Victorian Department of Premier and Cabinet. Others have gone to work as advisors in Ministerial offices, such as Claudia Laidlaw and Moshe Same.

There are also many interns who have worked steadily behind the scenes. They are the quiet achievers, who have worked in the not-for-profit and community sectors or in international development. They are not high profile identities, yet they have made just as valuable a contribution to the community through a diverse range of careers and public engagement.
STUDENTS OF SPRING STREET

The students of Spring Street have delivered an excellent body of intellectual work, now housed in bound volumes in the newly established Deakin Gallery in the Victorian Parliamentary Library. Through the stewardship of the academic supervisors and parliamentary coordinators, the program has grown in stature and prestige. Entry to the internship program has always been a highly competitive process and the universities select students from what is increasingly becoming a stronger and more competitive pool of applicants every year.

THE FUTURE

2016 marks a turning point in the maturity of the program with the planned inclusion of two new Victorian universities into the internship program. La Trobe University and Swinburne University will be trialled for inclusion in 2nd semester 2016, bringing the total number of participating universities to five.

We look forward to seeing another thousand interns come through the doors of Parliament over the next 25 years, making the Victorian Parliamentary Internship Program even more vibrant. We thank all the universities for their ongoing support in making the program what it is today.

We conclude this introduction with an apology. This book could tell a thousand different stories, each one unique and each one equally important. But alas, we cannot tell them all. Students of Spring Street is a compilation of just a few of these stories.

This book could tell a thousand different stories, each one unique and each one equally important.

Dr Julie Stephens with Isobel Keecher and Laura Thompson, two of the inaugural Victoria University interns of 2004.
Roshena Campbell’s journey from Monash student to corporate lawyer highlights how the Victorian Parliamentary Internship Program can help interns spring from the lecture theatre to the courtroom, assisting them to achieve highly esteemed positions within the legal industry.

A member of the 2005 cohort, Roshena joined the internship program due to her fascination with both the theoretical and practical aspects of politics. Roshena recalls ‘It allowed me to understand the realities and tensions of political processes which I could never have learnt from textbooks or lectures.’ It was an added bonus that the Parliament ‘was an impressive change of scene from Monash’s Clayton campus.’

A highlight of Roshena’s internship experience was her affiliation with parliamentary supervisor Helen Shardey, the then Member for Caulfield. As Shadow Minister for Community Services, Ms Shardey asked Roshena to investigate the implications of the Children, Youth and Families Bill 2005 and its impact on child protection in the Victorian Children’s Court. As a part of her research, Roshena looked into child protection arrangements, information disclosure, the role of the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal in child protection, access to services and the shift of emphasis from reunification with biological parents to permanent care orders. She also researched best practice in relation to child protection in other jurisdictions.

The program’s most important benefit for Roshena arose from her interactions with a variety of important stakeholders, including Children’s Court lawyers, Victoria Legal Aid and community legal services. She comments: ‘It was incredibly rewarding producing a report that allowed stakeholders who would be affected by the proposed legislation to voice their concerns. A number of the groups I interviewed had strong concerns and extensive experience in the area. The report was a way for those views to be widely disseminated.’

The positive influence Ms Shardey had on Roshena went beyond helping her with her report. Roshena recalls: ‘Helen was always warm and incredibly approachable which made the internship experience particularly rewarding. She found a number of opportunities for me to attend meetings and events with her which was one of the best ways to learn about the practical realities of politics. She took a strong interest in my internship and was very engaged in the subject matter.’

Roshena’s intern report not only impressed Ms Shardey, it also won the 2005 President’s Prize. The strength of her report also led to her position as a Research Assistant with the Parliamentary Library the subsequent year. For Roshena, a position in the Parliamentary Library ‘was a fantastic opportunity to utilise the skills I developed as a student in the program in a professional capacity.’
Her time as an intern helped Roshena make the leap from writing university essays to producing substantive work useful in a professional context. Her work formed the perfect base for subsequent work with clients and the court as a lawyer.

Since her success as an intern, Roshena has leaped from triumph to triumph in the legal arena. After leaving university Roshena began work as a lawyer at Corrs Chambers Westgarth in 2008, and she is now a Senior Associate in the Litigation practice group. Roshena has worked on some of the largest and most significant litigation in Victoria for multinationals, ASX 200 companies and government authorities. She was seconded to the Victorian Bushfire Royal Commission which inquired into the causes of Australia’s worst bushfire disaster in 2009 that killed 173 people. She has also utilised her legal skills as a pro bono lawyer with the Homeless Persons’ Legal Clinic.

Roshena has maintained a keen interest in politics and since completing the program she has worked on political campaigns in Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States. In 2007 Roshena travelled to the United Kingdom to work on developing a campaign strategy for a Conservative candidate in a marginal seat. In 2012 she volunteered as part of the campaign team for a New York Senate candidate in a by-election, primarily working on policy, speech writing and debate preparation. In a nail biting result, her candidate subsequently won the election by fewer than 20 votes.

Roshena has also maintained her interest in academia. In 2010 she completed her Master of Laws at the University of Melbourne, focusing on class actions and breaches of directors’ duties. She has also previously tutored in Corporations Law at Monash University.

Like many former interns, Roshena’s experience demonstrates how the program can assist aspiring students in their quest to achieve success both academically and professionally.
HISTORY OF THE PROGRAM

The Victorian Parliamentary Internship Program is Australia’s longest running Parliamentary internship program, following an internship model that started after the Second World War in Michigan in the United States.

THE INITIAL SPARK

While on a work-related trip to the United States, University of Melbourne Professor John Power jumped at the opportunity to familiarise himself with the Pennsylvania State University (‘Penn State’) internship model. In an intern report compiled by Laura Thompson, she notes that the Penn State internship program, established in the 1950s, was renowned around the world for its experiential learning practice for students.

Power was inspired by the Penn State model’s strong research base, which encouraged students to produce a substantial body of work previously unaccomplished in an undergraduate degree. Prue Monument observed in her history of the program that Power was also impressed by the Penn State model’s ability to facilitate group-learning. Not yet introduced to Australian universities, this model provided a learning experience that was less daunting for students, as it actively encouraged students to reflect and share their learning experiences, or difficulties, together.

Power was also inspired by two notable academics that had previously established internship programs of their own. Henry Albinski, an entrepreneur and a senior academic at the University of Sydney, was head of a unit at Penn State called the Australian and New Zealand Study Centre. In his role, Albinski had helped pioneer a program which established a working relationship between academics from Penn State and the University of Melbourne.

Power was also inspired by Terence Foster, an English entrepreneur, who had established a prestigious program that placed American students in the UK Parliament.

PENDING PARLIAMENT’S APPROVAL

Power approached the Presiding Officers from both parties: the Hon. Alan Hunt, President of the Legislative Council and a member of the Liberal Party, and the Hon. Ken Coghill, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and a member of the Australian Labor Party. The Speaker and President each agreed to support the program.

They were both highly motivated to get the internship going – John Power

On 18 September 1989, a memorandum was sent to Members of the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council outlining the structure and aims of the program. Signed by both Presiding Officers, the letter makes clear the internship program ‘is an adaption of a project which has worked successfully in the British House of Commons for several years as well as in US state legislatures and the European Parliament.’ As highlighted in Prue Monument’s intern report, it was envisaged the Victorian Parliamentary Internship Program would stimulate research in legislative studies, enable the Parliament to access the University of Melbourne’s research and consulting services, and most importantly, bring the two organisations closer together.

Prof. John Power from the University of Melbourne with Prof. Brian Costar from Monash University in 2005
ON THE RECORD

1998 Intern: John Baxter

Intern report: The Princes Highway West: a report assessing the need to & the financial viability of upgrading the Melbourne/Geelong Road.

COUNCIL HANSARD - 2 June 1999


Hon. PAT POWER (Jika Jika) — Like many honourable members in this chamber, I have had the good fortune since I have been here to benefit from the fantastic parliamentary internship program.

Rosemary Kiss and Brian Costar play very important roles in ensuring it continues. The parliamentary librarian, Bruce Davidson, and others in the library have done what they can to make the program successful and the Presiding Officers, the former and current Speaker, along with our President, have also supported it very strongly. I have always taken the opportunity to have a parliamentary intern because the best thing politicians can do is subject themselves to views and opinions, especially from younger people and others outside our often incestuous political networks.

Some of the interns have been of more benefit to me than I have been to them. It is an important experience for them as part of their academic commitment but they have done some fantastic work. I mention that because I want to refer to an internship project that was completed by John Baxter, a parliamentary intern who worked for me in 1998 -- well before any recent announcements. He tapped into a whole range of existing data; he put forward some views about an infrastructure solution for Princes Highway West. What he proposed was consistent with the opposition’s views about Princes Highway West and, I suspect, the preferred outcome for the Kennett government. He said that the federal government should come to the party and provide funds to guarantee that the work would be undertaken in accordance with the standards for a national highway.

IN INVOLVEMENT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY

Parliamentary Librarian Bruce Davidson also played a key role in the successful development of the program. As highlighted by Dr Greg Gardiner and Dr John Chesterman, Davidson made clear his support for Power’s proposal from the beginning and saw it as a great opportunity to bring an element of ‘youthfulness’ to Parliament. From Parliament’s perspective, Davidson was able to bridge the gap between the Presiding Officers and the universities, seeing as the program required an academic approach intertwined with practical application. The program seemed a natural fit for the Library, as it adhered to its education and community relations objectives. As noted by Monument, the internship program helped to ‘improve community perceptions and understanding of Parliament’ by assisting with the expansion of educational services provided by the Library.

THE PROGRAM COMMENCES

From its initial conception, the aims of the Victorian Parliamentary Internship Program have remained steadfast. Firstly, students were to be acquainted with the structures and processes of contemporary state government. Secondly, students were to gather a greater understanding of the nature of parliamentary research and reporting. Thirdly, the program sought to develop reflective and analytic awareness of these structures, processes, and modes of research and reporting.
The program formally commenced at the University of Melbourne in the first semester of 1990. The first cohort was made up of local students as well as some from the United States. Power noted that any apprehensions by Members about the program quickly evaporated after its first intake, through the quality of the work that the interns were able to produce in the space of a semester.

560 students from the University of Melbourne have participated in the program.

**MONASH UNIVERSITY HOPS ON BOARD**

Four years after the internship was established, Monash University joined the Victorian Parliamentary Internship Program.

Discussions to include Monash University in the program began informally around 18 months earlier. Whilst on leave from Monash University’s Department of Political Science in 1992, Professor Brian Costar began work on a book with Professor Mark Considine at the University of Melbourne. While working on the book, Brian Costar occasionally met with the University of Melbourne’s Power.

This connection led to dialogue between Costar and Power, laying the foundation for Monash University’s inclusion in the program.

Power believed that partnering with Monash University would ensure the program’s future. The continuity of the program relied on staffing capacity and Power was planning to retire in the near future. His impending retirement, combined with the significant costs associated with running the program, placed the internship in a vulnerable position.

Consequently, Power and the Parliamentary Librarian Bruce Davidson formally presented Costar with a proposal inviting Monash University to become a partner. Costar was very keen to confirm Monash University’s participation. Not only would the expansion of the program extend its numerous benefits to Monash University, but it would also allow for extra teaching support and a boost in the number of students who could participate, thus maintaining the internship’s viability for years to come.
2007 Intern: Talya Mathews

Intern report: Anaphylaxis management in Australian schools and children’s services.

COUNCIL HANSARD – 7 August 2007

Members Statements – Talya Matthews

Mr EVAN THORNLEY (Southern Metropolitan) — In the first semester of the 2007 university year, as a newly elected member of this Parliament, I was fortunate to host an intern through the Victorian parliamentary internship program for the first time. It is a terrific program. It helps bring fresh ideas and analysis into government, and it gives young people, students, an opportunity to gain real policy experience and to contribute to their community.

Our parliamentary intern, Talya Mathews, conducted research over a six-month period into the important topic of anaphylaxis management. Talya is a bright and capable student, and her final report reflected this. The final product was comprehensive and explored Victorian policy and programs, and provided an analysis compared with other Australian states and territories. Talya’s personal interest in the area was coupled with the government’s 2006 election policy platform, which will provide significant policy changes around anaphylaxis management. Talya’s research reveals that Victoria is a comparative leader in the area of anaphylaxis management, being only the second state in the world to create anaphylaxis legislation.

Her report contained 23 recommendations, including suggestions around the supply of Epipens to all first aid kits in children’s services, including schools. Her report also made suggestions for the rollout of such a program to other states through the Council of Australian Governments. Talya’s hard work was rewarded recently when she became the recipient of the President’s Prize, awarded to the most outstanding Victorian parliamentary internship report. I offer her my congratulations and thanks for the hard work she put in.

Following the formation of the new partnership, Costar was the program’s academic supervisor for Monash University from 1994 to 2003. As noted by Gardiner and Chesterman, Costar’s role in the program was fundamental to its growth from a relatively small operation to the large scale venture it is today. This growth included implementing various improvements to the internship program.

Notably, Costar was responsible for the introduction of syndicate groups. The suggestion came about after he took a train home from an internship seminar mid-semester with a number of interns. Having just completed their work-in-progress seminar presentations, the interns were surprised at the number of students that shared similar topics and experiences. It became clear students would benefit from the opportunity to meet other interns exploring related subjects. Since their introduction, syndicate groups have been hugely successful, with many groups meeting at the ‘Third House of Parliament’ (the pub across the road) after a Friday seminar.

In 2003, Costar left Monash University to take up a professorship at Swinburne University of Technology. Following his departure, the role of academic supervisor was briefly filled by Jim Walter in 2004 and Jennifer Curtin in 2005.

In 2006, Associate Professor Paul Strangio inherited the role of program academic supervisor and continues to hold this position at the time of this book’s publication. Previously, Associate Professor Strangio had collaborated with Costar on a number of projects on Victorian politics, including an edited volume on the Premiers of Victoria.

Over the 21 years since Monash University’s involvement in the Victorian Parliamentary Internship Program, 439 of its students have completed parliamentary internships.
VICTORIA UNIVERSITY MAKES A WINNING TRIFECTA

Building from the successful framework established by Melbourne and Monash universities, the inclusion of Victoria University (‘VU’) has extended the reach of the program to more Members of Parliament, students and the wider community.

Various factors led to VU’s participation in the Victorian Parliamentary Internship Program. Mary Gillett, former Member for Werribee, and Don Nardella, current Member for Melton, were central to VU’s inclusion in the program. As highlighted by Laura Thompson’s intern report, their support sought to provide equality of access for students from the western suburbs.

Strong support also came from Speaker Judy Maddigan and President Monica Gould. The two Presiding Officers similarly felt VU’s participation in the program was important in providing a better representation of the Victorian community.

As a result, some of the program’s key individuals met in late 2003 to bring about the involvement of Victoria University. Senior VU academics Dr Julie Stephens and Dr Russell Wright met with Melbourne and Monash university academic supervisors Dr John Chesterman and Professor Brian Costar, accompanied by parliamentary coordinator Dr Greg Gardiner, to discuss VU’s inclusion. Shortly after the meeting, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed.

VU’s involvement has worked to position the program as an engaging platform for Victoria’s most talented students across a diverse demographic to experience the political process close-up and contribute to producing tangible change.

Since 2004, Parliament has seen 47 of VU’s most ambitious and engaged politics students complete the internship program.
2012 Intern: Claire Wong

Intern report: *Healthy communities: an investigation into how best to implement health services in the Broadmeadows area with specific reference to the proposed Super Clinic and Banksia Gardens Estate.*

**ASSEMBLY HANSARD – 20 June 2012**

**Statements on Reports** – Public Accounts and Estimates Committee: budget estimates 2012–13 (part 1)

Mr FRANK McGUIRE (Broadmeadows) — I wish to place on the record in this contribution the unique challenges that Broadmeadows provides. Ms Claire Wong made a finding on this in her report *Healthy Communities*. It states:

> In the quest to define how best to implement health services in a defined area, research has shown that the social determinants of the population need also to be taken into account.

The report further states:

> This report recommends that the health, and other infrastructural needs of the north, as an area of both increased growth and customary disadvantage be placed on the agenda of all relevant government bodies, departments and levels. As outlined in the Ottawa Charter, ‘Health promotion goes beyond health care. It puts health on the agenda of policy-makers in all sectors and at all levels’. As well as infrastructural growth in general, specific to health care, this report acknowledges the pressing need for the Northern Hospital to be expanded to meet service needs.

This is an insightful and important report, and I would like to congratulate Ms Claire Wong on her hard work and the practical value that this report will provide to the Parliament. She has prepared this report as a member of the Victorian Parliamentary Internship program.

Mr Delahunty – Good program.

Mr McGuire – As the Minister for Sport and Recreation says, it is a good program. I would like to commend Ms Claire Wong on her diligence, and I would also like to commend the program in general. It gives some of our best and brightest real experience in a practical way. That is why I wanted to put on the table before the Parliament what Ms Wong’s research has found.

I now want to connect that research to a key project which would have greatly assisted the Department of Health to meet its key strategic priorities regarding the unique challenges and significant health needs of Melbourne’s north – that is, the Northern Health academic and research precinct...
MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Over the past 26 years, 234 Members of Parliament have hosted an intern as a parliamentary supervisor. The goodwill of Members, combined with the students’ desire to learn about politics, lies at the centre of the program’s success.

The demands of a Member in supervising a university student have remained relatively unchanged since 1990. Gardiner and Chesterman highlighted in their paper that, for Members, their principal role has been to guide their intern on the initial stages and development of the research project, to meet with the intern on a regular basis, and to provide an introduction to parliamentary life.

An example of a Member who helped to steer the growth of the program is Murray Thompson, Legislative Assembly Member for Sandringham. According to Mr Thompson, the program has enabled him to help students ‘gain an insight into the parliamentary political process’. Importantly, however, it provides the opportunity for Mr Thompson to work with ambitious politics students who are capable of preparing sophisticated reports.

Mr Thompson’s approach to setting topics is emblematic of the underlying purpose of the program: ‘I often try to describe and define a project that has good engagement opportunities.’ As a result, the internship affords a ‘strong practical outcome,’ as opposed to an experience built upon only a purely academic focus.

BENEFITS TO MEMBERS

As brought to light by previous research papers analysing the internship program, the opportunity to mentor a young, eager and engaged parliamentary intern presents a multitude of benefits to a parliamentary supervisor.

Reports produced by interns have often provided their Member with the means to better understand their electorates. Reports have also shaped the development of submissions to local and state government agencies and development of party policy.

It can often be difficult for Parliamentarians to find the time and resources to conduct independent research. Consequently, the internship provides a research service to Parliamentarians at no cost other than their time.

Besides an opportunity to get their hands on some great quality work, an intern’s young, fresh eyes can also provide a valuable new perspective on an issue that may have been present for some time. Interns often bring with them experience, insights and expertise that are highly valued by their parliamentary supervisor. The different perspective of a student has been important in challenging public policy options, as well as creating new ones.

Projects that had been left on the shelf for want of resources or initiative were reviewed and completed with fresh perspectives – Don Nardella MP
As highlighted by Melton Electorate Officer Nib De Santis, the internship program has also allowed Don Nardella, Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and Member for Melton, and his staff to develop friendships and bonds with young people across Victoria who they otherwise might not have met.

Former Parliamentary Librarian, Bruce Davidson, has similarly stated that the program ‘has a perfect fit, a synergy, of having students and MPs learning about the democratic processes.’ The internship has granted an opportunity for Parliament to engage with young people who are likely to pursue leadership positions in local, state, federal and international arenas, political or otherwise.

It is important for the Parliament to engage with young people who are likely to take up leadership positions going forward – Bruce Atkinson MLC

Most importantly, the completion of over a thousand research reports has been directly responsible for helping to steer parliamentary debate. As parties in opposition are often short of resources, the interns present a research capacity otherwise unavailable. In addition to providing the Parliament with a fresh perspective, the internship program broadens the scope of its agenda and parliamentary debate.

The internship program also provides opportunities to cultivate an element of youthfulness in the corridors of Parliament and it has been important in maintaining Parliament’s engagement with the broader Victorian community.

As expressed by Mr Thompson, ‘rather than Spring Street being a remote ‘Ivory Tower,’ there is an understanding of government processes and how people can constructively engage. It builds a better-informed citizenship.’

Telmo Languiller MP with his first intern, Rochelle Lade from Monash University, in 2006

Intern Richard Hewett with his MP Murray Thompson at the 2004 graduation ceremony

2009 interns hamming up a mock parliament
From the outset the program has presented a special opportunity for Library staff to help forge the relationship between university students and the Victorian Parliament.

A key consideration for the program’s first Parliamentary Library coordinator, Bruce Davidson, was the opportunity to assist students gain a better understanding of the democratic process. Despite the labour intensive nature of the program, the effort was always worthwhile. He states: ‘students came out the end with a perfect finished product.’

For Greg Gardiner, parliamentary coordinator from 2003 – 2011, the internship program presented a chance to maintain an interest in teaching and academia. The program created an avenue for Gardiner to continue teaching, building from his experience previously supervising postgraduates at Monash University. He comments: ‘I missed having students around who were engaged in interesting projects.’

At times, the internship has presented various challenges for the Parliamentary Library and its staff. For instance, the growth of the program has had to overcome the movement away from a manual system of administrative filing to one that is more technology-friendly. A timely token of respect goes out to Library staff and former interns who contributed to the program’s reports without the assistance of Google.

Another challenge, which current coordinator Jon Breukel can confirm, is the task of recruiting adequate Members from a balance of various political parties, regions and the two chambers to participate in the program each year. The task is often difficult as Members are usually very busy and are also required to have a research topic formulated, or at the very least, an idea of the research subject area for their prospective intern.

Even when enough Members have been confirmed for the semester, the balance between the correct number of Members and students often sways one way or another, rarely sitting perfectly. Due to the pressures of their work, Members have occasionally had to pull out of the program at the last minute. Perhaps the coordinators had the right idea at the start of the internship program, luring Members with the promise of champagne and a celebration in the Library at the end of the semester!

Despite an absence of champagne, there have been semesters where the program has been in high demand and not every interested Member was able to be assigned an intern. In such instances, parliamentary coordinators must display good skills in negotiation and tact and place the often disappointed Member onto the following semester’s waiting list to host an intern.

As mentioned by Greg Gardiner, the opportunity to see interns develop quickly is immensely rewarding. He comments: ‘Most of the time teaching at university you see people develop across three or four years. As the internship program is high pressure and very different, people are thrown out in the deep end with a Member.’

The initial apprehension of students can be physically visible. Greg Gardiner would often notice ‘sometimes at the beginning students do not want to know and some of them find ‘I can’t do this’ and want to leave. Not that they say this, but you can see it on their face.’

The transformation is often impressive. Despite enthusiasm, academic intelligence and organisational skills, interns can sometimes lack experience with the ‘real world.’ From the perspective of the Parliamentary Library, there
2006 Intern: Alexander Sheed-Finck
Intern report: Decline in the Mallee?

ASSEMBLY HANSARD – 8 August 2006
Members Statements – Mallee: research report

Mr RUSSELL SAVAGE (Mildura) — Like many other members of this place I have had access to the assistance of a parliamentary intern. Mr Alexander Sheed-Finck has prepared an excellent Victorian parliamentary internship research report titled Decline in the Mallee? This report looks at the status of Mallee towns such as Patchewollock, Yaapeet, Beulah, Hopetoun, Woomelang and Speed. As members will be aware, these are tough times in the Mallee but the Mallee is not in decline. Mildura is one of the leading growth areas in regional Victoria with growth of 8.7 per cent in the period 1996 to 2001, whereas Yarriambiack shire recorded the most significant decline of any municipality in Victoria.

... This is an excellent and well-researched report. I will quote from the conclusion, which is the most important aspect. It states:

... the Mallee is not in decline.

Governments cannot stop decline in rural areas, but they can certainly slow it down and minimise the disadvantage.

is an opportunity to help students grapple with their initial apprehension and refine their research and writing approach.

Over the course of the semester, given the right support, interns are able to leap over research hurdles and achieve substantial academic and personal victories. The awards ceremony at the end of the internship is a fitting finish to the collaborative efforts between the Parliamentary Library, Members, students and universities.
Andrew Young has maintained a close connection with the Victorian Parliament since his time as an intern in 1990. A member of the first cohort of students to pass through the program, Andrew has used his insights into parliamentary procedure locally, nationally and abroad.

An experience all too familiar to former interns, Andrew juggled the internship whilst working and studying full time. Whilst working for the Victorian Public Service Association (‘VPSA’), by striking a delicate balance, Andrew was able to gather a greater insight into his academic interests in economics and industrial relations.

Assigned to Member for Niddrie Bob Sercombe, Andrew’s intern paper looked into the state of hostels for the elderly at a local and national level. At the time, the issue of hostel facilities had reached a critical level across Australia. Andrew remembers the ‘sheer complexity of wading through three levels of government. I spent most of my time finding out how much I did not know I didn’t know.’

Andrew’s journey also serves as a reminder of how technology has made the writing experience much easier for interns in recent years. The young student not only successfully navigated an inherently complex topic, but also managed to complete his report using a typewriter, as computers simply did not exist in 1990. At times he recalls resorting to drawing dot point chapter summaries where technology could not assist.

In addition to broadening his insight into politics, the internship helped to open up employment opportunities interstate. Andrew used his internship experience in an interview for the position of Senior Research Officer in the Western Australian Public Accounts and Expenditure Review Committee. Andrew recalls: ‘I remember the ALP Member on the interview panel being particularly interested in the internship report and in fact asked for the paper. No doubt the internship helped. It reinforced my practical work experience with the VPSA.’

His work with the Western Australian Parliament took him overseas. As a part of an inquiry into the use of technology by remote health education service providers, Andrew travelled to Alaska, Canada and rural areas of the United States. More recently, he travelled to England in 2012 to complete a two week attachment to Westminster. Working with the UK House of Commons, Andrew was able to witness the political turmoil associated with the UK tabloids hacking issue. The experience also allowed Andrew to see the reaction of the UK Parliament to the allowances scandal, which brought about fundamental changes to the Parliament’s use of social media and public engagement.
Andrew is now the Clerk of the Legislative Council in the Parliament of Victoria. Andrew is one of the principal apolitical advisors to the President and Members on the Council’s rules, practices and procedures. In addition to ensuring that all business conducted in the Chamber conforms to statutory and procedural requirements, Andrew is also responsible for the accuracy of the Minutes of the Proceedings, the official and permanent record of the Council’s decisions and proceedings.

Andrew also oversees staffing, financing and administration of the Department of the Legislative Council. The former intern helps supervise the Department’s various workgroups and makes certain that its activities meet the needs of the President, Members and other parliamentary staff.

Andrew is the Vice-President of the Australia and New Zealand Association of Clerks-at-the-Table. Similar to the objectives of the internship program, this group has a focus on building knowledge of the foundations and principles of parliamentary systems and procedure in Australia.
### PRESIDING OFFICERS

![Presiding Officers](image)

2013 Presiding Officers' Prize winners Grace McCoy and Jake Spain with President Bruce Atkinson

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRESIDENTS</th>
<th>SPEAKERS</th>
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<tr>
<td>1992 – 2003</td>
<td>Hon. Bruce Chamberlain, AM</td>
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<td>2003 – 2006</td>
<td>Hon. Monica Gould</td>
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<td>2006 – 2010</td>
<td>Hon. Robert Smith</td>
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<td>2010 –</td>
<td>Hon. Bruce Atkinson</td>
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<td>1988 – 1992</td>
<td>Hon. Dr Kenneth Coghill</td>
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<td>1996 – 1999</td>
<td>Hon. James Plowman</td>
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<td>1999 – 2003</td>
<td>Hon. Alex Andrianopoulos</td>
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<td>2003 – 2006</td>
<td>Hon. Judy Maddigan</td>
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<td>2006 – 2010</td>
<td>Hon. Jenny Lindell</td>
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<td>2010 – 2014</td>
<td>Hon. Ken Smith</td>
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<td>2014 – 2014</td>
<td>Hon. Christine Fyffe</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014 –</td>
<td>Hon. Telmo Languiller</td>
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The President of the Legislative Council and Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, as Parliament’s Presiding Officers and patrons of the Parliamentary Internship Program, have always been staunch supporters of the program over the past 25 years. They have considered the program as one of the flagship programs of Parliament, facilitating an important relationship with the universities and wider community.

In 1990, upon the program’s commencement, Speaker Ken Coghill together with President Alan Hunt encouraged the program, allowing it to flourish under the adept management of Parliamentary Librarian, Bruce Davidson and its inaugural academic supervisor, Professor John Power.

Bruce Chamberlain became President in 1992, taking a hands-on involvement in the program to ensure that it flourished and grew in stature. Chamberlain held the program in the highest regard for his entire 11 years in office. This was an important vision that influenced subsequent Presiding Officers, who developed a strong mandate to open Parliament to the wider community.
Parliament already had strong relationships with the universities, with Members of Parliament often sitting on university councils.

REPORTS ON THE PROGRAM

Chamberlain commissioned two of his own interns to produce reports analysing the success and effectiveness of the parliamentary internship. In 1999 Kathryn James (Monash University) completed her report, *Where to from here?: a review of the Internship Program and the research reports produced 1994-1998* and again in the same year, Prue Monument (University of Melbourne) wrote, *The Victorian Parliamentary Internship: an effective experiential learning model*.

James’ report provides an excellent assessment of 184 reports written since 1994, when Monash University joined the program, analysing their subject content as well as gaining some valuable feedback from Members about their intern’s reports. Monument’s report highlights the experiential aspects which lie at the heart of the intern program, stating, ‘There are numerous other benefits contained in an internship program that conventional academic study cannot provide – Prue Monument’.

In 2004, a further analysis was undertaken, which offered an evaluation of Victoria University’s entry into the program that same year. Laura Thompson in her report, *Victoria University and the Victorian Parliamentary Internship Program: opportunity, access & equity (2004)*, assessed the viability of Victoria University becoming a long-term participant in the program. After conducting extensive surveys with key stakeholders, including the 2004 interns, Thompson concluded that, due to the enormous benefits to the university and its students, Victoria University should remain in the program.

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COUNCIL HANSARD – 11 December 1997

Business of The House – Christmas felicitations

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. Bruce Chamberlain) -- The parliamentary intern program is another rewarding exercise. Outstanding students are gathered into our midst from Melbourne and Monash universities. They then go out as advocates of our parliamentary system. This year a student who I hope will go back to Japan more aware of our system worked with me. Two years ago I worked with a student from the United States of America who is now working in the White House. It is a tremendous opportunity for Parliament.

Don Nardella MP with 2001 Monash prize winner Aaron Hart and the Hon. Bruce Chamberlain MLC
In 1995 Bruce Chamberlain instituted the President’s Prize, the award for the most outstanding intern report each semester.

James Higgins from Monash University was the first intern to be awarded the President’s Prize in 1995 for his report for John Brumby titled, ‘Decentralisation: proposal for the decentralisation of government agencies to regional Victoria: a report from the Opposition’s Decentralisation Taskforce’. His work fed into Labor party policy and decentralisation of government agencies was implemented by the new Labor government after they took office in 1999. After his internship, Higgins went to work for the Brumby Opposition and later became Director of Legal and Parliamentary Affairs in Premier Bracks’ office. He has since pursued a prominent career as a lawyer and general manager for Slater and Gordon.

In 1996 another bright Monash student, Alistair Harkness, working under Steve Bracks, won the prize for his report, ‘A Study of changes to wages and conditions under the Employee Relations Act 1992’. This marked the beginning of a rich political career. Harkness was elected a Member of Parliament in 2002, after having worked as Steve Bracks’ electorate officer for three years. Harkness went on to host eight interns during his six years as a Member, while also completing his PhD in politics under the supervision of Professor Brian Costar at Monash University.

Costar recalls 2000 as the year of the grandest President’s Prize awarded to date. In late 1999, the Victorian Parliament received a letter from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association requesting two young people associated with the Parliament attend the Commonwealth Millennium Youth Parliament to be held in Manchester in the UK the following year. After some initial confusion in which the letter was interpreted as seeking young Members of Parliament, it was decided that the winners of the President’s Prize would be offered the opportunity to attend. Consequently, Melissa Gaddie from Monash University and Aaron Hart from the University of Melbourne were awarded return flights to Manchester to attend the Millennium Youth Parliament in the replica House of Commons.

In 2005, following a restructure of the parliamentary departments, the President’s Prize became the Presiding Officers’ Prize. Under the leadership of Speaker Judy Maddigan, who hosted 12 interns during her 14 years in Parliament, the intern program continued to flourish as both the President and now the Speaker became joint patrons for the program.
The Presiding Officers’ Prize is awarded at the graduation ceremony, to which all interns and their supervising Member are invited. The interns receive their graduation certificates, signed by both Presiding Officers and handed to each intern personally by either the Speaker or President. The academic supervisors then announce which intern has written the most outstanding report that semester. This decision is based on a careful assessment of all the papers and reached by consensus of all the academic supervisors. The winning report is always extremely well written, with a sound methodology and reasoned arguments to support any recommendations.

Occasionally, the very high standard of reports has prompted the declaration of joint winners, as was the case in 2011 and 2013, where consensus was difficult to reach. In more recent years, excellence has been formally recognised at the graduation ceremony by offering additional honorary mentions to interns who produce high quality reports but do not win the top prize.

Since 1995, the interns listed in Table 1 and Table 2 below have been recognised for their outstanding reports. Some of these interns have subsequently worked as Research Officers in the Parliamentary Library or in parliamentary committees (see Appendix 4). Others have been employed by Members.

Some of these prize winning reports have received media attention. For example, James Corera (2004) wrote his report on the provision of mental health services in Gippsland and was the subject of local media reporting in the Latrobe Valley Express. Another example, also in the mental health area, was that of Jasmine-Kim Westendorf (2005). She examined coronial reports and wrote on the involvement in the mental health system of people who took their own lives. Her conclusions were reported by Kate Legge in The Australian.
Michelle Jennings (2003) undertook a study to recommend a new youth consultation strategy for Victoria for the Hon. Jacinta Allan, Minister for Employment and Youth Affairs and Minister for Educational Services. She assessed the existing youth consultation model and compared this to models in other jurisdictions. She was able to make several recommendations to improve the way Victoria delivers its youth policy frameworks.


Debra Smith (2006) examined the challenging area of mental health and was able to suggest policy shifts and improvements to service delivery for the Monash region in order to reduce social disadvantage. This was particularly useful to her hosting MP Maxine Morand, who had a background in lobbying within the health sector.

Mathew Toner (2008) tackled the controversial area of voluntary euthanasia, delivering an excellent report to clarify the complex moral issues and arguments surrounding this vexed issue. His comparisons of provisions in the Bill with jurisdictions that had legalised voluntary euthanasia was highly valued by his MP Jaala Pulford, who needed to prepare for the important forthcoming debate on the Medical Treatment (Physician Assisted Dying) Bill 2008.

Jonathan Rhall (2009), in his report into cyber bullying, focused on legislative options to prosecute severe cases of cyber harassment and examined a community-based approach to prevent cyber bullying. He recommended that the Victorian Government commission an extensive survey into the prevalence of cyber bullying within the community and also examined prevention and deterrence strategies.

Joshua Knoop (2012) analysed the Victorian Parliamentary procedures surrounding completed Joint Investigatory Committee inquiries and examined their effect on government engagement, transparency and accountability.

In her report, Jedda Bamford (2014) sought to establish a framework to determine whether infant safe surrender was an appropriate policy for Victoria. She examined the concept of safe, lawful infant surrender, the various models existing internationally, and several key arguments around the issue.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>WINNER</th>
<th>TITLE OF REPORT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Semester 1, 2015</td>
<td>Ellie Wyatt, Monash University</td>
<td>Macedon: a range of approaches to youth mental health</td>
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<td>Semester 1, 2014</td>
<td>Jedda Barnford, Monash University</td>
<td>The safety to surrender: an examination of infant safe surrender laws designed to prevent infanticide and unlawful infant abandonment considered for the state of Victoria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester 1, 2013*</td>
<td>Jake Spain, Monash University Grace McCoy, University of Melbourne</td>
<td>The implementation and impact of the BER in Victorian schools</td>
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<td>Fruits of our labour: improving vocational education and training in Victoria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester 1, 2012</td>
<td>Joshua Knoop, Monash University</td>
<td>Considering committees: how parliamentary procedures surrounding completed committee inquiries affect government engagement, transparency and accountability</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester 1, 2011*</td>
<td>Shivaan Bardolia, University of Melbourne Hilary Taylor, Monash University</td>
<td>From a system to a service: an investigation into returning a passenger rail service to Cobram</td>
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<td>Accessing abortion: improving the safety of access to abortion services in Victoria</td>
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<td>Semester 1, 2010</td>
<td>Tania Marcello, Monash University</td>
<td>Amazing as always: an investigation into the impact of the Black Saturday bushfires on tourism in the Yarra Valley</td>
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<td>Semester 2, 2009</td>
<td>Jonathan Rhall, Monash University</td>
<td>Cyber bullying and Victorian youth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester 1, 2009</td>
<td>Jenna Donsky, Monash University</td>
<td>Investing in our youth: youth crime and youth crime prevention in the Knox and Maroondah city council areas</td>
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<td>Semester 2, 2008</td>
<td>Hannah Kotzman, University of Melbourne</td>
<td>How are the animals faring? A report on the strengths, limitations and deficiencies of animal welfare legislation in Victoria</td>
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<td>Semester 1, 2008</td>
<td>Mathew Toner, University of Melbourne</td>
<td>An analysis of the Medical Treatment (Physician Assisted Dying) Bill 2008</td>
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<td>Semester 2, 2007</td>
<td>Tanya Mathews, Monash University</td>
<td>Anaphylaxis management in Australian schools and children’s services</td>
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<td>Semester 1, 2007</td>
<td>Adam Delacorn, University of Melbourne</td>
<td>21st century broadband? Unequal access to the digital world. An investigation into access to broadband in outer metropolitan Victoria and an analysis of policies designed to provide broadband access.</td>
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<td>Semester 2, 2006</td>
<td>Rachel Macreadie, Monash University</td>
<td>Freedom of religion? Victoria’s multiculturalism challenged. An investigation into the reactions towards the establishment of Islamic places of worship in Victoria and an analysis of strategies to encourage interfaith understanding</td>
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<td>Semester 1, 2006</td>
<td>Debra Smith, Monash University</td>
<td>Addressing disadvantage: a review of mental health services in the Monash region</td>
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*Semesters with more than one prize winner indicate co-winners.
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<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>WINNER</th>
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<tr>
<td>Semester 2, 2005</td>
<td>Roshena Dutta, Monash University</td>
<td>The next generation: the implications of the Children, Youth and Families Bill for the Children’s Court of Victoria</td>
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<td>Semester 1, 2005</td>
<td>Jasmine-Kim Westendorf, University of Melbourne</td>
<td>Youth suicide and the mental health services</td>
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<td>Semester 1, 2004</td>
<td>James Corera, Monash University</td>
<td>Mental health snapshot: a review of psychiatric services in the Gippsland region</td>
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<td>Semester 2, 2003</td>
<td>Genevieve Grant, University of Melbourne</td>
<td>Training new Members of Parliament: recommendations for reform and development</td>
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<td>Semester 1, 2003</td>
<td>Michelle Jennings, Monash University</td>
<td>Listening to the future: new strategies for consulting with young people in Victoria</td>
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<td>Semester 2, 2002</td>
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<td>Semester 1, 2002</td>
<td>Kira Clarke, Monash University</td>
<td>Economic development and tourism in Melton Shire and Bacchus Marsh township</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester 2, 2000</td>
<td>Melissa Gaddie, Monash University</td>
<td>Local community forum to help address the drug issue in Frankston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester 1, 2000</td>
<td>Aaron Hart, University of Melbourne</td>
<td>Civic community in the state electorate of Melton</td>
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<td>1999</td>
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<td>1997</td>
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<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Alistair Harkness, Monash University</td>
<td>A study of changes to wages and conditions under the Employee Relations Act 1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>James Higgins, Monash University</td>
<td>Decentralisation: proposal for the decentralisation of government agencies to regional Victoria: a report from the Opposition’s Decentralisation Taskforce</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Documentation is incomplete for 1997-99 and 2001-02, so prize winners for these years are unknown.
Before commencing his Bachelor of Arts at Victoria University in 2005, Jesse Twomey had completed a TAFE course studying fine arts at NMIT in Preston. It was a further four years before Jesse became interested in beginning an undergraduate degree at university.

Although always interested by politics, Jesse’s exposure to state and federal governance had been minimal. However, Jesse’s time as an intern with the Parliament of Victoria quickly changed this.

Jesse recalls why he applied to the Victorian Parliamentary Internship Program: ‘I was still working out what to do next. The internship was a great opportunity to get more of an inside view and better understanding of the workings of Parliament.’

Jesse’s intern report, supervised by the then Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Judy Maddigan, detailed a comparative analysis aimed at alleviating concerns regarding state parliamentary sitting times. Since Jesse’s paper, the Parliament has adopted more ‘family-friendly’ working hours and embarked upon a fatigue management program for all parliamentary staff.

The internship also influenced Jesse’s view of politicians. It acted as a window into the ‘different agendas’ and ‘divisions within the party.’ The overall effect was an impression that pragmatism is at the core of Australian politics.

Through the internship process, Jesse was able to refine the important skills necessary to build a successful career working for both state and federal governments. For instance, Jesse met other likeminded students keen to involve themselves in important public policy formation: ‘Watching the experience of other interns gave a really good insight into how to present your analysis and information to people.’ The internship taught Jesse how to capture people’s ‘interests in a way that will actually influence and give them the information that is critical.’

The chance to build a strong skill set highly relevant to government administration creates exciting career opportunities. Jesse’s time as an intern provided the opportunity to interview Members of Parliament from both sides of the house. This experience led to his employment with Craig Langdon, ALP Member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly and Government Whip.

Since his time as a parliamentary intern, Jesse has also worked with the Department of Climate Change and now works for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in their South-East Asia Aid Program.

The Victorian Parliamentary Internship brought together Jesse’s study with the real world. He remarked: ‘It was really eye opening and nothing else would have provided such a good starting point.’
The internship program has also served as an important platform for students to engage with social justice. 2014 intern and Monash University student Catherine Nadel made a contribution to a legislative issue not previously addressed in Victorian politics as a part of her time with the Parliament of Victoria. Catherine’s report identified and proposed reforms to areas of legislation that discriminate against members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer communities (‘LGBTIQ’) and their families in Victoria. Her report specifically delved into the legal relationships between children and their same-sex parents and the legal recognition of sex and gender.

The most significant lesson Catherine took away from her time as an intern was the importance of involving affected communities in the development of public policy. As a part of her research, Catherine was able to meet with many representatives and activists from a diverse range of organisations and backgrounds to hear about their vision for a more inclusive state. She reflects: ‘This was a very humbling process and one that I think was ultimately still insufficient to constitute meaningful engagement in the political process.’

Like a lot of her peers, Catherine enjoyed meeting other interns. She recalls: ‘In hindsight some of the funniest moments were the days when there weren’t any speakers, and the lectures felt similar to regular politics classes at uni, except that all my classmates and lecturers were wearing suits!’

A major difficulty with writing on a topic that had traditionally divided political parties was finding the right approach. It was important to consider the tone of her research and this served to remind Catherine that the program is not only an academic but also an inherently political process – she notes, ‘a process that I too had become implicated in.’

Catherine’s insight into the issue of legal discrimination against LGBTIQ persons also received media attention. When giving media interviews her Member made several references to Catherine’s report. She explains: ‘It was interesting to see the article shared around on social media, with some people commenting that it didn’t seem right that only an intern was looking into such an important issue. I couldn’t help but agree!’

The final highlight of Catherine’s internship experience occurred after the submission of her report when her Member informed her that he had given her report to the then Premier Dennis Napthine. Catherine’s report provided an opportunity for the voices of marginalised groups to be on the political agenda. This was an exciting realisation for Catherine, who commented: ‘I felt grateful that my supervisor had taken my work seriously enough to show his colleagues.’

Catherine is expecting to graduate from her double degree in 2016. She hopes to pursue her passion for the advancement of human rights and the environment from a legal or community organisation perspective.
Mrs SHARDEY (Caulfield) — I rise to add my support to this condolence motion for the Honourable Bruce Chamberlain, AM. All speakers have recognised his nearly 29 years of service to this Parliament ... He was a man who made an enormous and varied contribution to Victoria as a lawyer, a politician and a fierce defender of this Parliament and the Westminster system of parliamentary democracy ...

Professor Brian Costar, who is professor of Victorian parliamentary democracy at Swinburne University’s Institute for Social Research, expressed to me over the last day or two his enormous admiration for Bruce Chamberlain. In particular he mentioned Bruce’s decade of commitment to and support of the parliamentary internship program. This unique program gives politics students the opportunity to work on specific projects with members of Parliament. I have enjoyed having a number of very talented young people come through my office. They have shown that they have first-class capacities in terms of research skills. I was delighted when an intern who worked in my office won the President’s prize. I would like to recognise Bruce Chamberlain’s enormous support of this program ...
REFLECTIONS AND EXPERIENCES

From the perspectives of Melbourne, Monash and Victoria universities, the Victorian Parliamentary Internship Program has created an important bond between the four institutions.

Notably, the insight into the public policy process created by the internship program allows the three universities to sow the seeds of engagement in public policy and state governance. The program builds on years of theoretical investigation from within the politics classrooms to foster tangible relationships with the Victorian Parliament, politicians and the broader Victorian community.

As well as helping establish a bridge between universities and public policy in a practical way, the universities benefit from the internship by ensuring students bring back with them a renewed academic edge in their future studies. This allows universities to act on their responsibility in helping ensure students can make a meaningful and genuine long-term contribution in the future.

Associate Professor Paul Strangio said the program ‘is also a real benefit for the three universities because it provides a rich experience to a cohort of students, albeit a select group. By affording them with such an invaluable experience it undoubtedly becomes a platform for those students to go on and flourish in their future studies and in their future careers.’ Most commonly, the research reports can be a testing ground for future Honours or Masters theses, as well as providing practical experience for future policy analysis roles.

In addition, former interns are able to assist other students, whether through collaboration or healthy competition, by providing an insight into the knowledge of the public policy process to new academic environments.

Students who participate in the program go back and inevitably share their knowledge with others – Bruce Atkinson MLC

Building from this, the specialised, professional and challenging nature of the program also demonstrates the three universities’ commitment to invest in their students. Despite the growing prevalence of internships in the undergraduate arena, no other internship allows students to work independently with a Member of Parliament whilst writing their own substantial public policy report. Such an internship distinguishes the politics faculties of these universities from other social sciences offerings.
ACADEMIC SUPERVISORS

Over 25 years, the role of academic supervisor of the Victorian Parliamentary Internship Program has been filled by 14 academics from the University of Melbourne, Monash University and Victoria University.

In addition to running the program’s seminars, academic supervisors are responsible for helping steer students through the sometimes overwhelming research and report writing process. From the outset, the supervisors are available for consultation, often helping students narrow or modify their topics and navigate the uncertainty that comes with having to cater to two seemingly separate audiences – the academic supervisor and the Member.

A main drawcard of the internship program is the ability for academic supervisors to work closely with students in a way that is simply not possible in conventional university subjects. The guidance offered by academic supervisors to students, due to the high-pressured nature of the program, helps to create a unique learning experience that varies from previous university settings in a number of fundamental ways.

Notably, the internship presents a chance for academics to work with students in an applied manner. As highlighted by current University of Melbourne Dr John Chesterman speaking at the 2005 graduation ceremony in the Parliamentary Gardens.

Anne Ellison, Bruce Davidson, and the Hon. Bruce Chamberlain MLC at the 1998 Parliamentary Internship Program graduation ceremony.
Melbourne academic Lea Campbell, the program ‘is a lot more complex. You are accompanying the maturation process of the students as much as their time management skills, their work requirements, juggling real research project timelines and preparedness for interviewing.’

At times, there are other challenges that students face, which extend beyond the coursework of the internship program. Dr Campbell highlights that ‘even if it is a tough semester or they are overloading, or their research topic is heart-breaking or very personal, there are all sorts of hurdles and students’ persistence is amazing. That resilience building is something we try to offer to everyone as well as exponential learning curves.’

As a result, the mentor-mentee relationship between academic supervisors and students provides a rewarding opportunity to see students grow academically and personally. These interactions last long after the internship has ended. A highlight for Victoria University academic supervisor Julie Stephens is having students come back at a later date to inform her of how their internship experience was a focal point of discussion in recent job interviews.

"It is incredibly rewarding to see students getting employment in their field – Julie Stephens"

A central theme touched upon by the program’s more senior members is the opportunity the program presents to supervisors to unearth and maintain a genuine passion for teaching.

After completing a PhD and law degree, former University of Melbourne academic John Chesterman looked to the internship program as the perfect opportunity to explore his interest in teaching, noting that the program ‘presented itself as a great opportunity to get involved in a program that placed students in a real-life work setting, with real research utilised in public policy.’

The opportunity to work with a concentrated group of highly talented, committed and hardworking students is an added bonus. Monash academic supervisor Paul Strangio reflects on having 186 Monash students pass through the program under his guidance since assuming the role in 2006.

He said some of those students ‘have stood out for the way in which they have relished being part of the program. Their sheer enthusiasm and vitality made it great to have them involved. Others are memorable for the brilliance of the work they produced. In other cases, it has been how challenging the program was for them but that they managed to overcome that adversity. Then there are the few others who I recall for the way in which they tested boundaries!’

The benefit of participating in the internship also includes working in the field of Victorian state politics. Paul Strangio recalls: ‘I was keenly interested in Victorian politics and political history. The internship was complementary to the unit I was teaching on Victorian state politics. That subject and the internship fitted ‘hand in glove’.

The enthusiasm for Australian politics demonstrated by the program’s academic supervisors has had a lasting effect on many students. For instance, former Victoria University intern Trent Brickle remembers Associate Professor Strangio’s political history seminar: ‘I had never been exposed to anyone who loves politics that much. Just hearing him talk about it with such passion was quite entertaining.’

The program also presents a rare instance of inter-university collegiality which extends beyond academic staff to include interns. Besides an opportunity to spend more time with academics from other universities, the program provides a valuable opportunity for students and staff to work and grow together.

Victoria University Associate Professor Julie Stephens recalls ‘in previous years I have had students from Melbourne and Monash email me and I have provided them with academic references or helped them clarify certain issues.’ Consequently, the work of the academic supervisors in the program has helped to develop a cohort of interns, and not just a cohort of students from separate universities.

"It is a very collegial atmosphere and has been from the start – Lea Campbell"

STUDENTS OF SPRING STREET
Amongst all the benefits the internship presents to academic supervisors, there exists a fair share of challenges. An uncomfortable process faced by supervisors each year is the difficulty that comes with selecting students for the program. Inevitably, a considerable number of students miss out on the internship each year due to the nature of its highly competitive entry.

Guiding students through the writing process can also prove challenging due to the diverse range of writing styles students bring with them. At one end of the spectrum, supervisors must step in at times to help contain the over-zealous aspiring academic who has perhaps committed to one too many interviews, or sought to tackle a topic better suited to a PhD. Conversely, supervisors are sometimes required to help ease the sharp introduction to the world of public policy report writing, an often unfamiliar task for many students.

Despite whatever challenges the program presents for academic supervisors, the benefits of the program, including the opportunity to help guide some of Victoria’s most engaged political science students, far outweigh those of other university subjects.

2014 interns holding their bound reports in the Deakin Gallery
THE INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

During the last 25 years, over one thousand parliamentary interns have completed the Victorian Parliamentary Internship Program. Since its inception, students from a range of university programs have been drawn to the internship program; the program being a unique and valuable addition to any academic transcript. What the program delivers however, goes beyond the marks received upon graduating.

In contrast to traditional teaching methods, the design of the internship program is concentrated on the student experience. It emphasises the process of learning, and allows students to initiate, create, and shape their journey. As a result, no one student’s journey is the same, with an extremely diverse set of experiences occurring over the 25 years of the program. From the perspective of a former intern, this section sets out to explore the hard work, celebrations and tribulations that lie at the heart of the program.

The following section builds from academic papers completed by John Power, Dr Craig McInnis, Dr Greg Gardiner and Dr John Chesterman. It also uses previous intern reports completed by Katrina Gorjanicyn, Kathryn James, Prue Monument and Laura Thompson.

LET THE GAMES BEGIN

Gathered at the top of Spring Street’s Parliamentary steps is a huddle of well-dressed, but wide-eyed students. Strategically armed with their smart suits, and a bundle of nerves, students hover waiting for permission to enter the sturdy wooden doors above them. At this point, students are not sure what to expect; in excited murmurs, they discuss their ideas on the steps, half-hopeful, half-hesitant. The first seminar will clear up many unanswered questions, but until then the students are left wondering.

Former Victoria University (‘VU’) intern Kate Bartlett remembers ‘I could not wait to get started. I was so excited! Initially I was a little bit nervous in terms of wondering how I would measure up to other interns.’

Another former VU intern, Trent Brickle, recalls his first day vividly: ‘I was all suited up on the tram, coming up to Parliament House. It was my first time inside. I remember walking up the front steps. It was quite daunting going through security and finding my way to the Federation Room. I was definitely nervous and excited on the first day.’

Once students are through the initial security checks, and university introductions, they are allocated to a Member. This can be an additional source of uneasiness for students, with many students fretting over whom they may be assigned, and what topics they will need to address. Adam Delacorn recalls ‘there was a degree of anxiety over which MP we would be assigned to and this was a big discussion point amongst the interns during the coffee break.’
The preliminary nervousness that an intern experiences, is quickly replaced with pure exhilaration at the first sight of morning tea – an array of scones, tea, coffee, chocolate biscuits, tarts, cake, hot cross buns and fruit. Any lingering doubt an intern may have had washes away. Students may now feel that their decision to join the internship program was sound.

Unbeknownst to the students, they are also treated to a star-studded panel of speakers on the first day. Speakers provide students with advice for getting the most out of their time during the program, however they also provide invaluable insight into the ‘nitty gritty’ of state politics and the contemporary media cycle. Previous media panel members have included Jon Faine (774 ABC), Frances Bell (ABC TV), Paul Austin (The Age), Josh Gordon (The Age), Farrah Tomazin (Sunday Age), Margaret Simons (academic, University of Melbourne) and James Campbell (Herald Sun).

Presentations by former premiers have also been a traditional highlight of the first day. For many years this has been done by the Hon. John Cain, who has faithfully supported the program for as long as it has been running. In more recent years the Hon. John Brumby and the Hon. Ted Baillieu have presented.

There have also been many Members present at the first day. To name just a few: Daniel Andrews, Michael O’Brien, Greg Barber, Clem Newton-Brown, Sue Pennicuik, Colleen Hartland, Andrea Coote, Frank McGuire and Fiona Patten.

After covering the procedural and academic requirements of the program, the academic supervisors give a tour of the parliamentary building. Steeped in history and home to Australia’s first federal parliament, interns are taken through the Legislative Assembly and Council chambers and visit Queens Hall. In 2015, the interns were given a rare treat, as former Premier Ted Baillieu, an architect in his previous life, took them on a guided tour through Parliament House to have its architectural qualities revealed in great detail, much to each intern’s delight. Later during the semester, students are taken on a pilgrimage to Peter Corlett’s statues of Victoria’s longest serving premiers located in the forecourt of 1 Treasury Place.

The introductory session is the first of seven Friday seminars. In a setting more grand than students are accustomed to, the seminars introduce students to the intricacies of parliamentary procedure. During the semester, students hear from a range of people connected to the inner workings of Parliament and the broader political scene. This includes current Members, committee staff, Clerks of the Parliament, former interns and parliamentary officers. The academic supervisors conduct their own lectures on the report writing process, research ethics and Victorian political history. Students also have the opportunity to give presentations on their own work, with two seminars dedicated to work-in-progress lectures. This sees students report their research problems and findings to their peers, to be checked, challenged, and applauded.

Helen Shardey MP with her intern Jasmine-Kim Westendorf from the University of Melbourne (winner of the Presiding Officers’ Prize) and Herald Sun journalist, James Campbell
After managing a nightclub for four years, Adam Delacorn headed to the University of Melbourne in search of new career opportunities. Adam settled in quickly despite the initial apprehension that accompanied the unfamiliar lifestyle of an impoverished university student. The trade-off between cocktails for cups of tea was worth it once he realised politics and philosophy were his true calling.

Adam completed the internship program in 2007 as a part of his Bachelor of Arts at the University of Melbourne. After receiving the Dwight Memorial Final Assessment Award for the highest ranking Honours thesis in Political Science, Adam went on to complete a diploma in Mandarin before a Juris Doctor at Monash Law School.

A large pull of the program for Adam was the opportunity to ‘have some academic freedom from the usual 2000 word restriction, and to have a long timeframe for in-depth research.’ The ability to interact with other interns and internship coordinators, whilst learning about the history of the Victorian Parliament, were also an attractive component of the internship.

Assigned to Member for Yan Yean Danielle Green, Adam set out to investigate the availability of broadband services in metropolitan Victoria. His report included a comparative analysis of policies designed to provide broadband access.

Adam’s research methodology was extremely complex. He reflects: ‘I used Telstra data showing the location of terminal points and mapped them out using a mapping tool. I then cross checked these by driving all over the electorate to make sure my map was correct. I then used test data reports showing signal strength from the terminal, both for ADSL connections and from wireless connections. This enabled me to create a map showing the levels of access people in the electorate could expect compared to the theoretical maximum.’

His elaborate approach did not end there. To back up the quantitative data he interviewed people from his Member’s electorate of Yan Yean. The interviews helped him turn the report from a potentially dry analysis of a highly technical issue into something more meaningful.

Surprisingly, the interviews, and not the interpretation of technological data, proved to be the biggest challenge for Adam. He recalls: ‘It was something I had not done before and I was not really prepared. Danielle gave me a few names of people to contact and those people referred me to a few more.’

Adam clearly had a knack for striking the right balance between qualitative and quantitative analysis. He won the President’s Prize for his report.
In addition to an introduction to the complex nature of public policy, Adam was able to witness firsthand the daily routine of his parliamentary supervisor. As a part of their political partnership, Adam and Ms Green went to political events, including a BBQ at the local fire station. Adam also fondly recalls having lunch at Parliament on more than one occasion, commenting, ‘Danielle always paid for lunch, which as a struggling university student I really appreciated.’

Following his time as an intern, Adam worked as a Research Officer in what is now known as the Research & Inquiries team at the Parliamentary Library. Helping to write over 25 research briefs during his five years with the Parliament of Victoria, Adam then made the change to the Victorian Law Reform Commission as a research and executive associate to the Hon. Philip Cummins.

Having hung up the harness after years of rock climbing, Adam now resides in Oslo with his wife whom he met sky-diving in Arizona. Adam currently works in the Norwegian gas and oil sector as a Contract Manager. The scope of his work involves managing the commercial and legal side of his employer’s projects, which are mostly pump and compressor installations on gas and oil platforms in the North Sea.
SIGN ON THE DOTTED LINE...

In the formative stage of the internship, students and their parliamentary supervisor come together to sign the ‘contract’. Gorjanicyn, Gardiner and Chesterman have previously noted that the contract sets out the nature and aims of the research to be conducted, in addition to the expectations and responsibilities of the student, academic supervisor and Member of Parliament. In addition to allowing interns enough time to analyse various issues they may explore, the contract also provides an opportunity for interns to ask their parliamentary supervisor precisely what is expected of them before they immerse themselves in research.

Intended as a way for students to express their research intent formally, the contract is more flexible than it first appears. In most instances, students substantially shift their focus and approach as the research develops. This is due to the ease with which many underestimate the constraints of research. It is far too easy to mischaracterise the underlying issues that accompany the complex and highly specific nature of public policy research. A sigh of relief can be heard echoing around the halls of Spring Street when students learn that the contract resembles only a loose guideline, as opposed to a legally binding document.

WORKLOAD

At first glance, spending only a few hours every odd week in Parliament seems a dream compared to attending regular university classes. The absence of formal lectures or marked tutorial participation is a particularly strong drawcard for the program. However, Gorjanicyn has noted that interns are quick to learn that a lack of contact hours does not lessen one’s workload.

During the program, students spend on average one to two days a week researching their report and assisting their Member with any additional assigned tasks. Whilst there is often some leeway with the internship’s time commitment during the semester, research demands usually increase closer to the report’s deadline. Legendary tales passed from cohort to cohort detail dramatic all-nighters and sprints up Parliament’s front steps to the Parliamentary Library’s Reference Desk for the midday deadline. Irrespective of whether a student’s workload is spread out consistently throughout the semester, or takes the form of a tight finish, students regularly report that the internship program has demanded the most of any undergraduate unit. Accordingly, the program is worth the credit points of two university subjects.
Another unfamiliar experience for a parliamentary intern includes having discretion over the boundaries of their internship report. It is common for Members to propose an area of study for their intern to explore themselves. This choice is sometimes the hardest part of an intern’s journey, as it is undoubtedly daunting to select, from the vast policy programs, a single topic to explore. More than that though, even with a policy area selected, students must struggle in attempting to decide what exactly needs to be researched.

Some students take their own suggested topics to their first meeting with their Member, in the hope of agreeing to an area of interest for both of them. Whichever category a student falls into, the internship program provides an unconventional opportunity for an intern to partake in all stages of the research process.

Former intern Adam Delacorn, assigned to Member Danielle Green in 2007, recalls the story of how he arrived at his report topic:

This is actually a funny memory for me. I spent two weeks in a frenzy researching different topics relevant to the electorate of Yan Yean. I wanted to be an ‘expert’ on all of these topics before pitching any ideas to Danielle for approval. I eventually had a short list of ten topics, each with a one-page summary of the research plan.

With my detailed proposals ready I arranged to meet Danielle at Parliament for lunch. On the way to Parliament I read an article in the paper about broadband access in Australia, so I scribbled an idea on the back of my last proposal about broadband access.

As Danielle and I waited for lunch to arrive I ran through my proposals. Each one was shot down without mercy. Either it had already been done to death, uninteresting, not relevant or problematic. Having...
exhausted all of my proposals I clutched at my last straw: broadband access. Luckily, this one was a winner.

Danielle had received several complaints from members of her electorate on broadband access, and it was a topic with high relevance at that time. I am forever grateful that Danielle had such a high awareness of the issues in her electorate, and therefore what would be a good research topic.

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RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

As highlighted in the research conducted by Gardiner and Chesterman and Gorjanicyn, the internship program demands a diverse skill-set from students in the pursuit of high-quality research. Students are challenged by undertaking a range of research approaches including: analysing and interpreting legislation, assimilating a wide body of reports, undertaking small-scale qualitative surveys and assessing and interpreting results, including data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Students may also meet and discuss electorate issues with key stakeholders; create graphs, tables or maps to help explain their research findings; undertake a historical survey of a community group or institution; track and evaluate international policy developments; or inspect local sites.

Other means of gathering research useful for the intern report include spending hours trawling through the Parliamentary Hansard and previous intern reports; designing questionnaires; and making phone calls.

Gardiner and Chesterman commented: 'Many students take on tasks and methodology with which they were previously unfamiliar, and in general, the “real world” nature of internship research provides students with a level of challenge that they are unaccustomed to. Students regularly reflect that this part of the internship provided considerable “pain” in the process, but an enormous amount of satisfaction upon completion.'

One of the most common research methods used by interns includes conducting interviews with key stakeholders, which can be instrumental to comprehending the complexities of their research issue. Anyone who has attempted to conduct an interview before will understand the agonising process interns must take. Students regularly empathise with each other about how uncomfortable their first interview was. However, it is not too long before students feel comfortable asking strangers complex questions and develop a natural feel for the skill.

As highlighted by Gorjanicyn, students commonly report back to their peers their interviewees’ varied attitudes. In some instances, there are ‘eager beavers’ who perceive the intern’s research as beneficial to their organisation and an opportunity to help add momentum to finding a policy solution. On the other hand, interns have reported back to the group of encounters with the ‘get out of my face’ types who want to send the young intern home packing as soon as possible. Whether appreciated or pushed away, the ability to interview important individuals and organisations provides an invaluable opportunity to refine interpersonal skills useful in any work setting.

SYNDICATE GROUPS

Since their introduction in 2003, students have been allocated to syndicate groups based on the characterisation of their research topic. The 2015 syndicate groups included the following areas: strategy, industry, needs, transport, environment and social policy. The groups provide further occasion for students to connect with like-minded individuals from other universities, strengthening the cohesion of the cohort.
ON THE RECORD

2005 Intern: Caitlin McLean
Intern report: Driver Education, Minimum Driving Hours and Further Driving Restrictions.

ASSEMBLY HANSARD – 17 November 2005
Second Reading – Road Safety and Other Acts (Vehicle Impoundment and Other Amendments) Bill 2005

Dr Denis Napthine (South-West Coast) — The second-reading speech also alludes to the whole issue of improving driver safety among young drivers. I refer particularly to a report prepared for me titled Driver Education, Minimum Driving Hours and Further Driving Restrictions by Caitlin McLean who did an internship with me. She did an excellent paper on this whole issue, a copy of which I have provided to the member for Geelong, as head of the Road Safety Committee, and to the parliamentary library. I will quote some passages out of the report which I believe provide other steps forward for improving driver education, driver training and driver safety for young drivers. The background is that:

In 2002, 30.5 per cent of driver deaths were under the age of 25, in spite of the fact that they only hold 13 per cent of all licences.

Indeed the report states:

The most dangerous thing most teenagers will ever do is drive or ride as a passenger with a teen driver. The leading cause of death among young people in motorised countries worldwide is vehicle-related crashes. The main causes of young driver crashes relate to their own driving errors and inexperience.

In the report she lists several reasons why young people have higher crash rates, stating that they are inexperienced; they do not recognise or adequately assess risk; they are overconfident and overestimate their own driving ability; their cognitive and perceptual skills and other competencies needed for driving are not sufficiently developed; they are less adept at anticipating, perceiving, identifying and therefore reacting to hazards; they drive under more dangerous conditions, with more night-time driving and social driving with passenger distractions; they take more intentional or unintentional risks, such as driving at high speeds, aggressive driving, close following distances and indeed hoon behaviour.

In her paper Caitlin presents a number of suggestions about how to improve the behaviour of young drivers. One of those is more effective driver education... I would urge the government to take up the issue of compulsory driver education... I would urge the government to take up the issue of minimum learner driving experience.

Dr John Chesterman recalls during his time as academic supervisor ‘one group met for years after the program finished. The idea was for students to meet across universities who had similar policy interests. This allowed them to share resources. It was also a support group; to provide a sympathetic ear for when a Member’s expectations were too strong.’

In some instances though, where the syndicate groups issues are fairly broad, meeting so commonly is not always necessary. Considering the inherently nuanced nature of politics and the difficulty that comes with delving into a highly specific issue, some individuals choose to approach their intern report independently.
(NO) TIME FOR REFLECTION

Reflective essays were introduced to mediate any discrepancies between a Member’s expectations and the intern’s capabilities. Former academic supervisor Brian Costar states that although the reflective essays ‘may seem twee,’ they allow interns to confide in their academic supervisor in situations where a Member may be ‘barking up the wrong tree’.

There have been instances in the intern program where a student has submitted two internship reports, as Members have requested reports unsuitable for academic submission. As noted by Costar, sometimes an intern has no choice but to give a Member what they want and the universities what they actually need.

The reflective essay also gives students an opportunity to consolidate their learning experience and provide an evaluation of the program. Students are encouraged to adopt a more creative and relaxed approach whilst writing the essay. Costar remembers one ‘cheeky bugger’ who submitted a reflective essay written entirely in iambic pentameter.

One ‘cheeky bugger’ submitted a reflective essay written entirely in iambic pentameter - Brian Costar

In reality, most students are too busy writing to even think about finding time to relax. It is not uncommon for interns to confide in each other that they wrote the reflective essay in a panic the morning that the research paper was due. A common suggestion made by interns to improve the program for the future is the abolition of the reflective essays.

Current academic supervisor Lea Campbell recalls a very relatable confession made in a student’s reflective essay: ‘I remember once a student revealing “I am writing this at the last minute of the last minute and I am eating chocolate trying to get this done”.’ This experience is one shared by many, with perhaps some staff being guilty of the same chocolate-related crimes.

Despite completing the reflective essay only moments before the deadline, the essay still serves a useful purpose for the intern; the essay encourages aspiring professionals to be reflective practitioners in both academic and professional pursuits.

In his time as an academic supervisor, Dr John Chesterman identified one common theme that appeared in reflective essays from year to year: ‘A lack of initial confidence. It was often surprising because the interns appear as these bright young students with a lot of confidence; looking like they own the world. They all write they are shaking in their boots, standing at the steps outside the front of Parliament, and then entering into the Federation Room. Daunted, despite appearances.’

THE AGONY AND THE ECSTASY

At the outset of the program the challenges that face students are vast, intimidating and usually completely unfamiliar, but the agony is worthwhile. Not only are students able to build their resilience and refine the value of learning, they gather enhanced insight into the realities of what they are studying. A clearer sense of purpose and a fresh perspective, in regard to their academic interests, career and personal direction, can be reassuring.

At the end of their internship, students walk away knowing they have not only grappled with, but mastered, an inherently complex issue.

Suddenly students realise the relevance of what they are studying – Lea Campbell
The disjuncture between academic theory and applied research is yet another issue students must learn to cope with. This problem takes shape in many forms. For instance, students must overcome the intimidating task of pursuing academic research independently, free from the support found from a reading guide or textbook.

Academic supervisor Paul Strangio explains: ‘The program is unlike anything else they have done during their undergraduate studies. There’s a focus on independence, since they have a hand in framing the topic and go about undertaking research that is relevant to their topic. They have to go out and identify what the appropriate resources are. There is no pre-existing standard sources list with which they are provided. They have to talk to stakeholders. They have to liaise with their MP and keep them happy. There are a whole lot of things to balance and no other experience in their undergraduate career provides them with such a taste of what it can be like in the workplace.’

Prof. Brian Costar, Rosemary Kiss and Bruce Davidson with interns from 1995
The numerous barriers to research can also prove difficult for interns to conquer. The path to strong research results can be twisted, unclear and contain many dead-ends. However, this experience, despite all its angst and frustration, is critical in refining an intern’s ability to distinguish between sources of information relevant to public policy debate.

Academic supervisor Julie Stephens identifies the challenge faced by almost all interns: ‘How to find ways of still doing a good job even though things may not pan out as you expected them to. It is real world research – things do not always go to plan. It is not research on a plate. Interns have less control over the project and they have to find another way.’

As stated by the internship program’s most senior statesman, Professor John Power, the change of scenery from the political science tutorial rooms to the corridors of Parliament represents a shift from ‘knowing what’ to ‘knowing how.’ It provides students, who have relatively diffused goals, motives and experiences, the opportunity to experience teaching in a vocational environment, one they may not have experienced before.

Power further highlights that the knowledge required during the internship is not confined to political science. New competencies are required with which the interns are unfamiliar and for which universities have not traditionally taken responsibility. Skills in time management, self-motivation, interpersonal communication, and stakeholder management are key to successfully completing the program, but are not skills universities explicitly teach. Interns are challenged to acquire and develop these skills along the way.

MANAGING EXPECTATIONS

Another challenge encountered by the intern cohort each year is juggling the expectations of everyone invested in the report. This pressure can take a variety of forms.

For instance, students are frequently given an extremely narrow or niche topic in an area they know nothing about. Examples of more abstract topics from the 2015 cohort include exploring the development of a state infrastructure investment bank and an assessment of the scope for, and effectiveness of, randomised controlled trials in social policy areas. Where students are given an unfamiliar area to pursue, a window of opportunity opens for the individual student to become an expert in that area, and perhaps one of the most knowledgeable individuals in Victoria on the topic. But in doing so, students must balance the expectations of key stakeholders, their Member, and their university.

Balancing the interests of so many, and powerful stakeholders, can be difficult for a young and inexperienced intern. Throughout the internship students are required to be conscious of the expectations of their Member. One of the recurring questions and worries interns have is how they are meant to respond to and balance the political imperatives that frame the report. The intern must strike a fine middle line to ensure their report maintains integrity in their research. In the few occasions where there is a clash, interns must learn to adapt themselves to political viewpoints they do not share, which can be challenging but also a valuable learning experience.

One former intern’s reflective essay, referred to by Gorjanicyn, aptly captures the difficulty: ‘I was concerned about the fact that my project had to satisfy two different assessors. On the one hand, I was trying to fulfil the academic requirements that my academic supervisor expected. On the other hand, I was trying to satisfy my parliamentary supervisor’s wish for a plain, succinct writing style. I also felt under pressure to write a project that would be sensitive to the opinions of all the co-ordinators and public servants with whom I had had contact. I was conscious that ten different people were anxious to read my work.’
Elizabeth Molan completed the internship program in 2008 during her final year of studying a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Commerce at Monash University. She applied to the program because it appealed to her as an opportunity to ‘bring to life’ the theory she encountered as a part of her major subject streams - political science and economics.

For Elizabeth, the internship was a wonderful opportunity to experience the exciting world of government and public policy. She comments: ‘It was wonderful to meet other students and experience the mini-thesis write-up process together. We discussed our projects, shared our difficulties and celebrated our ‘wins.’

The internship experience sparked Elizabeth’s interest in pursuing graduate employment in the Victorian Public Service. Building from her time as an intern, she applied for the Victorian Public Service Graduate Recruitment and Development Scheme and was accepted into the 2009 Department of Treasury and Finance program as a graduate economist. After completing the program, she accepted a position in the Victorian Competition and Efficiency Commission where her primary role was to assist with assessment of regulatory impact statements, and business impact assessments.

Although she thoroughly enjoyed her time in the public service, Elizabeth ultimately decided to study a Masters of Teaching at the University of Melbourne. In 2012 she began her career in education, teaching at Lowther Hall Anglican Grammar School. Teaching Business Management, Legal Studies, History and English to secondary school students was vastly different to Elizabeth’s work in the public service, as she discovered that it ‘has its own unique challenges and many rewards.’

In the same year, Elizabeth married Nick Pucius, another former intern. In November 2014 they welcomed their first child, Alexander.

After the internship program, Nick started a career in banking at the NAB. Nick recently accepted a role in New York as an Associate Director in Specialised Finance. The three are moving to live there in September.

As well as helping the two find each other, the program helped Elizabeth and Nick to develop the skills and experience necessary to pursue their chosen career paths. Elizabeth recalls: ‘We also met some wonderful people, developed friendships and just had fun!’
TIME (MIS)MANAGEMENT

Time management is a classic source of trouble for students each year. Electorate Officer Nib De Santis has seen it happen all too many times: “You warn the students at the start they need to be really careful with the time. What I have learned with the projects is at the very end they go into a panic and then they have to have the reports in at a certain time. One of the big problems is converting it all and putting it all on disk. Then we go through the paper to ensure we have got all the little typos and errors; the pages and numbers are in the right place. The last bit is a lot of pressure.” But, there is light at the end of the long tunnel – ‘after they have been through it, it is okay. Students have to jump off the cliff to experience the exhilaration.’

Trent Brickle was one intern to learn the hard way: ‘I didn’t plan it well enough and had to pull an all-nighter. I remember sitting down at 1pm the day before it was due thinking “whoa, I’ve got a bit of work to do on this.” I remember getting to 10pm that night thinking “I’m not even close” and working right through to 10am the next morning. I got it done. Printed it out. Got the tram into the city. Handed it in. I went down and had a couple of beers and went home afterwards straight to bed.’

POLITICS? THANKS BUT NO THANKS.

For most interns, the program is often referred to as the highlight of their undergraduate degree. Despite this, not every student has enjoyed their time with Parliament. In some instances, students have been rather unimpressed with what they learnt about Victoria’s democratic process. Gorjanicyn’s paper revealed some frank assessments of the internship.

One student, reflecting upon their experiences early on in the program’s history, commented: ‘One comes away from the internship with a good idea of how Parliament is, in theory supposed to work. What you actually encounter however, is very different and can almost be classified a circus; anything but an organised assembly of responsible representatives.’

Some students used the internship program to discover that politics was not a career choice they would be making: ‘I was surprised during the first session I witnessed in the Legislative Assembly by the fights and the speaking out of turn and the petty arguments that were constantly occurring. It was a shock to find out how trivial most of the proceedings are, and that Members usually stay, only for the bits specifically relevant to them, or when they are summoned by those heavenly bells that ring every now and then.’

Whether good or bad, an intern’s experience has often been a crucial process of discovery, often inspiring future political aspirations, or extinguishing them once and for all. One student reflects: ‘At first I thought I wanted to be a politician. The internship changed my mind. All of the running around, committee meetings, party meetings, constituent meetings, and student intern meetings, not to mention question time, and other parliamentary duties, are likely to induce an early death.’

At first I thought I wanted to be a politician. The internship changed my mind.

Although it is inevitable the odd intern will walk away from their time in Parliament frustrated with the bureaucratic nature of public policy, there is still one clear benefit – they now know what they definitely do not want to do. As a result, the internship provides an opportunity for interns to redefine themselves and their further direction. For instance, Julie Stephens recalls one student who was able to re-evaluate their career path, unearthing a passion for civil society organisations.

The formative years of an undergraduate degree are the perfect opportunity to distil a student’s academic and professional interests. So in this framework, the internship experience sits well.
BUT A MULTITUDE OF BENEFITS
The internship experience brings with it an array of benefits for each student. Not only does each individual produce their own report, students have the opportunity to take away differing insights into the public policy and parliamentary process.

New found respect for their Member of Parliament
Students regularly express surprise at the sheer workload undertaken by Members. Interns are expected to visit their Member’s electorate office, and are encouraged to spend as much time as is practicable getting to know their Member and their electorate. Students are also invited to come into Parliament House to view the proceedings of debate and witness firsthand how their Members operate in the Chamber. Outside of Parliament many students garner, through their Members, a real insight into constituency work, and an understanding of how a Member’s role is performed.

Gardiner and Chesterman noted that students often express an enhanced understanding of the role of the Parliamentarian upon completion of the internship program, including a renewed appreciation for the role each Member plays within the community.

Students also see first-hand the relationship-management component of a Member’s skill-set. Students learn how Members are able to negotiate with members of their constituency, their party and opposing Members. In many instances, the internship improves students’ opinions of politicians and politics, making them less cynical and disenchanted with the process. Seeing them in person makes it clear that they are genuinely good people that work to improve the lives of Victorians.

People say things about how lazy MPs are. Students can respond by saying ‘Well, no they work bloody hard’ – Bruce Davidson

State politics
The internship program also gives students a greater understanding of the size of government administration and the number of people that make up the Victorian public service. Power noted that students learn about the functioning of the Victorian Parliament through the application of theoretical insights and academic knowledge to first-hand experience in state politics.

The utility of the internship program is further enhanced, as it is one of the few remaining avenues that exist for students to pursue an academic interest in state-based politics. As stated by academic supervisor Paul Strangio: ‘we can underestimate the continuing importance and relevance of our state polities. What is easy to overlook in the era of internationalisation, and this includes students, is that it is our backyards where we can exert the most influence. Victoria has a population growing towards five million, which makes it a substantial and significant polity.’

Genevieve Skruzny captures a common intern experience
Jasmine was matched as an intern to Shadow Minister for Community Services, Helen Shardey in 2005. At the time, a number of youth suicides were attracting media attention. It was the opinion of Jasmine that Ms. Shardey was interested in linking such cases directly to government responses to mental illness.

Jasmine’s report identified the connections between the mental health services (‘MHS’) in Victoria and suicides of people aged 30 years and under. From this, the report sought to determine the extent to which these suicide victims had interacted with the MHS before their death, and whether any inadequacies led to a failure to prevent the rise in recent youth suicides. Her report won the President’s Prize for that semester.

As an intern, Jasmine adopted a proactive approach to research, spending long hours in the Coroner’s Courts sifting through Coroner’s reports on youth suicide cases.

Jasmine drew upon the Friday internship workshops held at Parliament to collate and code data for her report. The young scholar felt that the parliamentary internship had validated and acknowledged that she had ‘something valuable to contribute to public discourse.’

Naturally, analysing such graphic depictions of youth suicide was a confronting experience. Jasmine reflects that her internship experience enabled her to recognise the dangers of internalising traumatic research material. Consequently, during the internship she developed a series of coping mechanisms and self-care strategies to maintain an academic distance from harrowing research topics. These skills have proven highly useful during her career. Completing a PhD on the sources of violence and challenges of peace building after civil wars, Jasmine used strategies formed during her parliamentary internship to safeguard her own emotional wellbeing.

The program paved Jasmine’s path into a rich career of academic research. During her Honours year, Jasmine completed another internship, working with the Parliamentary Library conducting research for the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Bill 2006.

Jasmine went on to complete research and policy projects for World Vision, the International Women’s Development Agency, Oxfam and ActionAid. Jasmine’s research has led her across the globe, conducting research in Laos and examining international responses to civil wars in Africa, Asia and the Pacific. Back home in Australia, Jasmine became a founding member of the Melbourne Free University, an innovative project for ‘open public discussion and genuine sharing of knowledge.’

Jasmine is now a lecturer in International Relations in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at La Trobe University.
A ‘real’ insight
Gardiner and Chesterman remarked that the internship program opens up the complexity of modern politics to students, often for the first time.

Former Premier of Victoria and parliamentary supervisor John Brumby comments: ‘it is great work experience in a way and it opens up to the intern relationships with Members of Parliament and Parliament that really you could not get any other way.’

Similarly, former Speaker of the Victorian Legislative Assembly Ken Coghill states: ‘The advantage is exposing people to real life interface with the political system, particularly at a state level. The fact that a significant number of interns have gone into a career working closely with Members of Parliament, and in some cases been elected to Parliament, is a really terrific sign.’

For Jesse Twomey, a Victoria University intern from 2006, the internship program solidified his view of the pragmatism of politics. He reflects: ‘Compared to being a student with quite idealistic views, watching day-to-day how things actually turnout was valuable. The program knocked some of the idealistic expectations of politics out of my head but also, on a more positive note, it gave me an idea of what you can actually achieve and the methods for achieving things through that system.’

The internship program also gives students a more nuanced understanding of where the parties sit and the diversity of opinions within the parties. The internship provides an insight into the more substantive agendas pursued by each Member, which can get marginalised by the relentless 24-hour media cycle.

In addition to a better insight into Victorian politics, interns are also afforded an opportunity to gain a more comprehensive understanding of Victoria’s diverse landscape. A handful of students each year, particularly those assigned to parliamentary supervisors from regional or rural Victoria, get the experience of working in an area of Victoria where they may not have previously lived or visited.

For these students, such experiences are always worthwhile. Academic supervisor Julie Stephens recalls: ‘I had one student that had not been to Melton before and wrote about his trip. He felt like he was going to the end of the earth and at the end he felt like it was a second home for him.’

Parliamentary Library
Perhaps one of the most lucrative benefits of participating in the internship program is the ability to have access to the services of the Parliamentary Library & Information Service. Besides being given open access to the Library’s suite of academic and legislative databases, students are able to tap into the knowledge of the Library’s talented Research & Inquiries Team to seek assistance with their research tasks.

COUNCIL HANSARD – 1 May 2003
Second Reading – Health Legislation (Research Involving Human Embryos and Prohibition Of Human Cloning) Bill 2003
Ms JENNY MIKAKOS (Jika Jika) — I want to begin by thanking all those individuals and organisations that took the trouble to write to me to outline their views for and against this legislation. As parliamentarians exercising a conscience vote we have a unique responsibility to consider the views of all our constituents and inform ourselves about this technology.

I place on record my thanks to Claire Macdonald, who was my parliamentary intern late last year, for the excellent report that she prepared looking at and considering interstate and overseas legislation and also the nature of this technology. Claire has gone on to find employment in the parliamentary library. I note she has prepared an information paper for Parliament on stem cell research, and I am sure that paper was of great benefit to parliamentarians in preparing for this debate.

ON THE RECORD

2002 Intern: Claire Macdonald
Intern report: Stem cell research: science, ethics, and legislative responses in Australia and overseas

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Former Victoria University intern Kate Bartlett looks back fondly on her time spent in the Library: ‘I was there a lot for the last few weeks. There was a solid three weeks where I spent at least two days a week in the Library. I was looking at all the old Hansard. I loved it. I used it a lot. I really got to know the parliamentary staff quite well. I remember sitting at the computer one day and the Library staff were workshopping a report on a Bill to inform MPs what exactly was changing, the status quo and what was happening and go over the issues associated with the Bill. They were all being asked to research different parts – some of it was law, logistics and other things – and I remember thinking “that is so fascinating,” so much more fascinating than law research.’

Friendships
The program has also been responsible for the creation of many friendships over the past 25 years. According to Gardiner and Chesterman, the highly collegial atmosphere in which students mix freely, and view themselves as being part of something broader than their usual campus-centred experience provides the perfect setting for friendships to thrive.

Academic supervisor Paul Strangio captures the importance of this aspect of the program: ‘There is also the collegiality born of being in an interesting, passionate and engaging cohort. You can be an undergraduate and drift through your studies without knowing many of your fellow students. By contrast, in the internship there’s a small, select group and they bond together. There develops a feeling of solidarity as the interns share an experience that can be challenging, daunting and exhilarating. Friendships have grown out of the internship. And they are formed not just between the students from a single university. The camaraderie exists between the students of the three universities.’
Sharpening career prospects
The career opportunities that follow from time within the corridors of Parliament are another important benefit for students. Power has noted that in addition to helping to clarify career goals, the internship program helps interns to acquire professional contacts in a variety of industries.

Each of the current academic supervisors of the internship program has indicated the pleasure that comes with acting as a referee for interns in their pursuit of graduate positions all across the country. For academics and parliamentary supervisors alike, to see where students end up and what other experiences they go on to enjoy, can be fascinating.

Commonly, a lot of interns use the intern report writing experience as a stepping-stone to other academic opportunities. The intern report acts as evidence a student is capable of producing high quality research in a real world environment. The program provides exposure to the complexities of substantive research, the perfect pre-game warm-up before commencing an Honours year or Master’s Degree.

A direct opening into the political arena is also provided by the internship program. Victoria University graduate and former intern Jesse Twomey recalls: ‘It gave really good exposure and a realistic experience of what goes on in Members’ minds and the workings of a Member day to day. The opportunity to work in government afterwards, which was a direct result of the program, has been really valuable. The first-hand experience working with Members can sometimes take a long time for public servants to work towards depending on the size of the department they work in. Often, it is something just for senior staff. To have that experience at the start of your career is great.’
Rachel Macreadie completed the Victorian Parliamentary Internship Program in 2006. Since then, she has continued to have a meaningful impact on the development of public policy, both in Victoria and overseas.

Rachel’s internship report focused on the resistance towards Islamic places of worship in Victoria. Her parliamentary supervisor, Member for Narre Warren North Luke Donnellan, suggested her topic after he had observed a mosque’s planning application in his electorate receive intense community resistance from an association set up to challenge the proposed place of worship. As a part of her research, Rachel sorted through thousands of planning objections, interviewed local Islamic leaders, and lodged a Freedom of Information request.

Rachel’s research topic became a future area of interest for her, as she sought to explore broader issues of migration and settlement later on in her honours thesis. After her experiences as an intern, Rachel obtained an ethics clearance from Monash University to conduct interviews in the United Kingdom with leading academics and Islamic leaders. The internship program gave Rachel greater confidence to conduct empirical research and interviews. She also learnt how to structure a significant academic project.

After being awarded the Presiding Officers’ Prize for her report and graduating from Monash University with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours in Political Science), Rachel went on to complete a Master of Arts (by Research) at the University of Melbourne in 2014. She is now studying a Juris Doctor at Monash Law School.

Rachel’s time as an intern instilled in her a love for politics and the parliamentary environment. The internship marked a pivotal time in her professional development as a researcher, equipping her with the skills and confidence to do independent research. The biggest gains, however, were personal. The nature of her report was ambitious, contentious, difficult and controversial. She said: ‘I faced numerous obstacles and at several points my project appeared unviable. Through these struggles, I developed greater self-reliance and resilience.’

Rachel has continued to explore her deepest personal passions whilst making a powerful impact on public policy. She currently works in the Parliamentary Library as a Research & Inquiries Officer, contributing to publications including a recent research paper on the 2014 Victorian State Election.
In 2011, Rachel took a year off from her work to volunteer with AusAID in Vietnam. As an AusAID Australian Youth Ambassador for Development, Rachel worked as a Research and Communication Officer with the International Organization for Migration (‘IOM’) in Hanoi. At the IOM, Rachel conducted research on the health of migrants and gender-based violence projects, including human trafficking. She also undertook an AusAID funded Development Internship, on her return to Australia, with the Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture.

Rachel has also taught English to newly arrived Hazara refugees in the inner city and comments that ‘the link between all of these projects is an interest in facilitating the successful resettlement of migrants, which resulted from my internship project and experience interviewing minority groups.’

Rachel’s time as an intern provides inspiration to many and highlights how the internship program can allow students to enhance their ability to make positive changes to pressing social justice and equity issues, whether local or otherwise.
FROM INTERN TO PREMIER

THE HON. DANIEL ANDREWS

In 1994, amongst Monash’s first cohort of interns, a young student by the name of Daniel Andrews began to lay the foundations for a successful career in Victorian politics. His election as Premier of Victoria two decades later in 2014 highlights the impact of the Victorian Parliamentary Internship Program on students and the broader political process.

For the young student, the parliamentary internship presented a valuable opportunity to be an active part of the Australian political landscape.

The Premier was assigned to Pat Power, Member of the Legislative Council and Labor Member for Jika Jika. Elected in 1992, Power was the Shadow Minister for Local Government and Regional Development. The Premier recalls, ‘he was somebody I learned a lot from. He was a very passionate, very committed person.’

The Premier’s contribution to Power’s political achievements took place within a broader political context. In 1992, two years before the Premier became an intern, the then Kennett Government cut staffing allowances, accentuating the need for all junior staff to play a more critical role in the Opposition of that time. It was an opportune time for Members such as Power to utilise whatever research assistance they could muster to assist their important work on key issues. Daniel Andrews found himself in

the role of assisting the Shadow Minister in the area of policy formulation.

Andrews was asked by Power to look into compulsory competitive tendering and capital improved value ratings. His report analysed public sector monopoly issues around competitive tension and pressures created by the Government’s subjection to a competitive process. The internship program presented a tangible opportunity for the young Premier-to-be, to help steer alternative policy approaches.

In addition to being exposed to the public policy cycle, Pat Power and Daniel Andrews travelled around the state, covering thousands of kilometres. They met with dozens of regional councils, unions, workers, local retailers and civic leaders from across the community.

Like many interns, the Premier used his parliamentary internship experience as a stepping stone to future employment. After completing additional work with Power, the Premier worked for the Australian Labor Party with his local Federal Member of Parliament, Alan Griffin. For the Premier, the parliamentary internship provided an early insight into the value of hard work, good policy and the need to listen to people whilst actively contributing to a broader political process.

The Premier with the authors Jon Breukel and Tom Hvala

Premier Daniel Andrews signing his bound intern report
The Premier also learnt the necessity of resilience in the political arena – ‘To be any way connected with Labor Opposition in 1994 was a tough thing to be a part of. When we had been defeated in 1992, Government looked so far away.’

As a Member of Parliament, the Premier has maintained his involvement with the program. Under his supervision, his two interns explored the provision of appropriate services for Sudanese refugees in Noble Park and the effects of declining bulk billing rates. The reports informed the Premier’s representations made to Ministers.

The Premier encouraged his interns to better understand the impact of Parliament’s decision making processes on the public. The internship allowed his interns to sink their teeth into an issue, understand it, and research it deeply whilst engaging with a broad range of competing interests which direct the development of public policy.
PHILIP DALIDAKIS

In an era of privatisation, reform and regulation, Monash University graduate Philip Dalidakis had an ardent interest in the political process. Philip participated in the program in 2000.

Already invested in the political scene on campus, Philip bridged the gap between academic theory and practice as an intern in the program.

Prior to the internship, Philip describes himself as having been ‘political in regard to thoughts, terms and ideologies but not actual process.’ The internship presented Philip with the perfect opportunity to build on his political passions and gain a first-hand experience of Australian politics.

Under the supervision of David Davis, Legislative Council Member for the Southern Metropolitan region, Philip’s report explored regionalism and trade regulation in Victoria. The policy piece provided the perfect intersection between economics and politics, seeing as Philip was keen to build on both his interests in the financial sector and experiences in student politics.

Like other interns-turned-Members, Philip has maintained his participation with the program, supervising Monash Arts/Law student Henry Coates-Doyle. Henry comments, ‘the internship program offers students a great opportunity to meet and learn from talented, like-minded people whether they be students, academics, parliamentary staff or politicians.’ Henry’s 2015 report set out to explore GST distribution and its economic and social remit.

Since his time as an intern, Philip has worked as a senior energy advisor in the Bracks Government, and more recently as Deputy Chief of Staff to Senator Conroy in the Gillard Government. Philip is now a Member for Southern Metropolitan region in the Victorian Legislative Council, elected in November 2014. On 31 July 2015, Philip achieved a ministerial portfolio and was appointed Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade in the Andrews Labor government.
25 Years of the Victorian Parliamentary Internship Program

ON THE RECORD

2007 Intern: Nick Staikos
Intern report: Diversity of long day care providers in Narre Warren South.

ASSEMBLY HANSARD – 31 October 2007
Matters of Public Importance – Commonwealth-state relations: cooperative federalism

Ms JUDITH GRALEY (Narre Warren South) — I would like to make mention of the situation in my electorate of Narre Warren South. I recently had an intern come to do a study, and we found that the ability of parents to access child care was rather limited because there was not a diversity of providers. The federal government’s policies have concentrated private providers in certain areas. The research report written by my intern, Nick Staikos, says that 97 per cent of long-day-care places in Narre Warren South are operated by private providers while the remaining 3 per cent are operated by Casey Council ...

My intern’s report, which highlights the monopolisation of long day care by ABC Learning Centres, has resulted in an investigation by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.

For Nick, the appeal of the program was the unique opportunity to ‘have a very deep insight into the parliamentary process’ in an undergraduate setting. Nick’s research included interviewing private childcare providers, members of local council and politicians. He also conducted a critical analysis of qualitative and quantitative data regarding the growth of day care centres months before the collapse of ABC Learning.

Since exploring the role of choice and diversity in regard to day care providers, Nick has chaired Godfrey Street Community House and helped establish a kindergarten for three-year-olds. Nick confirms ‘writing the internship report made sure I was better equipped for these policy decisions.’

In the five-year transition from the lecture theatres of Clayton to the corridors of Parliament Nick has maintained his interest in the internship program. However, his renewed involvement is now from his new perspective as a Member of Parliament.

In 2015 Nick hosted his own intern, Monash Arts/Law student Andrew Belyea-Tate, who explored the issue of social isolation amongst the elderly in Bentleigh and across Victoria. Andrew joined the internship program to ‘better understand the structure of the policy making process, and come to grips with a complex and important societal issue.’

NICK STAIKOS
Nick Staikos’ journey from politics student to Parliament highlights the practical utility of the Victorian Parliamentary Internship Program.

Before graduating from Monash in 2009 with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in politics and sociology, Nick was a parliamentary intern in 2007.

Nick’s report detailed the diversity of long day care providers in Narre Warren South for Member Judith Graley.
ALISTAIR HARKNESS

In 1996, a decade before ‘Google’ would be entered into the Oxford English Dictionary as a verb, 21-year-old Alistair Harkness was conducting research as a parliamentary intern. He recalls sitting in the bowels of the Trades Hall Council, manually sifting through individual employment contracts bound in lever arch folders. Under the guidance of Steve Bracks, Shadow Treasurer at the time, Alistair was examining changes in Victorian employment relations. Shortly before Alistair was due to submit his internship report, the Victorian government referred its industrial relations powers to the Commonwealth. Alistair describes how this move unexpectedly reframed his report as an ‘entertaining, historical read, rather than a call to arms.’ For Alistair, the internship provided first-hand experience of the rapid changes shaping the political landscape.

After graduating from Monash University, Alistair remained engaged with the Victorian Parliament. Drawing upon the connections formed during his time as a parliamentary intern, Alistair became an Electorate Officer for Steve Bracks during his first term as Premier. At 28, Alistair was elected as the youngest Member of Parliament, representing the electorate of Frankston.

During his time as a Member, Alistair hosted eight undergraduate interns from Monash University, the University of Melbourne and Victoria University. Reflecting upon the innovative research undertaken by his former interns, Alistair supervised Jared Heath’s report into the need for an aquatic centre in the Frankston area. Written in 2003, Heath’s report provided recommendations for the location, funding and benefits of a potential regional aquatic centre. Ten years hence, having received $49.7 million of government funding, the new Peninsula Aquatic Recreation Centre has opened in Frankston. Alistair’s daughter celebrated her 8th birthday at the aquatic centre envisaged by a former parliamentary intern.

Alistair has always aimed to set research topics that were relevant to his electorate. His interns have examined a broad spectrum of topics including youth services, multiculturalism, cycling paths, reckless driving, social housing and mental illness. Many of the internship reports have been valuable resources which Alistair has drawn upon during parliamentary debates.

Having watched the Victorian Parliamentary Internship Program evolve over almost two decades, Alistair describes the program as an ‘eye-opening, rewarding experience’ for students and Members alike.
2013 Intern: Ben Zocco

Intern report: A Visa to electoral engagement: an analysis of the importance of civics education for secondary students in Victoria and a study and evaluation of the Victorian Electoral Commission’s Passport to Democracy program.

COUNCIL HANSARD – 19 September 2013

Members Statements – Ben Zocco

Mr LEE TARLAMIS (South-Eastern Metropolitan) — I would like to commend my parliamentary intern, Mr Ben Zocco, for his broad ranging and informative report entitled A Visa to Electoral Engagement. Ben’s report is an analysis of the importance of civics education for secondary students in Victoria and a study and evaluation of the Victorian Electoral Commission’s Passport to Democracy program. This program aims to provide an impartial overview of the democratic process and educates students through broad issues-based discussion, making civics education naturally more appealing to younger Victorians, who are more likely to engage with issues that affect them directly.

The report was well structured in building its arguments and conclusions and highlighted the following three recommendations which are worthy of consideration: that the provision of civics education to secondary students in Victoria be considered a priority by both the state government and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development in order to ensure that young Victorians are able to develop both positive attitudes and perceptions about their important role in Australia’s representative democracy; that the Passport to Democracy program be funded by the state government to the extent that it is able to operate in all secondary schools in Victoria; and that the Victorian Electoral Commission’s Passport to Democracy program be provided with additional funding to allow it to adequately realign to the new Australian curriculum and for further online and digital resources...

I take this opportunity to thank Mr Zocco for his report and his valuable work in this area. I also thank the parliamentary library staff and academic supervisors for their ongoing support of the Victorian Parliamentary Internship program, and I extend that thanks to the President for his support for the program.
MILLENNIUM YOUTH PARLIAMENT

The Victorian Parliamentary Internship Program has sent many students to different corners of Victoria in pursuit of public policy research. However, for two students, the program sent them far beyond the borders of Victoria to the opposite side of the world.

Melissa Gaddie and Aaron Hart had the opportunity to participate in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (‘CPA’) Millennium Youth Parliament in 2000. The pair, having received the President’s Prize in the same year, were invited to Manchester for three days alongside 125 other students from the 69 CPA branches and 55 Commonwealth countries.

The parliamentary proceedings took place in the Grenada Television Studios, in a mock-up of the Westminster House of Commons. Melissa and Aaron recall: ‘the seats weren’t quite so padded and the cornices quite so grand, but it certainly gave an atmosphere of reality and significance to the parliamentary proceedings.’

The speaker of the house was Baroness Fookes, a Life Peer in the House of Lords, Member of the Conservative Party and brilliant speaker with many years of parliamentary experience. Melissa and Aaron’s reflective essay described Fookes as having ‘a wicked sense of humour, a level hand and a forgiving approach to inexperienced faux pas.’

The format of the Youth Parliament required students to create legislation, debate matters of national and international concern, demand accountability from those in government, change government without recourse to civil disorder, and make and enforce ad hoc rules of conduct. Melissa and Aaron remember ‘we were a difficult lot at times, certainly no less raucous than the real thing.’

The Parliament of “Commonwealthland” was divided into the three separate parties – the Direct Democracy Party, the Youth Party and the New Millennium Party. The parties had to negotiate solutions to financial, environmental, security and health issues facing the 55 Commonwealth countries of the time. Issues debated included the HIV/AIDS crisis in Africa, female genital mutilation, drugs, poverty, disability, environmental degradation and war.

Students attending the Youth Parliament came from all around the world. Other participants included the Assistant Private Secretary to the Speaker of Bangladesh, Commissioner at the Office of the Presidency in South Africa, and the winner of the Commonwealth Essay Competition from Trinidad and Tobago. Although they had led very different lives in their respective countries, the young delegates shared a belief in the practice of good governance. For Melissa and Aaron, this sense of shared purpose and the opportunities for friendship it afforded were a highlight of the experience.

Calls of ‘hear hear’ and ‘shame’ flowed thick and fast throughout

Melissa and Aaron’s internship reports both provided a finely tuned insight into issues affecting local Victorian communities.

In the context of the Bracks’ Government’s first term, Melissa’s report looked to the Labor Party’s drug policy as the framework in which to examine the pressing drug issues within Frankston. Working alongside Legislative Council Member for Eastern Victoria Matt Viney, Melissa conducted interviews, consulted research reports and facilitated a Frankston Community Forum on Drugs.

Her report specifically sought to address the increase in heroin dependence in Frankston and the wider Victorian community.

Melissa’s report potentially unsettled stakeholders who were of the view that they were already managing the issue of drug dependency within Frankston. She was able to reassure stakeholders wary of her young profile that her report created an invaluable opportunity for a more coordinated response between service providers in Frankston.

Aaron’s report investigated the degree of community vitality in Melton. Aaron provided a thorough analysis of newspaper readership, voter participation and community group membership in response to recent market driven reforms and rapid residential development. His report endorsed the idea that local democracy is good for people because it is a catalyst for the development of social capital.

For both Melissa and Aaron, their time at the Parliament of Victoria and abroad led to employment in the political arena. Before establishing a career
as a workplace relations lawyer, Melissa worked for Member Matt Viney. Her responsibilities included speech writing and research. Additionally, Melissa worked in the Drugs Policy and Services Branch in the Department of Human Services and contributed to the Indigenous Issues Unit in the Department of Justice at a state level.

Similarly, Aaron worked as an Electorate Officer for Joanne Duncan, Member for Macedon, before moving to Moreland City Council as Executive Officer to the Mayor and Councillors. Both positions involved writing speeches and handling constituent matters.

Between hundreds of performances as a live musician, Aaron has maintained an interest in academia. After employment as a Research Assistant, lecturer and independent evaluator, Aaron is now in the final year of his PhD studies. Aaron is undertaking an ethnographic study of heavy sessional drinking among young adults.

For both Melissa and Aaron, the most important experience of their parliamentary internship was the opportunity to build connections with people and institutions in Victoria and elsewhere in the Commonwealth.

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**Internship gives students a head start in politics**

**BY COREY NASSAU**

Monash arts/law student Ms Melissa Gaddie was one of only two Victorians who attended the Millennium Youth Parliament in England last month, after being selected as a joint winner of the President's Prize for the most outstanding Victorian Parliamentary Internship.

Ms Gaddie, who has had a long-standing passion for politics, undertook her internship with the Member for Frankston East, Mr Matt Viney. During her internship, she produced a report tackling the drug problem, titled ‘Local community forum to address the drug issue in Frankston’.

“My starting point was to spend a night with the paramedics to observe overdose victims, because I thought it was important for me to see, first hand, the human side of the issue,” she said.

“I spent about one day each week in the electoral office, and the remainder of the time interviewing people and gathering data before holding the forum, which was a great experience.”

Third-year politics students from Monash and Melbourne universities have been taking part in the Parliamentary Internship Program since 1993.

Under the program, each intern is assigned to a Member of Parliament for one semester to work on a special project and to obtain practical experience within the political system.

According to Professor Brian Costar, from Monash’s School of Political and Social Inquiry, the program gives the university a good profile in parliament because the students write impressive reports.

“This is not work experience. The reports are well researched and presented and parliamentarians greatly appreciate them,” Professor Costar said.

“Occasionally they may even lead to full inquiries, as was the case with the intern paper which made recommendations on the Sydney-centric nature of the ABC.”

Professor Costar said the intern program was also important because it gave students the opportunity to build on the theoretical knowledge developed in the classroom.

“The internship is a controlled entry into the real world. We don’t spoon-feed these students because we want them to come out and say ‘I did this’.”

With both Steve Bracks’ and Peter Costello’s electoral offices being ex-interns, the future looks bright for Ms Gaddie if she chooses to enter the political arena.

“The internship was a fantastic experience which I found very empowering. It was amazing to have something so practical and tangible as part of my university experience,” she said.
Another prominent intern to emerge from the internship program is University of Melbourne alumni and host of ABC 774 Melbourne’s Drive, Rafael Epstein. Rafael graduated from the program in 1994. Assigned to the then Minister for Health Marie Tehan, he delved into the issue of case-mix funding in the public health system introduced by the Kennett Government in 1993.

Evaluating the impact of healthcare funding proved more difficult than Rafael first anticipated. Initially, the young arts/science student thought there must have been a more straightforward way to quantify the impact of the newly legislated healthcare funding scheme. Rafael soon learned otherwise: ‘I remember the frustration of trying to grapple with medical procedures I didn’t really understand. And then trying to put some sort of objective measure on it and not coming up with anything. I was trying to do the simplest thing and it was unbelievably complicated.’

His encounter with the sometimes cumbersome nature of public policy is familiar to many students to have passed through the internship: ‘It was a frustrating experience. My understanding of how complex politics is has made me much more hesitant coming to black and white judgements of policy.’

In a time before electronic archiving, Rafael had to sift through ream after ream of hospital records to record quantitative data relevant to his report. He recalls: ‘The research was all in boxes. I remember going through piles and piles of paper trying to find relevant records. That was a substantial part of the work.’

He did all this whilst working two nights a week from midnight to 8am at a local video store. Luckily for Rafael, technology has kept up with the speed of his success as a prominent Australian journalist. After graduating from Melbourne University, Rafael began his cadetship with the ABC. Since then, he has worked as a foreign correspondent in Indonesia, the Middle East and the United Kingdom. He has also worked in the Investigative Unit at The Age, focusing on Australia’s Special Forces and their role in Afghanistan.

A highlight for Rafael whilst based in London from 2005 to 2008 was the opportunity to attend the monthly press conference. He quickly learned the ropes: ‘One of the things I would do is sit behind Adam Boulton, who is the Laurie Oakes of Sky News. I would always get there early as you would have to queue up. They reserved the first row of seats but not any others. I always got there early and would sit behind Adam Boulton because I knew the PM would get to him, because he always got a few questions. I would put my hand up behind him and get to ask a few questions. It was great fun.’

Rafael is also a published author. His book, Prisoner X, follows the journey of Ben Zygier into the murky world of international espionage and its tragic consequences. Rafael’s work on police corruption during Melbourne’s gangland wars and the wrongful arrest of Mohammed Hanif, in relation to the failed bombings in London and Glasgow in 2005, earned him two Walkley Awards.
ON THE RECORD

ASSEMBLY HANSARD – 21 November 2000

2001 Intern: Melissa Gaddie

Intern report: Local community forum to help address the drug issue in Frankston.

Mr VINEY (Frankston East) – I congratulate Melissa Gaddie, a parliamentary intern in my office for the past few months, on winning the parliamentary intern prize awarded by the President of the Legislative Council, along with Aaron Hart, who I understand works with you, Mr Acting Speaker. As winners of the President’s prize, Melissa and Aaron depart today for a Commonwealth Parliamentary Association-sponsored trip to Manchester to participate in the CPA Youth Parliament that commemorates the new millennium.

I wish such prizes were around when I was their age, but Aaron and Melissa are operating at a higher academic level than I managed to achieve! Melissa is studying arts/law at Monash University. Her project focused on the serious issues associated with drug addiction in Frankston. She undertook extensive research, including considerable work with the local people involved in fighting the drug problem in Frankston. Along with me she also organised and facilitated a local forum. One of the good things about that was Melissa’s ability to attract local secondary students to the forum.

BOUND FOR THE USA

For a small number of students, the Victorian Parliamentary Internship Program has acted as a stepping-stone from one legislative powerhouse to another.

Situated in the beating heart of global democracy, former interns Milli Allan and James Brooks built upon their internship experiences by working with a United States Congressman as a part of the prestigious Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program (‘UCWIP’). The program provides an invaluable opportunity for students to live and work in Washington DC whilst interning with offices of the United States Congress.

During their two months familiarising themselves with the hallways of Washington DC, Milli and James attended hearings, press conferences and briefings at the US Department of State and the Australian Embassy. Another key part of their experience included visiting some of America’s most important historical and diplomatic sites, such as the Australian Mission to the United Nations in New York, the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia and the Gettysburg Memorial.

After completing the internship program under the supervision of Member for Gippsland East Tim Bull in 2012, James participated in the UCWIP the following year.

James interned with Congressman Jerrold ‘Jerry’ Nadler, the Democratic Representative for the 10th District of New York. James worked alongside a variety of people, including American college graduates attempting to lay the groundwork for a career in politics. James’ primary tasks included receiving, sorting and responding to the Congressman’s constituents’ mail and handling constituents’ phone calls.

James also conducted research, drafted social media content, accompanied staff to meetings and filmed press conferences. James comments: ‘The most mundane of tasks were often the most exciting – you never know who you might pass while running an errand in the labyrinthine tunnels beneath Capitol Hill.’

For James, two memorable experiences stand out. Most strikingly, James attended President Barack Obama’s second inauguration ceremony. He recalls: ‘There was a sense among those of us who were lucky enough to score tickets that we were witnessing a significant moment in history.’
The energy and excitement of the inauguration ceremony stayed with me for a long time afterwards – James Brooks

James was also granted special access to the Capitol dome: ‘After viewing the Apotheosis of Washington up close, we climbed a long and winding staircase to emerge beneath the Statue of Freedom. The view of the National Mall from atop the dome was unparalleled and it was great to share this moment with some of my fellow American and Australian interns.’

Milli completed the Victorian Parliamentary Internship Program in 2014, assigned to Jane Garrett, the Member for Brunswick. Milli’s intern report explored the challenges facing grassroots sports clubs and the strategies that can be implemented to ensure their continued viability. The internship program allowed Milli to further refine her research skills and her ability to work independently, which was central to her selection for the UCWIP.

The internship program also helped Milli prepare for the various forms of policy research she completed whilst working with Congressman Alcee L. Hastings, Democrat Representative for Florida’s 20th congressional district. She comments: ‘The experience in policy research that I had gained through the Victorian Parliamentary Internship prepared me for the type of policy research I was to do whilst interning as a part of the UCWIP.’

Milli’s time as parliamentary intern was perfect preparation for her time in the United States. Most importantly, an insight into the Victorian legislative system during the internship helped her better contrast and compare the Australian and United States political systems.

Despite her understanding of the legislative processes of Victoria upon completion of the
program, the demands of the UCWIP were still largely unfamiliar. She reflects: ‘Rather than spending an ongoing period on one task, my responsibilities in Washington were extremely varied. On any given day, I could be undertaking legislative research, attending hearings or committee meetings or drafting briefing notes for the Congressman.’

Milli was able to focus on both national and international issues during the UCWIP. Her research focused on domestic healthcare and international trade agreements. She also completed a substantive research piece on the legality of drone strikes.

Other interns to participate in the program include Felicia Quatela and Emma Jakeman.

The Victorian Parliamentary Internship Program continues to assist students in their exploration of western democratic processes and the fascination with American politics. After completing an exchange studying Hobbesian theory at the University of Warwick, 2014 intern Tom Hvala will be working with the House Judiciary Committee (Minority Office) in 2016.

Working alongside Tom will be Victorian parliamentary intern Hamish Scully. Hamish’s intern report looked into the economic and social benefits of the proposed Great Forest National Park under the supervision of Legislative Council Member for the Eastern Metropolitan Region, Samantha Dunn. Hamish hopes to build on his personal and professional interest in the environment during his internship with Republican Senator Michael Crapo.

We expect many more interns will pack their bags for Washington DC in future years.
Former Victoria University politics student, Kate Bartlett, recalls being picked up from home early one morning in 2008 and driven to the airport.

Kate was to fly to Sydney alongside her supervising Member of Parliament, Jenny Lindell, former Speaker of the Victorian Legislative Assembly, to research her Victorian Parliamentary Internship report.

Kate’s intern report was a comparative study of the Speakership in the Victorian and NSW Legislative Assemblies, Australian House of Representatives and United Kingdom House of Commons. The report analysed casting votes by Speakers since 1865. It also detailed the differences between the parliamentary rules and conventions in state and federal jurisdictions for the use of the Speaker’s casting vote.

For Kate, the internship was the ‘perfect blend of legal skills, political interest and academic ability.’ In addition to the trip to Sydney to interview Richard Torbay, the then Speaker of the NSW Legislative Assembly, Kate’s research included spending hours researching in the Victorian Parliamentary Library, sifting through Hansard – ‘I must have gone up and down those library ladders a thousand times. I loved it!’

Besides improving her writing ability and professional network, the Victorian Parliamentary Internship Program gave Kate ‘the ability to walk into a room and talk to someone [she] had never met before.’

These skills have helped Kate establish a successful legal career. After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts/Law (First Class Honours) in 2010, she has gone on to work in the Property and Development Team at Russell Kennedy Lawyers. She notes that the Victorian Parliamentary Internship ‘gave me a fresh perspective. It did not change my political views, but made me more open to engaging with people on the other side.’

Kate fondly remembers the program as ‘one of the best experiences I had at university, I thoroughly enjoyed it.’
2003 Intern: Anna Burke

Intern report: *Autism in the eastern region: an investigation into the experiences of transitions for children with autism (0–6 years) and their families during early childhood.*

ASSEMBLY HANSARD – 27 November 2003

Members Statements – Parliament: intern program

Ms DYMPNA BEARD (Kilsyth) — It is with much pleasure that I inform the house that last week I received a copy of the report by a parliamentary intern, Anna Burke. The title of her report is *Autism in the Eastern Region — An Investigation into Experiences of Transition for Children with Autism (0–6 years) and Their Families During Early Childhood.*

Parliament's intern program gives 50 to 60 students the opportunity to work with a member of Parliament for 13 weeks to experience political life first hand and to engage in serious research on a topic of interest to both parties, supervised by an academic. Students attend induction and research seminars, keep a journal, write a reflective essay and submit a research report, which after assessment is filed in the parliamentary library.

The program was started in 1990 with the University of Melbourne and Monash University working in partnership with the parliamentary library and has been widely copied in other jurisdictions. It was initiated to stimulate research in legislative studies, make university research services available to the

Parliament and generally bring the two institutions closer together. It gives young people an insight into what public life and policy development is really like as opposed to the way it is presented in the media. It also gives MPs the opportunity to explore issues at a deeper level than time and resources usually allow.

I was delighted yesterday to attend the awarding of the President’s prize for the most outstanding parliamentary intern. I congratulate Genevieve Grant, who worked with the member for Mordialloc, on receiving the President’s prize.
REPORTS

TANGIBLE OUTCOMES

The impact of each intern report can extend far beyond assisting a Member with their policy approach. In some instances, intern reports have had a profound physical impact on a local community.

2003 Monash University intern Megan Barnett’s report, built upon by Victoria University’s Isobel Keecher in 2004, was directly responsible for the creation of the Melton Botanic Garden.

Melton was established as a ‘Satellite City’ in the early 1970s by the then state government to help alleviate growth pressure on Melbourne. However, the rapid growth of its population that quickly followed had a dramatic impact on the community’s ability to provide sufficient infrastructure such as road schemes and water provisions. As a result, Melton grew without adequate parks and gardens as they were not an immediate priority.

Megan’s 2003 internship report initially set out to undertake a preliminary, broad-brush investigation of the feasibility of establishing a botanic garden in Melton. Her report included an examination of potential sites, costs, maintenance, funding and supply factors. Her report also explored how the botanic gardens could satisfy the defining characteristics of a botanic garden, and the wide ranging community and environmental implications it proposed were also considered.

Megan’s initial report made clear that a botanic garden could improve conservation, lift community spirit, increase education and provide employment opportunities. Even further, the benefits of the garden could have a positive impact on tourism, while meeting the needs for the community’s open space, leisurely and recreational needs.

Megan’s report generated sufficient community support and interest, leading to the creation of the Friends of Melton Botanic Garden (‘FMBG’) group and a subsequent intern report by Isobel which undertook a more detailed study which involved distributing over 400 surveys about the gardens.

Isobel’s report specifically looked into three potential botanic garden sites in Melton, and also provided a comparative analysis of botanical gardens in Cranbourne, Geelong, Wilson and Gisborne.

Current President of the FMBG, John Bentley, explained how the two reports were the spark behind the garden’s creation: ‘Using the two intern reports, the FMBG in a presentation to the Council, requested that the Town Centre Park be utilised by the group as the site for the botanic garden. An internal Council report was presented to Council on 24 October 2005 advising the Council on the proposal for the FMBG to establish a “Botanic Garden Theme” in Town Centre Park.’

As a result, the Council adopted the following recommendations from the reports:

1. Council supports the botanical gardens theme within the Town Centre Park subject to the FMBG group presenting to Council for approval a design and financial funding options available to sustain the initiative.

2. Council officers continue discussions with the FMBG Group in relation to future concept designs and dedicated space within Town Centre Park.

John Bentley also said: ‘The studies were used in 2006 to develop a concept plan with funding...’
ON THE RECORD

1993 Intern: Craig Walsh
Intern report: An Appraisal of the Prostitution Regulation Act 1986 (Vic.).

ASSEMBLY HANSARD – 16 November 1994
Second Reading – Prostitution Control Bill 1994

Mr NEIL COLE (Melbourne) — I wish to acknowledge again the work of my parliamentary intern student, Craig Walsh, on prostitution regulation. Sadly, he passed away recently. I did speak on the circumstances of his death in the address-in-reply debate, so I will not take that any further other than to say that, through the kindness of our chief librarian, Bruce Davidson, we were able to bind his report on prostitution regulation and send it to his parents.

Before we did so, we had the bound report signed by a number of people. I would like to thank those people who signed it, first and foremost, the Attorney-General. The report was done for me, and I have used it extensively in this debate. However vociferous and uncompromising debate might be at times, I felt it was important to have a bipartisan approach to his report.

I thank the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition, the Minister for Planning, the honourable member for Mildura and the Speaker for signing the book. Mr and Mrs Walsh were extremely proud of their son, and their son’s report was a gift of enormous value and support to them. While it will never replace their lost son, it did much to acknowledge what he did in his short life, and I am sure it will be cherished forever by them.

Mrs JAN WADE (Attorney-General) — I pay tribute to the shadow Attorney-General’s parliamentary intern. I think it is clear to us all here that the work he did on his report has been very useful to the shadow Attorney-General in this debate. I am sure that he contributed significantly to the statesperson-like contribution of the honourable member for Melbourne this evening.

provided by Council’s Adopt a Park program resulting in further funding provided in Council’s 2007/08 budget to develop the concept plan to a master plan in 2007. The master plan report was released in April 2009. Council approved the renaming of Town Centre Park to Melton Botanic Garden in 2009. The Melton Botanic Garden was gazetted by Vic Place Names in February 2011.

The Melton Botanic Garden has had many benefits for the community. In addition to a place to volunteer, the garden regularly has scouting groups, schools and service clubs contributing to its development. The FMBG has also hosted public and group tours, and the garden is a hot-spot for bird watching groups from all over the state, including the Werribee Wagtails.

The garden has also been used by local employment agencies to provide work for welfare programs, assisting people with their employment skills.

In this way, the work undertaken by Megan and Isobel in their intern reports became more than ideas and words on a page. It grew into a botanical garden, something real and tangible for the community to enjoy.

Native gardens tour around Melton with Friends of Melton Botanic Garden members
REPORT CATEGORIES

With over 1,000 intern reports completed within the program over the past 26 years, the Parliamentary Library now holds a body of high standard work reflecting an extraordinary range of contemporary research interests centred on Victoria. The reports reflect Members’ particular concerns and political and research interests, and many reports are devoted to topics within Members’ electorates, which have obvious political benefits. Notwithstanding this inevitable political dimension, the reports provide a valuable insight into both the contemporary research concerns of Members, and the development of emergent issues over time, as reflected in this cloud tag.

The intern reports demonstrate an extraordinary level of diversity and interdisciplinary coverage in their subject content. Building on the research work of Gardiner and Chesterman, Table 1 below shows the number of reports by key subject areas. Intern reports have been grouped according to their principal areas of focus. The table shows intern reports listed from most to least popular subjects for the period 1990 to 2015 inclusive.

TABLE 1: PARLIAMENTARY INTERNSHIP REPORTS RESEARCH TOPICS BY SUBJECT AREA AND NUMBER - 1990 TO 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUBJECT AREA</th>
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<th>SUBJECT AREA</th>
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<tr>
<td>Education and Training</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>Crime</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>Population and Demographics</td>
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<td>Community Services</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>Regional and Rural Affairs</td>
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<td>Parliament</td>
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<td>Local Government</td>
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<td>Youth and Children</td>
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<td>Mental Health</td>
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<td>Gaming</td>
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<td>Environment and Natural Resources</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>Tourism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Politics and Parties</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>Drugs</td>
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<td>Housing</td>
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<td>Aboriginal Affairs</td>
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<td>Law and Justice</td>
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<td>Aged Care</td>
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<td>Government and Public Administration</td>
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<td>Information and Communication Technology / Social Media</td>
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<td>Police and Emergency Services</td>
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<td>Economy and Finance</td>
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<td>Agriculture</td>
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<td>Employment and Workplace Relations</td>
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Within the most populous categories, the research reports have ranged in scope from the relatively narrow and local to the state-wide and even nation-wide. This section shows a brief snapshot of the breadth of reports within the top categories and highlights the most recent reporting trends.

The most common research topics for interns were education and training (79 reports), transport (71 reports) and community services (53). Given that the states have primary responsibility for a range of government policy areas including education, transport, policing and the delivery of many community services, it is not surprising to see that these are among the most popular research topics for interns.

In the education and training category (79 reports), school education has been a strong focus, with a small number focusing on issues associated with universities. Over the past few years, Members have shown particular interest in the issues faced by the education sector and students in rural areas, as well as the impacts of school closures and mergers. They have also had their interns examine the demand for new schools. Intern reports have dealt with many issues relating to schools and education: vocational training, VCAL, funding cuts to TAFE, teacher shortages, regional disadvantage, children with disabilities, Koori education and broadband in schools. Some reports have addressed the implementation in Victorian schools of the Federal Government’s Building the Education Revolution program and teacher training to address shortage and outcomes. A smaller number of reports have explored early childhood education, international students and affordability and accessibility of tertiary education. Reports have also been completed on the social benefits of alternative education, bullying in schools, civics education in schools and autism education.

Within the transport category (71 reports), traffic congestion features prominently with a large number of reports focusing on issues of public transport reform. It was interesting to see a report on automatic fare collection appearing as early as 1995, well before the Myki ticketing system had been launched. A number of reports also straddled the area of school buses and public transport issues for children getting to school. Cycling was also examined with a couple of Members commissioning their intern to examine bike paths, bicycle commuting and services to cyclists in their electorates. Heavy trucks in Yarraville features in a report. Other reports in this group consider infrastructure-related issues such as funding models, accessibility to public transport, barriers to development, outer suburban and regional railroads, the East West Link proposal and linkage between major regional cities. Interns have also undertaken reports for their Members on road safety, traffic cameras, traffic management, safety technology in the trucking industry and community bus services.
Within the community services area (53 reports) topics covered included local child care, improving service delivery to aged care, women's health, social disadvantage, autism, community health services and home and community care services. Services to ethnic communities also featured prominently with several interns focusing on refugee resettlement as well as reports focusing on community services for the Vietnamese, Chinese, Sudanese and Somali communities. All reports tended to be specific to particular locales or service areas. To a lesser extent, family services and the production of social capital were also reported on. Members also showed interest in volunteering, early childhood development services, home care services, community respite services, and neighbourhood houses.
Like many high school graduates, Trent Brickle was uncertain of what career path he wanted to take.

After being accepted into Deakin to study law, Trent deferred, training and working as a chef for seven years. However, it was not long until Trent returned to study, graduating from Victoria University with a Bachelor of Arts/Criminal Justice Services in 2006.

A pivotal experience in his undergraduate degree at Victoria University was his time as an intern for the Victorian Parliamentary Internship Program. Trent recalls: ‘I thought the exposure would be a step in the right direction.’

Before entering Parliament, Trent had a basic understanding of state politics. However, the internship exposed Trent to dynamics and events ‘that occur offline in the political world.’ Similarly, Trent was exposed to the deep managerial skills central to the success of a Parliamentarian.

In 2006, when writing his report, Trent was surrounded by heated political dialogue regarding the abolition of suspended sentences in Victoria. Trent’s report, guided by the then Shadow Attorney-General Andrew McIntosh, explored the implications stemming from the proposed suspended sentences policy debate. His experience, in addition to interviews and desktop research, included discussions with key stakeholders such as the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service and various juvenile justice groups.

For Trent, the opportunity to work alongside key community groups and state politicians during the internship forged his career path. During the program’s fortnightly seminars, Trent was exposed to the Victorian Government Graduate Recruitment Scheme, which led to his career in government.

Trent notes that the Victorian Parliamentary Internship Program ‘directed my career for the past seven years. Without doing the internship, which then gave me exposure to the Graduate Program, I would be in a very different place in my career.’

Since graduating, Trent has worked at the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine and still sits on their ethics committee. He has also worked for Victoria Police, the Parliament of Victoria and is now the Senior Manager of Strategy and Governance at Parks Victoria.
In 2002, a bright eyed university student, Tim Wilson walked into the office of Terry Mulder, Member for Polwarth, to discuss his internship topic. After some debate, it was decided that he would undertake a detailed comparison of the Kennett and Bracks government’s funding and delivery of rural and regional infrastructure programs.

This topic was thought to be particularly valuable as it was the regional seats which proved critical in the previous Coalition Government’s election loss in 1999. Tim’s report was aptly titled, ‘We’ll do more: a report into the rural and regional infrastructure programs of the Kennett and Bracks governments’.

Since then, Tim has gone onto loftier heights. After a stint as an electorate officer, he worked as a public policy analyst and policy director for the Institute of Public Affairs. He has also worked in trade and communication consulting, international aid and development, as well as politics. Tim has studied abroad at the New Jersey Gibbons Institute of Law, Science & Technology at Seton Law School and Geneva’s Institut de Hautes Études Internationales et du Développement.

With extensive experience in public debate, Tim appears regularly as a commentator on radio and television current affairs shows. He has written for newspapers, journals and books. He recently co-edited the book Turning Left or Right: Values in Modern Politics. In 2009, The Australian newspaper recognised Tim as one of the ten emerging leaders of Australian society. A recipient of the Australian Leadership Award from the Australian Davos Connection, Tim was also recently named Libertarian of the Year by the Australian Libertarian Society in 2015.

In February 2014, just twelve years since his parliamentary internship, Tim was appointed to the prominent position of Australia’s Human Rights Commissioner, where he has been able to pursue his passion for advancing human rights and equality before the law.
ON THE RECORD

2011 Intern: Hilary Taylor

Intern report: Accessing abortion: improving the safety of access to abortion services in Victoria.

COUNCIL HANSARD – 13 September 2011

Adjournment – Fertility control clinics: protests

Ms COLLEEN HARTLAND (Western Metropolitan) — Abortion and other women’s health services are lawful, but people also have the right to protest against them. How do we maintain those two rights? This is the conundrum I set for my parliamentary intern, Hilary Taylor of Monash University. Hilary provided a well-written, clear report entitled Accessing Abortion – Improving the Safety of Access to Abortion Services in Victoria. The report was the joint winner of the Presiding Officer’s prize for interns...

The intern’s report has been published on the ‘Victorian Greens’ website. The report recommends bubble zone legislation be enacted by the Victorian Parliament. Bubble zones are designated areas where protests may not occur, but they are typically placed so that protests may take place nearby. Our own Victorian Parliament provides a shining example of a bubble zone via the Parliamentary Precincts Act 2001. Every day the lower steps of this building are the venue for colourful, peaceful protests, but the higher steps and the colonnade are off limits.

The staff of the East Melbourne clinic and nearby residents want a bubble zone to extend only as far as the edge of the narrow pavement in front of the clinic. This would also allow the neighbours free passage without being bullied and intimidated and it would benefit local businesses. Protests could continue on the other side of the street where there are no houses or businesses. My request of the Attorney-General is that he read the report and consider the implementation of bubble zones.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


APPENDIX 1

INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED (2014–2015)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INTERNS</th>
<th>MEMBERS</th>
<th>ACADEMIC SUPERVISORS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Milli Allan</td>
<td>Daniel Andrews</td>
<td>Lea Campbell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trent Brickle</td>
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<td>Kate Bartlett</td>
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<td>James Brooks</td>
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<td>Adam Delacorn</td>
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<td>John Power</td>
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<td>Rafael Epstein</td>
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<td>Julie Stephens</td>
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<td>Andrew Young</td>
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APPENDIX 2

ACADEMIC SUPERVISORS

The University of Melbourne (1990–2015)
John Power
Philomena Murray
Rosemary Kiss
Anne Ellison
John Chesterman
Tom Davis
Lea Campbell

Brian Costar
Jennifer Curtin
James Walter
Paul Strangio

Victoria University (2004–2015)
John Tully
David McCallum
Russell Wright
Julie Stephens

PARLIAMENTARY COORDINATORS

Victoria Parliamentary Library (1990–2015)
Bruce Davidson
Greg Gardiner
Bella Lesman
Marion King
Jon Breukel
APPENDIX 3

NUMBER OF INTERNS BY UNIVERSITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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NUMBER OF INTERNS BY YEAR

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## APPENDIX 4

### INTERNs EMPLOYED BY THE VICTORIAN PARLIAMENT

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<tr>
<td>Morgan Armstrong</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roshena Dutta</td>
<td>Library researcher</td>
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<td>James Corera</td>
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<tr>
<td>Felicity Lane</td>
<td>Committee researcher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Claire Macdonald</td>
<td>Library researcher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rachel Macreadie</td>
<td>Library researcher</td>
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<td>Grace McCoy</td>
<td>Library researcher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jasmine-Kim Westendorf</td>
<td>Library researcher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathaniel Reader</td>
<td>Committee researcher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andrew Young</td>
<td>Clerk of the Legislative Council</td>
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## APPENDIX 5

### INTERNS WHO BECAME MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INTERN</th>
<th>HOST MEMBER</th>
<th>UNIVERSITY &amp; YEAR</th>
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<tr>
<td>Daniel Andrews</td>
<td>Pat Power</td>
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<td>Mulgrave</td>
<td>Assembly</td>
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<td>Nov 2002 - present</td>
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<td>Philip Dalidakis</td>
<td>David Davis</td>
<td>Monash 1997</td>
<td>Southern Metropolitan</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>ALP</td>
<td>Nov 2014 - present</td>
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<td>Nick Staikos</td>
<td>Judith Graley</td>
<td>Monash 2007</td>
<td>Bentleigh</td>
<td>Assembly</td>
<td>ALP</td>
<td>Nov 2014 - present</td>
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VICTORIAN PARLIAMENTARY INTERNS
The following names are listed by year and university and have been generated from the Library’s catalogue of bound reports, now on display in the Deakin Gallery of the Victorian Parliamentary Library.

The University of Melbourne

| Year | Interns
|------|----------------------------------|
| 1990 | Antonella D’Andrea  
Andrew Davis  
Brenda Foran  
Katrina Gorjanicyn  
Toby Graff  
Alexander Hill  
Sonja Hood  
Kathryn Kearns  
Glen Kelly  
Lucy Manippa  
Lisa Myers  
Betty Papadopoulos  
Nick Rizos  
Richard Salmons  
Ana Tovar  
R. D. Wainwright  
David Ward  
Marcella Weisensee  
Greg Wilson  
Andrew Young
| 1991 | Scott Barklamb  
Heidi Brissette  
Clare Cahill  
Andrew Coletta  
Paola Dato  
Glenn Duker  
Leah Fricke  
Sally Gamble  
Asimina Gonopoulos  
Tricia Guarnieri  
Monica Linehan  
Roslyn Littler  
Michael Pitt  
Julie Rissman  
Andrew Scannell  
Mim Schimana  
Narelle Tivendale
| 1992 | Jonathan Beeton  
Lonnie Bossi  
Zoe Chambers  
Rachel Haverfield  
Brenda Hubber  
Caroline Labb  
Monika Lacey  
Deborah Lovett  
Lucinda McTrusty  
Alison Morris  
Bernadette Rowlinson  
Marcus Seal  
Clare Simmons  
Julia Thomas  
Camille Walles  
Amanda Watkins  
Mark Welch
| 1993 | Fiona Atkinson  
Jennifer Bilos  
Veney Bognar  
Daniela Frzovic  
Michael Geary  
Gareth Johnson  
Grant Kennaway  
Heather Lacey  
David Latina  
Jenny Lee  
Sarah Mansfield  
Sophie Marcard  
Maria Marinelli  
Sarah Martin  
Gregory Norton  
Jerry Nunez  
Anna O’Sullivan  
Benjamin Rimmer  
Lepa Ristivojevic  
Carmen Scanlon  
Rachel Storey  
Craig Walsh
| 1994 | Rafael Epstein  
Domenic Gatto  
Adam Hosken  
Rosie Iser  
Nick Luckock  
Jacqueline Maroun  
Sandra Ozols  
Dianne Pinner  
Margaret Romano  
Davina Willett  
Ben Wilmot
| 1995 | Adrienne Anderson  
Annabel Barbara  
Michelle Barisic  
Nigel Evans  
Brian Holland  
Rebecca Jones  
Jessica LeDonne  
David Lengel  
Edwina Lunn  
Penny MacRae  
David Madden  
Alexander O’Shea  
Alison Paul  
Amanda Richards  
Charmaine Rodrigues  
Timothy Szlachetko  
Luigi Zarro
| 1996 | Daniel Beebe  
Mia Campbell  
Gavan Cooper  
Jennifer Curtis  
Eliot Geller  
Elizabeth Goodman  
Christina Hajdu  
Courtney Harter  
Uma Jakkar  
Aaron Kaliner  
A. Lawrie  
Terry MacDonald  
Alan MacKinnon  
Philip Markwat  
Andrew McDonald  
Michelle Murphy  
Simon Obendorf  
Antonia Parkes  
Vigneswara Rajah  
Luke Ryan  
Kyriaki Tenekegioglou  
Antoinette Truda
1997
Paul Allen
Kelly Beier
Ben Bigelow
George Bougias
Michael Brennan
Andrew Butler
Robin Crockett
Lucy Curtain
Sarah Evanetz
Christina Han
Leonie Harcourt
Emma Harrowfield
Colleen Hitch
Rachel Howard
Junko Ito
Bronwen Jennings
Matthew Koce
Peter Lindsay
Martin Lockett
Andrew McDonald
Marinella Padula
Hamish Park
Jeremy Piper
Anna Przybylski
Rosalind Read
Roshan Sonthalia
Greg Thompson
Genevieve Wallace
Debra Wilkinson

1998
Karla Berg
Zara Bleikus
James Delavan
Steven DeLaVan
Tami Dower
Elizabeth Goldberg
Alexandra Greif
Owen Griffiths
Elisha Grover
Fiona Hammond
Andrew Higgins
Jasmine Hirst
Melita Hoskin
Andrew Hudson
Leanne Kinsella-Taylor
Leif Lange
Paul Liondas
Marianne Madden
Joanna McCarthy
Sarah Penhall
John Power
Jeramee Rice
Daniel Ritlewski
Safwan Said
John Socco
Anthony Todarello
Kathy Trebeck
Brandon Wagner
Joanne Wallis
Jason Watts
Katie Young

1999
Michael Abrahams
Tamsin Bendeler
Kate Blanch
Sally Carrick
Nicholas Dowie
Joseph Doyle
Nichol Evans
Tamara Grima
Gail Houston
Kate Huntington
Sameer Jatkar
David Lee
Jarrod Lenne
James McCarthy
Prue Monument
Jemma Morris
Milanda Rout
Nina Rushen
Omar Sheriff
Matthew Smith
Luc Trillaud
Maria Trinci
Esther Tung
Cara Waters

2000
Harry Azidis
Tim Bednall
Jessie Belcher
Jacqui Beresford
Leigh Boucher
Alice Bryant
Katherine Cary
Cullen Casey
Matt Coghlan
James Gill
Jacqueline Girvan
Aaron Hart
Sam Hartman
Kristin Hayres
Charli Hoffman
Eugene Kung
Tracey Lewis
Jeremy Masters
Michelle Mathis
Leah McPherson
Allison Meyer
Vanessa Stephens
Kate West
Nicole Woodman
2001
Nathan Barker
Jessica Brown
Caroline Cheng
Adam Coin
Deborah Courtney
Tara Duckworth
Amy Fearney-Sander
Bronwen FitzGerald
Andrea Hanke
Karin Hanke
Ian Hopkins
Bradley Horsfall
Megan Jackson
Rosalina Kogan
Samantha Lane
Pu Li-Ming
Leo Lovius
Beth Midgley
Amalia Moylan
Simon O'Keefe
Cara O'Shanassy
Colleen Pardy
Felicity Purcell
Belinda Raffa
Michael Salter
Lisa Sokolski
Molly Strand
Timothy Vainoras
Xanthe Whittaker

2002
Amanda Barry
Michelle Blanchard
Sarah Broadbent
Edmund Chan
Anna Cheung
Diana Crvenkovic
Brendan Dowling
Terri Dreyer
Jennifer Duong
Aaron Hemsley
Sarah Hildebrand
Tanya Josev
Alexis Kalagas
Nickie King
Adam Kubey
Tess Lethborg
Claire Macdonald
Matthew McKenna
Biljana Oroz
Nathaniel Reader
Jennifer Regan
Derryn Schoenborn
Becky Smith
Matthew Snow
Laura Stansfeld
Philippe Sung
Amilia Thio
Zachary Warren
Tafy Yiu

2003
Karlee Baker
Steve Bell
Sarah Cartwright
Angus Chan
Annabel Dennison
Mark Donaldson
Allie Eichenbaum
Nicholas Fletcher
Sally Freeman
Daniel Gassim
Genevieve Grant
David Griffith
Jared Heath
Yin Kuan Ho
Skye Holcombe
Deanne Jackson
Charlene Weinin Kee
Qiu Yi Khut
Charlotte King
Kevin Lichtenberg
Rowena Macpherson
Emily Millane
Luke Raffin
Linda Rozenberg
Amanda Scardamaglia
Gary Schueller
Kira Smith
Olivia Sweeney
Danielle Thomson
Emily Webster

2004
Madelaine August
Jennifer Black
Anna Crabb
Laura Crowden
Catrina Denvir
Mark Farmer
Michael Forlenza
Richard Hewett
Linden Heywood
Katherine Huynh
Rachel Jolly
Katrina Kenwood
Benjamin Kiely
Kelvin Kwan
Hsiu-ju Stacy Lo
Alice McConnell
Bryony McCormack
Lisa Mortimer
Alexandra O'Rourke
Lizzie Pope
Jim Round
Jonathan Schwartz
Anna Song
Jamie Tang
Mei Hui Thong
Andrew Warren
Ariella Webb
David Woodman
Aaron Young
2005
Elizabeth Ames
Robert Arculus
Louise Atwood
Ashley Barnett
Catherine Bebbington
Eliza Blandford
Thea Chesterfield
Simon Collins
Alysia Debowskis
Christine Duke
Shilpa Grover
Laura Halfpenny
Andrew Lai
Darcie Lyons
William McCallum
Silke Mulherr
Katie O’Connell
Tighe Patching
Monika Pekevska
Sarah Roache
Melissa Smith
Timothy Smith
Nathan Stacey
Keith Tan
Mathew Tinney
Jasmine-Kim
Westendorf
Michael Williams
Jennifer Wrigley

2006
Rebecca
Apostolopoulos
Caroline Barnett
Philippa Brant
Sophie Brown
Joseph Burke
Jack Corbett
Clenence Duchesne
Jennifer Duke
Michael Dunn
Luke Forster
Michelle Johnson
Eric Kassavetis
Allie Levine
Isaac Lowrie
Dana Luther
Tristan Maddocks
Rebecca Mendelsohn
Lachlan Paterson
Karina Popova
Dylan Rowe
Elizabeth Rudd
Michael Rye
Thomas Speirs
Megan Trethowan

2007
Andrew Bartlett
Stephanie Campbell
Adam Delacom
Courtney Dixon
Seth Doherty
Christopher Holland
Sally Kirby
Bridget Little
Katrina Malone
Ellen McNerney
Katherine Molyneux
Justin Rebbeck
Daniel Schuurman
Jonathan Wong

2008
Jeremy Alford
Henrietta Arup
Joanne Bray
Louise Brown
Jamie Brownlee
Sophie Chesterton
Madeline Courvisanos
Joel Cramer
Christie Downard
James Fitzgerald
Christopher Hibbard
Emma Humann
Sally Karmouche
Hannah Kotzman
Sam McArthur
Luke Menzel
Anna Mevel
Sarah Mulcahy
Dieudonne Ndenzako
Matthew Ng
Dominic O’Dwyer
Erin O’Keefe
Victoria Ong
Michael Power
Nicholas Pucius
Steven Purbrick
Mary Quinn
Mathew Toner
Kate Wilson

2009
Ben Bowring
Kate Browne
Fiona Buchanan
Jidah Clark
Andrew Cocks
Jonathan Collins
Sophie Cox
Michael Daffey
Anita Das
Rupert Denton
Joshua Finn
Reena Gupta
James Gutteridge
Amy Hughes
Alexander Mason
Maggie McGowan
Katherine Mills
Scott Newlan
Sarah Nickson
Natalie Raffol
Georgette Scanlon
Matthew Seah
Robert Tilllard
Christopher Venus
Emily Walker
Olivia Wall
James Weaver
Andrew Wood
Terence Wu

2010
James Cameron
Ann-Maree Chua
Vivek Foot
Katherine Goswell
Evan Lacey
Travis McCarthy
Jonathan McCoy
Samantha Megenis
Ben Murphy
Julia O’Brien
Michael Paas
Xanthe Shacklock
James Wilson
2011
Shivaan Bardolia
Eleanor Brown
Charlie Chaturapornkul
Hannah Fitzpatrick
Nicola Flook
Timothy Howse
Emily Keppel
Maeve McGregor
Madeleine Moore
Dirgayuza Setiawan
Alexander Sheko
Alex Willemyns

2012
Kerrie Adams
Jill Beale
Leo Bertolissi-Bremanis
Louis Cameron
Natalia Chilkiewicz
Shu-Ling Chua
Hannah Green
Cecily Jones
Nick Kotzman
Jeremiah Leong
Siobhan Mahony
Felicia Quatela
David Threlfall
Claire Wong
Shin (Jay) Yunjeong

2013
Grace Bowran-Burge
Kirsten Brownstein
Samantha Carbone
Luke Chircop
Alastair Clark
Sarah Code
Lorence Ferro
Natasha Gomez
Guy Kelleher
Amelia Kemister
Grace McCoy
Grace Mountford
Stephen Polesel
Priya Rapson
Georgia Westbrook

2014
Nathan Brumley
Matthew Caldow
Sylvia Fogarty-Phipps
Miranda Gaze
Matthew Hoffman
Stephanie Kelly
Jason Lai
Oliver Lloyd
William Lukamto
Brent Rechter
Megan Reinwald
Anna Schuck
Ayman Shash
John Townsend
Elise Westphalen

2015
Camille Bentley-McGoldrick
Alexander Brown
Eleanor Childs
Harvey Duckett
Alexandra France
Ethan Iacobozzi
Sarah Jacobs
Alexander Jeffares
Sarah Kesselschmidt
Elizabeth Kuiper
Eliza McDonald
Stephanie Moorhouse
Andrea Morris-Meloni
Claudia Weatherall
Monash University

1994
Daniel Andrews
Helen Burgess
Craig Glindemann
Pam Hall
Maree Henwood
Jeremy Knight
Johanna Lamborn
Robert Makinson
Freda Mandikos
Annabelle Martin
Tracey McMullen
Danielle Payne
Cherry Prior
Sean Stratton
Tyson Wodak

1995
Benjamin Barren
Adrian Blades
Joanne Calmer
Angeline Christie
Simone Clancy
Renae Cowman
Zoe Edquist
Simon Frost
James Higgins
Nicholas Hinneberg
Stanley Issaievitch
Nadia Marchioro
Karen Massier
Kirstin Rivett
Gaelle Stone
Elise Wherry
Ursula Wynhoven

1996
James Bateman
Josh Bihary
Claire Brown
Hugh Cameron
Danny Frigerio
Alistair Harkness
Sarah Kratochvil
Hope Saloustros
Noam Shifrin
Rebecca Steinberg
Blair Thompson
Penny Thompson
Michelle Wheatley
Gavin Williams
Sherrin Xerri

1997
Lisa Bradley
Vanessa Cullen
Philip Dalidakis
David Epstein
Daniel Evans
Elena Galak
Damien Gardiner
Katrina Howie
Chris Lewis
Carly Mansell
Adam McBeth
Liz Morgan
Jessica Nixon
Tan Beng Ti

1999
Anna Brown
Melissa Cross
Susie Dowling
Vanessa Evans
Kathryn James
Kathryn E. James
Benjamin Jones
Giorgia Moar
Nicola Paton
Nicholas Riordan
Kaam Sahely
Susan Stanicic
Jeremy Tan
Andrew Wilson
Valery Yang-Loong
Chow
Raini Zambelli

2000
Matt Baker-Johnson
Rachel Craig
Simone Cusack
Mark Eizenburg
Melissa Gaddie
Neil McCann
Jemma McEwan
Ashley McInnes
Chantal Parslow
Corrina Richards
John Sculli
Jacob Somers
Joseph Sowersby
Myles Tooher
Amanda Wolthuizen

2001
Lucy Anderson
Kate Ash-Brumer
Peter Aukstainaitis
Tracey Bell
Brooke Campbell
Ashley Chaileyer
James Couche
Ryan Eagle
Robert Feiner
Denise Golding
Paul Hester
Sarah Hodges
Rebecca Jarvis
Simon Keleher
Tim Kernutt
Korina Leonicio
Janette Lewis
Simon Martin
Christine Melis
Suvin Ng
Helen Ngo
Stacey O’Callaghan
Jackie Peker
David Phillips
Kelly Sexton
Stuart Smith
Helen Tiplady
Janey Tootell
Richard Turner
2002
Ruth Ahchow
Nessa Aledo
Zoe Bateman
Christopher Best
Kathleen Brenner
Kira Clarke
Greg Clugston
Paolo Damante
Amanda Davis-Geddes
Rohan Dixon
Nick Dyrenfurth
Ross Graham
Richard Hutchings
Felicity James
Tim Keleher
Paul Kierce
Simin Kocdag
Maree Langmore
Michael Lemieszek
Rebecca McDonald
Timothy Mithen
Kimberley O'Brien
Fiona Parry-Jones
Trevor Pisciotta
Georgia Shiells
Cameron Sutherland
Amanda Teo
Marianne Vancea
Emma Waller
Simon Wallis
Tim Wilson

2003
Simone Bailey
Megan Barnett
Amelia Beech
Jemma Beuermann
Tania Braukamer
Anna Burke
Charni Cargill
Cassandra Duncan
Jordan Dymond
Luke Hilakari
Brendan Hodgson
Jemma Horsley
Michelle Jennings
Andrew Lanigan
Arthur Le
Kristal Lee
Rhiannon Lenegan
Tania McKew
Abdul Meerasah
Patrik Nystrom
Emma Peppler
Finella Pescott
Marcus Phipps
Amy Rogers
Simon Schenkel
Virginia Smith
Michael Stagg
David Tittensor
Deirdre Watson
Glenn Worth

2004
Haley Apriile
Sarah Barr
Lowri Burman
Tom Chapman
Jacob Clifton
Adam Collins
James Corera
Miriam Cullen
Aron Ping D'Souza
Gabrielle Feery
Tory Gersh
Joel Grant
Ainslie Greedy
Jacqueline Haslem
Sachine Jayawickrame
Adriana Keating
Yasmine Khan
Vivian Klaf
William Lewis
Rebecca Lobb
Andreia Lopow
Caitlin McLean
Sharyn Mittelman
Joe O'Dwyer
Ines Ostenrieder
Grant Poulter
Nicholas Robson
Christopher Saunders
Naomi Schmitz
Nicholas Sweeney

2005
Nicholas Addison
Jennifer Anderson
Emma Anglesey
Roshena Dutta
Christian Farinaccio
Kieran Fitzgerald
Tamlin Gorter
Victoria Guess
Hugh Gyles
Shandon Harris-Hogan
Franziska
Hirschelmann
Darragh Howard
Sally Johnston
Sigrid Lawson
Paul Lemieszek
James Leslie
Lauren Macken
Fiona Mendonca
Juliiya Mik
Natalie Miller
Meg O'Brien
Shiromi Perera
Andrew Porter
Danielle Rudolph
Robin Smith
Susannah Thelander
Karl Tracksdorf
Celina Vines
2006
Guillaume Bailin
Brad Barr
Daniel Barrins
Stephanie Cheligoy
Tom Cobban
Dara Conduit
Andrew Douglas
Cameron Fairlie
Tim Gargett
Kelvin Hui
Sarah Jackson
Chu Man Kai
Lauren Kowalski
Tracie-Lea Kuiper
Rochelle Lade
Claudia Laidlaw
Felicity Lane
Nicholas Latimer
Luke Lucas
Tomas Macphail
Rachel Macreadie
Campbell Micallef
Julia Mitchell
Alex Phillips
Caroline Riseley
Alexander Sheed-Finck
Debra Smith

2008
Jenna Amos
Jesse Andrighetto
Holly Bannon-Murphy
Andrea Bolch
Tom Cain
Rhys Campbell
Katrina Chow
James Cooper
Zoe Edwards
Lara Elmaoula
Sam Encol
Nathan Eva
Mathew French
Sean Gleeson
Erin Harvey
Alexandra Horwood
William Hutchins
Michelle Jellett
Tim Lenders
Elizabeth Molan
Matthew Munforte
Hannah Nichols
Valentina Peng
Nadav Prawer
Ashley Sattler
Chris Spain
Benjamin Van Weel

2009
Michelle Aggromito
Nick Bearlin-Allardice
David Brough
Warwick Brown
Stuart Butterworth
Thomas Chang
Adam Ch’ng
Rebecca Cohen
Collette De Silva
Jenna Donsky
Jonathan Dugec
Bonnie Einsiedel
Monique Hurley
Caitlin James
David Jancik
Kanika Kakkad
Vasiliky Kasidis
Adrian Kelly
Sintiya Khananishoo
Victor Khov
Brian Lau
Kate Lightfoot
Emily Marson
David Mulhall
Anne Poulos
Jonathon Rhall
Andrew Roe
Iona Roy
David Schaefer
Stefanie Wale

2010
Clare Alomes
Emma Birrell
Nicholas Carlson
Ellen Coates
Katherine Dobson
Joel Doutch
Andrew Glenis
Joshua Green
Scott Howard
Katia Lallo
Tania Marcello
Melissa Matteo
Trier Murphy
Priya Wakhlu

2011
Adam Cantelmi
Mark Colautti
Ashleigh Cole
Michael Dorman
Madelyn Friend
Stephen Hallett
Fiona Keks
James Mansour
Clay O’Brien
Ronan O’Donnell
Yvette Radas
Moshe Same
Hilary Taylor
Jeremy Tofler
Chris Wallace

2012
Fatin Borhanudin
James Brooks
Matthew Budahazy
James Campbell
Erika Codognotto
Hayley Down
Melanie Dragojlovic
Catherine Fabiny
Joshua Knoop
Campbell McNolty
Charles Norbury
Claerwen O’Hara
Richard Plumridge
Kieran Stephens
Duncan Wallace
2013
Tully Anders
Damien Anthony
Marc Bonavia
Jonathan Chandler
Hannah Cotching
Christian Habla
Katie Heading
Vivienne Jones
Nadege Malcolm
Courtney Marthick
Stephen Moore
Gabrielle Paatsch
Jake Spain
Harriet Tolhurst
Ben Zocco

2014
Millicent Allan
Jedda Barnford
James Blaker
Emily Fischer
Thomas Grant
Byron Haast
Thomas Hvala
Emma Jakeman
Rebecca Lew
Catherine Nadel
Bradley Serry
Michael Smyth
Shara Teo
Anthony West
Rhian Wilson

2015
Andrew Belyea-Tate
Katharine Brown
Henry Coates-Doyle
Ashley Coleman-Bock
Eloise Hesse
Aidan Johnson
Michael Li
Tony Li
Matthew O’Neill
Dylan O’Beirne
Emily Perkins
Hamish Scully
Rose Smith
Liam Tomlinson
Ellie Wyatt

Victoria University

2004
Morgan Armstrong
Phia Kang
Isobel Keecher
Laura Thompson

2005
Gabriella Aitken
Racheal Baker
James McIntyre
Belinda Northey
Caroline Rozario

2006
Trent Brickle
Jaclyn Cameron
Shaun Connell
Cameron Dunne
Jesse Twomey

2007
Leigh Crosbie
Bert King
Gerard May
Gabrielle Thomson

2008
Ana-Maria Ardelean
Kate Bartlett
Kellie Dundon
Phil Evans
Sarah-Jane Mills
Anthony O’Loughlin
Emily Pali

2009
Ashleigh Kemp
Brendan McGloin

2010
Ben Murphy
Sanjay Nathan
David Orme
Emily Witham

2011
Melissa Bruni
Reece Welsh

2012
Anissa Chatt
Kristen Moore
Lindsay Wilson-Roberts

2013
Daniel Agius
Rebecca Mathews
Jessica Roberts
Nathan Taylor

2014
Danielle Giaquinta
Vincent Lie
Jessica Wescott

2015
Rosalie Cobb
Rhys Barkshire-Francis
Daniel Scida
Genevieve Skruzny
APPENDIX 7

INVITATION FOR THE 2015 REUNION CELEBRATION OF THE VICTORIAN PARLIAMENTARY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Presiding Officers, Hon Bruce Atkinson MLC & Hon Telmo Languiller MP cordially invite you to the

VICTORIAN PARLIAMENTARY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM
25 YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

TUESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2015, 6–8PM
PARLIAMENTARY GARDENS,
SPRING STREET, MELBOURNE

2015 marks the 25th year of Australia’s longest running and most successful Parliamentary internship program.

Please join us in celebrating this landmark and launch of the 25 year celebratory book, followed by speeches from the Presiding Officers and former interns.

Dress – Business
Refreshments will be provided
By invitation only

Please rsvp by 21 August 2015 to:
tom.hvala@parliament.vic.gov.au or (03) 8682 2787

As this is a parliamentary sitting day, car parking is only available to those with a parliamentary parking pass. Guests are advised to enter the Parliamentary Gardens via the rear MacArthur Street pedestrian entrance and proceed to the Gardens. Please bring this invitation to assist with access to the parliamentary precinct.
VICTORIAN PARLIAMENTARY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM:
A COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP
Students of Spring Street is a story of success and achievement. It offers a unique glimpse into Australia's longest running parliamentary internship program. Now in its 26th year, the Victorian Parliamentary Internship Program has seen over one thousand interns pass through its doors with flying colours. The program has spawned a remarkable group of talent, ranging from the 49th Premier of Victoria to MPs, CEOs, football journalists, philanthropists, academics, lawyers, radio announcers and activists.

Tom Hvala & Jon Breukel
Victorian Parliamentary Library & Information Service