

Universities go hard at the ball

Monash University proved the standout during the Latrobe City Challenge university games this month, dominating in various sports including the finals of the men's and women's Aussie rules, mixed netball, lawn bowls and soccer.

Finals highlights included the

playoff of the men's Aussie Rules final between Monash and Deakin with last years AUS champions in Monash securing consecutive titles, defeating Deakin by one goal. The women's final also saw hot favourites Monash go down to Deakin in a nail-biter, narrowly losing by one point.

The Latrobe City Challenge and Australian University Sport also recognised those universities that displayed outstanding sportsmanship and enthusiasm throughout the games, awarding the Spirit of the Challenge award to RMIT University.

RMIT team manager Jenny Southwell said it was fantastic for the 140 RMIT students competing at the games to receive the award.

"We had mixed success on the field, we're just a new team and learning the ropes," Ms Southwell said. More than 1000 participants from Victorian universities converged on the Latrobe Valley for three days of competition.

Project manager for the games Josh Graham said he was pleased with how the games were received from both participants and locals.

"It's been a lot of hard work putting the games together and getting things up and running, so it's very satisfying seeing how successful they've been and how much the participants and spectators have enjoyed them." Graham said.



Doctor squiggle

Australian Catholic University last semester awarded celebrated newspaper cartoonist and National Living Treasure, Michael Leunig with its highest honour, a Doctor of the University.

National vice-chancellor Professor Peter Sheehan said Leunig possessed the rare ability to demystify the human condition through his engaging cartoons, which were often challenging

or though-provoking, but always ultimately hopeful and positive.

"Michael has the innate ability to challenge the worst of human folly through his colourful and irreverent art, while still expressing all the joy, fun and emotional poignancy of human life. It is this talent that led the Archbishop of Canterbury to refer to him as a 'most penetrating spiritual commentator'."

Money to play

Twenty-three students are sharing sports scholarships worth more than \$110,000 in cash and in-kind support from Melbourne University Sports Association.

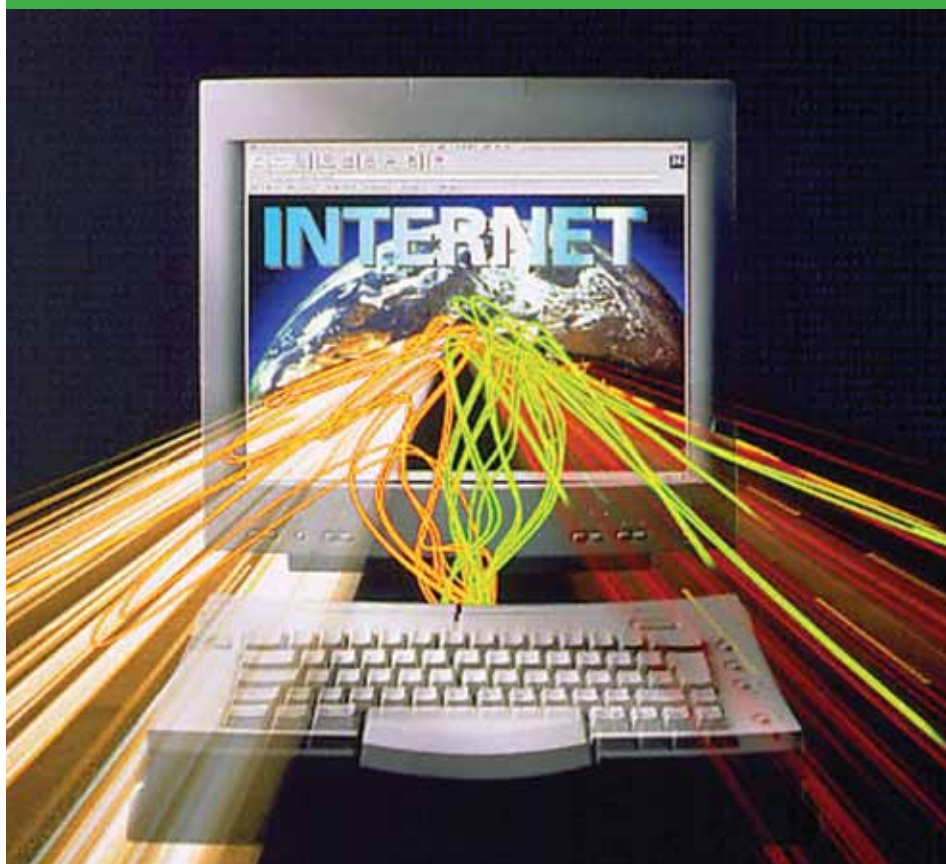
High performance scholarships valued at \$5300 went to eight students and Friends of the Sports Association scholarships

(\$2800) went to 15 students.

Sport and Physical Recreation director, Mark Lockie, says a number of scholarship recipients will be working towards selection for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games and nearly all will represent Australia or play in their sport's top league this year.

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NTEU - Supporting a student voice

The National Tertiary Education Union is the trade union representing staff working in universities across Australia.

Public university funding has declined over the last decade under the current government. University fees have gone through the roof. Eligibility for Austudy is denied to most, and the Federal Government's industrial relations changes have left young workers vulnerable.

In 2005 NTEU worked with student representatives to fight the Federal Government's attacks on student organisations. The Government's Voluntary Student Unionism legislation has radically reduced the services available to students across the board.

Second-hand bookshops – GONE!

Free and independent student rights advocates – GONE!

Clubs and societies – GONE!

Student control of student affairs – GONE!

2007 is an election year and NTEU wants to see young people and students in general, have their say. Ensure you are correctly enrolled to vote by going to the Australian Electoral Commission website at www.aec.gov.au

The Howard Government has tried to gag students. Don't let them take your voice away!

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