



pics by Ryan Hsu

Second Life campuses

Deakin

Purchased an island and “in the throes of determining how to use it,” according to Faculty of Arts lecturer Ross Monaghan. Meantime, a number of projects are underway with education students and public relations students, including a joint study with Red Cross into non-government organisations in Second Life.

GippsTAFE

Invested between \$4000 and \$5000 establishing a private island. Students use it to practice job searching interviews. Health and community services students practice assessing client risk and managing client drug and alcohol issues. “In real life, it’s risky exposing vulnerable clients to students and vice versa, GippsTAFE’s Glenda McPherson says.

La Trobe

Established a private island six weeks ago. A virtual conference facility – modelled on La Trobe’s real life outdoor amphitheatre – is under construction. Plans are afoot for a coffee shop and bar on the island. Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Acting Director Dr Kay Souter, says online interaction (won’t) at the moment, replace traditional classes.”

Monash

A recent briefing to the University’s Educational Technology Committee reported that “a number of staff are ... enquiring about teaching in Second Life. It is almost certain that staff will start unofficial trials soon, and likely that at some point Monash will want or need to create a presence in the online community.”

Swinburne

While Swinburne hasn’t purchased land in Second Life, some lecturers have held classes there. Associate Professor Dr Darren Tofts says his seminar, held in the main tower of ABC Island, featured Stelarc, a world-renowned cybernetic artist, and attracted 10 students and another 10 colleagues and academics.

RMIT

This year purchased a private island for around \$1000 and architecture and design students spent a semester designing sculptures, buildings and art as part of a course exploring virtual worlds. All their lectures took place online in Second Life and lecturer Greg More says Second Life encouraged innovation in his classroom.