

Thursday August 10th - For Immediate Release

The Melbourne Centre for Financial Studies expands its capacity to serve the Melbourne Financial community

The Melbourne Centre occupies a unique niche in the Australian financial sector. It acts as a conduit for the transmission of ideas, advanced research and applications (via consultancies) between the academic finance community and the dynamic financial services sector of Melbourne.

The mission of the Centre is to enhance Melbourne's national and international reputation for excellence in financial practice, research and education.

Professor Kevin Davis, the Melbourne Centre's Director said today "I am very pleased to announce the appointment of David Michell as our new Business Development Manager. David's appointment greatly enhances our ability to liaise with, and identify the research needs of the banking, finance, and corporate communities."

Michell was formerly the Technical Director and Deputy CEO of The Finance and Treasury Association with a base in Melbourne. Prior to the 7 years in that position, his previous roles included stints in banking, economic research and investment management.

Professor Davis also noted "our research capability has been significantly augmented by the recent appointment of Graham Cocks as a Senior Consultant. Graham has many years of experience in consulting, investment management, investment banking, and stock-broking. He is the ideal person to identify the industry needs that will be addressed by our Funds Management Research Program".

David and Graham have joined Research Fellow John Fowler, a former Finance Director of Carlton and United Breweries, and Research Assistant Patrick Zhang (who recently completed Master's degrees in both Applied Finance and Professional Accounting).

The Centre's research is focused on three core areas: Financial Regulation, Funds Management, and New Financial Markets and Instruments. In its first year of operation the Melbourne Centre for Financial Studies has funded over twenty research proposals by local academics to conduct advanced financial research in these (and other) important areas. It has also run a successful series of free events for the local finance community, with an emphasis on knowledge transfer between academia and industry.

The Centre has developed the speaker program for the 11th Finsia – Melbourne Centre for Financial Studies Banking and Finance Conference to be held on September 25th and 26th for which the Conference dinner speaker will be David Murray, Chairman of the Future Fund. The Centre's First International Distinguished Lecture is to be given by Mr. Mervyn King, Governor of the Bank of England on December 21st.

The Melbourne Centre for Financial Studies was an initiative of the Victorian State Government that provided seed funding. Its founding members are Melbourne, Monash and RMIT Universities, and Finsia (the Financial Services Institute of Australasia). In December 2005, the insurer AAMI became the Centre's first corporate member. Last month, the Commonwealth Bank of Australia added its financial support through its sponsorship of the Chair of Finance held by Professor Davis.

For further information:

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