



**Forum for
European-Australian
Science and Technology cooperation**

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**Newsletter #9
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In this Issue – click topic for quick navigation:

LATEST NEWS

[FEAST 4 – Networking for Excellence
Conference](#)



[Announcing ARIA – the Association for Research
between Italy and Australasia](#)

[Project Profile – CADO: Coring Adelle Land Diatom Oozes](#)

RECENT EVENTS

[FEAST State Seminars on FP6](#)

GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

[NEC grant](#)

OTHER NEWS

[Share Your Experiences](#)

Tel: +61 (0) 2 6273 4823
Fax: +61 (0) 2 6273 4848
E-mail: info@feast.org
Website: www.feast.org

FEAST Office
Engineering House
11 National Circuit
Barton ACT 2600
AUSTRALIA

LATEST NEWS

FEAST 4 – Networking for Excellence

17-18 June 2003

Shine Dome – Canberra, Australia

On 17 – 18 June 2003, FEAST will hold a conference to promote scientific interchange and policy discussion between Australia and Europe.

The Hon Peter McGauran MP, the Australian Federal Minister for Science will open the conference and eminent speakers from Australia and Europe will take part. The aims of the conference are to increase awareness of the state-of-play in research in Australia and Europe, facilitate joint research projects and provide commentary on the status of Australia-European research collaboration.

The focus of the conference will be:

- the forms and capabilities of networks;
- how research priorities will shape excellent science;
- the role of international exchange in training and development; and
- the social responsibility of science.

The fields that will be covered are:

- agriculture and sustainable development;
- the role of ICT in science;
- life sciences, genomics and biotechnology for health; and
- nanotechnology and nanosciences.

The content of the conference makes it ideal for:

- leading public and private researchers engaged in, or looking to encourage, international cooperation;
- public and private sector researchers looking to extend their networks; and
- all researchers and policy makers interested in current issues in science.

You can now register for the Networking for Excellence conference. The registration fee on or **before Friday 23 May 2003** will be AUD 250 (approx EURO 150). Registrations received after 23 May will incur a late registration fee of AUD 270 (approx EURO 160).

For more information on the conference and for the registration form please visit the website: <http://www.feast.org/feast4.html> or send an e-mail to info@feast.org

This conference is being supported by the Australian Federal Department of Education, Science and Training, the National Europe Centre, the European Commission the Member State missions of the European Union in Australia and the Australian Academy of Science.

Announcing the Association for Research between Italy and Australasia (ARIA)

Dr Nicola Sassenelli – S&T Attache, Embassy of Italy

On 26 November last year, in the presence of the Australian Minister of Science Hon Peter McGauran and the Italian Ambassador Dino Volpicelli, the first non-profit Association for Research between Italy and Australasia within the Australian Capital Territory was presented to the Australian scientific and academic community. The initiative saw the participation of about 150 lecturers and researchers belonging to Universities, State research centres, as well as representatives from the Department of Education, Science and Training and from the main Australian Public Entities of Research such as: CSIRO (Commonwealth Scientific Industrial Research Organization), NHMRC (National Health Medical Research Council), ARC (Australian Research Council), Australian Academy of Science and others.

The Association, officially established last July and named "ARIA Canberra", aims to promote, encourage, facilitate and manage the activities of promotion linked to social science, scientific and technological research between Australasia and Italy, with particular attention to Universities and ACT research centres.

During the ARIA-Canberra launch, Minister McGauran, Italian Ambassador Dino Volpicelli and the President of the newborn Association Dr Luciano Lombardo, emphasised the increasing activity of cooperation between the two countries over the last two years thanks to the 20 workshops organised in Australia. These workshops saw the participation of more than 400 researchers and entrepreneurs from high tech Italian sectors and outcomes were presented in ten editions of the "Bulletin of the Scientific Community in Australasia", from March 2001 to June 2002. Over 120 articles on scientific and technological research, relevant for both Countries were published. Importantly, such associations are mainly made up of young researchers with Italian origins and they represent a breakthrough in the stereotyped vision of "Italian communities abroad", which are seen as aging communities with an average cultural level. Prof. Antonio Cantoni from ARIA Western Australia, Pasquale Sgro and Mauro Sandrin from ARIA Victoria and Piero Giorgi from ARIA Queensland also participated in the event.

The Association was established through the support of fifteen founding members, the majority of which were researchers and professors with Italian background and Australian who have close ties with Italy. Today there are currently 21 people enrolled in the association, which has an executive committee of 5 representatives (President, Secretary, Treasurer, and two ordinary members), with the presence of our Scientific Attaché and a representative nominated by the Minister for Science of the Australian Federal Government.

The idea of establishing public associations is based on the fact that they can independently propose initiatives, which are chosen according to the needs of Universities and other local research centres, allowing them to interact with the Government. Indeed, the Government will certainly be more willing to sustain financially those activities investing in research structures located on its own territory. Currently there are three other Associations which have been incorporated - Western Australia (18 members), Queensland (17 members) and Victoria (25 members). These associations, together with ARIA-Canberra, promoted by the Scientific Office of the Italian Embassy, aim to create a network of economically independent organisations. The coordination of the different public organisations will allow a widespread promotion of cooperation on the territory of Australasia, through the Universities and research centres.

The FEAST aims of promoting S&T cooperation between Australia and Europe are in line with ARIA goals. Thus ARIA-Act will have an active role in the upcoming FEAST 4 Conference, *Networking for Excellence*, through the following two actions:

- ✓ It will be the exclusive supporter of the official FEAST 4 reception – Cocktail Function to be held on Tuesday 17 June.
- ✓ Together with the Scientific Office of the Italian Embassy it will invite all the ARIA Associations in Australia (ARIA-VIC, ARIA-WA and ARIA-QLD) to guarantee a national ARIA presence at the Conference.

- PROJECT PROFILES -

CADO - Coring Adélie Land Diatom Oozes

The CADO program concerns the investigation of deep-sea cores to reconstruct past sea-ice conditions offshore Antarctica in the Adélie Land sector and near Mertz polynya as well as documenting the chronology of ice sheet influence on continental rise sediments. Support for this collaborative marine project came from European Funding agencies : SO-IMAGES and Institute Polaire Emile Victoire (IPEV), CNRS (Centre National de la Recherche Française) and CEA (Centre à l'Energie Atomique), and Australian agencies: the Antarctic Cooperative Research Centre and Geosciences Australia.

FEAST interviewed Dr Leanne Armand, Research Fellow at the Antarctic CRC at the University of Tasmania, to find out more about the CADO program and the project's European collaborations. The interview is on the FEAST website at <http://www.feast.org/projectprofiles.php>

RECENT EVENTS

FEAST Seminars

Working with Europe in Science & Technology – Opportunities for Australia under the EU 6th Framework Program (FP6)

Over the past five months FEAST has held a series of seminars around Australia to highlight the new opportunities for Australian researchers under FP6. The first seminar was held in November 2002 in Melbourne and was followed by seminars in Canberra, Brisbane, Sydney, Adelaide, Perth and most recently Launceston and Hobart. The seminars involved speakers from the Department of Education, Science and Training, FEAST, National Health and Medical Research Council and the European Commission Delegation as well as State-based case studies of 8 Australia-Europe collaborative projects. Each seminar was well attended with approximately 60 participants at each (over 80 participants at the Brisbane and Sydney seminars). The FEAST Executive would like to thank speakers for generously donating their time to the seminars and also the State Government Agencies and the University of Tasmania which hosted the events. Copies of the presentations given at each seminar are available on the FEAST website at <http://www.feast.org/library.php#events>.

The FEAST office will consider the feedback received from the current seminar series in order to plan a second round of 6th Framework Program seminars in mid 2004 which will present information on Australian participation in FP6 in light of the outcomes from the first and second grant rounds.

GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

THE AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES EUROPE NETWORK

invites applications for

Research Travel Grants Europe 2003-2004

Currently chaired by the Director of the National Europe Centre at The Australian National University, the Australian Universities Europe Network (AUEN) is dedicated to fostering a greater understanding of Europe and the European Union in Australian universities and in public and private sector institutions. AUEN will award several travel grants (of \$2,000–2,500) to postgraduate scholars working on contemporary European issues in universities that belong to (or wish to join) the AUEN. AUEN will also allocate travel grants (of \$5,000) to early career/ postdoctoral scholars working on themes identified as a part of the National Europe Centre's work program.

Closing date for applications: Friday 4 July 2003

For further information, please visit the National Europe Centre website: www.anu.edu.au/NEC/homenec.html
or contact Ms Helen Fairbrother: Telephone (02) 6125 9896
or <mailto:europe@anu.edu.au>

*This is not a comprehensive list of funding opportunities available.
Please look at the [feast website](#) for further information under
Australian and European funding and services.*

OTHER NEWS

Share your experiences

The FEAST office would like to hear from researchers (including industry researchers) already or previously involved in European-Australian collaboration. Don't waste your valuable experience; consider sharing it with others through our newsletter.

Publication in our newsletter is free. Your contributions may be edited for clarity. For further information please contact info@feast.org.