After a significant period of wide consultation and re-examining the aims and outcomes of the MBT Program, the MBT Management Committee and UNSW Academic board have signed off on recommendations for the MBT from 2006.

The changes are part of the first formal review of the Program since it was launched 13 years ago. Back then, there were just eight participants, all studying face-to-face, whereas in Session 1 2005 there were 917 enrolled, the majority studying by distance.

The review, initiated by the MBT Management Committee, looked at the academic integrity, structure and direction of the Program, while maintaining the flexibility desired by MBT’s participant cohort of mature and busy professionals.

The whole aim of the formal review was to improve the quality of the Program,” said MBT Executive Director Natalie Kidd. “There was a general concern that while the Program provided flexibility of course choice, the many inherent pathways to completion meant that participants could graduate with degrees that appeared to vary widely.”

Before reassessing the structure we decided to re-examine the Program aims, what kind of... Continued on page 3

New and returning swap stories at MBT Alumni’s first social

Graduates and current participants swapped stories over drinks and canapés at the Master of Business & Technology (MBT) Program Alumni Network’s first social evening at The Atrium in Sydney on April 20.

The mood was best summed up by Jane Howard, who is part-way through the degree: “This was a real ice-breaker. I didn’t know a soul but I felt immediately relaxed, as I was among fellow MBT people, and conversation was easy as we all had a base in common.

“As a distance student it was great to be able to chat with people from different professional backgrounds about common themes.”

Graduate Richard Gow, a business and technology manager, got the evening off to a thought-providing start with a powerful presentation on the application of MBT skills to the workplace.

He told with supporting slides... Continued on page 3
The Smart thing in New York is to keep in touch with Colin

MBT people who find themselves in New York should make a point of contacting Colin Smart.

Colin has accumulated a lot of valuable inside information about the place – indeed about most U.S. cities – since his transfer from Sydney two years ago, that he's more than willing to share. He can even get you into an Aussie Rules footy team, if that is your passion.

In fact, when he's not working or studying for his MBT degree, Colin plays for the New York Magpies in the U.S. Australian Rules competition (www.nyfooty.com). The curious thing is that Colin is not even an Aussie – he's a Kiwi, but no-one holds that against him.

“Americans have no idea about accents and call everyone from South Africa to Scandinavia English,” he says. “But they do love Australians, even if forced to drink Fosters.

“With about 50,000 Australians resident in New York you can normally find a support group to help you settle in and the American-Australian Association (www.americanaustralian.org) is an excellent starting point.

Probably a better starting point is Colin (csmart8@yahoo.com). He says that if any MBT students or alumni are heading his way he will be happy to fill them in on life there and how to manage their MBT studies. “Feel free to use me a resource,” he says but warns: “They don’t sell meat pies in the U.S. (and they call this a civilised country!).

David consults to the world far from the madding crowd

Another MBT expatriate is David Sammut but where he lives, the world-heritage listed town of Lunenburg (population 2000) in Nova Scotia, is very different from where most managers and professionals would find themselves.

“The Internet has revolutionised my world,” says David, who graduated in 2001. He runs his consultancy from a cottage with a view of colourful snow-capped houses clustered alongside a frozen harbour on the Atlantic coast.

“From my office, half a world away from my clients, I can talk face-to-face with them and manage entire projects without ever setting foot on site. I can do everything I need on my computer: scientific research, publish documents and manage a sales client list that grows by 50 companies per day. And I tap across from the Internet to the phone system to make long distance calls for only a few cents per minute.”

One of the emergent set of knowledge workers selling good ideas and expertise, David is able to run a profitable micro business from virtually any location in the world. Outside his window, “time slips by slowly under a heavy blanket of white. People stop and talk on the street, their breath steaming in the cold air, and my car stays in the driveway pretty much all of the time.”

David and his wife Chantelle, both in their early 30s, fell captive to the charms of Lunenburg, a fishing village, after a 25,000-kilometre road journey through Canada. He has two primary clients, a firm operating in the mining industry in Australia, and a university-based entrepreneurship training program in Canada, for which he is the national sales manager.

For the Australian client he came up with an idea for recycling...
MBT review heralds capstone courses

Continued from page 1

Graduate attributes should be attained, what participants want from the Program and how to best achieve them.

MBT Program aims and newly articulated graduate attributes can be viewed online at www.mbt.unsw.edu.au/programaims.

From 2006, new MBT degree participants will be required to take at least one of two ‘capstone’ courses under structural refinements to be made to the Program later this year. The capstone courses are Strategic Management of Business and Technology and Management of Innovation and Technical Change.

In order to help participants better plan their choice of courses and the most logical order in which to study them, courses will be categorised as ‘Business’, ‘Technology’ or ‘Integrated’ courses.

Recommended starting courses will include assessments structured to help participants without a prior degree to develop skills in the preparation of assignments. It will be strongly recommended that the capstone course selected be completed during the last year of study.

A number of new courses are being developed, including Logistics, and Development of New Products and Services, as well as a course on statistics for business. Some existing courses are to be restructured and renamed.

These revisions to the Program should further improve the quality and integrity of the curriculum, and of the MBT brand, while still providing participants with the flexibility to choose courses of most interest to them, with additional guidelines and recommended pathways to assist their choices.

New and returning swap stories at MBT Alumni’s first social

Continued from page 1

About he was able to turn around a poorly performing online repair management system and plan for further productivity savings.

Richard fielded questions throughout the presentation a measure of the high level of interest.

Among the 42 attendees were graduates Warwick and Helen Rule, who enrolled in the MBT’s very first class in 1992, as well as brand new participants, Vanessa Swift and Salvatore Lacaria, who enrolled this year.

Warwick, a mechanical engineer, had an inspirational story to tell. He and Helen were raising six children when they commenced their degree. Half way through Warwick launched a business rebuilding plant and equipment in the heavy processing industry. The business today is experiencing 40 per cent growth and employs 40 people. Helen, who became a senior manager at Honeywell now works in the business.

The evening was organised by the MBT Alumni Steering Committee with assistance from Sonja Wilkinson of the MBT office. Committee Chairman Ian Dagger said: “Our inaugural social has been an outstanding success. The next challenge is how to involve the many MBT alumni living outside of NSW.” He handed round a calendar of events which promise to attract more bumper responses.
Margaret’s retirement brings back memories

The retirement in February of Margaret Brennan, the MBT’s longest-serving employee, marks the end of an era. Margaret played a vital role in the program’s growth from an idea in 1989 into a mature reality that today attracts the interest of participants world-wide.

The period has seen much change but as her co-workers and numerous students will attest, Margaret was the one constant, an ever-available fount of knowledge and experience that they frequently tapped into.

For most participants, academics and facilitators, Margaret’s was the voice they usually encountered first when telephoning with enquiries; it was her face they saw at the front desk; it was her advice that got them out of a jam or clarified an issue; and she supplied the biscuits, tea and coffee for the on-campus classes. Many student tributes to MBT ‘customer service’ over the years had her in mind.

Tributes flowed at a farewell arranged by the MBT and attended by Professor Greg Whittred, Dean of the Faculty of Commerce and Economics, the MBT’s Executive Director Natalie Kidd, academics, alumni, staff and former staff.

Margaret was recruited from UNSW’s Key Centre for Mines in 1991 by the MBT’s first director Professor David Carmichael to type up and desktop publish the study guides.

“Our first application for enrolment (Session 1 1992) was from Dr Leslie Russell who worked in R&D at CSR,” she recalls. “Despite the views of some academics who saw the MBT as a ‘niche’ concept that would not fit in the university system, this ‘blue-chip’ enrolment got the program off to a fine start.

“Geoff Dick was among the first academics to join the MBT and write courses. We had a small staff and everything was done in-house except the printing of study guides.

“The then Dean of Engineering Professor Mark Wainwright was an enthusiastic supporter and if you ever passed him on the campus one of his first questions was, ‘how many enrolments do you have?’”

Margaret recalls that during the first couple of years it was not easy recruiting students. “During the ‘recession we had to have’ industry was downsizing and there was little money for employee education.

“The turning point came in December 1994. At Christmas we went home with 100 students enrolled. We returned to work in January to find the office floor strewn with applications spat out by the fax machine over the break.

“Student numbers had virtually doubled overnight which meant that the MBT was well and truly up and running."

Margaret says the move to online web-supported classes marks the biggest change in her experience. “It’s a whole new world,” she says.

“Being a part of the MBT has been a fantastic experience I will miss working and interacting with the participants. But I am looking forward to having a good rest and playing with my grandchildren.”

For the Diary  MBT Networking Events

Network, Network, Network!

At the next “Meet the CEO”, the MBT Alumni will have an “MBT Room” for the pre-event drinks. Come and meet fellow MBT participants and alumni, Facilitators, MBT Program staff and the Alumni Steering Committee.

Afterwards join your fellow Alumni for dinner at “The Royal Randwick” Pub.

2005 Meet the CEO

Please mark the next two important dates in your diary:

Wednesday 10 August – Richard Pratt, CEO Visy Industry
Thursday 15 September – Mike Hawker, CEO IAG

End of Year Social

Mark this in your diary now! Details to come. There will be a end of year get together for MBT alumni and participants at Phillip’s Foote at 101 George Street, The Rocks; 17 November, 7pm till late!
How Len Brown broke the mould

Len Brown left school after Year 10 at age 15 and joined the Army as an apprentice fitter and turner. Today, 28 years on, he finds himself managing Army’s Maritime Capability, which includes the equipment configuration and financial management of the fleet.

“Army has its own small navy – Army’s marine equipment comprises everything it operates, on or under water, with few exceptions,” he says. “Landing craft used in support of the tsunami relief appeal, watercraft that supported the MV Tampa during the ‘children overboard’ incident, the Regional Assistance Mission landing craft that hit the beaches in the Solomon Islands, and the heavily marinised establishment of the Tactical Response Regiment at Holsworthy, are all examples of our day-to-day responsibility.

“Most Australians will be familiar with Navy’s recruitment commercial where sea-mines are found on board a tugboat. In real life, it was an Army landing craft fitted with armament that made the tugboat heave-too. Typically, inflatable boats, diving equipment, outboard motors, amphibious vehicles and life preserver vests make up the bulk of what we support. I can honestly say that no two consecutive days are the same, and you never know what crisis may unfold.”

In 2000 Len decided on a career change from non-commissioned officer (Warrant Officer Class One) to a commissioned officer (Army Captain) in the Australian Defence Force. “I very much wanted to break the mould in what was fast becoming an acceptable benchmark in ‘average fleet management performance’,” he says.

“Coming from a technical background as a Marine Engineer, I set about acquiring the personal and professional skills necessary to become an effective Fleet Manager. The MBT program I commenced in 2001 afforded me opportunities far beyond what I had initially anticipated. Every completed subject had some degree of immediate relevance to my environment and when added to my existing technical background, the MBT program armed me with a formidable weapon – knowledge.”

He says the combination of MBT subjects and the application of this knowledge enabled him to build confidence and credibility. The course structure and how it was presented also provided him with a framework for better understanding the tools and techniques available to truly excel in his field of employment.

“My story is testament to what can be achieved through the application of subjects offered under the MBT Program at UNSW.”

MBT learning reaches out

Ben Lange (right) following his graduation with former PM Bob Hawke and Mrs Lange.

The MBT network has reached out in a practical way to help an Indigenous engineer mark out his career path.

As a partner mentor, MBT student Ralph Grimes was able to apply his course learning to help Ben Lange, UNSW’s first Indigenous engineering graduate (and Australia’s first Indigenous electrical engineer), into a cadetship with the NSW Ministry of Energy and Utilities in 2003.

While serving out his cadetship, funded from a NSW-Commonwealth grant scheme for Indigenous people, Ben completed his degree and has now found employment as a Graduate Site Engineer within Bovis Lend Lease in Canberra.

“It was very satisfying to be able to draw on what I learned in the course Strategic People Management to help Ben assess his different career prospects and what his goals and strategies might be,” says Ralph.

“He is a great guy and will go far. He speaks very highly of UNSW and the Engineering Faculty in particular.”

Ralph Grimes.
April 2005 Graduates

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE in Business and Technology
Ms Sarah Behman
Mr Jason Cathcart
Mr Gavin Cheyne
Ms Anita Clarke
Mr Sam Drummond
Mr David Fenwick
Mr Wayne Francis
Mr Ian Frost
Mr Craig Fuller
Mr Jonathan Gould
Mr Rajeev Madan
Miss Marianne Morton
Mr Chun Pang Ng
Mr John Shea
Ms Debbie Willett

GRADUATE DIPLOMA in Business and Technology
Mr Stuart Spouse
Ms Donna Welch
Mr Peter Wells
Mr Anthony Yee

MASTER OF BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY
Mr David Allan
Mr James Azar
Mr Marcus Baker
Mr Rob Bampton
Mr David Banks
Mr Mark Berwick
Ms Claire Bleasel
Mr Timothy Boyd
Mr Todd Brogan
Mr Elliott Burke
Ms Tracey Clancy
Mr Kyle Craft
Miss Jade Creswell
Mr Scott Crittenden
Mr Desmond David
Mr Chris Davis
Mr Paul Drain
Mr Simon Fan
Mr Mohiuddin Farooq
Mr Adam Foye
Mr Phil Game
Mr Fred Goodwin
Mr Peter Goodwin

Prof Toan Pham, Prof Graham Low and Roger Oehlrich.

Mr Paul Gwynne
Ms Christine Harding
Mr Gavin Hase
Mr Simon Haswell
Mr Fernando Heredia
Mr Anthony Hespe
Dr Mark Hoffman
Ms Chris Howarth
Mrs Sairah Hussain
Mr Pras I Bagus
Mr Stuart Jacobs
Mr David Jehan
Mrs Fiona Jelley
Ms Anne Jiang
Mr Adrian Johnson
Ms Maryanne Kennan
Mr James Kent
Ms Jo Kim
Mr Terry King
Mr Tonnie Lam
Ms Melissa Lawrence
Ms Fiona Leishman
Mr Scott Lindblom
Ms Melanie Mather
Mr Mark McEnearney
Ms Dani Morris

Mr Chris Muehlebach
Miss Deborah Murray
Ms Cassandra Nock
Mr Roger Oehlrich
Mr John O’Neill
Mr Simon Pearce-Higgins
Mr Michael Reznik
Mr Matt Roles
Mr Matt Sale
Mr Zulfi Shah-Khan
Mr Ramend Sharma
Ms Kristen Short
Mr Shane Smith
Mr Matt Spence
Mr Brett Steele
Mr Simon Tame
Ms Ginny Siow Ling Tan
Mr Damian Teoh
Mr Adam Thielfall
Ms Fay Tsoi
Mr Phillip Uzunovski
Mr Lokesh Varma
Mrs Bernadette Welch
Mr Geoffrey Wang
Ms Deborah Wilcock

Todd Brogan and family.
Terry King and family.
Fiona Leishman and family.