

# Learn hands-on

**T**he Department of Accounting and Finance at Monash University's Caulfield campus has established a facility to give students an insight into the rapidly changing business environment and to provide practical application of theoretical concepts taught in the Faculty of Business and Economics.

The Treasury Dealing Room, created at a cost of \$1million and currently sponsored by the National Australia Bank, has a computer-based system which replicates Australia's financial institutions using software developed by staff from the Department of Accounting and Finance. The system integrates real-time financial data and back-office reconciliation of transactions bringing together market information, development of strategies, communication and profitability. Market information is conveyed on one screen and multi-landline telephones, linked to tape recorders, are used to ascertain views about the expected outcomes from other participants including the central bank, the interbank market, banks, brokers and corporations.

The Treasury Dealing Room is used for research and teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate level, together with practitioners from the banking and finance industry. The centre aims to enhance teaching and research in banking and finance, especially in the treasury related area; to pursue sponsorship which will promote research and to become self-funded through the provision of specialist training courses to the banking and finance industry practitioners in the areas of: Treasury operations and management; domestic money market operations and foreign exchanges synthetics; equities; portfolio and investment management; financial modelling; economic forecasting techniques.

In conjunction with the above, the centre aims to attract distinguished scholars and policy makers from within Australia and overseas to participate in research and conferences and to engage in consultancy activities utilising the expertise of the members of the centre.

The Treasury Dealing Room recently received a grant of \$200,000 from Monash University's Learning and Teaching fund to further develop the dealing room and is seeking additional sponsors.

Kevin Tant is Project Manager for the Treasury Dealing Room and Senior Lecturer in the Department of Accounting and Finance, Faculty of Business and Economics, Monash University.

[Kevin.Tant@buseco.monash.edu.au](mailto:Kevin.Tant@buseco.monash.edu.au)