**A welcome message from Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Dewar**

Hi there - I'm Professor John Dewar and I'm delighted to introduce myself as Vice-Chancellor of La Trobe University, a job I started in January of this year.

To our returning students, welcome back and congratulations on your successes so far. For those who are just joining us, I offer you a very warm welcome on behalf of the whole La Trobe community.

But whether you're new to La Trobe or an old hand, I trust that this year will offer you opportunities to embrace, challenges to tackle and questions to ponder. And there are many people here only too happy to help you along the way, so please seek them out and ask lots of questions.

Set yourself some new goals, and revisit some existing ones - make new friends and re-connect with old ones - the La Trobe student community is diverse, international and energetic so be ready for wherever the year takes you!

La Trobe Uni turns 50 in 2017 and as our future alumni and partners, you will no doubt reflect upon what has contributed to your success as a student of La Trobe, and I am sure the experiences that 2012 brings will remain with you well until then.

I encourage you all to express your views and to offer suggestions as to how we can make your experience at La Trobe even better. I really want to hear your big ideas. So tell me in person when I visit your campus, or share your thoughts by using the comments facility on this web page. And if you haven't already done so already, join the La Trobe Facebook site and the more than 18,000 other people who are already there!

In the meantime, I wish you all the best for your studies in the year ahead.