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Office of Community and Partnerships

Please keep us informed of your community engagement activities and initiatives so we can help to heighten awareness of this important aspect of the University's operations.

Contact: The Community
Relations Coordinator on
Ext.3110 or email:
ocp@uow.edu.au.

Around the Uni

There are many exciting activities around the University which make us part of our local, national and international communities:

HIKCUPS (Hunter and Illawarra Kids Challenge Using Parent Support) is a three year long study which aims to encourage overweight children and their parents to adopt healthy exercise and eating habits. So far, some 100 families have participated in the project and anecdotal evidence suggests that the intervention is proving effective. Leading Investigator is Dr Tony Okely and Project Manager is Dr Rachel Jones, both from the **Faculty of Education**.

Money Talks – this Australia-wide community-based radio program provides weekly economic and financial commentary by academic economists. The program, which has been running for over three years and goes out over 80 city and regional community stations, is produced by Dr Mike Rafferty from the **Graduate School of Business** and a fellow academic from the University of Sydney.

Practising in the Public Interest – The **Faculty of Law**, in partnership with Macquarie University, the Public Interest Advocacy Centre and the Public Interest Law Clearing House, is offering law students the opportunity to participate in a Winter School. The aim of the week long program is to introduce student to systems advocacy and public interest law and to expose them to organisations that are directly involved in public interest and *pro bono* litigation.

UOW Racing Team – Formula SAE is a competition between teams of university students who design, build and compete in racing cars. Recently the **Faculty of Engineering** team finished a close second in an international championship in the United States. The 2005 UOW 'world champion car' is currently on display at the Power House Museum.

Success in IMB Community Foundation 2006 Funding Round

The IMB Community Foundation announced recently that it will be supporting 21 projects this year, including four from the University of Wollongong. They are:

Bra Education for Female Athletics – Biomechanics Research Laboratory

To develop and evaluate a practical resource book that will educate female athletes on the components of a well fitted, well designed and supportive bra appropriate to their athletic pursuits. \$24,580.

Cutting Edge Science – UOW Science Centre & Planetarium

To support the development of cutting edge science education activities to engage the broader community. \$35,200.

Stories from the Elders: Completing the Picture for a Healthier Community – School of Health Sciences and NSW Dept of Health

To work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participants in the Good Health Teams to create lasting and educational record of the success of good health initiatives. A DVD resource will be produced. \$10,881.

Black Opal Leadership Program – Centre for Student Development, UniCentre

To support the 3 year co-curricular personal and professional leadership development program of up to 100 UOW students. \$50,000.

Congratulations to all those involved in these projects. (You can read more about the four projects [here](#)). In all over \$550,000 was allocated by the IMB Foundation to support a diverse range of community projects. The closing date for next year's round of funding is likely to be the end of January 2007. More info at <http://www.imb.com.au/AboutIMB/Foundation.asp>



Special Feature: Supporting new university-community partnerships

In its second year the Community Engagement Grants Scheme (CEGS) will be supporting six projects which link the University's academic, research and outreach activities with community partners for mutual benefit.

The six projects funded this year represent the diversity of the University's engagement activities and the diversity of needs and interests in the community.

Learning and teaching creatively

Summary: This project will provide Graduate Diploma of Education (Primary) students at Shoalhaven Campus with the opportunity to experience the creative process in campus-based master classes led by local artists and in studio-based master classes provided by artists-in-residence at the Boyd Education Centre at Bundanon. By 'living it as a learner', students will not only understand the transformative potential of creativity, but also experience the 'spirit' that pervades Bundanon. During school-based practicums, students will become conduits between Bundanon and the Shoalhaven community, applying their practical understanding of the creative process and sharing their knowledge and experiences with school students and teachers.

Awarded: \$9,750

Partners: Arthur & Yvonne Boyd Education Centre, Shoalhaven Campus, Faculty of Education and Australasian Occupational Science Centre (AOSC).

Project Leader: Dr Alison Wicks, Director, AOSC, Honorary Fellow, Centre for Health Services Development

Developing community language resources

Summary: This project will involve the development and sharing of skills, resources and expertise between Community Language Schools and Faculty of Education staff and students. Community Language Schools are non-profit groups run by parents and community members which aim to develop young children's knowledge and fluency in their heritage language and culture. Locally there are 24 such schools catering for over 600 children in more than 17 languages. The project will include workshops and development of reading resources, including the translation of a set of books into the various community languages for publication and distribution. Third year education students will help out in the school classes and learn about the running of the schools and the teaching of the children as part of a project-based subject.

Awarded: \$8,300

Partners: Association of Illawarra Community Schools, various Community Schools, Illawarra Ethnic Communities Council and Faculty of Education.

Project Leader: Dr Ken Cruickshank, Faculty of Education

New ways to engage the community and prioritise economic development

Summary: This project will evaluate the effectiveness of the Economic Gardening initiative being piloted by Shellharbour City Council. Economic Gardening is an endogenous growth strategy that focuses on support services to locally based SMEs. A total of 100 small business operators are expected to be involved in the selection process. Key elements of the UOW project will be to evaluate (1) the metrics used in selection of entrepreneurial business operators; and (2) the effectiveness of support provided to selected entrepreneurs. These selected entrepreneurs will receive an advanced program of development that includes specialised information and operational assistance (e.g., business planning, GIS to identify target markets, IP management and leadership skills). The research findings will be used to directly inform Council's Economic Development Plan (2006/2007) and advise other Local Government Councils of ways to implement the Economic Gardening model.

Awarded: \$9,000

Partners: Shellharbour City Council, Illawarra Area Consultative Committee, NSW Department of Industry, Science and Tourism, UOW Faculties of Informatics and Commerce

Project Leader: Tim Coltman, SITACS, Informatics

Community Education: Taking UOW to a broader community through web-casting

Summary: This project will establish an introductory web-casting service which will be used to determine if a UOW web-casting service is an appropriate and effective tool to communicate with the wider community and to demonstrate its value to other potential providers of content within UOW. The proposed service will provide members of the community with access to video and audio programs of University activities including public lectures, selected lectures of interest to U3A, Alumni, etc. The system will also contain an archive of recordings of previous media-worthy events, selected lectures, graduation ceremonies and other programs. These will be available as streams podcasts or vodcasts (video podcasts).

Awarded: \$8,300

Partners: Other education providers, University of the Third Age, Alumni, broad community, CEDIR, UOW

Project Leader: Dr Ric Caladine, CEDIR

Making science more accessible to disadvantaged kids

Summary: This project will work with community support organisations like the Salvation Army, PCYC and Rotary to run a special free access program for children and their families from 'disadvantaged' backgrounds. Research indicates that children from 'disadvantaged' groups in the community become alienated from education and do not access the Science Centre's weekend and holiday programs. A typical program will include a science show, a planetarium show and the hands-on exhibits.

Awarded: \$3,000

Partners: Salvation Army, PCYC, Rotary, other like community groups, UOW Science Centre and Planetarium

Project Leader: Glen Moore, Director, Science Centre

Getting girls interested in science and engineering

Summary: This project will see the Faculties of Engineering and Informatics develop a partnership with Guides NSW through an on-going series of experiential, engineering and science (in particular, physics), one-day workshops, aimed at Guides aged 10 to 17 years. These workshops will be offered up to three times each year, with the aim being to promote engineering and science as possible study and career options to school girls. An evaluation of the pilot project will be conducted at the end of 2006 to obtain feedback and determine the appropriateness of activities. UOW students and staff will be involved in the workshop activities.

Awarded: \$1,650

Partners: Guides NSW, Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Informatics.

Project Leaders: Dr Ian Porter/Carroll Graham, Faculty of Engineering

Project Updates

The following updates on the four 2005 funded projects are based on half yearly reports provided in March/April. Final outcomes will be reported later in the year.

Supporting children with disabilities

The Social Marketing Research team in Commerce, working with their community partner, The Illawarra Disabilities Trust, have conducted a number of focus groups with parents and carers of children with disabilities. They have identified the key areas of concern as being respite care, equipment needs, transport, support groups, and social attitudes. The project has also identified areas where its community partner and other similar bodies could develop projects – notably in the areas of coordinating support groups and information needs. Further investigation will include the circulation of a questionnaire, with CentreCare actively assisting by helping to identify survey respondents.

Giving youth a voice

The Interdisciplinary Youth Research team in Education, with their community partner, Wollongong Youth Services, have conducted a series of workshops with young people from the Wollongong area documenting their experience of the city. Approximately 40 young people from diverse communities have been involved in the project so far, with six of these 40 trained as leaders of their research group. Using their own images of the city, a group of young people participated in two workshops on photography led by well-known photographic journalist Peter Solness. From this workshop an exhibition was created which documents the young people's experience of growing up on the South Coast. This exhibition was on display at UOW in April and then moved to the Wollongong Youth Centre.



Picture taken at the official opening of the 'Growing Up on the South Coast' project on 5 April 2006.

Testing for water quality (and an online weather station)

The School of Earth and Environmental Sciences with their community partners, Innovation Campus/Baulderstone Hornibrook, Sydney Water and Wollongong City Council have nearly completed setting up the infrastructure for a water quality testing and weather station at Fairy Creek near the Science Centre. This lengthy process have involved design, council approval, environmental impact, construction, corrosion treatment, as well as ensuring radio communication to the Science Centre and its connectivity to the University. The information collected by the facility will be made available to different groups at different levels – undergraduate, scientific, community, and senior/junior high and primary school students through student work sheets (being developed with the assistance of Dip Ed students) and interpreted text on a special web site.

Improving indigenous health outcomes

The School of Health Sciences is working with local indigenous Good Health Teams and health providers to identify a number of traditional activities/games and their functional fitness requirements – with the aim being to include these activities in the Annual 'Koori Olympics' held in October each year. Students have been involved in training days for Indigenous Health Workers and other allied health staff supporting the program. Six final year students have attended testing sessions and have been involved in activity delivery in Wollongong and Nowra. As part of the motivational strategies, a DVD of the testing will be edited and provided to each of the Good Health Teams. Work has also commenced on identifying Transitional Health Outcomes with a number of areas of interest identified and draft questions developed which will be presented to the Department of Health.

School Partnerships

Regional Science Fair

As part of a Federal Government initiative to fund innovative programs for High School Science and Maths, the Faculty of Science is involved in setting up the first Regional Science Fair in New South Wales in partnership with regional high schools.

The Science Fair will see 250 high school students display the results of their own open-ended investigations to experts and the public in October this year.

The Science Fair is being co-ordinated by a local Science teacher, Dr Kerry Ayre, who has ran three very successful school fairs in the local area in previous years.

This year 47 public and private schools are expected to be involved in the project, including 12 primary schools, spread across a large region from Bega to Blakehurst, Bowral to Braidwood.

A range of interactive workshops are being held to provide support for both schools and teachers. So far over 60 teachers have attended fully-funded workshops providing invaluable resources for encouraging student research.

The project is also providing positive role models in science, with five current research students from the University of Wollongong presenting in the school workshops.

The Science Fair will have its official launch during National Science Week.

Note: Practising scientists/engineers are being sought to act as judges on the day. For more info, contact Scott East in the Science Faculty seasr@uow.edu.au

The study of 'Gali' (water)

In another project funded under the Federal Government Australian Schools Innovation in Science, Technology and Mathematics program, students from Gunnedah High School, St Johns Park High and Singleton High visited the University to learn more about the cultural and environmental aspects of water issues within their local region.

Students participated in laboratory work and field trips organised by the School of Biological Sciences.

The Study of "Gali" integrates the maths and science curriculum through a study of local waterways. It focuses on problem solving and requires students to investigate, gather and process data and present their findings. Each participating school will design and share a multimedia presentation, including templates for future additions.



Some of the young participants in a schools science project involving UOW and three NSW schools.

Inspirational young activist to speak at 10 local schools

When Ryan Hreljac was six years old he heard that thousands of African children die each year from waterborne disease and decided to do something about it. In 9 years, Ryan has raised over \$1 million, helped over 300,000 people access safe water by installing 175 wells and sanitation schemes, appeared on 'Oprah' twice and has spoken to 100 million people around the world about water.

Now 15, Ryan is coming to Wollongong and will give a series of talks at ten of Illawarra's high schools, culminating in a final public address at the University Hall on Saturday evening 12 August 2006.

His visit has been organised by Luke Scott who is Manager of *Eden Environmental* and a PhD student in Environmental Engineering. The major sponsor for the school visits and public lecture is Community Sector Banking. Other sponsors include UniAdvice and the University's Office of Community & Partnerships, Wollongong City Council, the Illawarra Mercury and Veolia Water.

For more info, about Ryan, visit his website at www.ryanswell.ca

**Water, Life, Sustainability with
Ryan Hreljac and Arron Wood**

*Together they'll inspire you to
change the world*

**7 pm Saturday August 12, 2006
University Hall
University of Wollongong**

**Tickets: \$5 for adults, under 18s free
Tickets from UniCentre Ph 4221 8173**



Ryan Hreljac is a compelling voice for water-poor people in the developing world, inspiring many to take responsibility for the world in their own communities or far away. Ryan has delivered his "power of one" message to leading environmentalists, heads of state, royalty, and religious leaders, always with the message that people everywhere deserve the convenience of clean water.

Arron Wood has made his mark in his work with young people. In 2001 he was 'Young Australian of the Year' (Environment winner) and was recognized by the French Canadian magazine, *La Actualite'* as one of the world's 25 most inspirational 25 year olds. In 2003 he was the youngest finalist ever in the PM's "Environmentalist of the Year" award. Arron founded and runs the International River Health Conference, which uses hands-on, student-based learning to teach kids to respect and advocate for the environment. He holds a degree in Forest Science from the University of Melbourne.

Fundraising for health research

Annual Alumni Appeal gets off to good start

The Annual Alumni Appeal was launched this month to support UOW research into prostate cancer treatments and the prevention of childhood obesity. Alumni have the option of supporting either (or both) of two major UOW research activities:

Prostate Cancer: This disease strikes 1/9 men in Australia by the time they reach 75 and is the second most common cause of cancer death in men.

Dr Anatoly Rozenfeld and his team of researchers at the University's Centre for Medical Radiation Physics are helping doctors more effectively target and destroy cancerous cells in the prostate gland with the use of radiation. This research involves the use of new technology including Image Guided Radiation Therapy and is being conducted in partnership with leading institutions in radiation oncology, including St George Cancer Care Unit, the Illawarra Cancer Care Centre and the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre in the USA.

Childhood Obesity: It is estimated that this disease afflicts one in four youngsters with ailments normally associated with older people, such as high blood pressure and cholesterol levels.

Dr Tony Okely and his research team at the Childhood Obesity Research Centre (CORE) are working with partner institutions in Australia and overseas to improve the health of overweight children before they reach adulthood. Through the HIKCUPS (Hunter and Illawarra Kids Challenge Using Parental Support) program, CORE is working with local families on a range of strategies like health coaching, non-diet approaches to eating and the promotion of physical activity skills.

By joining the *Circle of Visionaries*, our former graduates help to empower current students and researchers to expand and apply their knowledge and expertise for the benefit of the local, national and international communities.

For more info, visit <http://www.uow.edu.au/donations/>

Alumni Fundraising Dinner

A special Fundraising Dinner is being held on 11 August 2006 entitled: *The Paradox of Time*. The Dinner is being hosted by the Honorary Alumni Chapter and proceeds from ticket sales will help the Chapter raise funds for scholarships.

Guest speaker, paleoecologist, Dr Chris Turney, from the School of Earth & Environmental Sciences, will share his thoughts on time and discuss the discovery and dating of the new Indonesian human fossil, *Homo floresiensis* (the Hobbit).

Venue: UniCentre Function Centre

Time 7pm, Friday 11 August

Cost \$70 per person including drinks

Enquiries/RSVP: jocelin@uow.edu.au



Source: Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment Effective Engagement Kit: Building relationships with community and other stakeholders. <http://dse.vic.gov.au/engage> (6 July 2006)

UOW celebrates 10 years of participation in City to Surf

UOW students and staff lead the way in promoting the importance of physical activity for maintaining good health. This year will see the UOW enter a team in the City to Surf Fun Run for the 10th successive year.

In 2004, UOW had the biggest corporate team and came first in the tertiary sector. Last year we came second in the tertiary sector. When the University first took part in the City to Surf it entered 90 participants, but that leapt to more than 400 last year.

Now the call has gone out for staff and students and friends of the University to sign up for the UOW team. The University is sponsoring the event so all participants will receive a free T-shirt, free bus ride down and back to Sydney and the UniCentre will also help contribute towards the provision of a free lunch. Participants must wear the T-shirt to qualify for team membership.

The entry fee for adults is \$35, \$25 for those aged five to 18 and free for children under five. The fun run takes place on Sunday 13 August.

To enter online for the event go to <http://city2surf.sunherald.com.au/enter.asp>

Participants must also complete a waiver form and email it back to John Montagner at gjm@uow.edu.au by Friday 14 July. Due to budgetary constraints the team will be limited to the first 400 people who respond to the invitation.

Part of the successful UOW team which won the City to Surf tertiary sector in 2004.



Upcoming Public Events



Public Lectures and Festivals

17 July 7pm: "CAN TECHNOLOGY MANAGE IDENTITY?"

Professor Ian Angell, Head of the Information Systems Dept. London School of Economics. Presented by MetaCapitalism Research Program. Hope Theatre, UOW

7-12 August: INTERNATIONAL WEEK AT UOW

A week of activities celebrating our diversity, cultural sensitivity and global connections. An international film festival. More info will become available at

<http://www.uow.edu.au/about/internationalweek/index.html>

12 August 7pm: SUSTAINABILITY WITH RYAN HRELJAC AND ARRON WOOD

University Hall. More info page 4 and at

<http://www.uow.edu.au/about/community/sustainability.html>

Free Exhibitions

22 June-13 July: FLUID MECHANICS

Opening: Thursday 22 June, Artists: Jelle van den Berg and Richard Hook. FCA Gallery

29 June-20 July: EXHIBITION FROM GOULBURN CORRECTIONAL CENTRE

Opening: Thursday 29 (NAIDOC week) Coordinated by Tom Goulder. Long Gallery

20 July-10 August: POLARISED

Opening: Thursday 20 July, Artists: Liz Jeneid and Sue Barnett. FCA Gallery

27 July-24 August: SHEN-AN YANG MEMORIAL

Opening: Thursday 27 July, Coordinated by Dr Diana Wood Conroy. Long Gallery

7-12 August: "INTERFACE" photography exhibition

Part of International week. Various cultural exhibits will be on display around the campus.

Performances

4 July: from 1.30pm **YORUBA CULTURE: FINE ARTS, POETRY, DRUMMING** The Faculty of Creative Arts presents an arts lecture and demonstration of West African music. Building 25, Lecture Theatre 107 (no booking required)

More Event info at <http://www.uow.edu.au/events>

Upcoming Engagement Events

3rd Annual AUCEA National Conference 2006

"Embedding Community Engagement: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly" Curtin University of Technology, Perth, 12-14 July 2006. <http://www.aucea.net.au/conf06>

Regional Development – Growing Regions Conference

DOTARS, Brisbane, 25-27 July 2006.

<http://www.dotars.gov.au/regional/growingregions/index.aspx>

Staff Profile

Owen Curtis

Position:

Senior Lecturer, School of Health Sciences



Owen pictured receiving his award at the VC's Awards Night

Faculty:

Health & Behavioural Sciences

Community Involvement:

- Recipient of the inaugural 2006 Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Community Engagement.
- Owen was recognised for his contribution over 15 years in fostering productive engagement between the local community and University and for the way in which he has integrated this engagement into his teaching of Exercise Science.
- Some of the many projects in which he has been involved are:
 - The introduction of an exercise intervention program at Port Kembla Hospital – which has now developed into a stand alone department within the hospital;
 - Development of the Exercise Science and Rehabilitation Clinic on campus which provides the opportunity for the community to access University staff and student skills;
 - Development of the Workfit Model at the Shoalhaven District Memorial Hospital;
 - Development of Self Management Education Camps for Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander people with Diabetes in conjunction with the Aboriginal Medical Service; and
 - Delivery of the exercise component of the Care for the Carers Program sponsored through NSW Health (with the support of his students).
- Owen has been able to attract grants and scholarships from community groups and foundations to support student involvement in these programs over many years.
- His colleagues who nominated him also spoke of the tireless and self-effacing manner in which he has developed and implemented these programs.

[Note: if you are interested in being featured in the Staff Profile, contact ocp@uow.edu.au]