

# UOW *Community* News

University-Community Engagement Newsletter

Issue 2, March 2007 ♦ <http://www.uow.edu.au/about/community/>



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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](mailto:ocp@uow.edu.au).

## **Launch of Round 3 - Community Engagement Grants Scheme 2007**

The Office of Community & Partnerships (OCP) is pleased to announce the extension of the Community Engagement Grants Scheme (CEGS) into its third round. Up to \$50,000 has been allocated in 2007 for collaborative community projects that provide mutual benefits for the University and community alike. Of this sum, \$5,000 is reserved for one or more student projects.

CEGS is designed to encourage and support educational, research or outreach projects which enhance the University's engagement with the communities it serves. Staff, individual students and student groups are encouraged to contact the OCP office on 4221 3110 for further information.

Expressions of interest (EOI) in CEGS 3 must be lodged by 27 April. Guidelines and an EOI form can be downloaded from <http://www.uow.edu.au/about/community/cegs.html>

## **Groundbreaking mental health programs score Rotary funding**

The Australian Rotary Health Research Fund (ARHRF) has awarded two new grants to researchers at the University of Wollongong who are working on separate projects involved in assisting people with mental health disorders.

Dr Lindsay Oades has been awarded \$42,800 and Professor Frank Deane has received almost \$30,000 for their research. Both researchers are from the School of Psychology and the Illawarra Institute for Mental Health.

Since 2005, UOW has secured about \$200,000 in funding from the ARHRF and its partners.

Dr Oades' project is for the "Evaluation of a recovery-based self-help program for people with long-term mental illness". Researchers from the Illawarra Institute for Mental Health will work with the NSW Consumer Group – Mental Health Inc to develop and pilot a mental health recovery self-help package for people living with long-term mental illness.

The second project is being completed by Professor Deane and Dr Trevor Crowe (Illawarra Institute for Mental Health) in partnership with The Salvation Army. The project will evaluate The Salvation Army Lake Macquarie Recovery Service Centre program which is a 104-bed residential centre that treats people with complex mental health and substance misuse problems.

Read more at <http://media.uow.edu.au/news/2007/0302a/index.html>



Grant recipients for their respective mental health projects are Dr Lindsay Oades (left) and Professor Frank Deane.

## **UOW to host meeting of NSW Chapter of AUCEA**

The University will host the inaugural meeting of the NSW Chapter of AUCEA (Australian Universities Community Engagement Alliance) next month. The meeting is expected to attract representatives from universities across NSW and the ACT. The main purpose of the meeting will be to discuss a draft benchmarking framework being developed by AUCEA members.

AUCEA is an alliance of 32 Australian universities committed to university-community engagement in order to promote the social, environmental, economic and cultural development of communities. AUCEA aims to create an effective centre for dialogue and research into university community engagement and place the scholarship of engagement on the national agenda.

More information about AUCEA is available at <http://www.aucea.net.au/>

## Spotlight: On Sport

### Local community will benefit from new \$6.6m indoor sports facility at UOW

Strong interaction between the University and the region's community sporting bodies was the linchpin in the Federal Government's decision to fund a 3,000 seat multi-purpose indoor sports facility, according to Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gerard Sutton.

The Wollongong community as a whole as well as UOW students and staff will be the main beneficiaries of the multi-purpose indoor sports facility which is expected to be ready for use by early 2008. Construction is expected to begin in June this year. The Federal Government is to provide \$4.6m and the University will provide an additional \$2m to the project.

Illawarra-based Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells highlighted the interaction with the community as "being the strongest point in its (the University) bid" for Federal Government funds.

Senator Fierravanti-Wells said the development would be a state-of-the-art sports facility for all of the Illawarra emphasising that UOW was the second highest service provider of sporting facilities in Wollongong behind Wollongong City Council.

Read more at

<http://media.uow.edu.au/news/2007/0308a/index.html#>

### Sporting facilities attract strong community patronage

An estimated one-fifth of the 500,000 visitors to the University Recreation and Aquatic Centre (URAC) each year come from the wider community. The Centre is recognised as a Regional Centre of Excellence by the NSW Institute of Sport, and serves as a training centre for various swimming, triathlon and water polo groups.

URAC has formed partnerships with Sydney Swans AFL Club, St George-Illawarra Dragons Rugby League Club, St George District Cricket Club and the Cronulla Water Polo Club and regularly hosts pre-season training, community outreach camps and school holiday camps.

Numerous local and regional schools hold swimming carnivals and PSSA sports events across a wide range of sports and utilise UOW students as qualified casual instructors to learn to swim and other aquatic activities.

UOW provided over \$25,000 in sports scholarships to regional student athletes in 2006.

Its outdoor facilities include a synthetic hockey centre, cricket nets, five playing fields suitable for a number of sports and two artificial grass tennis courts. These are available for a variety of uses including competitions, training and lunchtime sports.

Telephone 4221 4700 to enquire about hiring these facilities.

## UOW participates in World's Greatest Shave

Students and staff from the University's Faculty of Science and Weerona College recently chopped for charity when they participated in the Leukaemia Foundation World's Greatest Shave.

The annual event is one of Australia's biggest fundraising events. This year over 100,000 people across the country are expected to shave or colour their hair.

With about 25 Australians diagnosed with leukemia every day, every dollar raised helps patients and families living with leukemias, lymphomas, myeloma and related blood disorders.

The Foundation also funds research grants, scholarships and fellowships to promote innovative research into the causes, diagnosis and treatment of different cancers and related disorders.

In the last eight years, World's Greatest Shave has raised in excess of \$55 million.

## UOW Students help clean up Australia

The UOW Chapter of the Golden Key Society pitched in and helped to clean up City Beach in Wollongong on Sunday 4 March as a part of the annual 'Clean Up Australia Day'.

Thirty members of the Golden Key Society joined in and scoured City Beach for litter to remove from the environment.

Lord Mayor of Wollongong, Cr Alex Darling, visited the site and enjoyed a BBQ on the beach with the group.

The litter collected consisted of glass and plastic bottles, cans and fast food wrappers, but some odd items also uncovered included a chair, a money box, a wallet, a body board and one lucky Golden Key member found a \$20 note in the sand.

The City Beach site was sponsored by Veolia Environmental Services and was also attended by students and teachers from the Mount St Thomas Public School.

Read more at

<http://media.uow.edu.au/news/2007/0305c/index.html>



UOW Golden Key Society members participating in the Clean Up Australia Day effort at City Beach

## Special Feature: Photographing Cool Science

Two photography exhibitions that highlight the wide range of research being carried out at UOW's Institute of Conservation Biology and Law are currently on show at the Project Contemporary Artspace in Wollongong.



The Institute for Conservation Biology (ICB) and Law Photography Exhibition and the Antarctic Photos Exhibition are open from 21 March to 1 April 2007 and will be officially opened on Friday 23 March at 6.30pm by Dr Tony Fleming, Head of the National Parks & Wildlife and Director General of the Department of Environment & Conservation.

**The ICB Exhibition** results from the ICB's first photo competition for students and staff. From these 65 images ICB produced a 2007 calendar which was very popular. About 30 of the photos from the competition will appear in this exhibition. [Click here](#) for more information about the ICB and the Photography competition.

Established in 2001 ICB is one of the University's major research strengths. It is unique in combining expertise in Conservation Law and Policy with strong research into Australian plants and wildlife. ICB seeks to link science with law and policy to achieve better conservation outcomes.

**The Antarctic Photos Exhibition** features images of Antarctic landscapes, animals and science photographed by Associate Professor Sharon Robinson while she was conducting research in the Antarctic between 1996 and 2003. Sharon's Antarctic Research Group is investigating the effects of Global Climate Change on Antarctic plants. For more information please go to [Sharon's Antarctic webpage](#).

Project Contemporary Artspace is located at 255 Keira Street Wollongong. The exhibitions are free and open to the public.

### Free Business Workshop

The NSW Department of State and Regional Development is hosting workshop in March to assist people in business. The next workshop is:

**What:** *Women in Business Seminar – Investing in Customer Service*  
**When:** Thursday 29 March  
**Where:** Villa D'Oro Function Centre  
 39-41 Flinders St, North Wollongong  
**At:** 9am-1pm  
**Cost:** Free  
**Contact:** Donatella D'Amico 4225 9055

## UOW demonstrates being a community idol

The University of Wollongong prides itself on its growing community connections and how it offers the public the chance to draw on its many top line facilities.

A glowing example of this community connection occurred this week (March 20) when hundreds of budding stars from across the region flocked to the University Hall to take part in Australian Idol auditions for the upcoming television series.

The UniCentre Conference and Function Centre was chosen as the audition venue for the region.

Some early birds camped outside the Hall from 6.30am even though auditions did not start until 2pm.

Marcia Hines joined fellow judges at the University Hall where she also addressed the would-be Idols and gave an impromptu performance of James Taylor's song, *Fire and Rain*.



Australian Idol judge Marcia Hines entertains the audience in the University Hall.

## Fundraising dinner for Kenyan aid project

A fundraising dinner to be held in Bulli on Saturday 31 March will help raise funds for an aid project addressing extreme poverty, improved health and sustainable development in Kenya.

The project involves UOW health researcher Sheila Matete from the Centre for Health Services Development partnering with the Rotary Club of Corrimal and will serve an initial population of 3000 to 5000 people. The project involves purchasing land and the building and kitting out of a Primary Health Care Clinic and Community Centre; providing immunization, addressing maternal and child health needs, the testing and treatment of water-borne disease and the testing, counseling and provision of anti-retroviral therapy for HIV/AIDS care.

The dinner will be held from 5pm to 10pm on Saturday 31 March at Panorama House Restaurant at Bulli Tops. Tickets are \$55 per person and available from Sheila Matete on 4221 5091 or via email at [piye@corrimalrotary.org.au](mailto:piye@corrimalrotary.org.au)



## Upcoming Public Events

### Breakfast Seminar

**30 March: 7am to 8.30am: PETER TURNER "SCHOOL REVIEW: ONE PERSPECTIVE"**

The Australian Centre for Educational Leadership (ACEL) at UOW hosts the newly appointed Director of Schools in the Catholic Diocese of Wollongong.  
Venue: UniCentre Function Rooms 1 & 2

Website:

<http://www.uow.edu.au/conferences/Breakfast%20Seminar%202007/index.html>

Contact: Mabel Tang [mtang@uow.edu.au](mailto:mtang@uow.edu.au)

### Free Public Lecture

**4 April: 12:30pm to 1:30pm: "THE DIFFUSION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW IN SOUTHEAST ASIA: AN INSTITUTIONAL ANALYSIS"**

Professor Christoph Antons from the Faculty of Law will present his work as part of the UOW Professorial Lecture Series.

Venue: Building 20, Lecture Theatre 2

Website: <http://www.uow.edu.au/research/proflectureseries>

Contact: Vicky Wallace [vwallace@uow.edu.au](mailto:vwallace@uow.edu.au)

### Film Festival

**24 March: 5pm to 9pm: SHORT SITED 11 FILM FESTIVAL**

The Illawarra's largest short film festival provides a screening space for filmmakers local, national and international.

Venue: Wollongong University Hall

Website: [www.shortsited.org](http://www.shortsited.org)

Contact: Julie Prsa [contact@shortsited.org](mailto:contact@shortsited.org)

### Art Exhibition

**Until 1 April: PHOTOGRAPHING COOL SCIENCE**

The Institute for Conservation Biology and Law Photography Exhibition and the Antarctic Photos Exhibition. To be officially launched on Friday 23 March by Dr Tony Fleming, Head of the National Parks & Wildlife and Deputy Director General of the Department of Environment & Conservation.

Venue: Project Contemporary Artspace, 255 Keira Street, Wollongong

Website: <http://www.uow.edu.au/science/biol/icb/index.html>

Contact: Julie Wright [juliew@uow.edu.au](mailto:juliew@uow.edu.au)

### Pre-loved books

**Tuesdays and Thursdays 10.30a-2.30pm, Saturdays 1pm-5pm: ALUMNI BOOKSHOP**

The Alumni Bookshop sells a diverse range of quality secondhand books at very reasonable prices. All book sales support UOW scholarships and prizes..  
Venue: Cottage 119, Northfields Avenue, Gwynneville (opposite UOW)

Website: <http://www.uow.edu.au/alumni/bookshop/index.html>

Contact: Alumni Network [alumni@uow.edu.au](mailto:alumni@uow.edu.au)

A more detailed listing of events on campus is available at <http://webevents.uow.edu.au/>

## Staff Profile

### Ann Hodgkinson

Position:

Associate Professor  
School of Economics  
Faculty of Commerce



### Community Engagement Activities:

- Development of E-Commerce Website for Coomaditchie Aboriginal Artists Cooperative.
- Preliminary investigation of cost effectiveness analysis for community service delivery with Illawarra Forum.
- Provision of advice on regional economic impact analysis to various local business organisations.

### Why is engagement important?:

Academic life involves a lot of negativities, often associated with projects that have entailed a lot of time and intellectual effort – disengaged students, rejected journal articles, failed grant applications.

Community engagement projects on the other hand deliver positive rewards in terms of appreciation, support, friendship, for what seems like very little effort.

Community organisations depend on volunteer and unpaid efforts from a lot of busy people in order to survive. Any contribution that you can make to help them achieve their goals is always gratefully received. And you may get publications and recognition as a by-product, but that is not what it is about.

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