

UOW Community News

Issue 4 - May 07

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 heighten awareness of this important aspect of the University's operations.

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



Workplace Giving - make a difference!

Almost everyone is involved with a community organisation at some point in their lives. While we might like to help out these organisations by volunteering, or helping to fundraise, balancing work and family can sometimes mean that there just isn't any time to spare. Workplace giving provides a practical way to support your favourite community group in a way that is easy, quick and makes a big difference.

The University of Wollongong has set up *UOW Cares* a voluntary workplace giving program which is a simple and effective way for staff to regularly donate to a community group with deductible gift recipient status (DGR) through automated payroll deductions. Staff pledge a nominated amount to a community organisation and that amount is sent directly to them each pay.

UOW Cares allows staff to choose who they would like to support from eight charities and

two internal causes selected by a committee representing staff.

The amount staff give is entirely up to them and they can even donate to more than one charity from this list:

- *The Smith Family's Learning for Life program
- *Cancer Council NSW
- *The Fred Hollows Foundation
- *The South Coast School for Children with Autism
- *Australian Conservation Foundation
- *Oxfam Community Aid Abroad
- *Indigo Foundation
- *RSPCA
- *UOW Equity Fund
- *UOW Research and Innovation Fund

Staff also get the benefit of giving 'pre-tax', making the value of each dollar go even further, while receiving a tax benefit at the time the donation is made.



UOW Cares launch

Staff are invited to attend the official launch of *UOW Cares* by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gerard Sutton with special guest speaker Elaine Henry OAM Chief Executive Officer of the Smith Family.

The launch will be held on Monday 4th June at 12.30pm in the University Hall Foyer, Building 11, University of Wollongong. Please rsvp to Jan Sullivan or Leanne Crouch community@uow.edu.au or phone 4221 3110. More information: <http://www.uow.edu.au/about/community/giving/> **CN**

University's strong contribution to Innovation Festival

The University will hold seven events this year as part of the Australian Innovation Festival which runs this month.

Events include two public lectures that highlight the latest research in business performance and IT, and a public forum at the Science Centre to explore Energy Options for 2020.

A highlight of the program will be Innovation Idol – a competition for UOW research students which will

test their "capacity to develop an innovative solution to a hypothetical problem in Australia, and their ability to 'pitch' their innovative idea". This will be held from 6pm on Friday 11th May in the UniCentre Function Room 1 and foyer. For more information contact Leisa Ridges on 4221 4817 or email leisa@uow.edu.au

Members of the public will also be able to participate in "Innovation on Foot" – a walking tour of the campus which will highlight what's

new and innovative and take in the Graduate School of Medicine and a number of research institutes. The free two-hour tour departs from the University Hall steps at 3.30pm on Wednesday 9th May and bookings are essential. For bookings contact Jan Sullivan or Leanne Crouch community@uow.edu.au or phone 4221 3110. For more information: <http://www.uow.edu.au/about/community/innovationsowcase2007/index.html> **CN**



High school students launch 'Gali' resource findings

A collaboration between the University of Wollongong's Faculty of Science and three state high schools culminated with the launch of the Australian Schools Innovation in Science, Technology and Mathematics multi-media resource called Gali.

Gali is the indigenous Kamilaroi/Gamilaraay word for water. Participating schools were Gunnedah High School, Singleton High School and St Johns Park High School.

The recent launch concluded this phase of the project with the students' experiences documented in the multi-media resource that schools can share.

The project began in 2006 with students undertaking ecological studies of Illawarra environments, interviews with local indigenous elders and combined excursions experiencing marine studies and water safety. Students learned the skills of 'claymation' and flash animation, creating storyboards and making characters.

Each group has been working on data recording, water testing, collecting and interpreting written and photographic data. Mathematics students took on the challenge of exploring the collected data and interpreting the results.

The overall project aim was to:

- Foster a culture of innovation in schools
- Develop the capacity and predisposition for innovation in school students
- Increase collaboration between Australian schools and science organisations, universities, business, industry and other organisations
- Improve teachers' approaches and techniques
- Improve student learning outcomes
- Enhance student interest and engagement.

Publication of the material has been developed as a part of the Australian Schools Innovation in Science, Technology and Mathematics Project. Funding was provided by the Australian Department of Education, Science and Training as a part of the Boosting Innovation in Science, Technology and Mathematics Teaching Program. CN

Above: Pictured at the Gali project launch at the UniCentre Function Rooms are (from left): Dr Christine Brown (CEDIR); Hollie Carlin (Gunnedah High School); Kim Tran (St Johns Park); Associate Professor Bill Buttemer (Head of Biological Sciences); Olivia Smith (Singleton High School); and Lyn Thomas (Deputy Principal, Gunnedah High School).

Staff Profile

Dr Gary Noble

Director, Centre for Social Marketing Research

Faculty of Commerce



Why is community engagement important?

In my opinion universities and academics have a responsibility to make a positive contribution to the society in which they work and live.

This contribution can take place through many of the roles and functions of a university. However, one of the most direct ways universities can make a positive contribution is through using its skills and resources to engage and work directly with different sections of the community it serves

Engaging with the local community to improve society in whatever way possible seems to me to be central to the whole notion of the role of a modern university such as ours.

Community Engagement Activities

- Working with colleagues in Centre for Social Marketing Research and the Disability Trust to identify the future needs of parents and carers of disabled children in the Illawarra and improve communication in and between members of this section of the Illawarra community.
- Working with Wollondilly Council and various community groups in the Shire to develop a 'community crime and safety plan'.
- Working with Wollongong Council, Shellharbour Council and Youthsafe to design a social marketing intervention to increase the involvement of parents in the education of young drivers in the region.
- Working with Vision Australia and colleagues in the Centre for Social Marketing Research to understand and model the philanthropic giving behaviour of leading Australian corporations with the aim of placing Vision Australia and other non-profit organizations on much stronger financial footings by increasing their rate of corporate sponsorship.
- Provides technical guidance and acts as advisory board member to various government departments including NSW Health's Multicultural Health Communication Service (MHCS) and DADHC on issues related to communication with 'cultural and linguistically diverse' (CALD) groups in NSW.
- Regularly initiates industry and community events and seminars on topics of social consequence such as obesity and road safety.

If you are interested in being featured in the Staff Profile, contact community@uow.edu.au

Performances showcase local art and youth culture

The University of Wollongong's School of Music and Drama has announced this season's inclusion of three off-campus shows. This exciting outward leap represents the progressive nature of the Faculty of Creative Arts and specifically, the School of Music and Drama. It is also a stirring development in relation to the exposure of local art and youth culture in the Wollongong region.

1. **Road:** an illuminating comedy, high on pills and booze: a discourse about the loss

of young life. The University of Wollongong presents an articulate, uncouth performance of **Road** and makes no request for forgiveness. *Road contains strong language and sexual references.*

By Jim Cartwright, Directed by Tim Maddock
Date: May 23 - 26 3rd Year Student Production
Venue: Bruce Gordon Theatre (IPAC)
Tickets: \$15/ \$20, Wednesday preview \$10. Student rush \$10
Bookings: 4226 3366 (IPAC)

2. **Dreaming:** an epic tale that illustrates the tandem nature of creation and obliteration and the juxtaposition of laughter and death.

By Peter Barnes, directed by Syd Brisbane.
Date: 30 May – 1 June Preview Tuesday 29th May. All tickets \$10
2nd Year Student Production
Venue: Bruce Gordon Theatre (IPAC)
Tickets: \$15/ \$20. Student rush \$10 (1hr before the show)
Bookings: 4226 3366 (IPAC)

3. **Mysteries:** a startling combination of music, classical texts and contemporary performance which reflects on the unanswerable questions in life.

Directed by Janys Hayes
Date: June 15 & 16 2nd Year Student Production
Venue: Wollongong City Art Gallery
Tickets: \$15/ \$20. Student rush \$10 (1hr before the show).
Bookings: 4221 4889.

More info: <http://www.uow.edu.au/crearts/performances> **CN**

Shoalhaven Careers Expo and Jobs Drive 2007

This year's Shoalhaven Careers Expo to be held at the UOW Shoalhaven campus on 27 June will take on extra importance this year with the addition of the Jobs Drive.

The successful Shoalhaven Careers Expo is in its third year and brings regional businesses, education, training & service providers together to help young

people and to assist those looking to change direction with their career planning.

Last year more than 1,000 students from all public and private high schools across the Shoalhaven attended the event.

The expo gives employers the chance to inform large numbers of young people and parents

of training and opportunities, skills needs and career pathways available locally.

A new and exciting addition to the expo in 2007 will be the Jobs Drive through which employers can advertise job vacancies. An afternoon session will also be held to encourage more parents, career changers and job seekers to take advantage of the careers

information on offer on the day. Sites at this event are available at no cost.

Businesses or organisations wanting to exhibit at this event can contact Evelyn O'Neile on 02 4422 0988 or ev@sswlp.org.au at Student Workplace Learning Program. **CN**

Award celebrates community service

Community service is being celebrated at the University of Wollongong in 2007 with the launch of the Chancellor's Awards for Achievement in Community Service.

Volunteers work in many and varied ways to support the University. They assist at the Science Centre & Planetarium, operate an Alumni Book Shop, and sit on Faculty Advisory Committees.

In addition, UOW alumni are working tirelessly to enrich their local communities through voluntary community service. These awards recognise and reward this important role they are

playing in enriching their communities.

There are two award categories, each carrying a monetary prize of \$2,000, one for alumni (graduates) of UOW who have contributed significantly to the community and/or University and the other for general community members or groups who have contributed significantly to the University and the community. Details about the awards including guidelines and nomination forms are available at:

<http://www.uow.edu.au/about/community/chancelloraward/index.html> **CN**

National Volunteer Week: 14-20 May

Australia's 6.3 million volunteers will be celebrated during National Volunteer Week, 14-20 May 2007. This week provides a national focus for organisations wanting to recruit volunteers and promote the value of volunteering to the community. This year's theme is See the Change ... Volunteering which focuses on the personal and community benefits of volunteering.

The University benefits from volunteers helping to run its Alumni Bookshop and the Science Centre and Planetarium. Did you know that the University currently maintains a Volunteer Insurance Policy? This policy provides cover for declared volunteers of the University whilst on volunteer work on behalf of

the University. All volunteers of the University must complete a Volunteer Acknowledgement with the event coordinator and/or supervisor. These forms are then kept within the Faculty/ Unit. In the event of a claim the volunteer needs to provide a copy of this form with their claim to show that the volunteer was authorized.

The Finance Office recommends that Units keep a record of the number of volunteers that work on their behalf as it is important to declare this to the Insurance Officer annually during the insurance renewal process. For more information and to download a copy of the Volunteer Acknowledgement Form visit <http://staff.uow.edu.au/finance/insurance/policy/volunteer/index.html#A1> **CN**

Upcoming Public Events at UOW

8 May: 7pm

Innovation Showcase Forum - Energy Options 2020

The UOW Science Centre presentation for 2007 brings together a learned panel for the forum discussion "What energy source will we be using in 20 years time?" moderated by Simone Whetton of ABC Radio.

Bookings required - ph 4286 5000

9 May: 3.30pm to 5.30pm

Innovation on Foot UOW Walking Tour

A free walking tour of UOW's main campus, highlighting what's new and innovative at the University. The tour will include a visit to the new Graduate School of Medicine and various research institutes, including the pioneering Intelligent Polymer Research Institute and the Smart Foods Centre.

Bookings required - ph 4221 3110

16 May: 5.30pm to 6.30pm

Uni in the Brewery

Hear researchers from the University explain their research in a relaxed environment at the Five Islands Brewery. Drs Katina Michael and M. Michael (Informatics) will present "The Rise of Homo Electus" The event is free and audience participation is welcome.

More info: <http://www.uow.edu.au/research/unibrewery/>

23 - 26 May: 8.15pm

3rd Year Student Performance 'Road'

3rd Year Performance students from the Faculty of Creative Arts, School of Music & Drama present 'Road' an illuminating comedy, high on pills and booze: a discourse about the loss of young life at Bruce Gordon Theatre, Illawarra Performing Arts Centre (IPAC). Tickets \$15/\$20.

Bookings: 4226 3366 (IPAC)

30 May: 12.30pm to 1:30pm

Professorial Lecture Series: Linda Tapsell

Professor Linda Tapsell from the Faculty of Health & Behavioural Sciences will be presenting her work "What makes food functional?" in the Communications Bld 20 Lecture Theatre 20.

The series is an opportunity to hear about the research work and achievements of academic staff at UOW.

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

UOW launches Energy Futures Network



Wollongong's Energy Futures Network was launched at the University of Wollongong as part of Sustainability Week 2007.

Sustainability Week included a wide range of events in the Illawarra on the theme of Climate Change and how we can personally influence this global issue.

On 19 April the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor Margaret Sheil, launched the UOW Energy Futures Network.

The UOW Energy Futures Network is a new initiative that brings together researchers from a broad range of disciplines to maximise the effectiveness of UOW's involvement in the global effort to develop sustainable energy supply systems and to better understand the impact that the use of energy has on the environment.

Following the launch, Professor David Officer (from UOW's Intelligent Polymer Research Institute) presented a talk entitled: "Shedding Light on a Sustainable Energy Future: Is Artificial Photosynthesis the Key?" Sustainable economic growth in Australia and globally requires cheap renewable, environmentally acceptable,

energy resources. Professor Officer discussed the potential of artificial photosynthesis-based solar cell technologies and highlight the advances made at UOW and overseas.

Sponsors of Sustainability Week included Hatch, the University of Wollongong, Wollongong and Wingecarribee Shire Councils, Futureworld Eco-Technology Centre, BlueScope Steel Ltd, Oceanlinx (Energetech) and Blue Circle Southern Cement.

For information on the research involved in the Energy Futures Network please contact Associate Professor Paul Cooper the Convener of the network by e-mail (pcooper@uow.edu.au) or phone 4221 3355. **CN**

Above: Pictured at the launch of the UOW Energy Futures Network is (l to r) Associate Professor Paul Cooper from the Faculty of Engineering, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Margaret Sheil and Professor David Officer from IPRI