

City of Wollongong to welcome students to the region

Wollongong will welcome international students to the region at a special reception to be held in the City on Friday 29 February from 11:20am.

A Civic Reception, hosted by Wollongong Lord Mayor Councillor Alex Darling in the Crown Street Mall Wollongong and including other dignitaries, will feature a traditional Welcome to Country and a performance by some local Indigenous dancers.

This will be followed by festivities including live music, interactive entertainment and information stalls all designed to welcome students to the City and introduce them to the local community and culture.

This event is being organised by the W2W community working group, which includes students and staff from the University, Illawarra TAFE, local schools, Wollongong City Council, Illawarra Ethnic Communities Council, and other community and business groups.

It is part of a wider project aimed at enhancing the experience for international students studying at the University of Wollongong, Wollongong College Australia, Illawarra Institute of TAFE and local schools.

The W2W group has received financial support via an IMB Community Foundation Grant and support from the University and Wollongong City Council.

The purpose of the "Welcome to Wollongong" reception and festival is to celebrate the diversity and presence of international students in the region, recognise the contribution that they make and break down barriers to their successful integration into the community.

More information about the Welcome to Wollongong event, including transport and a program, can be obtained from the website: <http://w2w.uow.edu.au/>

A special invitation is extended to all new international students, however, all students and members of the community are warmly invited to attend this special day. **CN**

Inside this Issue

City of Wollongong to welcome students 1

Health Minister welcomes UOW partnership 2

UOW offers learning experiences for school students 3

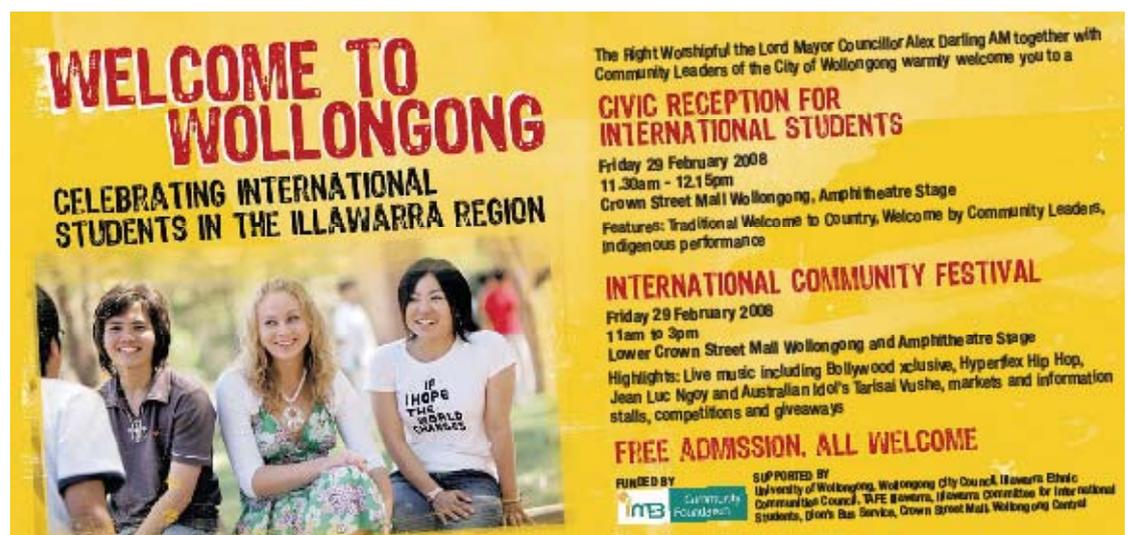
GSM hosts Cystic Fibrosis outreach clinic 4

Staff Profile: Peter Kell, Faculty of Education

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 community@uow.edu.au





Minister welcomes UOW partnership

NSW Health Minister Reba Meagher visited the University of Wollongong on February 5th for the signing of what she described as the state's most comprehensive partnership agreement between a University and an Area Health Service.

The historic agreement between UOW and the South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra Area Health Service (SESIH) will strengthen the education and practical clinical experience of health care of students at UOW's Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences.

The agreement covers medical students at the University's Graduate School of Medicine, as well as nursing, midwifery, psychology, dietetics, exercise science and rehabilitation and population health.

"This relationship between the University of Wollongong and the Area Health Service is all about supporting students through their education and into

the healthcare workforce," the Minister said.

"The agreement recognises and formalises the need for close cooperation between UOW and the local Area Health Service in all aspects of health-related education," she said. "It recognises that today's clinicians need world-leading academic training backed up by hands-on, clinical experience in our hospitals and health-care settings.

"By forging a much closer relationship between an academic institution and frontline health services, we can meet the challenge of building a stronger local medical workforce," she said. **CN**

Above: NSW Health Director-General Professor Debora Picone checks a medical training model, watched by (from left) Professor Liz Farmer, Noreen Hay MP, Health Minister Reba Meagher and Terry Clout.

AUCEA conference call for papers

Abstracts of papers are now invited for the AUCEA (Australian Universities Community Engagement Alliance) National Conference 2008 to be hosted by the University of the Sunshine Coast and held on the Sunshine and Fraser Coasts in Queensland from 9th - 11th July 2008.

The theme of the conference is 'Engaging for a Sustainable Future' and papers should

address various sub-themes including "Responding to the needs of the region/community", "Measurement and evaluation", "Theory and policy development" and "Local engagement with a global importance."

For more information visit the AUCEA website at www.aucea.com.au

CN

Staff Profile



Peter Kell

Associate Professor in Adult Education and Training, Faculty of Education

Community engagement activities

I am interested in exploring connections between the local and the global community and developing the notion of the global citizen. This has been through a focus that integrates research and community engagement and this has been through membership of CAPSTRANS and the Faculty of Education.

The integration of research and community has been with Tim Scrase and Ruchira Ganguly Scrase, also from CAPSTRANS, who are working with PALMS Australia on research on Australian volunteers in the Pacific. PALMS is a non government agency involved in poverty alleviation and development and has strong connections with the community in Australia as a well as the Asia Pacific.

Linking the global community has also been important in recent research on international students with Dr Gillian Vogl. This research has culminated in the Welcome to Wollongong civic reception, minifestival and website (see w2w.uow.edu.au). The Welcome to Wollongong initiative is the work of a community group and this grew out of research. This project is a really good example of how the University and the community can work in partnership and really assist international students feel connected to the Illawarra.

*Dr Kell appears regularly in the community media and newspapers. His comments have included discussion on the Cronulla riots, racism in sport and skills shortages in local industry.

Why is community engagement important?

It is important to report research in ways that the community can relate to and understand and it is important that we take on the tough issues too.

Engaging communities that span the local and the global is essential if a university is to claim that it is internationalised.

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

UOW offers a science experience with a twist

Making slime, analysing maggots and separating plant pigments were just some of the activities on offer as the University conducted the annual Siemens Science Experience.

The event involved three days of hands-on science activities for 60 Year 10 students.

The science program, managed nationally by the Science Schools Foundation Inc and sponsored by Siemens Ltd, aims to introduce students to as many aspects of science, engineering and technology studies at UOW

as possible with the hope that students will continue these studies at high school and eventually at university.

Students undertook experiments in UOW laboratories where they learned about the importance of maggots in investigating crime scenes, assessing the chemistry of copper and attended a series of short lectures on topics such as the discovery of the "Hobbit".

The program also included a fieldtrip to BlueScope Steel and UOW's Science Centre and Planetarium.



Students travelled from all over NSW to attend the event and will have the chance to meet other interested Year 10 science students as well as UOW students and researchers. **CN**

Above: Matt McLeod and Jessica Rich from Kiama High School and Kate Morgan from St Mary's High were among the students who participated in the "Hobbit" session.

UOW accommodation venues host IYF participants

Around 2000 international students took advantage of the hospitality offered by the UOW's

accommodation while attending the 2008 International Youth Fellowship (IYF) Global Camp.

Campus East, Keiraview, Weerona College and International House were jam packed with residents participating in the camp during late January.

International Youth Fellowship is a non-profit organisation with over 60 branches worldwide. IYF is committed to helping and leading youth and holds a range of activities across the globe including camps and concerts.

This year's camp in Wollongong included special guest lecturers, tours, sporting events,

performances from renowned musicians, art exhibitions, cultural dances and plays.

Wollongong was also the host city for the global camp in 2005, while Hawaii and Bangkok hosted the event for 2006 and 2007.

"Housing this many delegates is no mean feat and required considerable planning and logistics," said General Manager Accommodation Services, Michael Gillmore.

"We have an excellent working relationship with the IYF Global Camp organising committee, which has certainly made the planning run very smoothly," he said.

Lord Mayor of Wollongong, Alex Darling; UOW Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gerard Sutton; Minister for Youth, Linda Burney and Member for Wollongong, Ms Noreen Hay, all played roles in this year's IYF camp.

A closing ceremony for the students was held at the WIN Entertainment Centre. **CN**



Launch of Vice-Chancellor's Awards

Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence in Community Engagement

Rewarding community engagement

Community engagement is an integral part of the work of the University across all levels.

Indeed, a commitment to community collaboration and mutually beneficial partnerships is enshrined in the University's mission

statement in the University's Strategic Plan.

The Award for Excellence in Community Engagement was established in 2006 and recognises and encourages exceptional community engagement by a member of the University staff and group of staff.

Up to two awards may be made each year - one to an individual member of staff and a second "team" award may be made to a group of staff

of no more than six members. The annual award is open to academic and general staff (including staff employed by the University's controlled entities) and carries a prize of \$2,000. The award(s) will be presented annually at the Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence event. Nominations are now open and close on 4 April 2008.

For more information visit the Vice-Chancellor's Awards website at: <http://staff.uow.edu.au/awards/>

Above Left: The IYF Global Camp Closing Ceremony at WIN Entertainment Centre

Public Interest Events

13-15th February

International Forum

International Students in the Asia Pacific: Mobility, Migration, Wellbeing and Security

Convenor: Assoc Prof Peter Kell, Faculty of Education

Venue: Kemira Room 4, UniCentre Building 11

More information: <http://www.capstrans.edu.au/resources/conferences/2008/conferences-2008-int-students.html>

13 February 4:30pm

Book Launch

Higher Education in the Asia Pacific: Challenges for the Future edited by Peter Kell and Gillian Vogl with contributions from members of CAPSTRANS and the Faculty of Education at UOW.

Time: 4.30-6.00

Venue: Kemira Room 4, UniCentre Building 11

29 February 11:30am

Civic Reception for New International Students

A Civic Reception will precede the Welcome to Wollongong international student festival to be held in the heart of the City. Newly enrolled international students from UOW, WCA, TAFE and local schools will be officially welcomed by Lord Mayor, Alex Darling.

Civic Reception 11:20am-12.15pm

Festival 12:15pm-3pm

Where: Crown Street Mall, Wollongong

All welcome

Website: <http://w2w.uow.edu.au/>

12 March 12:30pm

Public Lecture

This new lecture series will provide an opportunity to showcase the research conducted within each of UOW's Research Strengths, and introduce the researchers involved to the general campus and community. Leon Kane Maguire

Intelligent Polymer Research Institute

Building 20, Lecture Theatre 2

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

Contact: Vicky Wallace vwallace@uow.edu.au

Pre-loved books

Alumni Bookshop

Open Tuesdays and Thursdays 10.30am-2.30pm and Saturday's 1pm-5pm February to November. Cottage 119 Northfields Avenue, Wollongong.

For the latest *What's On* information: visit <http://www.uow.edu.au/events>

GSM hosts cystic fibrosis outreach clinic

The University's Graduate School of Medicine (Shoalhaven Campus) hosted an Outreach Clinic run by the Cystic Fibrosis Service of the Children's Hospital at Westmead late last year.

This is the second year GSM has assisted the Service in running the Clinic through liaison with local paediatricians and GSM Academics, Dr Mark de Souza.

Cystic fibrosis is the most common life threatening genetic disease affecting Australian children. Through newborn screening most babies are diagnosed within the first few weeks of life. Advances in treatment have seen improved quality of life and life expectancy for those with cystic fibrosis but there is no cure.

According to the GSM's Shoalhaven Operations Manager Babs Allen, these Outreach Clinics provide comprehensive inpatient and outpatient cystic

fibrosis services to children and adolescents in NSW.

She said the two main reasons for these outreach clinics was to see families in their local area at least once a year - so they don't have to make the trip to Sydney, and secondly to spend time with local paediatricians discussing cystic fibrosis issues and the care of children who attend both local and CHW services. Cystic Fibrosis NSW has been instrumental in getting the outreach clinics off the ground by providing much needed support when necessary.

Ms Allen said the GSM was pleased to make its facilities available in order for the Cystic Fibrosis Clinic to conduct an outreach clinic to treat young patients in the Shoalhaven area who otherwise would have to travel to Sydney.

Six local families attended this year's clinic.

Celebrating community collaboration

Linda Burney, Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth and Minister for Volunteering will visit Wollongong next week to officially launch the Community Languages Materials Project.

The launch acknowledges the work of the community languages schools, the teachers and UOW students involved in this collaborative community project led by Dr Ken Cruickshank and Dr Lisa Kervin from the Faculty of Education.

Community Languages Schools began in Australia in 1835 and now teach language and cultural knowledge and skills to over 50,000 students throughout Australia. Over 600 students are attending 24 schools in the Illawarra learning one of

17 languages. In 2007, the University of University funded a Community Engagement Grant enabling 24 students to work closely for the year with nine community languages schools. Students and teachers identified issues and needs and then developed and trailed resources in the schools.

The materials on display represent ways in which Community Languages schools and teachers can be supported in their important work, helping children to become truly bilingual and bicultural – developing and maintaining Australia's valuable language resources.

The launch will take place at the Wollongong City Gallery on Wednesday 13 February.