

UOW Cares Workplace Giving Expo

Fred Hollows Foundation Director Gabi Hollows praised staff at the first-year anniversary expo of the UOW Cares workplace giving program. Ms Hollows came to the University on July 1, along with representatives from the other seven charities and UOW causes in the program to provide an opportunity for staff to receive feedback on how their contributions are making a real difference in the community.

"Thank you for making a difference. This is such a great program. It is so simple and a tax-effective way to give something back," Ms Hollows said.

The Fred Hollows Foundation, established in 1992, works to restore sight through operations for cataract blindness and other reversible eye conditions for people in indigenous communities in Australia and in developing countries. The Foundation continues the good work of Fred Hollows who dedicated his life to restoring sight in the developing world.

"Fred would be blown away if he could see what has been achieved," Ms Hollows said.

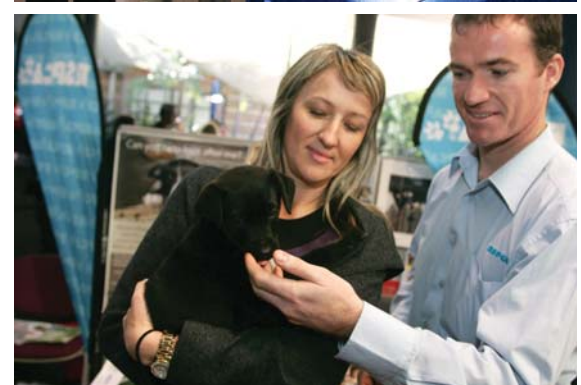
Since its launch in July 2007, staff have contributed over \$35,000 to UOW Cares.

"If every staff member donated the price of one cup of coffee a week, we'd be up to \$232,000 in the coming year," Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Lee Astheimer said.

The other charities and UOW causes in the UOW Cares program are:

- The Smith Family's Learning for Life Program
- NSW Cancer Council
- The South Coast School for Children with Autism
- Australian Conservation Foundation
- Oxfam
- Indigo Foundation
- RSPCA
- UOW Equity Fund
- UOW Research and Innovation Fund

New and existing staff are encouraged to sign-up to workplace giving and support UOW's community engagement initiative. The first 50 staff to sign-up by 31 July will receive



a free plant for their office. For more details on UOW Cares, visit the website at www.uow.edu.au/about/community/giving or call the Office of Community and Partnerships on 4221 5131.

Above: A collection of photos from the Workplace Giving Expo.



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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 community@uow.edu.au

Staff recognised for their contribution to community

The Vice-Chancellor's Awards Function was held on Friday, 27 June 2008 to recognise the outstanding contributions and service of staff members.

Among the Community Engagement award recipients were Associate Professor Philip Laird from the Faculty of Informatics, Associate Professor Siva Sivakumar and Associate Professor Paul Cooper from the Faculty of Engineering. Associate Professor Ron West in the Faculty of Science and Associate Professor Ian Brown, Dr Ros Westbrook and Dr Pauline Lysaght from the Faculty of Education were commended.*

The Awards ceremony concluded with the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gerard Sutton, AO being awarded Rotary International's highest honour. Mr Malcolm Heard, Wollongong Rotary President, surprised Professor Sutton with the prestigious Paul Harris Award for his service to the community.

* See the May/June edition of CE News for details on these award recipients.



VC Professor Gerard Sutton presents awards to (from L to R clockwise): Prof Siva Sivakumar and Paul Cooper; Philip Laird; Assoc/Prof Ian Brown, Dr Pauline Lysaght and Dr Ros Westbrook; and Assoc/Prof Ron West.

Nominations for 2008 Chancellor's Awards for Achievement in Community Service close 31 July

Up to four awards will be presented to community groups or individuals and graduates of the University who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in the area of community service. In recognition of their significant contribution, \$5,000 will be donated to a registered charity or non-profit group of the winner's choice.

If you know of someone who should be considered for this award, nominate them now. Nominations close: 31st July 2008. Details about the awards including guidelines and nomination forms are available online at www.uow.edu.au/about/community/chancellorsaward or by contacting the Office of Community & Partnerships on 4221 3110.

Staff Profile

A/Prof Paul Cooper

Head, School of Mechanical, Materials and Mechatronic Engineering



Community Engagement Activities

One of my goals is to help our community meet the global challenge of developing sustainable ways to live in harmony with our natural environment, particularly with respect to our use of energy.

As an engineer I am involved in education and research in sustainable energy systems, including ways in which we can obtain energy from natural sources such as the sun, the wind and ocean waves.

Community engagement to me means that as members of the University we should share our knowledge and vision, not only with our students, but also with the wider community.

Why is community engagement important?

For the past ten years I have been involved in the Futureworld Eco-Technology Centre in South Wollongong which is a unique exhibition and education centre displaying many ecologically sustainable technologies in fields such as energy, water and transport. I coordinated the initial development of the exhibition, assisting with grant submissions, budgets and plans and developing displays, marketing and learning materials. The Centre was opened by NSW Premier Bob Carr in November 2003, and since then I have assisted with the development of the Centre as a member of the Board of Directors.

I am also the Convenor of the UOW Energy Futures network, which aims to bring together UOW researchers working on energy related topics and to raise the profile of this research in the wider industry, business and general community.

As an academic, I feel a social responsibility to share skills and knowledge with the community and to produce graduates who can think globally but are able to act locally in a sustainable manner.

Further information on Futureworld can be found at <http://www.futureworld.org.au>

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

UOW to lead major study of Indonesian marine fisheries

The Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS) at UOW has won a major four-year \$1.5 million Nationally Competitive Research Grant to investigate Indonesian marine fisheries.

Funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), UOW's Associate Professor Ron West will lead the research team along with Professor Martin Tsamenyi and Dr Mary Ann Palma. The CSIRO (Marine and Atmospheric Research) and the Indonesian Ministry for Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) will be collaborators in the research.

"This project is likely to have significant impacts on marine fisheries in Indonesia, such as improvements in the quality of fisheries data, stock assessments, fishery information; increased capacity in terms of fisheries management, particularly within provincial government; adoption, broader dissemination and further refinement of resource assessment methodologies; and, new policy and regulatory frameworks," Professor West said.

It is expected that the research will lead to the establishment of more effective fisheries management; greater sustainability



Above: The ANCORS research team involved in the study of Indonesian marine fisheries (from left) Associate Professor Ron West (team leader), Dr Mary Ann Palma and Professor Martin Tsamenyi.

in fishing practices; improved food security; more sustainable catches; economic benefits to local communities; and increased government revenue.

High School Challenge at UOW

More than 400 students from 13 Illawarra high schools participated in this year's 'High School Challenge' held at the University Hall on 25 and 26 June.

In its second year running, the event aims to encourage students from the Illawarra, Southern Sydney, Nowra and Southern Highlands to undertake science and mathematics at school.

"We need to address the critical shortage of scientists and engineers in Australia and events like this Challenge will help boost numbers emerging from schools into these fields," according to the Regional Chair of the Illawarra and South East Challenge Coordinating Committee, Professor Fazel Naghdy of UOW's Faculty of Informatics.

Bowral High School claimed victory on day one, while Keira High School scored the highest total points on day two of competition.

With the support of the Rotary Club of Wollongong and the Informatics, Engineering and Science Faculties, the event provides a unique opportunity for young people to gain an insight into the working world of science and engineering.

The Challenge is run in conjunction with Engineers Australia and the University of Newcastle's Faculty of Science and Information Technology and its Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment.

This year's Challenge is sponsored by CSC GIS Global Solutions and Technology, Tyree Industries, BlueScope Steel and the Roads and Traffic Authority.



Top: (from left) Mr Peter Charker representing Rotary; competition local organiser Mr Stephen Petrou; Regional Chair of the Illawarra and South East Challenge Co-ordinating Committee, Professor Fazel Naghdy; UOW Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gerard Sutton; and local competition organiser, Dr Stephen Pan

Above: Bowral High School students proudly display their trophy as winners of day one of the 'High School Challenge'.

National Science Week 16 - 24 August 2008

National Science Week, coordinated by the Australian Government's Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, is Australia's largest celebration of Science with an estimated 700 events happening around the nation. The Wollongong Science Centre and Planetarium is working in partnership with CSIRO to present SCINEMA, a science film, video and multimedia festival. Faculty of Science staff and students will also host a Biology Enrichment Day for Year 11 students on Tuesday, 19 August.

Public Interest Events

2 August 2008

Film Screening - 7th Israeli Film Festival

The Kibbutz Ex Volunteer Association (KEVA) presents two films: Someone to Run With (based on the bestselling book of acclaimed Israeli writer David Grossman) and Jellyfish, winner of the 2007 Cannes Film Festival Camera D'Or prize (based on the story by Israeli writer Etgar Keret). Entry is \$5.

Venue: McKinnon Building (67), University of Wollongong.

Time: 6.30pm-11.00pm

Website: www.geocities.com/kibbutzeva/filmfestival08.html

Contact: Yoke Berry - yoke@uow.edu.au

7 August 2008

Conferences & Functions - Australian Institute of International Affairs 75th Anniversary National Conference

This historic occasion will bring together those with an interest in international issues from a variety of areas including government, diplomacy, academia, NGOs, cultural organisations and the wider community.

Venue: McKinnon Building (67), University of Wollongong.

Time: non-timed event. Main Conference Thursday, 7 August.

Website: <http://www.aiia.asn.au/>

Contact: Melissa Conley Tyler - ceo@aiia.asn.au

20 August 2008

Public Lecture - Dr Adam Dolnik, Centre for Transnational Crime Prevention.

Hear prominent researchers from UOW explain their ideas and research in a relaxed and participatory environment over a few wines or beers.

Venue: Five Islands Brewery

Time: 5.30pm-6.30pm

Website: www.uow.edu.au/research/unibrewery

Contact: Vicky Wallace - vwallace@uow.edu.au

Jump-Start for Pre-School Children

A physical activity intervention program lead by UOW's Childhood Obesity Research Centre is being conducted at Barrack Heights Children's Centre to help reduce the risk of obesity in pre-school aged children.

The program, 'Jump Start,' will provide the centre with \$500 worth of sporting equipment as well as professional development for staff. According to UOW PhD student Annalise Riethmuller, early childhood is a critical time for the development of physical activity habits and skills, yet a large number of children in early childhood centres are not participating in enough physical activity.

"Fundamental movement skills are learnt, not innate, so if a child doesn't have opportunity to learn skills they will often then begin to believe they are not good at sport," Ms Riethmuller said.

Research has shown one third of Illawarra children do not participate in the recommended three hours a day of physical activity for their age, and over 40% exceed the Australian recommendations of fewer than two hours a day of television and electronic media use.

As part of the program and its commitment to the local community, UOW has previously committed about \$7,000 in support of the trial and has committed to meet evaluation costs of the project.

UOW represented at Beijing Olympics

UOW will have its best representation yet at this year's Olympics in Beijing. Sisters Mia (Arts/Communications) and Jenna (Business Administration/Hospitality) Santoromito will represent Australia in the water polo team while Zoe Uphill (Commerce/Law) will compete in the rowing team (quad sculls).



Above: Olympic Games water polo team members, UOW students Mia (left) and Jenna Santoromito, with gift vouchers they received on behalf of URAC and the UOW Alumni Network.