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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:
Community Engagement Manager on Ext. 3110 or community@uow.edu.au



Staff recognised for excellence in community engagement

Staff were recognised for their outstanding contributions to the University at the Vice Chancellor's Awards function held on Friday, 19 June.

Among the Community Engagement award recipients were Mr Peter Castle from the Faculty of Informatics, the 'Voices of Children' team from the Faculty of Education (Ms Ros Westbrook, A/Prof Ian Brown and Dr Pauline Lysaght), A/Prof Ron West from the Faculty of Science and the 'Welcome to Wollongong' team.

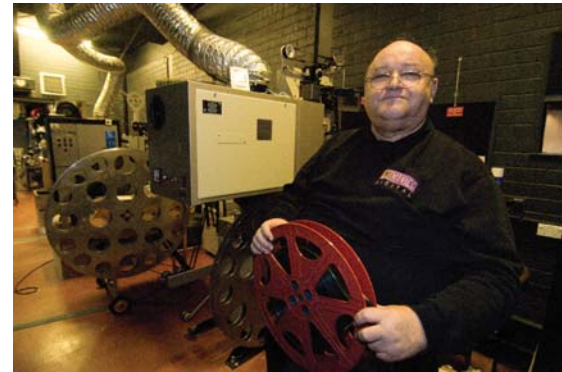
For close to forty years Mr Castle has been an integral part of UniMovies, providing access to cinematic culture to students, staff and the wider Wollongong community. The time he dedicates to these activities is voluntary, and in addition to the commitments of his academic workload as a lecturer in the Faculty of Informatics.

The 'Voices of Children' team from the Faculty of Education were awarded for their outstanding work over a number of years in developing links and programs between the University and other organisations at a local, national and international level. The project allows participants to engage with their local communities and to experience other communities through its website www.voicesofchildren.org.

Recognised for his work over many years on regional and community development projects, A/Prof Ron West was highly commended for his passion for the protection of the environment, the promotion of sustainable marine and freshwater industries and his work in developing beneficial relationships with external organisations.

The 'Welcome to Wollongong (W2W)' team, with representatives from across the University, were highly commended for their excellent work in facilitating better interactions and relationships between international students and the Illawarra community. Activities conducted as part of the W2W initiative included a formal civic festival, a mini international festival as well as developing and maintaining a website.

Established in 2006, the Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence in Community Engagement recognise and encourage exceptional community engagement by a member of the University staff and group of staff. The annual award is open to academic and general staff and carries a prize of \$2,000.



From top to bottom: Peter Castle; the 'Voices of Children' team (A/Prof Ian Brown, Dr Pauline Lysaght and Ms Ros Westbrook); A/Prof Ron West; 'Welcome to Wollongong' team (Ms Leanne Crouch, Mr Daniel Morgan, Ms Katie Moran, A/Prof Peter Kell, Ms Virginia Schmelitschek, Ms Jan Sullivan, Ms Mardella Bassett and Ms Ann-Maree Smith).

Do you know someone who is making a difference in the community?

\$5,000 to the winner's charity of choice

You can nominate a community member or University of Wollongong graduate for a 2009 Chancellor's Award for Achievement in Community Service.

These annual Awards recognise achievement in community service and highlight the personal contributions community members and UOW graduates make to their community.

In recognition of their significant contributions, the University will donate \$5,000 to a registered charity or not-for-profit organisation of the winner's choice.

Nominations close: 31 JULY 2009

Groups and individual nominations welcome. For more information and to apply visit www.uow.edu.au/about/community/chancellorsaward or phone 4221 3110 or 4221 4676.

2009 ANNUAL APPEAL Building a Strong Future



In 2008 UOW alumni donated over \$40,000 to help secure a brighter future for the thousands of Australian men and women battling cancer and to support young people who struggle to meet the costs and commitments associated with University study.

This year, the University is again seeking support for the **Research and Innovation Fund** and the **Learning and Development Fund**. A new initiative - the **Healthy Communities Fund** - has been established to provide support for projects that strengthen the health of communities and improve quality of life.

Throughout the month of July, UOW alumni will be contacted by UOW students over the phone to seek support for the University's three major areas listed above. The overwhelming generosity shown to the University over the past decade is testimony to what the University can achieve with the support of alumni and community members.

Support for the Annual Fund ensures each generation of students and the world's leading researchers are offered the very best facilities and opportunities to fulfil their potential in Wollongong.

To support these vital initiatives, contact the Office of Community and Partnerships on 4221 3042 or visit www.uow.edu.au/donations.

Staff Profile

A/Prof Wilma Vialle

Associate Dean
Faculty of Education



Pictured above: A/Prof Wilma Vialle in action at the Five Islands Brewery as part of 'Uni in the Brewery'.

Community engagement activities

- President of the Australian Association for the Education of the Gifted and Talented, an organisation which seeks to promote research and evidence-based practice in gifted education; to advocate for gifted children in education and at the government level; and, to support gifted children and their families.
- Editor of the 'Australasian Journal of Gifted Education', which disseminates research on gifted education in the Asia-Pacific rim, and on the editorial board of 'High Ability Studies' and 'Evaluation and Research in Education.'
- Tournament director of local, national and international Scrabble tournaments. I will be directing the 2009 World Scrabble Championships in late November in Malaysia.
- Critical friend with a number of local schools, helping them to cater appropriately for their gifted students.
- Member of the Learning and the Learner Research Group at the University of Wollongong.
- Presentation at 'Uni in the Brewery' titled 'Pink or Paris? Girls, giftedness and popular culture.'

Why is community engagement important?

Community engagement is vital for any university's mission. We are part of a community and need to interact with all members of that community, not just those who are fortunate enough to enrol here.

I don't see our interaction as one-way, as in "I'm from the University and I'm here to help you"; rather, I see that our teaching and research roles are enriched by our connection with our community.

Contact community@uow.edu.au if you are interested in being featured in the **Staff Profile**.

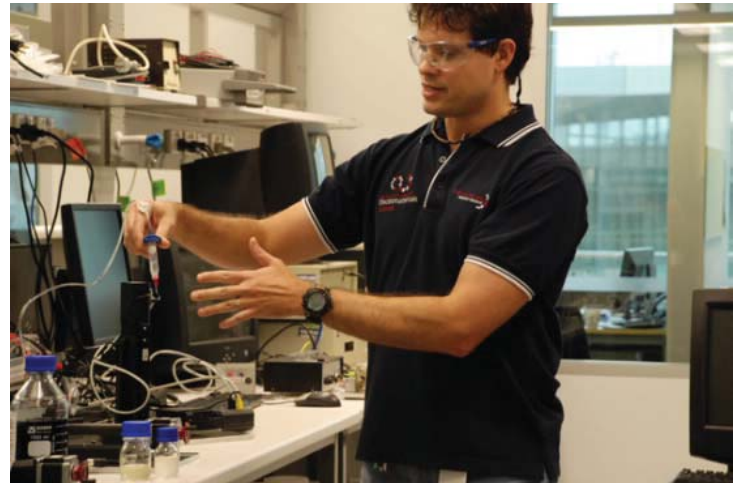
iC opens its doors for Innovation Week

School groups and community members were shown the very latest in groundbreaking research at the Intelligent Polymer Research Institute (IPRI) as part of Illawarra Innovation Showcase held on Monday, 25 May 2009.

With lectures, tours, a competition and an expo, a range of Illawarra organisations were on display to coincide with the Australian Innovation Festival.

Professor Gordon Wallace from IPRI spoke on organic bionics and linking the world of electronics and biology to produce revolutionary medical devices and Professor Jan Potter from the Illawarra Health and Medical Research Institute spoke about 'how to stay upright and well in old age.'

The keynote lecture for Innovation Week was delivered by Paul Bourke from the University of Western Australia at the Science Centre and Planetarium. He spoke about science visualisation and engaging display technologies.



Pictured above: A researcher shows how an inkjet printer can work to print nanoscale materials developed at IPRI.

The Science Centre is using visualisation to demonstrate nanotechnology and is about to open a stereo theatre, which will be an exciting attraction for the region's industries and tourist attractions. Visit sciencecentre.uow.edu.au for further information.

Possibilities endless at Science Centre & Planetarium

Children's Holiday Science Workshops

Learn how crystals evolve, how seeds travel and how to launch your own fizzy cannon at the Science Centre's Holiday Workshops, 20-24 July 2009. Workshops include Kitchen Chemistry (20 July), Flowers and Seeds (21 July), Pirate Science (22 July), Crystals and Ice Creams (23 July) and Bubbles and Burps (24 July).

Ticket pre-purchase is essential. Each workshop runs for 90 minutes commencing at 9.30am. Cost per child is \$12 for Science Centre Members or \$17 for non-members. For bookings, phone 4286 5000.

'Young Galileos' National Science Week 17-21 August 2009

Build your own telescope! Suitable for school age children and their parents. After school workshops followed by a public viewing on 28 August. Bookings essential. Phone 4286 5000.

Discovery Night - 28 August 2009

With the support of the Illawarra Astronomical Society, the Science Centre will hold a Discovery Night on Friday, 28 August 6.30-8.30pm. Enjoy a presentation in the BlueScope Steel Planetarium and hands-on activities. No bookings required. Usual entry fees apply. Phone 4286 5000 for more information.



Public Interest Events

22 - 24 July 2009

Graduation Ceremonies

Venue: University Hall (Building 11), University of Wollongong.

Time: Various. See website for full details.

Website: www.uow.edu.au/student/graduation

22 June - 17 July 2009

Celebrating Student Art - Nowra and Shellharbour College Exhibition

Curated by Glenda Borchard (BCA graduate in Visual Arts), the exhibition explores a range of concepts and materials created by students from Nowra and Shellharbour Anglican College. The exhibition includes individual bodies of works from the 2008 HSC that examine ideas of youth culture and personal histories.

Venue: Long Gallery and Glass Cabinets, Faculty of Creative Arts, Building 25, University of Wollongong.

Time: Gallery opening hours are 9-5pm, Monday to Friday.

Admission is free to all galleries.

Website: www.uow.edu.au/crearts

Contact: 4221 5853 or 4221 3996

29 July 2009

Entertainment - Eskimo Joe

Having just returned from a European tour, Australian band Eskimo Joe visit UOW as part of 'INSHALLA AUSTRALIAN TOUR.' For a band whose sound has taken giant leaps forward, from 2001's 'Girl' to 2004's 'A Song Is A City' and on to the four times-platinum mega hit 'Black Fingernails, Red Wine', Eskimo Joe have stepped up to again prove why they're one of the most heralded and enduring rock bands around today.

Venue: University Hall, Building 11.

Time: 7.30pm to 11.45pm

Website: www.unicentre.uow.edu.au/whatson

Tickets: Pre-sale UOW students \$35.50, general admission \$42.50.

Tickets available at UniShop 4221 8050 or Redback Music 4229 6169.

Alumni Bookshop

The Alumni Bookshop sells a diverse range of quality secondhand books including fiction, non-fiction and textbooks, at very reasonable prices. All proceeds from Bookshop sales contribute to scholarships and prizes for students at the University of Wollongong.

Opening hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10.30am-2.30pm and Saturdays 1pm-5pm.

Website: www.uow.edu.au/alumni/bookshop

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

Campus East cooks up a storm at 22nd International Food Fair

International flavours were in abundance at the Campus East 22nd Annual International Food Fair held on Sunday, 24 May 2009. Home to over 600 students from 42 different nations, Campus East residents joined forces to prepare national delicacies from around the world.

'Our students go to a lot of effort in preparing the food, decorating their stalls and many dressed in their national costume and played music representative of their country,' James Atkinson, Head of Campus East, said. 'We saw an increase in the number of countries represented this year at the Fair. For the first time ever the Dominican Republic was represented at the Fair.'

Popular dishes were the Malaysian Cucur Udang (Prawn Fritters), Slovenian Slastni Kolacki and the Irish Traditional Sweet Yellowman Toffee of Ould. The International Food Fair is one of the many events held at Campus East that recognise the diversity of students living there.



Pictured from top to bottom: Campus East residents enjoy the culinary delights from Yemen and Syria; students from Norway cook up a storm.

UOW Community News is produced by the Office of Community & Partnerships. Your contributions and comments are welcome. Please email community@uow.edu.au or phone 4221 3110.