

University of Wollongong



A University Engaged

Connecting with our Communities

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S STATEMENT

The University of Wollongong was established more than 50 years ago after a concerted campaign from the local community and industry for an educational institution that supported their needs.

Since then, the University's sphere of engagement has progressively expanded from an active commitment to the home region to interaction with communities around Australia and overseas.

Our internationally recognised researchers collaborate with regional organisations as well as national and international corporations to ensure the region and the nation stay at the leading edge of advancements in a range of fields.

In 2007, the first cohort of 80 students started their training at the University's Graduate School of Medicine. One of the specific goals of the School is to address the shortage of medical practitioners in regional, remote and rural areas. This fills a great social need in our community.

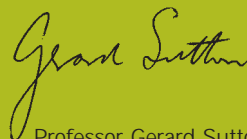
Another major initiative, the \$300 million Wollongong Innovation Campus, has the potential to significantly enhance the interaction between the University and its communities and benefit the region for generations to come.

In the Arts, the University plays a leading supporting role with other cultural organisations. We support the Wollongong Conservatorium of Music, Wollongong Symphony Orchestra and Wollongong City Gallery. We make facilities at our main campus and regional centres available to the public and we welcome members of the community to public lectures and special events. We also encourage them to engage with our staff, researchers and students.

The University has earned an excellent reputation in teaching, research, and community engagement. In late 2006 the University won the inaugural 'Commonwealth University of the Year' award from the *Times Higher Education Supplement*— a real testament to our remarkable community engagement achievements, particularly in relation to our contribution to regional development. This award is not just recognition for the University, but the entire city and region. Our whole community deserves to share in the accolades for this award.

This booklet provides a small insight into the variety of ways in which the University strives to connect with its communities. It exemplifies the qualities and aspirations of a global University that cares about the future of the region.

We hope you find this booklet informative and that it might inspire you to reach out and connect with the University.



Professor Gerard Sutton
Vice-Chancellor, University of Wollongong



UOW has a dynamic, two-way relationship with its communities, helping them to prosper, while allowing staff and students to draw support and inspiration from the resources of its communities.

← Ms Elaine Henry, CEO of The Smith Family, pictured with UOW Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gerard Sutton at the launch of the University's Workplace Giving Program, *UOW Cares*.

Cover image: The Illawarra Community joined with UOW to welcome the first students to its Graduate School of Medicine (GSM).

United in Fight Against Cancer

Eighty-eight thousand Australians will be diagnosed with cancer this year. Just over half will make a full recovery. Although survival rates are improving, this insidious disease is still the leading cause of death in Australia, striking one in three men and one in four women before the age of 75.¹

In the Illawarra, the fight against cancer is being facilitated by a remarkable partnership between University of Wollongong researchers and local community groups.

Since 2005 close to \$300,000 has been raised by the Illawarra Cancer Carers, Rotary, the Robert East Memorial Fund, and members of the community, for cancer research led by Professor John Bremner. His team from the Department of Chemistry is working with Associate Professor Marie Ranson and the School of Biological Sciences and Professor Phillip Clingan, an Honorary Clinical Professor at UOW and Director of Medical Oncology at the Southern Medical Day Care Centre. This multidisciplinary team of chemists, physicians and biologists has been working together for eight years to reduce the debilitating side-effects of drugs used in chemotherapy.

The community also supports UOW's Centre for Medical Radiation Physics (CMRP), which is helping doctors more effectively target and destroy cancerous cells in the prostate gland. The Centre is developing technologies such as Brachytherapy and Image Guided Radiotherapy (IGRT), which reduce treatment times and the resulting complications, such as impotence.

This alliance between UOW researchers and the community is seeking to create a world where cancer treatments are simple, pain-free procedures.

“The donations received from community groups for cancer research at the University have been of great benefit in enabling us to progress a key line of research into future cancer treatments, particularly with respect to colo-rectal and breast cancer. The donations have been invaluable in supporting our research and key chemical and biological studies. We are very grateful for this support.”

PROFESSOR JOHN BREMNER
FACULTY OF SCIENCE, UOW

¹ The Cancer Council Australia, Facts & Figures web site
www.cancer.org.au/



CANCER RESEARCH INITIATIVES AT UOW

- CMRP's partnerships include the St George Cancer Care Centre, the Illawarra Cancer Care Centre and the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre in the United States
 - Illawarra residents with breast and prostate cancer are participating in the first Australian trial at UOW to investigate the benefits of special exercise programs in respect to their illnesses
 - In 2006 an Alumni Appeal raised funds for Cancer Research at UOW
 - Cancer research workshops
 - Pink Ribbon Breast Cancer Breakfast is held annually to raise breast cancer awareness and help fund research on behalf of the National Breast Cancer Foundation
 - A new Staff Workplace Giving Program called UOW Cares will support cancer research at UOW.
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- ← A patient undergoes highly specialised radiation therapy treatment at the Illawarra Cancer Care Centre, Wollongong Hospital.

Centre Sparks Interest in Science

Science and mathematics skills are vital to Australia's future prosperity. Yet more and more young people are turning away from these subjects in school¹, exacerbating the current skill shortages in industries such as engineering, manufacturing and health.

The University of Wollongong's Science Centre and Planetarium is working to reverse this trend. Since 1989, the Centre has helped young people understand scientific principles through 120 interactive exhibits as well as lectures and demonstrations. By making learning fun and informative, the Centre hopes to encourage young people to pursue further study and careers in scientific and mathematical fields.

The Centre also develops the skills of future educators. Through an internship program, more than 30 UOW undergraduate students act as guides, shop assistants and demonstrators at the Centre, learning how to make science exciting and relevant to visitors.

With the support of volunteers from the local community and corporate sponsors, the Centre has grown to become a major contributor to the region's economy and tourist industry. It attracts over 50,000 people annually, including visits from 500 primary and secondary schools.

Some of the Centre's most popular attractions include the skeleton of Cryolophosaurus, the largest dinosaur found in Antarctica, a 70-seat Planetarium, an observatory, and a seismograph that measures earthquakes as they occur around the world.

"Science comes alive for all ages through the ability to explore rather than being taught. The Centre is the State's leading hands-on facility."

GLEN MOORE
DIRECTOR, SCIENCE CENTRE AND PLANETARIUM

1 A 2003 Government Audit of Science, Engineering and Technology Skills shows more than a 15 per cent decline in science subject school enrolments since 1993.

MAJOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS OF THE UOW SCIENCE CENTRE & PLANETARIUM

- BlueScope Steel
- Illawarra Coal/BHP-Billiton
- IMB Community Foundation.

Local school students get 'hands on' with one of the interactive displays at the university's Science Centre and Planetarium. →



An Alliance Forged in Steel

Australian organisations today must work harder and smarter to remain competitive in an increasingly complex global economy. The long-standing alliance between BlueScope Steel and UOW is ensuring the continued international success of one of Australia's major industries. For the Illawarra community this means sustained employment opportunities, now and in the future.

Since its inception in 1951, the University of Wollongong has been closely linked to Australia's largest steel plant, BlueScope Steel's Port Kembla Steelworks. Originally established as a division of the New South Wales University of Technology (now UNSW) to provide technical education for engineers and metallurgists at the Steelworks, UOW has provided a long line of highly-trained graduates, many of whom have gone on to fill leadership roles in the Company. In its early years the Company (then owned by BHP) also contributed land and building materials to the University.

Today the alliance between UOW and BlueScope Steel remains strong. The most significant collaboration between the two organisations is the BlueScope Steel Metallurgy Centre (BSMC), a multidisciplinary team comprising of metallurgists, mechanical engineers, chemists and mathematicians. Established in 1995, the BSMC provides technical research support to BlueScope Steel, as well as formal postgraduate education and regular short courses.

To help BlueScope Steel stay at the forefront of technological developments, the BSMC has built up specialised equipment such as electron microscopes that are shared by the University and company employees in a unique arrangement. Operating funds are shared almost equally between UOW, BlueScope Steel and the Federal Government's Australian Research Council (ARC) through competitive research grants.

"BlueScope Steel has benefited from a long relationship with the University of Wollongong. Many of our successful executives studied at UOW and many future leaders of our business are studying there now. Research collaboration between BlueScope Steel and UOW has enabled our company to maintain its position as one of the world's most efficient producers of quality steel products. The value we are able to offer our customers is in no small way an outcome of ongoing product improvement research undertaken with UOW. A close and ongoing partnership between the region's largest employers will continue to bring many positive outcomes for our community."

MR NOEL CORNISH
PRESIDENT AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND
INDUSTRIAL MARKETS
BLUESCOPE STEEL

**A ladle tips molten iron into a furnace →
at the Basic Oxygen Steelmaking (BOS) plant at
BlueScope Steel's Port Kembla Steelworks, in a
process called charging.**



STEEL LINKS: UOW'S LINKS WITH BLUESCOPE STEEL

- BlueScope Steel Metallurgy Centre (BSMC)
 - Joint effort with UOW to attract school leavers to engineering and science
 - Scholarships for Engineering students
 - Opportunities for Engineering students to combine work at the Steelworks with study at UOW for degrees in Engineering
 - Supports the Cooperative Research Centre for Welded Structures based at UOW
 - Jointly supports and operates with UOW substantial state-of-the-art analysis equipment
 - Involved with staff in gaining a large number of nationally competitive research grants, resulting in millions of dollars worth of additional research funding coming to UOW
 - Supports Illawarra Univariate and other careers work experience programs
 - Sponsor of the UOW Racing car entry in the Formula SAE competition since its inception five years ago.
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Encouraging Environmental Sustainability

From climate change to animal extinction, environmental problems are looming as the great moral, economic and social challenge of our age. Without urgent action, the natural systems essential to life will soon be under serious threat.

To help counteract environmental damage in the Illawarra area, the University of Wollongong's Centre for Student Development and Conservation Volunteers Australia joined together in 2003 to form The Green Team.

Consisting of 200 UOW student volunteers, The Green Team devotes more than 2000 hours a year to environmental restoration projects, such as bush regeneration, noxious weed eradication, fire hazard reduction and wildlife monitoring.

The Green Team recently completed a riverbank restoration project on the banks of the Kangaroo River and improved the habitat around the Chakola Wildlife 32-hectare Refuge, a property that is home to six different ecotypes and the endangered brushtailed rock wallaby. The Green Team also helped volunteers from WIRES and NANA build a rehabilitation aviary for red-headed flying foxes in Jamberoo.

The environment is not the only thing that benefits from The Green Team. Volunteers have the opportunity to apply their theoretical knowledge to a real life problem and develop practical skills that will improve their future employment prospects, such as team work, leadership and communication.

By 'thinking globally, acting locally', The Green Team is instilling the next generation with a sense of environmental responsibility and nurturing tomorrow's leaders in conservation and sustainable development.

"The Centre for Student Development's Green Team was an enormous success. The Program provided students with on-ground experience in practical conservation techniques, and gave them the opportunity to visit some ecologically important sites, including an island penguin colony that is closed to the public. Students made a significant impact on these work projects, and their efforts were greatly appreciated by all land managers."

SALLY WHITELAW
REGIONAL MANAGER,
CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS AUSTRALIA



UOW'S ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

- The Centre for Environmental Risk Management of Bushfires in partnership with the NSW Department of Environment & Conservation and the NSW Rural Fire Service
- GeoQuest Centre
- Institute for Conservation Biology & Law
- Energy Futures Network
- Sustainable Water & Earth Research Group
- Support for FutureWorld Eco Technology Centre
- UOW Water Saving Action Plan
- UOW Energy Saving Action Plan
- The International Young Environmental Envoys Program 1998–2002
- Students involved in community environment programs
- Public lectures on the environment and sustainability
- Debates on environmental change.

← Members of the University's Centre for Student Development's Green Team carry out environmental restoration work.

Front-line Fight Against Diabetes

Kidney failure, heart disease, nerve damage and even sexual dysfunction—these are just some of the serious consequences of Type II Diabetes. Today almost eight per cent of all Australians are afflicted by this disease, greatly diminishing their quality of life.

To fight the growing prevalence of Diabetes, the University of Wollongong, the Illawarra Division of General Practice and the Beaton Park Leisure Centre joined forces in 2004 to create the *Exercise – Essential Medicine for Diabetes Program*.

Since Type II Diabetes is mostly caused by lifestyle factors such as poor diet and inactivity, the Program helps sufferers by providing them with individually-tailored exercises, then monitoring their progress over a 12-week period.

The Program also helps train the next generation of health care professionals. Final-year Exercise Science and Rehabilitation students from UOW are fully involved in the care and support of the Program's participants.

Under the supervision of UOW Senior Lecturer Owen Curtis, these students not only develop their skills but learn how to apply their knowledge for the benefit of the community.

"The doctors really like the program and have input into the way it runs. They like having somewhere to send their patients where they know they will be supervised and get the help they need to start exercising properly."

LINDA BLACKMORE
DIABETES PROGRAM OFFICER,
ILLAWARRA DIVISION OF GENERAL PRACTICE

UOW exercise science and rehabilitation →
student Tamara Hammond pictured with
Kathy McLean who is involved in the
Essential Medicine for Diabetes Program.



COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES OF UOW'S SCHOOL OF HEALTH SERVICES SENIOR LECTURER OWEN CURTIS

- Exercise program for people with chronic pain at Port Kembla Hospital—now a stand alone department
 - Exercise Science and Rehabilitation Clinic at UOW
 - Workfit Model at the Shoalhaven District Memorial Hospital
 - Self Management Education Camps for Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander people with Diabetes in conjunction with the Aboriginal Medical Service. This has been developed into the Good Health Teams conducted in Wollongong and Nowra
 - Exercise component of the Care for the Carer's Program sponsored through NSW Health (with the support of his students)
 - Inaugural winner of the UOW Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Community Service in 2006
 - Community oriented projects with the Department of Health and Ageing, where people at risk of falls are provided access to Exercise Physiologists by their GP under team care arrangements.
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Helping to Save our Cultural Heritage

The Illawarra is one of the most culturally diverse regions of Australia, with a high proportion of residents with southern European ancestries, particularly from the Republic of Macedonia, Italy, Greece, Turkey and the former Yugoslavia. Many migrated to Australia due to acute labour shortages in the boom period after World War II. In recent years, migrants to the Illawarra have come from Vietnam, Lebanon, Iran, Portugal, Spain, Africa, South America and Bosnia.

To preserve the history of these immigrants for future generations the School of Art and Design in UOW's Faculty of Creative Arts and Film Illawarra, located in the Faculty of Arts, are helping the Illawarra Migration Heritage Project Incorporated (Heritage Project) with a community initiative, *Home Movies – Animating Heritage*.

Funded by the IMB Community Foundation, the Heritage Project aims to uncover home movies filmed by Illawarra residents between the 1950s and 1980s. Beth Herbert, an Arts graduate from UOW who did an internship with Film Illawarra has been employed by the Heritage Project to establish a registry of home movies, collect examples and contact migrant groups and individuals.

A selection of these home movies, featuring footage of migrant arrivals, hostel accommodation, festivals and other community events, will then be transferred into digital format. The scenes will then be screened in audio-visual exhibitions at regional museums, community centres and gallery spaces, promoting the importance of migrant heritage. They will also be available on the Migrant Heritage Project website: www.mhpillawarra.com/

“The home movies—animating heritage project, with funding from the IMB Community Foundation, has made it possible for our organisation to partner with UOW's creativity and technology know-how and bring to life the experiences and stories of Wollongong's migrant communities”.

FRANCA FACCI, CHAIRPERSON FOR THE MIGRANT HERITAGE PROJECT

John Papakosmas pictured with Illawarra → Migrant Heritage Project Committee member Beth Herbert. John's home movies will be among those chosen to represent images of migrant life in the Illawarra.



UOW CULTURAL INITIATIVES

- Regular exhibitions and performances (23 public art exhibitions and 15 performances held in 2006)
 - Regular book launches, film festivals, cultural activities, comedy nights and live bands
 - Support for the Wollongong Conservatorium of Music and the Wollongong Symphony Orchestra
 - Joint exhibitions with Wollongong City Gallery and other regional and metropolitan galleries
 - Support for the Southern Stars Schools Spectacular, Illawarra Innovation Showcase, Illawarra Short Film Competition, Festival Short Sited
 - Support for Film Illawarra—a partnership between the University's Faculty of Arts and the Southern Councils Group to attract film and TV productions to the Illawarra, Wingecarribee and Shoalhaven regions; winner of a NSW Local Government and Shires Association Cultural Award in 2005
 - Graphic design student projects for community groups
 - Development of an e-commerce website for the Coomaditchie Artists' Co-operative
 - Student performances staged at the Illawara Performing Arts Centre
 - Teacher education partnership with the Arthur and Yvonne Boyd Education Centre at Riversdale, Nowra
 - Cultural exchange and interaction programs.
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Clinic Assists in Mental Health

Mental illness affects one in five Australians at some point in their lives.¹ Many more watch family and friends struggle with the debilitating symptoms. People living in rural and regional areas are particularly vulnerable due to a lack of access to health services.

For more than 25 years the University of Wollongong's Northfields Psychology Clinic has improved access to mental health care for more than 8,000 community members and their families. Their low-cost, high-quality treatment and assessment services help people suffering from a wide range of illnesses including depression, anxiety disorders, drug addiction, as well as sleep and childhood behavioural problems.

To deliver the best possible treatments, the Clinic runs various research projects in association with the Illawarra Institute of Mental Health, based at UOW. These projects attempt to clarify the factors relevant to the development, maintenance and treatment of mental health issues.

The Clinic also acts as a practical training ground for students studying to become clinical psychologists. Most of the Clinic's research projects are conducted by postgraduate students under the supervision of experienced, registered clinical psychologists. Many of the 400-plus graduates who have trained at the Clinic have gone on to play leading roles in mental health care in the Illawarra and beyond.

"We refer a large number of clients to the Clinic on a regular basis. We trust Northfields, we know the quality of the treatment there and we enjoy an established relationship with its staff."

GRAHAME GOULD
DIRECTOR OF LIFELINE SOUTH COAST

¹Beyond Blue – The National Depression Initiative:
www.beyondblue.org.au



COMMUNITY SERVICES AFFILIATED WITH NORTHFIELDS PSYCHOLOGY CLINIC

- Illawarra Division of General Practice
- Australian Psychological Society
- Australian and New Zealand College of Psychology
- South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra Area Mental Health Service
- Department of Community Services
- Children's Youth and Family Services
- Anglicare
- Lifeline South Coast
- Mission Australia
- Juvenile Justice Department
- Aboriginal Services.

← Lucy Parker, an intern at the Northfields Psychology Clinic.

A Voice for the Disabled

Most children living with a disability are cared for by family members within their own homes. Care services provide a crucial support system for these families, yet their opinions are often ignored.

The Disability Trust NSW wanted to conduct a comprehensive survey to understand the current and future needs of Illawarra families who care for a child with a disability, but had insufficient funds and resources. Thanks to the support of UOW's Community Engagement Grants Scheme (CEGS), the Centre for Social Marketing Research was able to assist.

With expertise in statistics and survey methodology, the Centre helped the Disability Trust devise a census-based survey, which was sent out to more than 1000 families in the Illawarra with disabled children aged 0-12 years. The survey asked a range of practical questions and was developed in consultation with other disability services in the region, including the NSW Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care, the South Coast School of Autism and the Aboriginal Disability Service.

The survey revealed a need for increased support for families with disabled children, and the results will be used to seek increased government funding. All of the disability services involved in the project have expressed an interest in extending this research to include older children aged 13 – 18 years and young adults.

This is just one of the worthy projects that have received CEGS funding since the scheme was established in 2005. To date, CEGS has dedicated more than \$120,000 to encourage and support collaborative projects that have mutually beneficial outcomes. While projects are diverse, they all have an important element in common. All are designed to benefit our regional communities and therefore further strengthen ties between the University and the community.

"I really appreciate the time and effort that has been put into the project. We would never have been able to do it ourselves. It really helped in our planning process."

MARGARET BOWEN
CEO OF THE DISABILITY TRUST



PROJECTS FUNDED BY UOW'S CEGS:

- Developing Community Language Resources: community language schools in the Illawarra
 - Learning and Teaching Creatively: Arthur & Yvonne Boyd Education Centre
 - Towards a UOW Web-casting Service: the Illawarra community
 - Community Support Program: Science Centre & Planetarium, Salvation Army, PCYC, Rotary etc
 - Guides in Engineering and Science Saturday: Guides NSW
 - New Ways to Engage the Community and Prioritise Economic Development: Shellharbour City Council
 - Supporting Children with Disabilities: The Disability Trust
 - Improving Indigenous Health Outcomes: Aboriginal Vascular Health Program and South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra Area Health Service, NSW Department of Sport & Recreation and Elders of the Wollongong and Shoalhaven indigenous communities
 - Testing for Water Quality and Online Weather Station: Wollongong City Council, Sydney Water, Baulderstone Hornibrook and science teachers and schools
 - Giving Youth a Voice: Wollongong Youth Services, Illawarra Ethnic Communities Council and local youth.
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Sparking Debate & Knowledge Exchange

Was the Tyrannosaurus Rex warm-blooded or cold-blooded? Why do some people fear driving? How do we measure time? These are just some of the fascinating topics that have been covered at Uni in the Brewery, a free public lecture series held at Wollongong's iconic Five Islands Brewery.

Since 2003, University of Wollongong researchers have presented their work to the public in this relaxed and convivial atmosphere, making knowledge fun and accessible to all. To encourage the exchange of ideas and experiences, audience members at Uni in the Brewery also have the opportunity to meet and question the presenters. This in turn allows UOW researchers to gain new perspectives on their work and forge productive partnerships within the local community.

By sparking debate and demystifying complex issues, Uni in the Brewery and other public lectures held or hosted by UOW are helping to advance the intellectual vitality of the region. Recent speakers have included international environmentalist and broadcaster David Suzuki and inventor of the bionic ear Professor Graeme Clark.

It is believed UOW holds the Australian record for the longest running public lecture series on employment relations. The Sir Richard Kirby Lecture series began in the late 1970s with the late Sir Richard presenting the first lecture. Since then it has featured presentations by John Hewson, Simon Crean, Bill Kelty, Meg Lees, Jennie George, Bob Hawke, Bill Shorten and Michael Kirby.

PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES AT UOW

- Lunch Time Professorial Series
- Uni in the Brewery Series
- Annual Bert Halpern Lecture (Science)
- Annual Alan Sefton Memorial Lecture (Environment)
- Annual Sir Richard Kirby Lecture (Employment)
- Annual Education Leadership Lecture
- Annual Lecture on International Security
- Annual Town & Gown Lecture
- Annual Innovation Week Lecture
- Annual Graduate School of Medicine Lecture.

(L-R) Dr Simon Moulton, Professor Gordon Wallace → and Dr Andrew Minett from the Intelligent Polymer Research Institute at the University of Wollongong delivered a public lecture on bionics as part of the University in the Brewery lecture series.



FIVE ISLANDS
BREWING COMPANY

CAFE - RESTAURANT - BBQ - Ph. 422

W... ENTERTAINM...

Transforming Lives Through Education

Opportunity comes to some more easily than others. The opportunity to attain a tertiary education is hindered for many by location and geography. For instance, students from regional areas are less likely to complete the Higher School Certificate, compared with the state average.

UOW has established several campuses and education centres across New South Wales to provide equitable access to education in the Illawarra and beyond. Such campuses and centres allow regional youth to remain at home while gaining a professional education, and provide lifelong learning opportunities for mature-age students who are unable to travel to the main campus due to work and family commitments. This in turn enriches the cultural, social, professional and intellectual life of regional communities, helping to attract business and industry to these areas.

Established in 1999, the Shoalhaven Campus has become a hub for engagement activities within the region, hosting a range of activities from conferences and business activities to after-school science programs and cultural activities.

Since 2004, the Campus has run Uni Connections in partnership with the community to improve high school retention rates and encourage tertiary education. The program allows UOW students to gain valuable skills by acting as mentors to high school students, assisting them with homework, language tuition and study plans.

The Shoalhaven Campus supports local Indigenous communities through the Uni Connections program in conjunction with the community. Since 2005, the program has facilitated the graduation of 36 Indigenous students who completed their HSC together with the Shoalhaven Area Consultative

Committee, the Shoalhaven City Council and Centrelink. The Campus hosts a graduation ceremony which recognises and celebrates the efforts of Aboriginal students in completing Year 12—often against considerable odds.

The program was also actively involved in the coordination and facilitation of Shoalhaven Koori TAFE Week with Illawarra TAFE which involves around 20 Year Ten Indigenous students annually.

UOW's role in supporting educational aspirations can be demonstrated by rising tertiary participation rates in the Illawarra community, from 18.33 per cent in 1996 to 23.98 per cent in 2001*.

“Staff involved with Uni Connections have always been more than willing to come up with innovative solutions related to student access to University facilities and support. In turn, members of the teaching profession in the Shoalhaven area are more than willing to nominate UOW as a quality institution which puts the interests of the community at the forefront in any decision making process. Uni Connections is a quality program which has direct benefits for young people and students in the Shoalhaven.”

WAYNE PRYCE
PRINCIPAL NOWRA HIGH SCHOOL AND CHAIRMAN
OF SHOALHAVEN STUDENT SUPPORT

* 'Regional Participation in Higher Education and the Distribution of Higher Education Resources across Regions' DETYA 99-B 1996. 'Usual place of residence 5 years earlier and higher education status', Australian Bureau of Statistics – Census 2001.



RAISING EDUCATIONAL ASPIRATIONS/ WIDENING PARTICIPATION INITIATIVES

- Students Mentoring Students Program
- UniConnections Mentoring Program (Shoalhaven based)
- Bonus 3 UAI Scheme
- Step Up to UOW
- Alternate pathway schemes for Indigenous and mature-age students
- Pathways via TAFE and Wollongong College Australia Programs
- Equity and Merit Scholarships

School enrichment and teacher development initiatives

- The annual Siemens Science Experience a three day program of activities for students going into Year 10
- Saturday School Computing Program for Years 7–12
- 'Guides in Engineering & Science' Saturday workshops
- Australian Centre for Educational Leadership Annual Conference
- Educational Leadership breakfast seminars
- Faculty of Education hosted teacher development workshops.

← Shoalhaven River

Sports Centre Gets Pulses Racing

Whether it's working out, swimming laps or scoring a goal, the benefits of physical activity are undisputed. The University Recreation & Aquatic Centre (URAC) is helping to build a healthier community through the provision of high-quality recreational facilities. In fact, URAC is the second highest provider of sporting amenities in the Illawarra behind the Wollongong City Council.

Students and staff are not the only ones to benefit from URAC's Olympic-sized outdoor heated swimming pool, gymnasium, tennis courts, sporting fields, group exercise classes and health services.

Over 100,000 people from outside the University visit URAC each year. Many of these patrons are involved in community-organised teams and competitions. URAC also provides sports science testing and facilities to the Illawarra Academy of Sport, as well as \$10,000 of in-kind support to gifted student athletes in UOW's Sports Scholarships Program.

Recognised as a 'Regional Centre of Excellence' by the New South Wales Institute of Sport, URAC is a training base for professional teams, such as the St George-Illawarra Dragons and the Sydney Swans. The Aquatic Centre also hosted the United States Swimming Team for the 1999 World Championships and the Icelandic and Finnish Swim Teams for the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games.

Due to URAC's strong partnerships with community sporting bodies and the community in general, the Federal Government recently contributed \$4.6 million in funding for the construction of a 3,000 seat multi-purpose indoor sports facility at the University. To be completed in late 2007, the facility will be used for a range of sports including basketball, indoor soccer and badminton and as a training area for outdoor sports.

The UOW Hockey Club train under lights on →
one of the University's sporting grounds.



OTHER URAC PARTNERSHIPS

Sporting Teams Hosted

Illawarra Hawks; NSW Waratahs; South African Natal Sharks; Canadian Rugby Team; Canadian National Swim Team; AIS Swim Team; US Triathlon Team; Argentine Triathlon Team

Sporting Organisations

NSW Australian Football League; Tennis NSW; Triathlon NSW; Fairy Meadow Hockey Club; Kemblawarra Football Club; NSW Women's Rugby; Cronulla Water Polo Club; St George Cricket Club; AustSwim; Illawarra Steelers Rugby League Club

Community Groups

Keelong Juvenile Justice Centre; Royal Life Saving Society Illawarra

Competitions

NSW Under-16s Boys Water Polo Titles; NSW Combined High Schools Cricket Trials; Eastern University Games; Royal Life Saving Society of Australia Championships

Corporate Sponsor

National Australia Bank.

A University Engaged

UOW's Vision: to be an international University recognised for originality and enterprise in exploring, communicating and applying knowledge to enrich individuals, their communities and the environment.

One of the University's guiding principals as an institution is 'community collaboration and service'. This principle embodies a dynamic, two-way relationship. It helps communities to prosper in association with a university of international reputation, while allowing UOW to draw support and inspiration from community resources.

A **Community Engagement Committee (CEC)** comprising of prominent community representatives, key University staff and student representatives, guides and supports the core goal of the University for dynamic engagement with our communities along with an Office of Community and Partnerships.

The **Community Engagement Grants Scheme (CEGS)** provides financial support for projects which link the University's academic, research and outreach activities with community partners for mutual benefit. The Scheme provides funding for projects that are predominately service-orientated, consistent with the University's Community Engagement Plan and have a clear community benefit.

The **Chancellor's Awards for Achievement in Community Service** recognise achievement in community service and highlight the personal contributions that UOW alumni and others make to the enrichment of their community and advancement of their society.

The **Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Community Engagement** recognises and encourages exceptional community engagement by a member of UOW staff or group of staff and is awarded annually at the Vice-Chancellor's Awards Function.

The University's Community & Partnerships website acts as an information portal between the University and the wider community, and includes information on news and events of public interest; resources and facilities for public enjoyment; and collaborative community and research projects. It also includes links to community publications including a Community Newsletter and *Campus News*.
Visit: www.uow.edu.au/about/community/

The University's online Events Calendar provides a daily update to what's happening at UOW.
www.uow.edu.au/events

UOW offers a range of facilities for community use including commercial services such as:

- child care, food outlets, access to entertainment and films
- a Recreation and Aquatic Centre
- special collections including the Janet Cosh Herbarium, Howard Worner Rock and Mineral Collection and the UOW Art Collection
- the UOW Library, a Science Centre and Planetarium
- Northfields Psychology Clinic
- the International Friendship Program that provides an opportunity for cultural exchange between international students enrolled at UOW and members of the community.



FACTS AT A GLANCE

Established: 1951

Campuses: 2

Wollongong and Shoalhaven

Education Centres: 4

Batemans Bay, Bega, Loftus and Moss Vale

Faculties: 10

Arts, Commerce, Creative Arts, Education, Engineering, Health and Behavioural Sciences, Informatics, Law, Science, Graduate School of Business

International operation:

University of Wollongong in Dubai

Students: 22,800

Staff: 1622

Graduates: over 68,000

Library: 673,000 items

The University and the region:

- Second largest non-government employer
- Export earnings in excess of \$90 million per annum
- Direct economic benefit in excess of \$560 million per annum and growing*

*Figures sourced from UOW's Planning & Statistics Unit and the Faculty of Informatics current as at 31 March 2007.

Recognition & Commitment

UOW has been recognised by Governments and independent analysts as a high-quality university, both in Australia and overseas.

- UOW won the inaugural 2006 Commonwealth University of the Year Award for Community Engagement from *The Times Higher Education Supplement* and the Association of Commonwealth Universities.
- UOW was ranked one of the top 200 universities in the world by *The Times Higher Education Supplement* – Quacquarelli Symonds World University Rankings 2006/2007.
- Demonstrating Excellence in Teaching & Learning—
The University of Wollongong is one of only two universities to achieve top-tier rankings in three of the four categories of the Australian Government's Learning and Teaching Performance Fund for 2007.
- The University plays a national role in university-community engagement. UOW is an active member of the Australian Universities Community Alliance (AUCEA), committed to university-community engagement in order to promote the social, environmental, economic and cultural development of communities.
- UOW's network of campuses and educational centres serve the educational requirements of a broad range of people in regional and metropolitan areas.



CONTACT INFORMATION

General enquiries about partnerships

The Office of Community & Partnerships (OCP) develops, initiates and supports programs that connect the University with its communities.

Tel: +61 2 4221 3110

Fax: +61 2 4221 5596

Email: community@uow.edu.au

Web: www.uow.edu.au/about/community

Enquiries about commercial partnerships and access to research expertise

The Office of Research & Innovation

Tel: +61 2 4221 3386

Fax: +61 2 4221 3338

Email: research_services@uow.edu.au

Web: www.uow.edu.au/research/

Other enquiries about the University

Main switchboard

Tel: +61 2 4221 3555

Web: www.uow.edu.au

← The University's Community Engagement Committee pictured with the inaugural *THES* 2006 Commonwealth University of the Year Award for Community Engagement.



The University of Wollongong attempts to ensure the information contained in this publication is correct at the time of production (May 2007), however, sections may be amended without notice by the University in response to changing circumstances or for any other reason. Check with the University at the time of application/enrolment for any updated information.

UOW Cricos No: 00102E.

Wollongong College Australia is a registered business name of ITC Education Ltd.
(ABN 14 105 312 329)

WCA Cricos No: 02723D

Effective from 30 April 2007 Wollongong University College will change its business name to Wollongong College Australia. This change has been necessitated by amendments to State and Federal Government Protocols which now restrict use of the word 'university' in business names. ITC Education Limited trading as Wollongong College Australia.

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