RESEARCH NEWS

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WELCOME

I would like to welcome you to the first edition of Research News. This will be an electronic quarterly newsletter with research stories, information and events.

Research News will tell you about strategic developments and achievements across the University and keep you in touch with activities and policies related to the management of research at UWS. The newsletter will include key institutional data, with the aim of situating the research-rich environment being built at UWS within the Australian higher education context.

As Pro Vice Chancellor, Research I hope you will find much in Research News that will illuminate the quality, distinctiveness and impact of the University's research programs and training.

Professor Andrew Cheetham – Pro Vice Chancellor (Research)

RECENT ROUND OF ARC OUTCOMES AT A GLANCE

Discovery Projects commencing in 2010

Approved	9
Funding	$2,312,621

Linkage Projects commencing in 2010 (round 1)

Approved	2
Funding	$905,000
Partner Contribution	$1,052,450

Discovery Indigenous Researchers Development commencing in 2010

Approved	3
Funding	$669,750

RESEARCH ACTIVITY AT UWS

The total number of Research Grant applications seeking external research funding processed by the Office of Research Services during 2009 was 484.

College	Applications	Approved
Arts	152	59
Business	37	17
Health and Science	290	124
Divisions	5	3
Total	484	203

Some Quick Statistics

ARC ranking – total grant funds awarded – in 2009 (latest available data) 18th in sector.
HDR candidates contributing to HERDC publication outputs – 30% in 2008 (latest available data)

RECENT RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS

Associate Professor Ian Anderson from the School of Natural Sciences was awarded the first annual ProSPER. Net-Scopus Young Scientist Award for Agriculture and Natural Resources in 2009. His award recognises Ian as a prominent young scholar in the Asia-Pacific region.

Young science researchers exemplify the strong future of research in the College of Health and Science

Dr Maria Nowotny from the Solar Energy Technologies Group was recently awarded a 2009 NSW & ACT Tall Poppy Science Award for her work on Photocatalytic Water Purification.

The Office of Research Services recently processed 92 ARC Discovery Grant Proposals across a broad range of disciplines. There were many promising applications and we look forward to strong outcomes later in the year. The applications came from:
Arts 40
Business 6
Health and Science 46

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE AUSTRALIAN HIGHER EDUCATION SECTOR?

Excellence in Research Australia (ERA)

SCOPUS has been announced as the as citation provider for ERA.

UWS has established an ERA Confluence site for information and discussion. https://nexus.uws.edu.au/display/UWSRES/UWS+Research+Discussion

ERA is being run by the Australian Research Council. ERA panels will review research within 8 discipline clusters:

- Physical, Chemical and Earth Sciences
- Humanities and Creative Arts
- Engineering and Environmental Sciences
- Social, Behavioural and Economic Sciences
- Mathematics, Information and Communications Sciences
- Biological Science and Biotechnology
- Biomedical and Clinical Research
- Public and Allied Health and Health Services

With its usual aplomb, the Office of Research Services facilitated the University's submission to the ERA – Excellence in Research for Australia – trial.

Failings and lessons from the '09 trial will inform the guidelines for the full 2010 exercise. Consequently the Guidelines for the 2010 ERA assessments may be different to those used in the trial.

Basic (and currently known) information on ERA 2010 is as follows: All the Clusters (including those reviewed as part of the trial – 1&2) will be assessed.

The Australian government's Excellence in Research for Australia trial assessment has ranked UWS cultural researchers as "consistently and substantially exceeding world performance." Our researchers are "characterised by evidence of outstanding performance" the highest ranking possible in Australia's review of research publications.

Dates

- The staff census date is 31 March 2009
- The reference period for publications is 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2008.
- The reference period for research income is 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2008

All staff employed at UWS as of 31 March 2009 should ensure that their publications for the reference period have been lodged with the Office of Research Services even if the publication has the name of their previous university on it.

ERA Details:

Please see the dedicated pages on Confluence for more details on:

- Eligibility
- Affiliation
- FoR codes
- Publications
- Research Income
- Multidisciplinary Research
- Esteem Factors
- UWS Process for the 2009 Trial

Feel free to comment on the Confluence web site but please keep your comments relevant to the page topic and remember that you must be logged in to be able to comment (Login at top right).

In the Physical, Chemical and Earth Science areas where the University has competitive capability, its researchers are performing at, or above, world standard.

ARC COLLEGE OF EXPERTS

The ARC is renewing its College of Experts. UWS has two current serving members on ARC College of Experts Panels – Professor Ien Ang and Professor Brian Uy. The University put ten nominations forward from senior researchers with nationally and internationally recognised research achievements. The ARC was due to announce the constitution of the new College of Experts in December 2009.

ARC ASSESSORS

There have been multiple pressures of late contributing to difficulties for the ARC's peer review processes. In response, the ARC is undertaking a consultation and reform, heralding major changes that will provide more rapid notification for uncompetitive applications, more specialist review (6 digit FoR), a panel review (4 digit FoR) and interdisciplinary review. For detailed information see: http://www.arc.gov.au/pdf/peer_review.pdf

At the behest of the ARC and with the agreement of those nominated, the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) recently provided the names of 107 outstanding UWS scholars to be considered as participants in the ARC's peer review process from 2010.

RESEARCH TRAINING

The Deans and Directors of Graduate Studies (DDOGS) meet twice a year. At their November meeting, there were a number of elements common to research training in Australia that were highlighted. Australian Universities:

- have moved to Panel supervision of higher degree research candidates
- are implementing research supervisor training
- nominate 4 FTE HDR students as an optimal load for supervisors (with experienced research only supervisors able to supervise more students)

UWS has been a leader in each of these areas having established panels in 2000, with maximum loads established for new and experienced supervisors. Supervisors share their expertise at Forums held throughout the year and attend seminars held with visiting experts publishing in the field of research training.

Three Minute Thesis Competition

Research candidates will have the opportunity to participate in the 'three minute thesis' competition in 2010. This competition – with a substantial prize – has been held for a number of years at the University of Queensland and in 2010 it will be held Australia-wide.

Entrants present their thesis as a compelling three minute oration on its topic and significance – in language appropriate to an intelligent but non-specialist audience. A single PowerPoint slide is permitted but no additional electronic media. See http://www.uq.edu.au/grad-school/three-minute-thesis

UWS will choose its entrant in June to compete in the trans-Tasman competition in September 2010.

STAFF PROFILES

Sue Wiblin is the Research Grants Officer. Sue oversees all major aspects of externally funded grant administration (post award) and ensures all contractual obligations are adhered to including: reporting requirements; payment of funds and the completion. Sue has an abiding passion for Australian history, particularly the plight of women in the early colonial years.

Raj Paramanathan is the Research Ethics Coordinator and joined Research Services in September 2009. Raj has an multidisciplinary background with a Bachelors Degree in Science (Medical Science), a Bachelors Degree in Arts (English & Environmental Studies) as well as a Diploma of Innovation Management – a business diploma for medical science students. He comes to UWS most recently from a social justice NGO and has previously worked with a research institute managing the overall ethics reporting and submission for oncology projects and other clinical cancer services. In 2010, Raj is embarking on a Masters Public Health – infectious disease control, and down the track looking forward to undertaking higher degree research into the nexus of biohazardous material, bioethics and terrorism.

Mark Geloven is the Research Data Officer. Mark's the person to contact for information about research performance at an institutional, school, centre or individual level. Mark also handles the key publication collection (the Higher Education Research Data Collection – what used to be known as "DEST publications" and facilitates new staff joining the Register of Research Activity. When not in "data" mode, Mark is interested in V8 car racing and AFL football (although that's a game of stats).