



CommunityConnections@UWS

E-News

Issue 2 2007

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Welcome to the **CommunityConnections@UWS** E-Newsletter!

The newsletter is designed to give visibility to UWS engagement activities and community partnerships, and to inform you of useful resources and events. We want you to join us in celebrating the collaborative work of staff, students and community partners. You are encouraged to submit stories, photos and announcements regarding your engagement activities and university-community partnerships. If you have questions about engagement or want assistance in exploring ideas for community-based teaching and research activities, we encourage you to contact us in the Office of University Engagement.

We'd also welcome your comments on the newsletter. Is it of any value to you? Do you have any suggestions to improve the content and focus? Your feedback is most welcome, please email us at oue@uws.edu.au

I'd also like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very prosperous New Year!

Professor Barbara Holland
Pro Vice-Chancellor Engagement



Freedom Wheelchair Unveiled!

Staff Profile



Kim Leevers
University Engagement
Facilitator



Steve Smith, Lu Papi, Hon Pat Farmer & Stacey Copas at the unveiling.

Over fifty people attended a heart warming ceremony on Friday 9th November for the unveiling of the Freedom Wheelchair. This was the culmination of 3 years hard work, collaboration, tenacity and drive for the many people who have been involved with this project. The project was inspired by Lu Papi of Lu Papi & Associates, with the imagination to solve an old problem with new materials and is a spin off from the UWS Nanotechnology Network. It was at a network event that Lu was introduced by fellow networker Jim Walsh to Nanoflex, a stronger, lighter stainless steel developed by Swedish company, Sandvik.

Nanoflex enabled Lu to fulfil a long time dream of designing and building a better wheelchair. In collaboration with UWS, with funding gained through the Federal Government and support from local member Honourable Pat Farmer; Lu drew together wheelchair users, biomedical engineers, tube benders, spinal injury experts, designers, manufacturers, toolmakers and Sandvik to design and develop the wheelchair. After years of hard work the prototype was unveiled. Steve Smith, UWS design graduate and Stacey Copas, a wheelchair user since the age of twelve, were integral to the design and testing of the wheelchair. Stacey, who test drove the chair, was most impressed with its lightness and comfort.

This is another example of UWS working with the community to bring knowledge to life and together with partners meet identified community needs.

For further information please email Kim Leever at k.leevers@uws.edu.au or visit our website.

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Kim Leever is the University Engagement Facilitator in the UWS Office of University Engagement. His role focuses on the engagement of the broader communities of Greater Western Sydney with the University of Western Sydney. Kim is currently working on a number of projects including the UWS Nanotechnology Network which brings industry, government, schools, students and interested others, together with UWS academics, researchers and students to share information and knowledge arising from nanotechnology.

Kim was instrumental in establishing the Regional Environmental Innovation Network (REIN) which is a partnership between UWS and the Macarthur Centre for Sustainable Living (MCSL). REIN grew out of UWS research that identified the potential for development of innovative responses to environmental problems, as an opportunity for UWS and MCSL to build partnerships and linkages into communities, by sharing knowledge and experience.

Another one of Kim's projects is the UWS Muslim Harmony Reference Group which aims to build greater understanding and cooperation between Muslim and non-Muslim people, including students and their families, UWS academics and staff, and the broader GWS community.

For further information on any of the projects please email Kim Leever at k.leevers@uws.edu.au

* Kim is currently growing a moustache for Movember 2007 to raise awareness about men's health, particularly prostate cancer and male depression. To sponsor Kim's Mo go to www.movember.com/au/donate enter his registration number 64863 and enter your credit card details.

Thankyou for your support

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Prevention of Child Abuse



**Julie McCrossin
& Dr Barbara
Holland at 2007
KiDS CAN
Awards**

In July this year, UWS was approached by the National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN) to work with them in assessing their KiDS CAN (Community Action Network) project.

The KiDS CAN project aims to assist children and young adults build positive relationships within their communities. Small grants are awarded for various community based initiatives that demonstrate the ability to increase the wellbeing and resilience of children and young adults, elements that have proven to be important in preventing child abuse and neglect.

NAPCAN acknowledges the importance of developing an evaluation framework to ensure that the KiDS CAN model is achieving its goal of contributing to the wellbeing of kids and their communities.

On 4th October, members of NAPCAN attended a workshop hosted by UWS on the Bankstown campus. At this workshop, Professor Jan Mason from the Social Justice Social Change Research Centre (SJSC), College of Arts, led an intense discussion and brainstorming session between NAPCAN staff and UWS staff who specialise in the area of childhood and child welfare. The workshop provided members of NAPCAN with expert advice and knowledge, contributing to and assisting in the establishment of an appropriate evaluation framework for the KiDS CAN initiative.

For further information please email Yvonne Gatt at y.gatt@uws.edu.au or visit our website.

Staff Profile



**Yvonne Gatt
Community Engagement
Facilitator, College of Arts**

A commerce graduate of UWS, Yvonne began working at UWS in 2003 as an International Student Advisor Assistant in the International Office. Although enjoying the interaction with international students and providing them with relevant support, she moved into the role of Committee Officer in the Office of the Academic Registrar.

As Committee Officer, Yvonne serviced the Academic Senate Standing Committees in the College of Arts and later was seconded into the position of Courses Officer for the same College where she gained experience working closely with the College of Arts on course and unit related matters. She saw an opportunity to further develop the relationship with the College in the role of Community Engagement Facilitator and also identified an opportunity to assist the College, and UWS, in embedding community engagement in the core academic activities of research, teaching and learning.

Currently Yvonne is working on various College projects, including an intense unit analysis to identify those with experiential learning, organising a preview of the Sudanese Youth in Transition DVD, to be held on the 6th December is assisting STARTTS (Services for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors) in organising a Conference to be held at Bankstown campus in early December; and facilitating a workshop between UWS and NAPCAN (National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect) to develop an evaluation framework for one of their programs.

For further information on any of the projects please email Yvonne Gatt at y.gatt@uws.edu.au

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Here Comes the Judge!!!



The Hon. Barbara Perry MP, Minister for Western Sydney & Hendrika Tibbits, Associate Head of School Engagement, School of Accounting UWS at a recent Western Sydney Industry Awards function.

UWS is a gold sponsor of the Western Sydney Industry Awards (WSIA), an initiative of the Office of the Minister for Western Sydney.

The awards bring significant benefits to Greater Western Sydney companies across the full industry spectrum and successful entrants discover first hand the benefits of winning an Award. Many companies report expansion of plant, increased need and capacity to employ more staff and the winning of new contracts as a direct result. In this way the Awards underscore the State and national economic significance of the Greater Western Sydney Region and aid the enhancement of the region's economy and resultant benefits to the community.

As a gold sponsor of the Awards, UWS provides support and expertise to the program and fosters strategic alliances with government, business and the Greater Western Sydney community. For the 2008 Awards program, UWS is again providing sponsorship and expertise - the Associate Dean (Engagement) for the College of Business, Dr Geoffrey Lee, has been appointed to the judging panel for the category of "Excellence in Business Practice".

The Awards are a positive example of what is achieved through cooperation, collaboration and effective partnerships.

For further information please email Lynne Fairey at l.fairey@uws.edu.au or visit our website.

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Staff Profile



**Lynne Fairey
Community Engagement
Facilitator, College of
Business**

Lynne has a broad experience at UWS having worked as a Senior Administrator and team leader in Schools and Colleges; as a Recruitment Advisor, Placement Coordinator and Manager with UWS Graduate Connections, a commercial project for the employment of UWS graduates and as a Consulting Services Coordinator in the Office of Business Development.

Lynne is able to draw upon her experience in her current position as Community Engagement Facilitator, College of Business with the Office of University Engagement and is managing UWS wide projects including the UWS Partnership Awards and UWS Regional and Community Grants Scheme. Lynne represents the Office of University Engagement and the University at networking functions such as the Western Sydney Industry Awards and also works with staff from the Office of the Minister for Western Sydney on the University's sponsorship of the awards. Lynne also works with the College of Business to progress the College and University engagement strategy.

With her experience at a variety of levels within the organisation, Lynne has an understanding of the needs of the diverse working environments at UWS and the way in which staff from these units engage with the community.

For further information on any of the projects please email Lynne Fairey at l.fairey@uws.edu.au

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Raising Breast Screening Awareness



UWS is partnering with the Cancer Institute NSW in support of the Aboriginal Women's Breast Screening Project. This project will see UWS, in particular the College of Health and Science, collaboratively sharing their expertise, by working with the community to facilitate Breast Screen NSW Community Grant Applications in the Macarthur Area.

Associate Professor Godfrey Isouard, Associate Dean (Engagement) College of Health and Science says "the College has always had a strong record of engagement with the clinical and community health care service providers, particularly in nursing, allied health, health promotion, public and environmental health and now medicine."

In 2006, Associate Professor Isouard and Margaret Hardy, Program Manager at NSW Cancer Institute discussed possible collaborative strategies to help address what has become a major health issue facing Greater Western Sydney – a significantly lower uptake of breast screening by women. As a result of these discussions, the Breast Screen NSW Community Grants were made available and organisations were asked to contribute to this project.

Since the implementation of the project, a number of organisations have formed partnerships in support of this community need including WILMA Women's Health Centre, Macarthur Division of General Practice, Sydney South West Area Health Service, Campbelltown City Council and Macarthur Aboriginal Women's Resources and Access Committee.

Sue Thomas, Community Engagement Facilitator, College of Health and Science says "This project has high level synergy with the university engagement mission. We are collaboratively developing mutually beneficial partnerships and networks – government, business, industry and community, which benefit the Greater Western Sydney community which we serve."

Also involved in this project are Dr Alf Colvin, Senior Lecturer, College of Health and Science and Dr

Staff Profile



Sue Thomas
Community Engagement
Facilitator, College of Health
and Science

Sue Thomas is the Community Engagement Facilitator for the College of Health Science. Her role provides support to the Office of University Engagement, the College leadership and community partners.

Sue has particularly enjoyed working with College teams to cultivate an integrated approach to engagement, one which has enhanced relationships and stimulated engagement conversations within the University and across sectors of the community.

With the health agenda in mind, the College has worked with local community agencies to facilitate Breast Screening Grants, locally driven initiatives to raise awareness of breast screening for Aboriginal women and engaged research activity with the NSW Cancer Council in support of Cancer patients and their families.

Sue commenced her career after completing Teachers College at Wollongong and furthering her study (with Distinction) at Deakin University in Mathematical modelling, problem solving, educational leadership and organisational behaviour. Sue has over 25 yrs experience as a high school teacher, national mentoring trainer and consultant working across education, industry and community sectors and is passionate about her role as the College of Health Science engagement facilitator.

With Sue's background in mathematics, health and wellbeing, and curriculum innovation, she has thoroughly enjoyed working on the College priority of University engagement with GWS Schools.

"Initiatives such as Science in the Suburbs held on our Hawkesbury campus and designed to turn kids on to Science are to be commended. No doubt with the new and renewed partnerships being formed within the education sector there will be further 2008 Science, Maths and Technology engagement initiatives which will benefit both the University and School, staff and students" says Sue.

For further information on any of the projects please email Sue Thomas at s.thomas@uws.edu.au

Debra Costley, Senior Lecturer, College of Arts who will serve the Greater Western Sydney community by providing their knowledge and expertise in the evaluation process and report writing associated with this project.

For more information please contact Sue Thomas at s.thomas@uws.edu.au or visit our website.

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UWS Acquisitive Sculpture Award and Exhibition 2008 Finalists



Left: Landcom Acquisitive Sculpture Award 2006 Winner 'Freedom' Ron Gomboc, 2004.
Photograph Sally Tsoutas



Above: UWS Acquisitive Sculpture Award 2006 Winner 'Solar Chronograph II' Grant Calvin, 2006.
Photograph Stefan Vogt

Sculptors around Australia were invited in June 2007 to submit work for inclusion in the third UWS Acquisitive Sculpture Award and Exhibition to be held on the Campbelltown campus from Friday 2 May - Sunday 1 June 2008.

The initial judging panel was convened in September, for the selection of works in the 2008 exhibition, and included Michael Le Grand (Sculptor), Monica McMahon (UWS Art Curator) and John Sorby (Development Manager, Landcom). This outdoor sculpture exhibition will as in previous years, consist of major works by significant Australian artists who will create sculptures especially for the picturesque lakeside setting at Campbelltown Campus

The finalists and exhibiting artists in the 2008 exhibition are;

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| • Rae Bolotin | • Jon Eiseman | • Col Henry | • Michael Sibel |
| • Kerry Cannon | • Ron Gomboc | • Rudi Jass | • Michael Snape |
| • Rick Clise | • Clara Hali | • Akira Kamada | • Amanda Stuart |
| • Janet Coyne | • Cassandra Hard Lawrie | • Phyllis Koshland | • Marcus Tatton |
| • Louisa Dawson | • Matthew Harding | • Des McKenna | • Charlie Trivers |
| • Gary Deirmendjian | • Nigel Harrison | • Campbell Robertson - Swann | • Tim Wetherell |

The above finalists are all eligible to win one of two awards, one for the UWS acquisitive prize and one for the Landcom acquisitive prize.

Awards judging panel for 2008:

- Mr Michael Le Grand (Sculptor)
- Professor Janice Reid (Vice-Chancellor of UWS)
- Mr John Sorby (Development Manager, Landcom)

For further information please email Monica McMahon at m.mcmahon@uws.edu.au

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Recruitment Made Easy at UWS



Exhibitors with students at the Business Careers Expo 2007

Careers & Cooperative Education at the University of Western Sydney (UWS) offers employers a range of high quality services to make recruitment easy.

Our flexible business solutions can assist you to recruit high achieving graduates or add a fresh perspective with a student/graduate placement. Perhaps you would like to increase your organisation's profile by participating in a Careers Expo or campus presentation, or simply advertise a casual position. The choice is yours

Job advertising: Advertising your job vacancy on UWS CareerHub gives you access to a potential audience of over 22,000 registered students and recent graduates, for only \$55.00 including GST per job. UWS staff and community/not-for-profit organisations are eligible for a discounted rate of \$27.50 including GST.

Student/graduate placement programs: *Need an extra resource?* Our student/graduate placement programs are a great way for employers to resource a project or position while assisting in the career development of a UWS student. Programs range from 4–5 week Vacation Projects to 6 month Industry Internships.

Graduate recruitment careers expos and employer presentations on campus: Registrations are currently open for employers wanting to exhibit at the 2008 UWS Careers Expos. Contact us now to find out more about Business Careers Expo 08, EdFest 08 and Engineering and IT Expo 08. Campus presentations offer another way for employers to increase the profile of their organisation and attract high achieving applicants for graduate positions.

Mailouts and emailouts: *Do you want to send information about job vacancies, careers events or your recruitment program to a specific group of students or recent graduates?* Request a mailout or emailout and we'll ensure your message goes directly to your target audience.

Contact us

For more information or for advice on tailoring your recruitment strategy, please call 1800 897 297 (freecall), email careers@uws.edu.au or visit www.uws.edu.au/careers.

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Talk About An Engaged Girl!



Jo Cox and the remnant Western Sydney Dry Rainforest at Loxley on Bellbird Hill.

Sustainable Tourism in Practice was the Tourism program's capstone unit requiring students to identify and work on a real-world problem for a client in the tourism industry or host community. Joanne Cox graduated in 2006 after completing her project for Paul Maher at Loxley on the large remnant of Western Sydney Dry Rainforest on the site, which represents one of the few fragmented remnants of what once were common to the Kurrajong and Gross Vale hills. Originally removed as the land was converted for farming in the 1830s, this remnant had survived but was in poor condition. The site has cultural heritage links to Charles Moore, founder of the Royal Botanical Gardens in Sydney, who purchased the property in 1859. Jo's project was to investigate ways of conserving and rehabilitating the remnant, and to design an access and interpretation plan for the rainforest that would integrate it into the attraction base of Loxley on Bellbird Hill, and create an ecotourism asset.

Jo's research design meant that her project brought together the key community stakeholders in the rainforest in ways to generate the best possible plan for protecting and activating the remnant as a community and tourism asset. Loxley management, National Parks, the Hawkesbury Rainforest Network, and other land care and catchment management experts were brought together by Jo to develop a management strategy for the site.

Jo completed her project titled "An Interpretation Strategy for the Dry Rainforest at Loxley on Bellbird Hill" in November 2006 and in early 2007 the Hawkesbury Rainforest Network applied for and gained a grant through the Department of Environment & Climate Change (DECC) for rehabilitation work along Sassafras Brook (now known as Little Wheeny Creek) – the Loxley forest remnant is part of the catchment. Portions of this funding will be used to perform rehabilitation work and develop the interpretation signage and booklet for implementation of Jo's study, transforming her research into a living strategy. With the aid of Hawkesbury Rainforest Network, Loxley and the DECC, Jo is looking forward to transforming what was once a great research experience into a tourism asset for Loxley on Bellbird Hill. Jo has since been engaged as the coordinator of the work that will be done as part of this project on the Loxley remnant.

For further information please email Yvonne Gatt at y.gatt@uws.edu.au

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What's On.....

OUT OF THE ARCHIVES EXHIBITION



Monica McMahon, Vice Chancellor Professor Janice Reid, Robert McFarlane, Juliana Swatko & Michael Smith at exhibition opening.

A previously unseen history of the University of Western Sydney's Hawkesbury Campus was revealed to the community when the 'Out of the Archives' exhibition opened to the public on the 24th October by noted photographer, author and arts critic, Robert McFarlane.

The exhibition is a collaborative project involving staff from the School of Communication Arts, the University Art Collection and Records and Archives Management Service. Juliana Swatko, a lecturer from the School of Communication Arts at UWS, uncovered the images within many boxes of unidentified 5"x7" glass plate negatives during a visit to the Hawkesbury Campus Archives in 2006. The century-old images depict the lives and activities of students during the early days at the Hawkesbury Agricultural College (HAC).

The lively and often comical photographs show students shearing sheep, constructing fences and churning butter. There are also staged photographs of students posing with farming equipment and machinery, as well as parodying the political climate of the time during Empire Day celebrations.

Established in 1891, the HAC was the first of its kind in the state of New South Wales, before becoming the University of Western Sydney's Hawkesbury Campus in 1989.

The photographs are believed to have been taken by the well-known Kerry & Co. photography company, which was known to have documented life at the HAC over a twenty year period, from 1897 - 1917.

Charles Kerry, the owner of Kerry & Co. was well known for his commitment to photographing all aspects of Australian society, including industry, colonial rituals and Indigenous corroborees.

As with many of Kerry's famous photographs, the 'Out of the Archives' exhibition gives us a glimpse into another world; putting a human face to the pioneers of agricultural education and experimentation in the Hawkesbury District over a hundred years ago.

The exhibition, continues until the 14th December 2007, the UWS Art Gallery AD Building, Werrington North Campus.

What: 'Out of the Archives' exhibition

Where: UWS Art Gallery, Building AD, Werrington North Campus

When: 25 October - 14 December 2007

Photos from exhibition taken by Sally Tsoutas



For further information please email Monica McMahon at m.mcmahon@uws.edu.au or visit our website <http://www.uws.edu.au/about/adminorg/corpserv/uc>

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Coming up...

***Sudanese Youth in Transition
-DVD Preview-***

When: 6th December 2007

Time: 5.00pm

**Where: Bankstown Campus Room Lecture Theatre 4
Building 23**

**2007 Celebration of Academic Achievements
of UWS Refugee Students**

When: 4th December 2007

Time: 1.00pm – 2.30pm

Where: Parramatta Campus Ian Turbott Auditorium

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Office of University Engagement
University of Western Sydney
Phone 02 4620 3612 Fax 02 4620 3619
www.uws.edu.au/oue
Email oue@uws.edu.au