

# campus news

## University of Wollongong



### \$9 million extension opened



The Michael Birt Library after its \$9 million transformation.

## Library gives UOW 'fabulous' new heart

The University of Wollongong now has a state-of-the-art library complex in the heart of the campus with the completion of a \$9 million transformation of the Michael Birt Library.

UOW Chancellor Mr Michael Codd AC, who officially opened the "new" library in February just in time for the new academic year, described it as "fabulous".

"You can just feel the buzz of excitement here today," Mr Codd said, referring to the large crowd who attended the official opening.

Speakers at the opening all praised the building's transformation into an open, transparent structure designed to attract and welcome students, staff and visitors to a new range of light-filled study and social spaces.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and International) Professor Rob Castle said the term "bunker-like" was probably too kind a description for the old building. "Penitentiary-like" was closer to the mark, he said.

Librarian Felicity McGregor praised the many people within and outside the University who turned the project into a reality, and said the fact that the library received fewer than 10 complaints from library users after construction began in 2006 was testament to the special qualities of her staff in handling operations.

The Chancellor also noted this fact, saying it was "remarkable" considering the potential of the construction work to disrupt the library's normal operations.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton said it was a proud day for the University, noting that it was not just a magnificent extension but a statement about the maturity of UOW today.

Professor Sutton referred to the fact that UOW was now being cited in the top lists of international league tables which judged the performance of universities world-wide.

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Campus News is produced for community, industry, government and other educational institutions as well as staff, students and graduates of the University of Wollongong. It provides an overview of University news and achievements on a quarterly basis.

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# Alcohol ad rules made to be broken

**The alcohol industry's self-regulation of advertising standards is not working, especially when it comes to targeting young people, according to UOW's Centre for Health Initiatives Director PROFESSOR SANDRA JONES:**



There is an ongoing debate as to the relationship between advertising and levels of alcohol

consumption. Some econometric studies have reported no association, whereas others have argued that bans on alcohol advertising result in lower per capita alcohol consumption.

However, there is increasing evidence that children and youth are exposed to and recall alcohol advertising and like alcohol advertising. There is also increasing evidence of associations between ad liking and underage drinking; and between exposure and alcohol expectancies, drinking intentions, and current and future drinking.

Recent evidence from longitudinal studies in the United States demonstrates that exposure to alcohol advertising in the 7th grade predicts both any drinking in 8th grade and frequency of drinking in 9th grade. This research also shows a direct link between per capita alcohol advertising and youth alcohol consumption.

## Advertising regulation in Australia

Australia has a voluntary system of self-regulation of advertising. All advertisements must comply with the Advertiser Code of Ethics which covers issues of taste and decency. Alcohol advertisements must also comply with the Alcoholic Beverages Advertising Code (ABAC).

The ABAC code includes clauses which decree that alcohol advertising must not:

- promote offensive behaviour, or excessive consumption;
- depict alcohol as a cause of or contributing to the achievement of personal, business, social, sporting, sexual or other success;
- depict any association between alcohol and driving or engagement in sport.

Interestingly enough, when I talk to consumer groups (or journalists) they always respond to the list above with a statement along the lines of "but we can all think of lots of ads that breach those rules".

However, the alcohol (and advertising) industries' consistent response is that the Australian system for regulation of alcohol advertising is the epitome of effective regulation, and cite the "small number" of complaints as evidence of this. Natalie Toohey from Foster's recently defended alcohol advertising saying: "There isn't a universal panic in the population about

alcohol advertising" and only 3% of the 3000 ads complained about last year related to alcohol (*Sydney Morning Herald* 15 February 2008).

This is a true, but misleading, statement. While only 3% of complaints made to the Advertising Standards Board in 2006 were about alcohol advertisements, less than 3% of all advertising is for alcohol (with the majority of advertising being for food, retail stores, services and cars). Another way of looking at those same figures is that over the last four years approximately 26 alcohol advertisements have been the subject of consumer complaints each year. This means that, on average, there is at least one new alcohol advertisement every fortnight that members of the community perceive to be inappropriate.

In 1999 we conducted a study whereby Advertising Standards Board (ASB) decisions were compared to those made by an independent panel of experts recruited for the purpose of examining the effectiveness of the self-regulatory system. This study found that a majority of the independent judges perceived seven of the nine advertisements to be in breach of one or more clauses of the code. However, none of the complaints were upheld by the ASB.

Our research with teenagers and young adults found that some advertisements are perceived by these groups to be targeted toward young drinkers and to convey the message that alcohol consumption offers "self-confidence", "sexual relationship success" and "social success".

Faced with increasing public calls for an overhaul of the regulatory system, the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy (MCDS) conducted a formal review of the ABAC in 2003, and the code was "revised" to improve its responsiveness and general accountability.

In 2005 we conducted another study to examine whether the introduction of the revised ABAC code, and the stated industry position, resulted in improvements in the degree to which the self-regulatory system protects consumers from offensive or inappropriate alcohol advertisements.

The results of this study were remarkably consistent with our 1999 study, with none of the 14 cases ruled by a majority of judges to be acceptable under the codes, but all of the complaints dismissed by the ASB and only one upheld by ABAC. More importantly, our research with young people aged 15-25 found that they felt the advertisements suggested that drinking would help them have a great time, fit in, feel more confident, feel less nervous, succeed with the opposite sex and be more sociable and outgoing.

## So why don't more people complain?

Consumers who are unhappy with alcohol advertisements can lodge formal complaints (written or online) with the ASB. The ASB reviews advertisements based on the AANA Code of Ethics, and sends a copy to the ABAC Complaints Panel for consideration under the code.

A government survey in 2005 of 1000 Australian adults found that 60% of respondents stated that alcohol advertising should be either more restricted or entirely prohibited and 69% believed that alcohol advertising encourages underage people to drink alcohol. However, only 28% were aware of restrictions or regulations regarding the advertising of alcohol and only 16% could name one of the two correct organisations to whom they could make complaints.

Even if people do know how to complain, the system contains a number of disincentives to do so.

First, if people lodge their complaint on the website (as they are encouraged to do), the very first question they are asked is: "Have we already considered the ad that you would like to complain about?" and they are provided with a link to decision records. They can still submit a complaint about an advertisement that has already been reviewed but the website advises them that "there is no appeals process, and the Board does not re-consider advertisements it has made a determination on in the past five years".

I anticipate that the ASB will argue that the subsequent reduction in the number of complaints demonstrates an improvement in the standard of Australian advertising rather than the very effective deterrent they have put into place.

Second, even if the particular advertisement they wish to complain about hasn't previously been considered, reading decision records on similar complaints will demonstrate the futility of complaining. (Of the 70 alcohol advertisements that consumers complained about in the three years 2004 to 2006, only two complaints were upheld).

There are numerous other problems with the process, including the lack of consideration of the number of complaints received in making a determination about the breach of community standards; the lack of regulation of one-off promotions; and the absence of penalties for advertisements which breach the code.

According to the National Alcohol Indicators Project (NAIP) 80% of all alcohol consumed by 14-17 year olds is drunk at a level that poses short-term risk of injury. Each year over 3000 under-aged drinkers are hospitalised for alcohol-attributable injury. Between 1993 and 2002 over 2500 young people aged between 15 and 24 years died from alcohol-attributable injury and disease and more than 100,000 were hospitalised.

I do not for a moment discount the impact of a vast range of social and personal factors on young people's drinking, or suggest that fixing Australia's alcohol advertising would result in an immediate removal of our youth drinking problem. However, alcohol advertising is an important component of the mix; and there is a real need to question whether we as a society want to encourage our children to buy into the myth that drinking alcohol will make them sexy, attractive, confident and successful. **SJ**

# Clinical training partnership 'best in NSW'

NSW Health Minister Reba Meagher visited the University of Wollongong in February for the signing of what she described as the state's most comprehensive partnership agreement between a university and an Area Health Service.

The historic agreement between UOW and the South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra Area Health Service (SESIH) will strengthen the education and practical clinical experience of health care of students at UOW's Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences.

The agreement covers students at the University's Graduate School of Medicine, as well as those studying nursing, midwifery, psychology, dietetics, exercise science and rehabilitation and population health.

"This relationship between the University of Wollongong and the Area Health Service is all about supporting students through their education and into the healthcare workforce," the Minister said.

"The agreement recognises and formalises the need for close cooperation between UOW and the local Area Health Service in all aspects of health-related education," she said. "It recognises that today's clinicians need world-leading academic training backed up by hands-on, clinical experience in our hospitals and health-care settings.



NSW Health Minister Reba Meagher (seated, left) with UOW Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton at the agreement signing. Also pictured (standing, from left) are: Division of Health and Behavioural Sciences Dean Professor Patrick Crookes, NSW Health Director-General Professor Debora Picone, Wollongong MP Noreen Hay, Graduate School of Medicine Dean Professor Liz Farmer and SESIAHS Chief Executive Officer Terry Clout.

"By forging a much closer relationship between an academic institution and frontline health services, we can meet the challenge of building a stronger local medical workforce."

Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Member for Wollongong Noreen Hay, NSW Health Director-General Professor Debora Picone and SESIH Chief Executive Officer Terry Clout joined the Minister and UOW Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton for the signing.

Mr Clout predicted the agreement would become a model for the rest of NSW. He said the agreement set

out both parties' responsibilities in both academic and clinical training, and established processes to respond to future requirements.

Professor Sutton, welcoming the Minister to UOW, described the University's relationship with NSW Health and the Area Health Service as very strong.

"This historic agreement brings a solid foundation to an already strong partnership," Professor Sutton said. "The University and SESIH together will ensure the highest quality health professionals are available to their region." **NH**

# Minister meets new medical students

The second cohort of students have started on their path to become doctors at the University of Wollongong's Graduate School of Medicine, after meeting the NSW Health Minister in their first week.

The Minister was visiting UOW on 5 February to attend the signing of an agreement between UOW and the South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra Area Health Service (see story above). While on campus, the Minister also toured the Graduate School of Medicine.

Accompanied by the NSW Health Director-General Professor Debra Picone, Ms Meagher took the opportunity to briefly address the new students and wish them well in their studies.

The GSM, which started in 2007 with a focus on training doctors equipped to work in regional, rural and remote communities, has enrolled 84 new medical students for 2008 – 72 domestic students and 12 international students from Canada, the United States, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Cyprus.

The students, who have degrees ranging from Traditional Chinese Medicine and Naturopathy to



Forensic Sciences, are undertaking one of Australia's most innovative medical courses. It combines the latest high-tech medical education techniques with a strong focus on community-based training. **NH**

NSW Health Minister Reba Meagher (third from left) and NSW Health Director-General Professor Debra Picone (far right) meet the new cohort of medical students at UOW's Graduate School of Medicine.



(From left): Chancellor Michael Codd AC, who officially opened the extensions to the Michael Birt Library, with Librarian Felicity McGregor, Mrs Jenny Birt, Chris Birt and Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton.

## Library gives UOW 'fabulous' new heart

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"We now have within the heart of the university grounds a library that represents the status and standing of our university on the international stage," Professor Sutton said.

Jenny Birt, widow of UOW's Foundation Vice-Chancellor Professor Michael Birt, after whom the library was named in 1981, attended the opening with their son, Chris.

Professor Sutton said Professor Birt would have been very proud and pleased to see the evolution of the library that bears his name.

The Vice-Chancellor also paid special tribute to the current Librarian Felicity McGregor, and to UOW's previous Librarian John Shipp, who also attended the opening ceremony.

Since 1962 the library has risen from humble beginnings in an administrative annexe to become one of Australia's most respected and awarded academic libraries. In 1971 stage one of the current building was constructed, followed by stage 2 in 1976 and stage 3 in 1988.

The latest extension was designed by Graham Bell Bowman Architects and built by OneBuild Constructions.

About 2000 square metres have been added across three floors with the total building size now about 12,400 square metres. Designed to meet current and future requirements, it has:

- additional space for growth in the library's collection (currently more than 700,000 volumes)
- an overall increase of 450 study places, 240 equipped with power outlets for students to use their own laptops or other electronic devices and 100 new fixed computer workstations
- many more group and informal seating areas in response to student demand for a range of study modes
- wireless network available throughout the building
- construction of a link on Level 1 providing easy

access to the Student Central Computing Laboratories

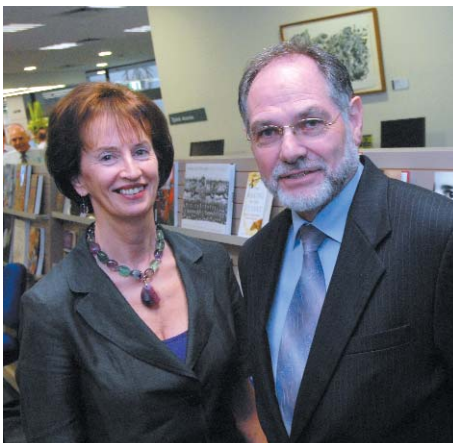
- multipurpose labs for information literacy instruction, private or group study
- dedicated space for postgraduates and academic staff.

Ms McGregor said the extension provided the opportunity to not only reorganise collections, improve traffic flows and incorporate the most effective use of new technologies but also to transform the somewhat dated interiors into modern, beautiful and hopefully inspirational spaces.

Key to achieving this aim has been the installation of a wide and significant range of artworks from the University's collection. This includes works by Guy Warren, Ian Gentle and Bert Flugelman, all of whom have long and close associations with the University. A new Flugelman work, *Hargrave Library Sculpture*, has been installed near the entrance.

The library entrance has been reoriented to the north, taking advantage of the convergence of major campus pathways and leading people into the building from a paved meeting area.

A coffee shop, named Panizzi after the Principal Librarian of the British Museum Library from 1856-1866, enlivens this communal space at the heart of the campus. **BG**



Current UOW Librarian Felicity McGregor pictured with her predecessor John Shipp.

## Chicharo heads interim ICT body

Pro Vice-Chancellors, Deans and Heads of Schools of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) from 31 universities met for the first time in February to establish an Australian Council of Deans and Heads of School of ICT.

UOW's Faculty of Informatics Dean Professor Joe Chicharo hosted the historic meeting at UOW's Sydney Business School aimed at formalising an ICT Council.

Professor Chicharo was unanimously elected as interim president with an interim executive.

The ICT disciplines generally include electrical engineering, computer engineering, telecommunications engineering, computer science, software engineering, information technology and information systems.

Professor Chicharo says because of this broad spectrum, the ICT sector is fragmented and in need of a representative unifying body that is able to speak with one voice to industry, various education providers, other professional bodies and government.

"A key purpose of the council will be to provide an umbrella for the different ICT groups and create a synergy to advance ICT as a profession," Professor Chicharo said.

Industry leaders have welcomed this initiative and corporations such as IBM, Google and Intel sent representatives to the meeting.

Professor Chicharo said the meeting gave the opportunity for strengthening academic and university ties for the mutual benefit of students and industry.

He said that at a time of increasing industry demand for ICT graduates, and a desire by academic leaders in ICT to enhance liaison and collaboration with industry, the meeting provided a timely opportunity to address the skills Australia requires for ICT which profoundly affects everyday life and work.

The impetus for establishing the council came from the Carrick Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education which is supporting a national discipline-based initiative ICT project based at UOW. **BG**



Professor Joe Chicharo

# Highest honour for Medical School's Foundation Dean

The University of Wollongong will bestow its highest honour on the Illawarra surgeon who played a key role in establishing its Graduate School of Medicine.

UOW Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton announced that Professor John Hogg OAM would be made an Emeritus Professor of the University for his contribution to the GSM.

The Vice-Chancellor made the announcement as 400 people attended a tribute dinner in Professor Hogg's honour at the University Hall on 16 February.

Professor Hogg has retired from his full-time role but will continue to be involved with the Medical School on a part-time basis. Professor Liz Farmer moved from Flinders University in South Australia in January to take over as GSM Dean.

Professor Hogg will be officially appointed an Emeritus Professor at the July Graduation Ceremony.

"This is the highest honour the University can bestow," Professor Sutton told guests at the tribute dinner. "It's something that is reserved for the cream of the cream, and generally only given to those who perform outstanding service over a long period."

Professor Sutton said the fact that Professor Hogg had achieved this status in a relatively short time was testament to what he had achieved in establishing the Medical School, which accepted its first students in January 2007. Professor Sutton also praised the way Professor Hogg had quickly evolved from a senior surgeon with no academic experience into a polished academic.

Professor Hogg joined the University in August 2004 as Foundation Dean of the Medical School after a long and successful career as a vascular and general surgeon in the Illawarra. He worked closely with UOW's Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences Executive Dean Professor Don Iverson and Dr Lori Lockyer to develop the Medical School's innovative curriculum and unique community-based



Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton (left) congratulates GSM Foundation Dean Professor John Hogg at the tribute dinner in his honour.

model that called for the involvement of the local medical fraternity in the students' clinical training.

"This University could not have made a better choice as our Foundation Dean," Professor Sutton said. "John Hogg became the bridge between the University and the medical community and we will be forever in his debt."

Professor Iverson recounted Professor Hogg's key role in gaining Australian Medical Council accreditation for the GSM's innovative model. "We would never have been in a position to even seek accreditation without John's efforts," he said.

Professor Iverson said Professor Hogg had made a great contribution to the Illawarra community by addressing the growing shortage of doctors. "The GSM over the next decade will change the face of the medical scene in this region, by graduating high quality doctors who choose to stay here. And the

GSM would not exist if it hadn't been for John Hogg," he said.

In a night of tributes, the MC and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Operations) Professor John Patterson said: "We knew with John in the role of Foundation Dean the School would be supported by the overwhelming majority of the Illawarra medical fraternity, and that's how it has turned out."

Many Illawarra doctors attended the tribute dinner.

A highlight of the evening was a "Parkinson-style" interview conducted by old friend and colleague Dr Stephen Andersen. The pair have been friends since their student days in the 1960s at the University of Sydney, and the interview ranged over many topics including Professor Hogg's childhood, his work as a doctor in the Antarctic, four years in the United Kingdom training to be a surgeon and his decision – influenced by Dr Andersen's relocation a year earlier – to settle in Wollongong in 1977.

They also discussed Professor Hogg and his physiotherapist wife Linda's work in hospitals in Bali in the wake of the 2002 terrorist bombings there. Both were awarded Order of Australia Medals for their efforts, while Professor Hogg was also named Wollongong Citizen of the Year.

Professor Hogg said he was "deeply moved" by the generosity of the University in hosting the tribute dinner, and described the Emeritus Professorship as an "extraordinary honour ... excessive for what I have done".

He paid tribute to Professor Iverson for his vision which drove the establishment of the GSM, and said he was proud to have been able to help prepare students "for a world of health care that is changing so quickly we can't possibly imagine what's next".

"We owe so much to the support we have received from the Area Health Service, the region's Divisions of General Practice and the region's doctors, who are proving to be superb mentors and teachers for our students."

He said the GSM had assembled a "fantastic team" of academics and administrative staff, and was "realising everything we hoped it would realise." NH



Professor John Hogg (right) shares a joke with his interviewer and close friend Dr Stephen Andersen at his tribute dinner.

## Antarctic moss reflects effects of climate change

The University of Wollongong's Associate Professor Sharon Robinson and her team in February returned from Antarctica where they have been analysing tussocks of velvety moss that they believe may be dying out because of climate change.

Professor Robinson, who is the Director of UOW's Institute for Conservation Biology in the Faculty of Science, has been researching how little genetic diversity Antarctic mosses have compared to the same species here in Australia, which severely limits their ability to respond to climate change.

But this recent trip wasn't just hard work and no play for the biologists. Professor Robinson and Honours student Ellen Ryan-Colton travelled on the second passenger flight into the new Wilkins Runway - a 4000m snow-capped blue-ice runway in the Upper Petersen Glacier located 70km from Casey Station.

Professor Robinson has visited the Antarctic a number of times over the past decade to analyse in detail the effect of changing climate and conditions on moss - in particular, the increasing ultraviolet B (UVB) rays pouring through the hole in the ozone layer.

January is the peak season for Antarctic science. The milder conditions allow researchers to travel around the region and to work outdoors.

"The mosses are the most advanced plants on continental Antarctica, and we're interested in how they are responding to climate change," she said.

Professor Robinson said that the plants that live on the continent have had to adjust from growing under the lowest UVB exposures on Earth to surviving some of the highest in just a few decades. Some of the plants produce screening pigments to shield themselves and this reduces the damage plants receive as a result of the elevated UVB.



Associate Professor Sharon Robinson (right) with fellow researchers Laurence Clark and Ellen Ryan-Colton assessing different forms of Antarctic moss.

"Of particular concern are the endemic species that are only found in Antarctica, since these seem to be most affected by the changing climate," Professor Robinson said. "How these plants are affected by climate change is therefore important for future biodiversity in Antarctica but our studies also provide information on how plants in more temperate regions are affected by UVB."

Plant responses can be monitored at a range of levels from the molecular to the ecological. Since plant growth in Antarctica is very slow, these approaches are important in allowing Professor Robinson and her research students to predict changes to the biodiversity of these regions as a result of climate change. A paper from her group written in collaboration with PhD student Laurence Clark and Professor David Ayre is the 'Editor's Choice' in the next edition of the *Journal of Ecology*. **RC**

## Breastfeeding message needs a new approach

Current promotional and educational programs which describe breastfeeding as 'best' are undermining women's capacity to make informed decisions about infant feeding, according to an article published by a UOW doctoral student in the latest issue of *Maternal and Child Nutrition*.



UOW doctoral student Nina Berry

Ms Nina Berry from UOW's Centre for Health Initiatives was joint author of a report with Karleen Gribble from the University of Western Sydney titled: *Breast is no longer best: promoting normal infant feeding*. Breastfeeding is not 'best', say the authors, it is simply the normal way to feed infants.

The article suggested that breastfeeding promotion and education programs should abandon the 'breast is best' message because it is misleading and fails to communicate the importance of breastfeeding.

"In fact, these messages may have obscured the importance of breastfeeding to infant and maternal health and the well-established risks associated with early weaning from breastfeeding," Ms Berry said. "To say that 'breast is best' is to suggest that what breastfeeding offers is a handful of optional bonuses and that formula-fed infants are the normal standard for comparison. In fact, human babies were designed to be fed human milk."

"Research has found that while most people accept that breastfed babies are healthier, they do not understand that this means that formula-fed babies are likely to be sicker. Because formula feeding is viewed as harmless, women are not getting the support they need to continue breastfeeding and to make informed choices about infant feeding," she said. **BG**

## Funds boost for Child Obesity Research Centre

Private health fund Australian Health Management has donated \$77,000 to the University of Wollongong's Child Obesity Research Centre (CORe) to assist in the development of the centre's Time2bHealthy Program.

The on-line program is designed for parents with pre-school children who are overweight or at risk of becoming overweight. It consists of five modules - introduction, meals, snacks and drinks, physical activity and screen time.

"Currently one quarter of all pre-school children (two - five years of age) are overweight or obese and this prevalence has increased by around 70% in the past decade," said project manager Dr Rachel Jones. "And if early-onset obesity persists, it can cause a burden of disease in adulthood."

Traditionally, treatment and prevention programs have used face-to-face group methods. However, there are substantial barriers associated with participation in



such programs including time constraints, child-care for siblings and travel distance.

In 2007, researchers from CORe and the Educational Media Lab (Emlab) designed and developed the Time2bHealthy program to overcome many of these commonly cited barriers.

The pre-school period has been identified as one of the critical time periods in the establishment of child obesity, so the program offers a combination of interactive activities, practical tips and tricks for parents and information on how to implement change in every day life.

Additionally, participants have the opportunity to communicate with health professionals and other parents participating in the program through on-line mediated discussion forums.

"The next step is to determine the usability, functionality, feasibility and acceptability of the program," said Dr Jones.

"Once it has been shown to be feasible, the online nature of the program means it has great potential to be accessible to rural and remote facilities that otherwise would not be able to access such a program or such support."

"The generous funding from Australian Health Management will fund this next stage." **RC**

Pictured at the announcement of Australian Health Management's support for the Childhood Obesity Research Centre (from left): Nathan Price (CORe), Rodger Teichmann (Emlab), Dean of Education Professor Paul Chandler, Tory Macri (AHM), Kath McCollim (AHM), Karl Mutimer (Emlab), Dr Rachel Jones (CORe), Robert Thomas (consultant), Rob Wright (Emlab) and Dr Tony Okely (CORe).

# UOW's key role in defence centre



One of the major players in the new defence research centre, Professor of Materials Welding and Joining John Norrish, with a computer showing armoured military personnel carriers.

The University of Wollongong will play a major role in a new \$80 million centre designed to give Australian industry a leading edge in winning national and international defence contracts.

UOW researchers will be working on developing new materials for land, sea and air defence platforms ranging from light armoured vehicles to ships and planes as part of the the Defence Materials Technology Centre (DMTC).

Minister for Defence Science and Personnel Warren Snowdon and Minister for Innovation, Industry, Research and Science Senator Kim Carr announced the creation of the new centre in late December.

The DMTC is a partnership between industry, universities, government research agencies and federal and state governments. Other university participants are Swinburne University of Technology, the University of Melbourne and RMIT University in Melbourne and the University of Queensland along with the Defence Science Technology Organisation and the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation.

UOW is the only NSW university participating in the new centre.

UOW Dean of Engineering Professor Chris Cook described UOW's participation as "a huge vote of confidence in materials and automation engineering at UOW".

Mr Snowdon said the DMTC would receive \$30 million in Federal Government funding over the next seven years, with the remaining funding coming from collaborative partners.

"Significant outcomes to be delivered

include improved armour protection for military personnel carriers and new high-tech materials for use in major defence acquisitions such as the Joint Strike Fighter," he said.

There are six core industry participants – BAE Systems Australia Ltd, GKN Aerospace Engineering Services Pty Ltd, BlueScope Steel, Surface Technology Coatings, Thales Australia Holdings Pty Ltd and CRC-ACS Limited – and 16 supporting participants.

Professor Cook said UOW's expertise in materials engineering and its close research ties with BlueScope Steel had been important in the University's inclusion in the new centre.

"Our researchers will be developing new materials for defence purposes, as well as working on new automation and fabrication techniques," Professor Cook said. "We'll be working on steel research for a range of defence purposes ranging from armoured vehicles to ships, and also working with light materials like titanium for the future Joint Strike fighter jets.

"This is great news for the University and reflects the multidisciplinary skills that we have in the Faculty of Engineering." **BG**

## Discovery promises advances in energy conversion, storage

UOW scientists have made an exciting discovery that enables processing and fabrication of an abundant form of carbon with extraordinary properties.

Results of the discovery were released in the prestigious international journal *Nature (Nanotechnology)* in January.

ARC Centre of Excellence for Electromaterials Science (ACES) Director Professor Gordon Wallace said results already indicated that the discovery would lead to advances in energy conversion (new transparent electrodes for solar cells), energy storage (new electrodes for batteries - especially flexible batteries) and as new electrodes in medical bionics.

The discovery was led by QE2 Fellow at ACES and the Intelligent Polymer Research Institute Dr Dan Li. Other collaborators included recent Fulbright Fellow at UOW Professor Ric Kanar, who hails from UCLA in the United

States, and UOW PhD student Benjamin Mueller.

The *Nature (Nanotechnology)* paper was titled: *Processable aqueous dispersions of graphene nanosheets*. Graphene — a carbon-based nanomaterial known for its unique electronic, thermal and mechanical properties — can form stable dispersions in water without the need for additional chemical stabilisers. The researchers' findings will have practical implications for the development of coatings to reduce static build-up on materials.

Graphene is the name given to the individual sheets of carbon, just one atom thick, that stack together to form graphite. Keeping graphene sheets separate from one another is a difficult task because they tend to stick together, forming larger structures that are not particularly useful. However, now the UOW team, using a sequence of chemical reactions, has shown how



PhD student Benjamin Mueller holds a solution of graphene oxide solution watched on by fellow research team members Dr Dan Li (left) and Professor Gordon Wallace.

aqueous dispersions of well-separated graphene sheets can be made from graphite — an abundant and inexpensive starting material.

Rather than relying on either polymer or surfactant stabilisers, their approach maximises the electrostatic charge on the graphene sheets, ensuring that they repel one another instead of clumping together.

Professor Wallace said that this low-cost approach offers the potential for

large-scale production of stable graphene colloids that can be processed using well-established solution-based techniques — such as filtration or spraying — to make conductive films.

"In addition to antistatic coatings, these materials are expected to have applications in flexible transparent electronics, high-performance composites and nanomedicine," he said. **BG**

# Postcard from Dubai



The University of Wollongong in Dubai (UOWD) has been operating since 1993 and is now one of the most prestigious educational institutions in the United Arab Emirates. UOWD currently has an enrolment of approximately 2500 students undertaking Bachelors and Masters degrees in Business and Computer Science at its location in Dubai's Knowledge Village.

## UOWD celebrates 15 years

The University of Wollongong in Dubai (UOWD) celebrates its 15th anniversary this year firmly established as one of the leading universities in the United Arab Emirates.

The man who has driven UOWD from the beginning, the University of Wollongong's Vice-Principal (Overseas Operations) Dr James Langridge, believes UOWD ranks among the top three universities in the UAE.

"It has been a considerable achievement to establish a reputation that has UOWD in the top three universities in the UAE, especially in a culture and educational environment that did not previously have a tradition of western education at tertiary level," Dr Langridge said.

Dr Langridge said UOWD's establishment in 1993 coincided with a determination by Emirati authorities to diversify the range of international educational options in Dubai.

"The secret of our success is that we've been able to replicate in Dubai the hallmarks of the University of Wollongong's international reputation – for teaching excellence, for student success and for graduate outcomes," he said.

UOW has been in *The Times* Top 200 list of the world's universities for the past two years, and was named the inaugural Commonwealth University of the Year in 2006.

UOWD began on a small scale at Al Mulla Plaza, and later moved to premises on Jumeirah Beach Road. It is now located at the Knowledge Village, offering high quality education to approximately 2500 students.

Dr Langridge paid tribute to the academic and administrative staff who had contributed to UOWD's success over the past 15 years.

"We have excellent staff recruited locally and from all over the world," Dr Langridge said. "In fact, UOWD's staff come from 30 different countries and have taught at some of the world's leading academic institutions.

"We are a truly international institution in Dubai, as we also attract students from 80 countries."

Indian students make up the largest group (28%), followed by UAE students who make up 22% of current enrolments.

"We are very proud of our strong body of students from the UAE, because they choose to study with us at a fee even though they have access to free public education at some very good institutions. That's a measure of the quality of our programs and also our longevity," Dr Langridge said.



Dr James Langridge

UOWD's postgraduate programs reflect Dubai's status as a hub of international finance and business in the Gulf region. They include Masters degrees in Business Administration, Engineering Management, Information Technology Management, Applied Finance and Banking, Strategic Marketing, International Business, Quality Management, Strategic Human Resources Management and Logistics.

UOWD's dynamic approach to education is reflected in the

launch of innovative programs like the Master of Science in Logistics program, introduced in September 2007 for professionals working within the logistics and operations management area. It was a well-timed move, as Dubai is set to become an integrated multi-modal logistics hub based around the Jebel Ali Airport Project and the Dubai Logistics City (DLC) developments.

The undergraduate program includes Bachelor degrees in Business Administration, Commerce (with majors in Accounting, Human Resources, Finance, Management and Marketing), Internet Science and Technology, and Computer Science.

There are also English and Arabic language programs.

New courses being planned include a Doctor of Business Administration, new Bachelor of Commerce majors in Insurance, International Business and Property Development and Management, a Bachelor of IT in Management Information Systems, and new Computer Science majors in Digital Systems Security and Multimedia Technology.

"We've come a long way in 15 years, and the future looks bright," Dr Langridge said. **NH**

## Interim President has strong record

Senior Australian tertiary education administrator David Rome has been appointed Interim President of the University of Wollongong in Dubai while a world-wide search is underway for a long-term replacement for Professor Nick van der Walt.



David Rome

Professor van der Walt decided not to seek a second term as UOWD President when his three-year tenure expired earlier this year.

University of Wollongong Vice-Principal (Overseas Operations) Dr James Langridge, whose responsibilities include UOWD, paid tribute to Professor van der Walt for his contribution over the past three years.

"Professor van der Walt represented UOWD very well during his time at the helm," Dr Langridge said. "He presided over a period of sustained growth and played a major role in developing partnerships with key business and government organisations in the UAE."

Mr Rome, who commenced duties in Dubai on 11 February, is expected to fill the role at UOWD until the middle of the year.

"David has vast experience in the Australian tertiary sector, including a senior administrative role at Murdoch University and 10 years as Vice-Principal (Administration) at the University of Wollongong until 2005," Dr Langridge said. "Since then he has worked as a consultant for a number of Australian universities and other clients in the public and private sector, and in 2007 served as Interim CEO of the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee during its transition to Universities Australia."

Mr Rome has Bachelor and Masters degrees in Science from the University of Western Australia. He started his career in the oil refining industry with BP in WA in 1970 before joining the Australian Diplomatic Service in 1972. His seven years with the service included postings in Mexico City and Caracas.

He then had a distinguished career with the Australian Government in the Departments of Foreign Affairs, National Development and Energy, the Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman and the Department of Administrative Services. **NH**

## Dementia education gets online resource

The Eastern Australia Dementia Training and Study Centre (EADTSC) has launched its Dementia Education Online resource at the University of Wollongong.

The education initiative is the result of extensive collaboration between experts in dementia education at the EADTSC including leading academics at UOW, Queensland University of Technology and Griffith University. The EADTSC is funded as part of the Australian Government's Dementia Initiative.

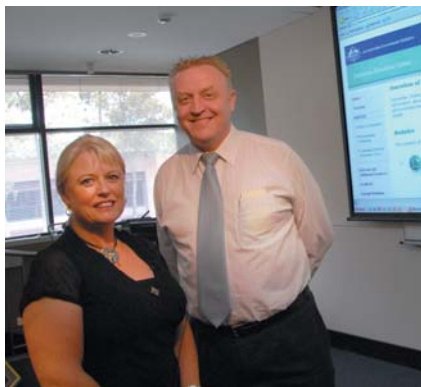
The resource is made up of three learning modules and the focus is on facilitating flexible learning which can be integrated into existing education modules or used as a stand-alone package. The resource includes content about:

- types of dementia and the impact of dementia on both the person with dementia and his/her carer
- assessment and screening for dementia, and
- communication in dementia.

EADTSC Project Officer Dr Nancy Humpel said that these are the three essential elements of good quality dementia care. The target audience for the new resource is undergraduate students, but the resource could also be used by registered practitioners or support workers as part of their ongoing professional development.

"This education initiative responds to the changing needs of the workforce. The modules, which allow practitioners, support workers and students access to evidence-based dementia education, can be completed either within the structured framework of an existing education/training programs, or independently at the participant's own time and pace," Dr Humpel said.

Minister for Ageing Justine Elliot welcomed the new online resource. **BG**



UOW's Division of Health and Behavioural Sciences Dean Professor Patrick Crookes and Professor Wendy Moyle from Griffith University at the launch of the online dementia education resource.

## Merlinda's second novel

Faculty of Creative Arts senior lecturer and award-winning writer Dr Merlinda Bobis' second novel was launched in March.

*The Solemn Lantern Maker* (Pier 9, Murdoch Books), has been released to critical acclaim.

*The Solemn Lantern Maker* is a raw and hard-hitting tale of our times. Set in the Philippines, it tells the story of 10-year old Noland, a mute lantern maker, who imagines an angel falling from the sky to the slums where he lives. But it is only an American tourist caught in a drive-by shooting of a political journalist.

The magical and seedy collide at a busy intersection in Manila: shimmering lanterns and



Dr Merlinda Bobis

poverty, Christmas carols and prostitution, dreams of friendship and the global war on terror.

Dr Bobis has won many awards, prizes and fellowships for her

fiction, poetry and plays, among them the Prix Italia for *Rita's Lullaby*, the Steele Rudd Award for the Best Published Collection of Australian Short Stories, the Judges' Choice Award at the Bumbershoot Bookfair at the Seattle Arts Festival and the Philippine National Book Award for *White Turtle*.

Her novels will be released in the US by Bantam in 2008 and 2009. **NH**

## Triple title launch

Three authors from the Faculty of Arts held a joint launch of their new books at Wollongong UniShop recently.

Associate Professor Chris Barker's book, *The Hearts of Men: Tales of Happiness and Despair*, provides a fresh insight into the emotional lives of men through 100 conversations with a range of sportsmen, executives, retired servicemen, homeless drug users, Buddhists and men's movement activists.

This refreshing collection of stories shows that men do talk about their feelings and with a surprising degree of insight. They are told by men in their own heartbreakingly honest words and are at the core of Professor Barker's exploration of the striking divergence in the ways in which men's emotional lives can generate personal happiness or despair.

Dr Mary Zournazi's publication is a groundbreaking exploration of the way that everyday language use in the post September 11 2001 world has instilled a state of fear and war in our minds and communities. *Keywords to War: Reviving language in an age of terror* shows how key words such as freedom, justice and trust have been misused,



(From left): Associate Professor Chris Barker, Dr Mary Zournazi and Maureen Clark at the joint launch of their new books.

abused and misappropriated for narrow political ends draining them of meaning and seriously diminishing public life in the process.

Honorary Fellow Maureen Clark also launched her new book called *Mudrooroo: A Likely Story*. The publication came from her PhD project that she completed at UOW in 2004.

It is the first in-depth critical study of the fiction of one of Australia's most enigmatic literary figures since the public questioning, in 1996, of his claim to Aboriginal heritage. The book has been described as a controversial work of much courage, particularly in light of the cultural sensitivities it broaches. **RC**

## Terrorism expert's latest

A new book co-authored by UOW-based expert on international terrorism Dr Adam Dolnik has been released to widespread critical acclaim.

*Negotiating Hostage Crises with the New Terrorists*, by Dr Dolnik and Singapore-based colleague Keith Fitzgerald, explores the role of negotiation in resolving terrorist barricade hostage crises.

The book examines the lessons of past crises to see how future incidents can be better managed, while also considering what the terrorists are also learning that will affect the dynamics of future incidents.

Dr Dolnik, who is the director of research development at UOW's Centre for Transnational Crime Prevention, is an international authority on terrorism. He travels widely to study terrorism in the



Dr Adam Dolnik

world's trouble spots, and has conducted extensive research on the Russian school hostage crisis in Beslan in 2004 involving Chechan rebels, that cost 331 lives.

Dr Dolnik has written a number of books on terrorism, including a study of the Beslan crisis and another published in 2007 that explored terrorist innovation in technologies and tactics. **NH**

*Negotiating Hostage Crises with the New Terrorists* is published by Praeger Security International. For more details see: [www.greenwood.com/psi/book\\_detail.aspx?sku=C9748](http://www.greenwood.com/psi/book_detail.aspx?sku=C9748)

# Awards, achievements and accolades

## Breast Cancer award for Iverson

The National Breast Cancer Foundation has honoured UOW's Professor Don Iverson for his role in establishing a national breast cancer research program.

NSW Governor Professor Marie Bashir presented Professor Iverson with the foundation's Award for Innovation at the Annual Pink Ribbon Awards at Government House on 18 February.

Professor Iverson, who is Executive Dean of UOW's Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences, led a review of Australia's priorities for breast cancer



Professor Don Iverson

research in 2003, which resulted in the development of a national research plan.

In its citation for the award, the foundation described Professor Iverson as the driving force behind many of the innovations introduced into its research program.

Professor Iverson, who had wide experience in cancer research in Canada and the United States before joining UOW in 2001, made a range of key recommendations for the development of a national research program for breast cancer which have all been successfully adopted.

These included approving large scale research projects over five to 10 years; establishing a fund for special infrastructure such as a national tissue bank that researchers across Australia had access to; funding novel ideas that were possibly high-risk but had the potential to deliver high returns; and changing the research grants process to facilitate innovation.

He also initiated the very successful annual Global Illumination Consular Corps dinners which launch the annual Pink Ribbon campaign.

Professor Iverson continues to serve on the foundation's committees. **NH**

## UOW leading in quality management

UOW is one of the first institutions in the country to receive international accreditation for its



Vice-Principal (Administration) Chris Grange pictured with Quality Assurance Manager Samantha Domagala at a function to celebrate the international accreditation.



## AO honour for Vice-Chancellor

University of Wollongong Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton (pictured) has been made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in the 2008 Australia Day Honours.

The award acknowledged his "service to tertiary education through administrative and representational roles, particularly as a leader in the growth and development of the University of Wollongong, through the promotion of international management in Australian higher education, and to the community of the Illawarra".

Professor Sutton, who has been UOW Vice-Chancellor since 1995, said he was immensely proud to receive such a recognition – an award which he believes is really one for the region and the University as a whole. **BG**

Administration Quality Management System (QMS), according to the Jas-ANZ register of certified bodies.

QMS provides a standard framework to achieve business objectives, meet client requirements and have efficient and effective administrative systems and processes. It also actively supports and promotes a culture of excellence, leadership and continuous improvement in an innovative environment.

The certification (ISO 9001:2000) has been awarded after the QMS was audited by the externally accredited body NCS International in October last year. It demonstrates UOW's outstanding commitment to quality assurance.

UOW Administration includes the Academic Registrar's Division, Accommodation Services, Buildings and Grounds, Financial Services, Personnel Services, the Performance Indicator Project Team and the Quality Assurance Unit.

"The QMS was introduced over 18 months ago and certification is a substantial achievement for all of UOW Administration," said Quality Assurance Manager Samantha Domagala. "It is the first phase of an ongoing process that will involve external surveillance audits to be carried out every six to 12 months." **RC**

## Mathematician wins 2008 ANZIAM Medal

Head of the Nanomechanics Group in UOW's School of Mathematics and Applied Statistics Professor Jim Hill has been awarded the 2008 ANZIAM Medal.

ANZIAM stands for Australian and New Zealand Industrial and Applied Mathematics, and is a division of the Australian Mathematical Society. It is the major body which promotes industrial and applied mathematics.

The ANZIAM Medal is the major award given by the society, and it is awarded on the basis of research achievements, activities enhancing applied and industrial mathematics and contributions to ANZIAM.

School of Mathematics and Applied Statistics head Associate Professor Tim Marchant said the award confirmed Professor Hill's standing as one of Australia's leading applied mathematicians.

Those awarded the medal must have given outstanding service to the profession of applied mathematics in Australia or New Zealand through their research achievements and through activities enhancing applied or industrial mathematics, and must be a long-term member and valuable contributor to the organisation.



Professor Jim Hill

Professor Hill is currently working in applied mathematical modelling in nanotechnology, including interacting molecular nanostructures, nanofluidics and nanoscale heating.

He has been funded for more than a dozen major research projects, directed towards industrial applications, such as the rubber, steel, particulate materials and nanotechnology industries.

Professor Hill has completed one five-year term of an ARC Senior Research Fellowship on the topic of granular materials, and he is presently the holder of another five-year ARC Professorial Fellowship on Nanomechanics.

Since the early 1990s he has received almost \$4 million in research funding from the Australian Research Council, including the ARC Professorial Fellowships. **BG**

## Murray-Wallace edits science journal

Professor Colin Murray-Wallace from UOW's School of Earth and Environmental Sciences has been appointed the editor-in-chief of one of the world's

leading science journals.

He has taken over as editor of *Quaternary Science Reviews* - one of the flagship journals of publishing company Elsevier, with a readership of over four million.

He officially took over from the previous editor, Professor James Rose from the University of London, at a meeting held at the offices of the Royal Geographical Society in London earlier this year. Professor Rose had held the position since 1994.

The journal is ranked as the world's leading academic journal in physical geography and second in the fields of geochemistry and geophysics.

*Quaternary Science Reviews* caters for all aspects of Quaternary science - the multidisciplinary study of the dynamic changes that have occurred during the past two million years in the Earth's climate and surface environments.

The journal publishes research and review papers. In 2007, it was published in 28 issues amounting to 3340 pages.

Professor Murray-Wallace is an expert in sea levels and has conducted detailed research into some of the critical lines of evidence for major changes in the sea levels over recent and geological timescales and the impact of these changes in long-term landscape development. **RC**



Professor Colin Murray-Wallace

the Australian Government's \$1.4 billion Australian Scholarships initiative.

The Endeavour Awards allow leading researchers, executives and students in Australia to travel abroad to undertake short or long term study, research and professional development in a broad range of disciplines. It also allows overseas researchers to travel to Australia for the same purposes.

Claire's Endeavour Research Fellowship will allow her to spend four months in Singapore and Hong Kong examining the history of 'houseboys' in the



Claire Lowrie

British colonial period.

The project expands from her UOW doctorate thesis which also details the history of colonial domestic service in Darwin between 1890 and 1930.

"My project is one of only a few on male domestic service and British colonialism in

Asia and the only one which is comparative," she said. "Ultimately, I intend to write a book on the subject."

During her time overseas, Claire will be affiliated with the Asia Research Institute (ARI) in Singapore and the Southeast Asia Research Centre (SEARC) in Hong Kong. **RC**

about man-made climate change, and to lay the foundations for the measures that are needed to counteract such change".

The IPCC's award recognises the contribution made by several hundred scientists from around the globe. Professor Woodroffe is one of Australia's participants on the IPCC and the only one from UOW. He is a lead author of the Fourth Assessment report, having written on coastal systems and low-lying areas in the volume on "impacts, adaptation and vulnerability".

The report, from the IPCC's Impact, Adaptation and Vulnerability Working Group, considers the impact of global warming on issues ranging from threats to coastal and island communities from rising sea levels to the viability of agricultural industries in the face of changing temperatures.



Professor Colin Woodroffe

Professor Woodroffe, who is the Coordinator of the GeoQuest Research Centre in UOW's School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, is an internationally renowned coastal geomorphologist.

His research is focused on the effects of climate change on islands and coastal communities on the east coast of Australia and in Torres Strait, as well as islands in the Pacific Ocean including the Kiribati group and Lord Howe Island. His publications include a scholarly book entitled *Coasts, form process and evolution*, published by Cambridge University Press in 2003, as well as more than 100 scientific papers in prestigious journals. **RC**

## PhD student's Endeavour Award

Ground-breaking research into the history of colonial domestic service in Singapore, Hong Kong and Darwin has won UOW PhD student Claire Lowrie an Endeavour Award worth \$25,000.

The award is part of an internationally competitive, merit-based scholarship program that forms part of

## Coastal expert shares in Nobel Peace Prize

UOW Professor Colin Woodroffe shared in the Nobel Peace Prize when it was awarded in December to the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), along with former US Vice-President Al Gore.

The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the IPCC and climate change activist Mr Gore for "their efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge



## Five new members for University Council

UOW's governing body, the University Council, has five new members for 2008. They are Alumni representatives Kelly Knowles and Dr Stephen Andersen, postgraduate students' representative Brad Winton, academic staff representative Penney McFarlane and business leader Geoff O'Donnell, who is a NSW Education Ministerial appointment.

Council members pictured in February before the first meeting for 2008 are (clockwise from front right): Rosemary Sinclair, Kelly Knowles, Penney McFarlane, Brad Winton, Deputy Chancellor Sue Chapman, Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton, Elizabeth Larbaletstier, Professor Tony Hulbert, Sue Browbank, Professor David Griffiths, Noel Cornish, Peter Fitzgerald, Geoff O'Donnell, Chancellor Michael Codd AC and Kerry Kyriakoudes. Absent: Police Minister David Campbell, Dr Stephen Andersen, Kim Calloway.

## Festival welcomes international students

The Wollongong community showed its appreciation and support of international students with a Welcome to Wollongong Festival and civic reception in their honour on 29 February.

The festival, supported by Wollongong City Council, the University of Wollongong, TAFE and Wollongong College Australia (WCA), attracted close to 500 people to the City Mall.

Wollongong Lord Mayor Councillor Alex Darling officially opened the activities, which included performances by singers, dancers and musicians including Australian Idol finalist Tarisai Vushe, markets, information stalls, competitions and giveaways. The event also included a traditional Welcome to Country and a performance by members of the local indigenous community.

"We recognise the immense cultural and economic value the community receives from the influx of international students to our city," the Lord Mayor said. "With such a multicultural background, the city will continue to show visitors from overseas a warm Wollongong welcome."

Nick Rheinberger from ABC Illawarra radio shared the Master of Ceremonies duties with Iranian student Shideh Nasrullah.

The Welcome to Wollongong (W2W) Project is designed to make



Wollongong Lord Mayor Councillor Alex Darling meets international students at the Welcome to Wollongong Festival in the city's mall.

international students feel welcome, provide them with more information about what is happening in the community, and make the community more aware of the large and diverse international student population in Wollongong.

The pilot project is part of a wider initiative aimed at enhancing the experience for international students (at UOW, TAFE and schools), celebrating diversity and profiling the

presence of international students and the contribution they make to the region.

The project is an initiative of the Welcome to Wollongong Working Group, which was formed in response to research that indicated international students wanted their experience enhanced by becoming more involved in the local community. The IMB Foundation contributed a grant of \$20,000 for the project. **RC**



Singer Tarisai Vushe helped entertain the crowd at the Welcome to Wollongong Festival.



ABC radio announcer Nick Rheinberger and Iranian student Shideh Nasrullah shared the Master of Ceremonies role.



Faces in the crowd: international students enjoying performances at the festival.



Jen Gifford from the Illawarra Ethnic Communities Council captured the festival on camera.

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