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BEST RESEARCH NEEDS AN ELEMENT OF RISK

BY PROFESSOR CHRIS GIBSON*

In the media, on the streets, and behind the closed doors of our hallowed tertiary institutions, debate has raged over the government’s proposed changes to the higher education sector. Fee deregulation and student debt have taken centre stage and the front page, but it is the backooe of our universities - research - that demands a proper conversation.

Research in Australia is a major success story. On all measures, from our comparatively tiny population base, Australian researchers have exceeded expectations. In effect, research has become a growth industry, part of the broader picture of universities becoming economic enablers within cities and regions.

Australian universities have thus far achieved all this without the sector arguably receiving its deserved share of central government funding. A 2012 report demonstrated Australia spends 2.25 per cent of its GDP on research and development, a figure that falls short of much smaller OECD nations, including Sweden (3.6 per cent) and Finland (4 per cent).

Due to the sustained efforts of the agencies and programs that administer central funding schemes - the Australian Research Council, National Health and Medical Research Council and Co-operative Research Centres - and those of thousands of Australian researchers, the nation has developed a key comparative advantage internationally despite comparatively scarce funding.

But has Australian research become too safe, too over-managed?

Revered researchers have often been risk-takers: single-minded geeks inventing new technologies; intrepid scientists deep in jungles or deep beneath the sea finding new species or archaeological treasures; inspired types rethinking a perennial mathematical or philosophical problem; historians going back into the archive to reopen often uncomfortable conversations about the past.

Yet the reality is becoming less heroic - a landscape as much about inter-institutional competition for scarce resources, rankings on league tables, team management and leadership skills, and gaining approvals from funding bodies and committees.

Much of this is about compliance and quality control. But increasingly, if one looks globally to where the truly exciting research is being done, it is where universities are still prepared to take risks: funding research ventures not because they deliver predictable outputs against KPIs (key performance indicators), but because they tackle world problems head on.

In other words, exciting research occurs in universities that encourage the best minds to exercise curiosity and courage in an atmosphere of academic freedom.

Australian research is in danger of retreating, rather than exploring, especially in a constrained fiscal environment. Instead of courageous ideas, we have conservative research proposals: “salami-slicing” of research results into ever-more-narrow journal articles; restrictively “in-house” research teams competing from different institutions rather than collaborating for the greater good; and researchers focusing on consistency of track record rather than taking sideways leaps into new fields or truly novel collaborations.

But has Australian research become too safe, too over-managed?

Such behaviour counteracts the very premise of universities as the centre of new thinking. At the same time, we are failing to address urgent global problems of environment economy and humanity - problems that cannot be addressed by disciplines in isolation.

What can be done about it? We need to develop funding streams that support riskier, often grassroots projects addressing complex, real-world problems and harness the expertise of researchers across disciplines, in new combinations.

A small vanguard of Australian, British and American universities is finding new ways to fund researchers, initially from their own central budgets, around ambitious, identified “challenges” of international scope.

The University of Wollongong’s Global Challenges Program, along with the University of Melbourne’s Grand Challenges and the University of Queensland’s Global Change Institute, are prominent early examples. The Universities of Western Sydney and Adelaide, and no doubt many others, are about to follow. Internationally, Princeton University in the US, and Warwick University and University College London in Britain, have taken the lead.

Such programs must not be seen as replacements for central government funding of research, but rather as complements to traditional schemes.

As just one example, UOW’s Global Challenges Program has invested in projects that seek to open up a radical conversation about the future of Australian manufacturing. From examining whether new manufacturing techniques can transform and reinvigorate a regional economy to using 3D printing technologies to create musical instruments that are not feasible within standard manufacturing, these projects cut across disciplines, involving creative artists, engineers, designers, geographers, information system analysts, social marketers and labour market economists.

Beyond UOW, the Global Challenges Program is growing relationships with researchers at CSIRO, Swinburne University, and RMIT, and our researchers are being funded to visit cities around the world, to learn from others’ successes and mistakes. We are also developing a next-generation hydrogel condom that beyond the titillation factor, has huge humanitarian potential.

It is research that is bold and unpredictable. But it is research that is also inspiring for those involved - reconnecting them with a motivation to improve the world. For many, it reminds them of the reason they became an academic in the first place.

A multidisciplinary focus combined with trust, academic freedom and ongoing support gives researchers greater flexibility to explore new ideas and work on projects that do not already have their outcomes determined and that simply might not otherwise be funded. By definition they are risker ventures, and they do not map neatly onto a highly metric-driven management culture. But that is precisely the point.

*Professor Chris Gibson is Director of the Global Challenges Program at Wollongong University. This opinion column was originally published in the Australian Financial Review on 21 July 2014.

The University of Wollongong is home to a new research hub bringing together the best and brightest scientists and engineers from Australia’s steel manufacturers and research institutions to drive innovation and improve global competitiveness for the industry.

The Australian Research Council (ARC) Research Hub for Australian Steel Manufacturing, based at UOW will embark on research and development programs that will address manufacturing technologies and processes, innovation in new products and best-practice pathways for bringing new ideas to market.

Supporting partners in the research hub include BlueScope, which operates Australia’s largest steel plant at Port Kembla, Arrium, Bisalloy, Cox Architects, Australian Steel Institute, Lysaght, University of Queensland, University of NSW, University of Newcastle, Swinburne University of Technology and RMIT.

Minister for Industry Ian Macfarlane launched the hub at a function at Parliament House, Canberra in September.

Mr Macfarlane said: “The Australian Government is preparing a National Industry Investment and Innovation Agenda to set the superstructure for industry growth, in particular to encourage greater collaboration between business and researchers.

“This collaboration is essential to ensuring Australia’s competitiveness in global markets and in new industries focused on sophisticated and high value-added manufacturing. Our focus must be on our areas of competitive advantage where Australia has an edge over our competitors.”

The steel industry employs around 90,000 people and adds more than $8.7 billion value to the national economy. The hub will be supported by cash and in-kind industry and university investment of almost $17 million and ARC funding of $5 million over five years.

Product innovations include a project to develop a self-cleaning, anti-microbial organic coating for painted sheet steel to prevent the build-up of mould, algae and other bacteria on steel roofs, particularly in humid environments.

UOW researchers, in a long-standing partnership with BlueScope, are drawing on expertise in microbiology, surface engineering and molecular dynamics to make paints and coatings for steel sheeting that prevent bacterial growth.

Also under development is a new roofing system that incorporates thin-film solar panels and aesthetically pleasing designs that can produce energy, heating and cooling for new Australian buildings.

Steel Research Hub Director Oscar Gregory said the steel industry has had to face extremely challenging conditions since the global financial crisis.

“Now that the industry is seeing some improvement, it is timely that the Steel Research Hub brings together the combined skills and expertise of university and industry researchers to transform the Australian industry into a position of sustainability and global competitiveness,” he said.

UOW Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Judy Raper said UOW’s strong historic links with the steel industry at nearby Port Kembla put it in a prime position to drive the national industry.

UOW began in 1951 as a division of the then NSW University of Technology established to train metallurgists, mechanical and electrical engineers and industrial chemists for the Port Kembla Steelworks.

“The hub’s aim is to strengthen the industry by developing innovative products and processes that will improve its global competitiveness.” Professor Raper said. “So in a sense the Research Hub is extending and refining something we at UOW have been doing for the past 60 years. We all know that working together generally produces far better outcomes than working in isolation, and I commend the Australian Research Council for bringing this group together.”

The University of Wollongong has jumped 18 spots in The Times Higher Education World University Rankings, released in October.

UOW has been ranked at 282 in the 276-300 band – compared to its 298 spot in The Times rankings last year.

UOW Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Wellings said that one of the significant achievements made over the past 12 months has been the 10 per cent lift in UOW’s citations reflecting the quality of UOW’s research.

“This basically refers to how many other people globally are using our researchers’ work for their various purposes,” he said.

A ranking of 282 means that UOW has further consolidated its place in the top two per cent of universities in the world.

The Times Higher Education World University Rankings use 13 separate performance indicators to examine a university’s strengths against all of its core missions – teaching, research, knowledge transfer and international outlook.

Information is collected, analysed and verified by global data provider Thomson Reuters.

This year’s tables employ an identical methodology to that used since 2011-12 to allow clear year-on-year comparisons.

The Times Rankings follow on from the recent 2014 QS World University Rankings, which also confirmed UOW’s spot in the top two per cent of universities worldwide.
University of Wollongong Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor John Patterson knows the transformative power of education.

In a 40-year career at UOW he has seen many thousands of students — many of them the first generation of their families to attend university, and many of them the children of migrants who came to Australia to give their children a better chance in life — graduate and go on to forge successful careers.

Professor Patterson, who is retiring in December, said seeing people whose lives had been transformed by education had been the defining image of his time at the University.

"It has been a great privilege to have been involved in this university and in this community for four decades, and to be able to participate in such a fine institution that has had, and continues to have, such an influence on people’s lives," he said.

"I have been incredibly fortunate to have been the beneficiary of education myself, and to be able to work in education. A lot of students here (at UOW) come from working-class backgrounds just like me, so I have gained a lot of satisfaction from seeing their success. Does it get any better? I don’t think so."

Professor Patterson grew up in Balmain (when it was a working-class suburb far removed from the trendy address it is now), attending Fort Street Boys High School before training as a PE teacher at Sydney Teachers College. After working at National Fitness Camps and schools in Australia he had a working holiday in Canada where his jobs included teaching and stints as a professional trapper and a tourist guide. He then returned to Australia, moving to Wollongong in 1974 to work as a PE lecturer at the Wollongong Institute of Education the year it changed from being Wollongong Teachers College.

He became part of UOW when the University and Institute of Education merged in 1982, and has not looked back. After completing a PhD at the University of Colorado in 1986, he began a steady climb up UOW’s academic and executive ladder.

He was appointed Deputy Dean of Education in 1986 and Dean in 1993. In 2000 he became Dean of Health and Behavioural Sciences and in 2001 Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Operations). Since 2010 he has been Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor. Professor Patterson is proud of his longevity at UOW, an institution he has helped mould as it has developed over the years.

"In this age of short working life spans and limited longevity, I consider working at the same institution for 40 years a badge of honour," he said. "I hope I have made a contribution, and (in return) it has given me a great career path, intellectual challenges and the opportunity for emotional growth."

Professor Patterson will give a Farewell Lecture for colleagues and friends on 12 December. "My first job in Wollongong on a Monday morning early in 1974 was to give a lecture, so I will be going full circle and finishing with a lecture," he said. NH
Australian Minister for Employment Senator Eric Abetz described the University of Wollongong’s new Sustainable Buildings Research Centre (SBRC) as a quality long-term investment for the taxpayers of Australia when he officially opened the building.

SBRC, dedicated to developing new technologies and techniques to make buildings more environmentally sustainable, is the seventh building to open on UOW’s Innovation Campus.

The Australian Government funded the building’s construction with $25.1 million through the Education Investment Fund.

Officially opening the building in August, Senator Abetz said SBRC had in effect been funded by the taxpayers of Australia, and said he was confident that they would get a good long-term return from it.

“As Minister for Employment, I am particularly excited about its prospects to generate new jobs,” he said.

In a well-received display of bipartisanship, the Minister invited local federal Labor Member of Parliament and Shadow Minister for Vocational Education Sharon Bird, who was Minister for Higher Education and Skills in the previous Labor Government, to join the official party for the unveiling of a plaque to commemorate the opening.

Senator Abetz said he gave the previous government “a big tick” for approving the funding, and Ms Bird’s inclusion in the ceremony would acknowledge its involvement.

SBRC Director Professor Paul Cooper said the centre was an example of how Federal Government funding had delivered more than bricks and mortar and had enabled a hub where academia, industry and the community could work together to bring innovative ideas to life.

“Importantly for the region, access to research-based knowledge will enable up-skilling for the regional workforce that will improve the skill sets and economic opportunities for local companies and their employees,”

Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Wellings CBE said SBRC epitomised what the Innovation Campus was all about – cutting edge research and strong industry partnerships. He said SBRC’s partnerships with government and industry, including TAFE NSW Illawarra Institute and BlueScope, would be critical to its on-going success.

SBRC has many environmentally-friendly features which showcase the type of research being conducted there. It was constructed with the target of becoming Australia’s first certified Living Building, and the Illawarra’s first 6-star Green Star building. Its environmentally-friendly features include ultra-low energy consumption: a solar roof that produces more power than the building uses; rainwater harvesting to ensure the building has a net-zero water use; sophisticated natural ventilation and extensive monitoring and building control systems to ensure it operates as efficiently as possible.

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Above: Minister for Employment Senator Eric Abetz (second from right) officially opens the Sustainable Buildings Research Centre in August. He is pictured with (from left) Shadow Minister for Vocational Education Sharon Bird, SBRC Director Professor Paul Cooper, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Social Security Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells, UOW Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Wellings and UOW Chancellor Jillian Broadbent.

Left: The official party inspects SBRC’s rooftop solar power-generating equipment.

NOVEMBER 2014 CONNECT: UOW
CONTROVERSIAL NEW LAWS

A RICH RESOURCE FOR RESEARCH, TEACHING

DR JULIA QUILTER
SCHOOL OF LAW

When University of Wollongong Senior Lecturer and criminal law and justice expert Dr Julia Quilter was teaching her Criminal Law class in first session this year, she was excited to be teaching her students about the new Bail Act 2013 that had just come into effect in NSW.

“The new Act was such a principled piece of legislation,” Dr Quilter said. “It had been developed after wide consultation and passed by both Houses of the NSW Parliament. The Government had even invested in 12 months of training for law officers across the state before the new Act came into force in May this year.

“And it was good to be able to teach the students about new legislation that had replaced an old Act that had simply become too complicated. It had originally been developed on the notion that bail should be granted unless the accused posed a significant risk to the community, but it had been amended more than 80 times since it was enacted in 1978 and it had become unworkable.

“Under the old Act NSW had 25 per cent of its jail population made up of people on remand, and they were each costing the state up to $330 a day. This craziness had driven the need for reform, and both sides of politics had supported the new legislation.”

However, her classes in the second session have been very different. Now she is explaining to students how the Government abandoned the new legislation just months after it commenced, when three high-profile alleged criminals were granted bail, sparking a media frenzy.

The three cases involved Steven Fesus, accused of murdering his wife 17 years ago; Hassan “Sam” Ibrahim, charged with selling illegal firearms across western Sydney (bail was revoked on appeal); and Mahmoud Hawi, charged with the murder of Peter Zervas during a brawl at Sydney Airport in 2009 (Hawi has since pleaded guilty to his manslaughter).

“Courts make hundreds of bail decisions each week that we never hear about, but the media chose to focus on these three cases. It was a classic example of the radio shock jocks and tabloid media cooking up a storm, and politicians not standing up for their principles,” she said.

“So Parliament rushed through the Bail Amendment Act 2014 that removes the presumption of innocence to a preamble and requires the accused to show cause why bail should be granted for certain offences. We have returned to the old nightmare of presumptions against bail, with all their complexities.”

... dramatic changes in legislation ... help to bring the topic of criminal law to life for academics and students alike

While Dr Quilter was personally disappointed that the new Bail Act had such a short life, she admits that dramatic changes in legislation such as the Bail Act amendments and the introduction of “one-punch” mandatory sentencing laws earlier in 2014 help to bring the topic of criminal law to life for academics and students alike. They also contribute to making criminal law and justice an exciting (even if sometimes troubling) field for contemporary research.

A member of the UOW School of Law’s Legal Intersections Research Centre, Dr Quilter is one of Australia’s leading criminal law researchers and has established a strong reputation as a commentator on current criminal justice controversies, including the nation-wide debate over “one-punch” laws as a response to alcohol-related public violence.

In 2014 alone, three Australian states introduced tough new laws to punish so-called “one-punch” killings as legislators have reacted to apparently random attacks outside licensed premises that have left a number of young people dead and created a massive public outcry. Dr Quilter believes the laws are a “knee-jerk” reaction that will prove to be ineffective, with unintended consequences. Her research has found that these laws address a relatively small number of incidents while ignoring much bigger problems such as domestic violence homicides.

But the laws do provide a rich source of research and teaching material.

“I teach a final year elective called Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice, and it has been very interesting examining the “one-punch” laws that have been introduced around Australia, and the way the legislation mandates that alcohol is responsible,” she said. “The students are really engaged because they don’t just understand the concepts, they are actually living it. We have some very interesting discussions about the regulator’s response to the idea that there are links between alcohol and violence.”

Before Dr Quilter joined UOW in 2010, she worked as a solicitor and barrister, specialising in constitutional, criminal and coronial law at the NSW Crown Solicitor’s Office, as well as doing a stint in the Office of the NSW Solicitor General and Crown Advocate. She appeared in a number of significant criminal law matters in the NSW Court of Criminal Appeal and the High Court of Australia.

Unusually for a criminal law practitioner, she had previously completed a PhD on the history of sexual assault law and the challenge of shifting embedded attitudes in the practice of rape trials, even in the face of undeniably progressive legislative reform.

Dr Quilter comments regularly on current affairs and news programs, including ABC TV’s 7.30 Report and ABC Radio National’s The Law Report, is regularly invited to speak at seminars for both academic and practitioner audiences, and has authored a number of well-received scholarly articles for The Conversation and prominent legal journals. She recently joined the author team for one of the leading Australian academic texts on criminal law and justice, published by Federation Press and forthcoming in 2015.

Dr Quilter says that while it is clear that legislators aren’t listening to dissenting views, she feels that it is important that academic researchers address contemporary legal issues that have policy implications, and participate actively in public debates.

“We may not be getting many victories, but the work we are doing has use and meaning.”

Dr Quilter is hoping that her work on contemporary criminal justice controversies will encourage more PhD students to join the School of Law’s research program.
University of Wollongong Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Wellings CBE travelled to India in September with Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott as part of the AUSTRALIA: OPEN FOR BUSINESS delegation, to further strengthen UOW’s connections with India.

Professor Wellings and UOW Brand Ambassador Adam Gilchrist AM went to India as part of the Prime Minister’s high level delegation of business leaders covering key industry sectors. They were in India for talks with senior Indian government and industry officials.

Business leaders included Rio Tinto CEO Sam Walsh, Woodside Energy CEO Peter Coleman, ANZ Bank CEO Andrew Géczy, Linfox founder Lindsay Fox and Visy Chairman Anthony Pratt. Professor Wellings and Mr Gilchrist were part of a Higher Education group within the delegation.

Professor Wellings used the opportunity to promote UOW as a destination for Indian students, and the Innovation Campus research and development precinct as an ideal location for Indian companies to establish operations in Australia.

As part of Professor Wellings’ presentations in India, UOW produced a brochure highlighting UOW’s existing partnerships and collaborations with Indian institutions, government agencies and corporations.

These include:

- **STUDENTS**: In 2014 UOW has 441 Indian students studying at UOW in Australia and 1125 at UOW in Dubai

- **MINING**: UOW has signed a Memorandum of Understanding to help form a Centre for Mining Excellence in the Indian state of Gujarat

- **INDUSTRY**: UOW has key industry links with major players in India’s IT industry including IBM Research and Infosys

- **ACADEMIC**: UOW has a suite of academic and research partnerships with Indian universities and academic institutions, including the Indian Institute of Technology in Kharagpur and Mumbai, the University of Calcutta, University of Burdwan and the Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University in Gandhinagar

- **RESEARCH**: UOW’s research partnerships with India include an agreement with India’s Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) to establish a CSIR research centre at UOW’s Innovation Campus.

The brochure includes a profile of India-born UOW Computer Science Professor Aditya Ghose, who has a number of close research collaborations with Indian counterparts, and Mohammed Shuja Ahmed Khan, the inaugural winner of UOW’s Bradman Scholarship which helps Indian students who are interested in cricket to study at UOW. Shuja, from Hyderabad, is studying Civil Engineering.


Professor Wellings and Mr Gilchrist said the multidisciplinary focus would enable researchers to work together on solutions to make a tangible difference in the world.

“Global Challenges is an innovative way of bringing together world-class expertise in a bid to offer solutions to complex world problems at Old Parliament House in Canberra in June. The program runs from June 2015 to May 2016 and will include 12 world-class research programs, 300 visiting experts and 500 Australian students. The University of Wollongong is partnering with the Indian Institute of Technology in Kharagpur to collaborate on a research program in coastal marine zone management,” Professor Wellings said.

Global Challenges Director Professor Chris Gibson provided details of the planned research projects at the launch.
The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is funding a University of Wollongong team to help develop a next generation condom that “significantly preserves and enhances pleasure, in order to improve uptake and regular use”.

The project is designed to promote condom use in countries where significant social, economic and environmental problems stem from lack of birth control and the spread of STDs, particularly AIDS. The UOW team was one of only 52 grants funded worldwide from more than 1700 applications for the Grand Challenges Explorations initiative, which covers five diverse project areas ranging from agriculture to healthcare.

Initial grants of US$100,000 are awarded two times a year. Successful projects have the opportunity to receive a follow-on grant of up to US$1 million. The UOW team is developing a replacement for latex condoms using new materials called tough hydrogels.

Hydrogels can be tailored to feel, look and act more like natural tissue and can be engineered to deliver functionality such as self-lubrication, topical drug delivery and biodegradability. They are also extremely safe and currently used in numerous applications from contact lenses to food products.

This work continues to push the boundaries of years of hydrogel development for artificial muscles and implantable bionics at UOW. Research fellow and project leader Dr Robert Gorkin said: “We are extremely excited about this incredible opportunity. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation funding has enabled us to explore new applications of our materials research that could make a genuine impact on the health and wellbeing of people worldwide.”

Dr Gorkin leads a team that includes polymer scientist Dr Sina Naficy and molecular microbiologist Dr Jason McArthur. Their complementary expertise spans biomedical engineering, materials science and drug delivery. The team recognises that understanding local cultures and societies and learning how to work within them is going to be a key challenge in designing condoms that are readily adopted.

“It’s really about us challenging our own perceptions, particularly when developing new technologies to be deployed in places like sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia,” Dr Gorkin said.

“We are looking to have dialogue with people in those areas to look into social and cultural aspects for design that could be incorporated into eventual prototypes and products. We are also looking at manufacturing, regulation, distribution and other considerations, which will be critical to success in the regions.”

“In a recent TED2014 talk Melinda Gates said 'delivery is every bit as important as the science'. We totally agree – the challenge must be tackled holistically.”

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is one of the world’s most recognised philanthropic organisations. The UOW project was funded under the Round 12 Grand Challenges Explorations grants, which foster innovation in global health research.

University of Wollongong researchers have received more than $5.39 million for programs ranging from assessing Indigenous justice programs, developing frameworks to prevent violence against women and creating new sediment dating techniques, in the latest round of the Australian Research Council’s (ARC) Future Fellowships program. Minister for Education Christopher Pyne announced that seven UOW academics had been named among the nation’s Future Fellows, with UOW ranking third nationally (relative to size) and placing eighth for total funding awarded.

UOW’s Centre for Archaeological Science (CAS) provided three of the Future Fellows. CAS shell expert Dr Katherine Szabó was awarded more than $800,000 over four years to help improve understanding of Melanesian societies and their transformations over time. The Melanesian region comprises Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, New Caledonia, Fiji and Papua New Guinea and Dr Szabó plans to study its rich repository of important shell artefacts.

“Shell money is critical in customary exchanges and still has value as legal tender in the Solomon Islands, so it’s in Australia’s interest to understand how such a different approach to economics works in one of our nearest neighbours,” Dr Szabó said.

CAS colleagues Associate Professor Benjamin Marwick (currently based at the University of Wollongong).
Dr Lezanne Ooi in her laboratory at the Illawarra Health and Medical Research Institute.

disease in a dish. We have a little way to go, but we are starting to understand the mechanism behind why those compounds are protective,” she said.

Dr Ooi said the field is moving incredibly quickly because scientists around the world have realised that almost any disease can be modelled using this method.

She said the technology is also a step closer to personalised medicines, as the donated cultured cells provide an avatar for the real patient, where in the future doctors can test how the patient might react to a particular drug.

It could also be used to replace cells that are lost as a disease progresses. For example, in Motor Neurone Disease, motor neurones degenerate and die, so patients lose their motor control – the ability to walk, talk, swallow and eventually, breathe.

“If we can generate motor neurones in a dish from a patient’s cells, then we might get to a point where we can transplant those motor neurones back into the patient and improve their chances of living and improve their quality of life as well,” she said.

UK-born Dr Ooi said she has always been fascinated with the brain – an area of the body that is often described as the ‘last frontier’ of medicine.

“There is still so much that we don’t know about how the brain works and what happens when it goes awry,” she said.

“On a personal level, my gran has Alzheimer’s and as a scientist I need to understand the process that she is going through on a biological level, to understand why some people suffer from this disease and to contribute to knowledge that may one day aid the development of better treatments.” EP

Washington in Seattle) and Dr Bo Li, who joined UOW in 2012 on a Vice-Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Fellowship, also were named as Future Fellows. Dr Szabó and Associate Professor Marwick are the only archaeologists to be awarded a Future Fellowship in this round.

CAS Director and ARC Australian Laureate Fellow Professor Richard (Bert) Roberts said the work of the new Fellows underscores the importance of ongoing archaeological projects in Southeast Asia.

“I am tremendously proud of our new Future Fellows,” Professor Roberts said. “We can expect exciting findings from each of these mid-career researchers,” he said.

UOW Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Judy Raper said the Future Fellowships scheme recognises and supports research in areas of critical national importance.

“The aim of Future Fellowships is to attract and retain the best and brightest mid-career researchers and we are thrilled to have seven of them at UOW,” Professor Raper said.

“I am delighted by these exceptional results and would like to congratulate all of our successful Future Fellows. Special recognition should also be given to the Faculty of Law, Arts and Humanities (LHA), who enjoy the lion’s share of home-grown talent, with three of our seven new Fellows belonging to LHA,” she said.

Sociology lecturer Dr Michael Flood is leading a project that evaluates key strategies and interventions to develop a framework that effectively engages men and boys, preventing violence against women. UOW’s 2015 Future Fellows and their projects are:

• Dr Tanja Dreher – Listening for Media Justice: mapping the response to Indigenous and community media in Australia’s mainstream public sphere

• Dr Michael Flood – Engaging men and boys in violence prevention: effective directions for practice

• Professor Elena Marchetti – Nothing works? Re-appraising research on Indigenous-focused crime and justice programs

• Associate Professor Shujun Zhang – New dielectric materials: Improving storage density of high temperature multilayer ceramic capacitors to sustainably meet future energy demands

• Associate Professor Benjamin Marwick – The archaeology of Thailand and Myanmar: a strategic region for understanding modern human colonisation and interactions across our region

• Dr Katherine Szabó – Dimensions of value: understanding the role and measuring of shell valuables in the Melanesian past and present

• Dr Bo Li – Next-generation luminescence dating techniques for earth and archaeological science applications, EP/MC
here could be worse ways to collect scientific research data. Marine Science PhD students Lachlan Fetterplace and Matt Rees from the Institute for Conservation Biology and Environmental Management at UOW’s School of Biological Sciences are motoring across Jervis Bay on a clear spring morning.

The only ripples in the water are from the school’s new 5.5 metre research vessel ‘Maarra’.

Matt and Lachlan are using the idyllic waters of the Jervis Bay Marine Park to carry out research that will further unlock our understanding of the biodiversity and functioning of the rich fish communities that are not only a corner stone of a healthy ecosystem but also provide valuable food stocks and recreational enjoyment for Australians.

Both Lachlan and Matt are keen fishermen and marine conservationists who have turned a hobby and passion into a serious profession, while their social media presence as the Fish Thinkers has garnered a large following.

Today the pair, who are under the co-supervision of UOW’s Associate Professor Andy Davis and Dr Nathan Knott from the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI), are using state-of-the-art research equipment.

Matt carefully lowers DPI’s high-definition stereo video cameras mounted on a galvanised steel frame into water to survey fish that are associated with seafloor habitats.

A bait of pilchards in a bag attached to the frame draws a range of species such as snapper, bream and other reef fish in view of the camera.

Over the long term it’ll help us work out the areas in the bay and marine park that they use and for how long. If we are lucky we may even pick up details on where they may be spawning, and if they’re aggregating or migrating.

“Back in the lab we look through the footage and count the species and density of fish we observe. That information will feed into fisheries conservation and marine protected areas by allowing us to predict which habitats and arrangement of habitats are important to protect fish populations.”

The researchers also use cameras to survey pelagic fish that swim in the open water away from the seafloor such as black marlin, yellowtail kingfish and bonito, using sophisticated phonetic lures to attract the fish.

While Matt’s current work concerns pelagic species, a large part of Lachlan’s research involves tagging and tracking movements of species that spend their time in water with a predominantly sandy bottom.

“Sand is a habitat that maybe isn’t as sexy as coral reefs and seagrass so it isn’t studied as often but it’s actually highly productive and the dominate habitat on this part of the coast in this part of NSW,” Lachlan says.

“A lot of the species found in this habitat are targeted by recreational fishers. It’s where species such as flathead and whiting are commonly caught.”

During the course of his project Lachlan will catch up to 50 blue spot flathead, to be followed by other species. Each fish is sedated in an anaesthetic bath and an acoustic
Morwood’s ‘Hobbit’ Legacy Lives On

The University of Wollongong has marked the 10th anniversary of the announcement of the discovery of a new human species (Homo floresiensis) with a Fellowship honouring one of its key discoverers, the late Professor Mike Morwood.

On 28 October 2004, the leading international science journal *Nature*, published two controversial papers announcing the discovery of Homo floresiensis in Liang Bua cave in Flores, Indonesia. The fossil find was dubbed the ‘Hobbit’ due to its tiny stature, and the unexpected news that another species of human had walked among us until relatively recently stunned the world.

The UOW researchers who, with colleagues in Indonesia, discovered this one-metre-tall archaic human have used the 10-year anniversary to announce the Michael J. Morwood Fellowship, named in honour of the archaeologist who co-led the Hobbit project team until his death in 2013.

The inaugural recipient is Thomas Sutikna, a close colleague and friend of Professor Morwood. Mr Sutikna was one of the key Indonesian archaeologists involved in the original Hobbit discovery. He will further strengthen the partnership between UOW and the National Centre for Archaeology (NCA) in Indonesia, paving the way for further research into the ancestry of the Hobbit.

Revealing the history of archaic and modern humans in Indonesia has been central to the Centre for Archaeological Science (CAS), one of UOW’s research strengths, since excavations at Liang Bua began in 2001.

CAS Director Professor Richard ‘Bert’ Roberts said Professor Morwood was instrumental in building and nurturing relationships with Indonesian colleagues, including Mr Sutikna. Professor Roberts is thrilled that Mr Sutikna, currently finishing his doctoral studies at UOW, will stay on at CAS to carry out postdoctoral research on Flores and other Indonesian islands.

During his fellowship, Mr Sutikna will work closely with colleagues in CAS and NCA in Jakarta, especially Wahyu Saptomo, Jatmiko and Rokus Due Awe, who are also Visiting Fellows in CAS.

“Thomas’ research will further strengthen our collaborative links with archaeologists in Indonesia, and I’m hoping that he might even discover another new species of human!” Professor Roberts said.

Mr Sutikna plans to begin the Michael J. Morwood Fellowship in 2015, continuing research at Liang Bua and exploring limestone caves elsewhere in the Indonesian archipelago.

“The discovery of Homo floresiensis has major implications for the understanding of human evolution and dispersal across the globe.” Mr Sutikna said. “This discovery is only a piece of the larger puzzle of past human activities in Flores, and I’m hoping that he might even discover another new species of human!” Professor Roberts said.

Mr Sutikna plans to begin the Michael J. Morwood Fellowship in 2015, continuing research at Liang Bua and exploring limestone caves elsewhere in the Indonesian archipelago.

“Besides Liang Bua, the next step of research will be to focus on other potential sites throughout Flores and other islands in Indonesia that were identified while digging at the Liang Bua cave. We are looking for more ancestors and contemporaries of the Hobbit.”

“The Michael J. Morwood Fellowship will allow me to extend the excavations at Liang Bua cave to reveal more about the last days of the Hobbit, and to explore other parts of Indonesia to make more exciting discoveries”, Mr Sutikna said. EP/MC
A young entrepreneur whose start-up company is at the forefront of social media analytics has won this year’s iAccelerate* Pitch.

Social Status CEO Tim Hill won the Pitch final and the $2000 first prize at the iAccelerate Pitch and Demo Day at the University of Wollongong’s Innovation Campus on 29 October, for his polished presentation about the technology he and his business partner Robert O’Farrell have developed to monitor the effectiveness of social media marketing.

Their app aggregates publicly available data from Facebook and other sources so that subscribers can easily compare how posts in social media are performing.

“We can measure a company’s engagement on social media – what content works and why. This kind of analytical tool is very useful as more content works and why. This kind of engagement on social media – what we can measure a company’s social media are performing. We need capital to help us move faster. In this space of social media there’s so much competition and constant change. If we could even double our workforce (from two to four) … it would help us gain traction,” he said.

The Pitch final was a competition between eight start-up companies, most of which are located at UOW’s iAccelerate business incubator, who pitched their business plans to a panel of industry judges and an audience including potential venture capital investors.

The finalists have developed ideas ranging from Social Status’ social media monitoring technology to new generation materials and a F1 motorsport game for mobile phones.

Debra Young, who developed an online yoga program for expectant mothers called Stretch and Glow Yoga, finished second in the Pitch final and won the People’s Choice prize of $1000 voted by the audience. Nathan Harper from BeerMogul Games, whose F1 strategy game Formula Legend has already achieved 150,000 downloads, received an honourable mention.

The Pitch drew potential investors Artesian Capital Management, Tank Stream Ventures, M H Carnegie, ObeVentures, Commonwealth Bank, KPMG and “angel” investors.

iAccelerate Director Elizabeth Eastland said she was delighted with the quality of the Pitch presentations and the number of investment companies that attended. “It’s remarkable to see how far we have come in the last year,” Ms Eastland said. “We have many talented people working on some great ideas. We were really excited about giving them this opportunity to showcase their work and demonstrate their potential to really contribute to this region’s economic transformation.”

Ms Eastland praised the NSW Government for committing $16.5 million towards a permanent home for iAccelerate, which will be constructed on the Innovation Campus.

“iAccelerate is the University of Wollongong’s business incubator and accelerator. Based at the Innovation Campus, it provides start-up companies with premises and professional services support, a robust educational program, formalised business acceleration monitoring and mentoring in finance and accounting, marketing and media, intellectual property and legal issues and human resources.

The 2014 Entrepreneurial Conference for Entrepreneurial Eastland, who is also UOW’s Director of Innovation and Commercial Research, presented iAccelerate as a case study of how a regional innovation accelerator was transforming a declining manufacturing economy.

Ms Eastland’s presentation focused on how iAccelerate started in 2011, and how it was using a set of mentoring and education programs to nurture regional entrepreneurship and innovation based on the skills of UOW’s large pipeline of information technology graduates.

With the Illawarra in the midst of its transformation from a manufacturing and mining base, iAccelerate will diversify the region’s industrial base, capturing the intellectual capital of the region and retaining high quality graduates.

Ms Eastland said during the past four years iAccelerate has built an entrepreneurship club with more than 800 participants, provides a series of workshops and lectures designed to address the critical business issues facing startups; and is currently providing entrepreneurial working spaces capable of hosting 70 people building startups.

“The judges made comments about how fast we had moved in so short a time and that our vision and action to fulfilling that were bold,” Ms Eastland said.

“Many of the attendees from regional areas in Europe wanted to connect and ask questions about how we had done what we had done so they could also do it.

“It was thrilling for a UOW initiative to be considered a best practice entrepreneurial university at an international event.”

iAccelerate has also launched a $10 million seed fund to attract investors with a passion and commitment to the startup sector. In turn, the fund will provide investors with access to a unique pipeline of early stage business investment opportunities.

Entrepreneurs will also benefit from the region’s first purpose-built high-tech incubator with the start of construction of the 4000 square metre iAccelerate Centre at UOW’s Innovation Campus. The centre will provide space for more than 280 entrepreneurs.

Social Status CEO Tim Hill (bottom centre) from Social Status with the other finalists (clockwise from bottom left) Alan Beadnell (Joindup), Nathan Harper (BeerMogul Games), Nic Conroy (Joindup), Adam Poole (Safety Compass), Debra Young (Younga Yoga), Robert O’Farrell (Social Status), Bruno Angelico (Steele Environmental Solutions) and Adam Smith (Timeline Information Systems). Not pictured were the Early Years Sketch Book team Holly Tootell, Grant Elmers and Mark Freeman.
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 more than 4000 students undertaking undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in Business, Finance, Computer Science, Engineering, International Studies and Media & Communications at its campus in Dubai’s Knowledge Village.

**POSTCARD FROM DUBAI**

**UOWD’S RECORD STUDENT INTAKE**

The University of Wollongong in Dubai has recorded the highest intake in its 21-year history with more than 1000 new students enrolled for the autumn semester which began in September.

The new enrolments are 20 per cent higher than those recorded in the 2013 autumn semester.

Apart from the swelling numbers, UOWD has also reported that 30 per cent of its student population is made up of overseas students – those who specifically come to Dubai for higher education, as opposed to students who are residents of the UAE.

“We believe the record autumn intake is the result of a number of measures introduced by UOWD to raise the bar on our academic offering,” said UOWD Director of Marketing and Student Recruitment Peter Hawke. “The intake has nearly doubled in 10 years. This achievement comes in the face of a tough and competitive environment and is a tribute to the high reputation the University enjoys among the student community.”

The new intake comprises both undergraduate and postgraduate students. Among the programs that attracted the highest interest were Masters degrees in Quality Management, Engineering Management and Banking & Finance.

“UOWD places great emphasis on attracting quality students through various measures, such as offering attractive scholarships to high-scoring students.” Mr Hawke said. “We strive to raise the bar on the quality of teaching as well as services provided to students, such as a world-class library and the recently launched research excellence centre.”

UOWD’s record enrolment is in sync with Dubai’s rising reputation as a regional education hub, boasting universities from around the globe. According to figures released by the Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA), there were 48,058 students enrolled in Dubai’s private and public universities in 2012.

“The fact that over 30 per cent of the student population is made up of international students – those who travel to Dubai specifically to pursue a particular undergraduate or postgraduate degree – is an endorsement of UOWD’s global standing as a provider of quality tertiary education,” Mr Hawke said.

UOWD’s student body includes more than 100 nationalities, making it one of the most multicultural tertiary education institutions in Dubai. It attracts significant numbers from overseas including the Middle East, China, North Africa, Indian Sub-continent and countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

**SCHOLARSHIP KEEPS SPORTS TALENT IN UAE**

United Arab Emirates Under 19 Cricket World Cup representative Dan D’Souza has won this year’s Adam Gilchrist Sports Scholarship to study at the University of Wollongong in Dubai.

UOW Brand Ambassador and former international cricket star Adam Gilchrist AM presented Dan with his award at a special ceremony at UOWD in October that was also attended by NSW Minister for the Illawarra John Ajaka, who was visiting UOWD at the time.

The award provides Dan with a 50 percent waiver on tuition fees while he studies for his finance degree at UOWD. Importantly for UAE cricket, it also means that he will stay in the country.

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The University of Wollongong has launched a big data project that uses Twitter tweets to map flooding in Southeast Asia’s most populous city, Jakarta. Researchers at UOW’s SMART Infrastructure Facility led by Dr Etienne Turpin and Dr Tomas Holderness have developed a geosocial intelligence framework to turn geotagged tweets into valuable data that can be analysed and used to map seasonal flooding across Jakarta, with unprecedented detail.

“Jakarta has the fastest rate of urbanisation of any city in the world and a population of about 28 million,” Dr Holderness said.

“River and coastal inundation, sea level rise and recent trends in weather intensification make Jakarta a key site for testing the effectiveness of crowdsourcing data to research 21st century challenges against urban resilience and adaptation.

“Our research is further supported by the fact Indonesia has the greatest number of Twitter users of any country in the world,” he added.

The PetaJakarta (MapJakarta) pilot study, which commenced in May 2014, is being conducted in conjunction with the Jakarta Emergency Management Agency (known as BPBD). Incessant rain from November through January traditionally causes major floods across the CBD and outer city regions. In January 2013, 250,000 people were affected by flood waters. In January 2014, 30,000 were displaced from their homes.

With the next monsoon season approaching, representatives of BPBD travelled to Wollongong for the project’s official launch and their first week of collaborative training and development to help ensure the success of the project.

“By partnering with BPBD for the one-year pilot study we’ve allowed the agency to work directly with SMART engineers and geographic information system experts to develop tools specifically designed to meet the needs of their day-to-day operations,” Dr Turpin said.

“The overall aim of the project is to advance our capacity to understand and promote the resilience of cities to both extreme weather events as a result of climate change and to long-term infrastructure transformation as a process of climate adaptation.”

Dr Turpin and Dr Holderness expect their product to be widely adopted in the future.

“As an open source publicly accessible platform, the software that runs PetaJakarta can be amended to address other urgent issues such as waste or sewage removal, transport and traffic congestion, weather emergencies, even elections and governance and then re-deployed in other metropolitan areas with high concentrations of social media users,” Dr Turpin said.

PetaJakarta is a key UOW Global Challenges project helping to address the challenge of Sustaining Coastal and Marine Zones and is further supported by the Australian National Data Service. The project has also benefited from a Twitter Data Grant, which was awarded to the lead researchers in April 2014.

Twitter Developer Advocate Jim Moffitt is an enthusiastic supporter.

“Myself and all my colleagues at Twitter are excited about the PetaJakarta project,” he said. “When I first heard about the project I was excited because this case of using the Twitter network as a two-way public safety broadcast network truly represents, in my mind, the highest potential for a social network.

“This project also represents a great example of business, universities and public agencies all working together.”

Mr Moffitt said he had included PetaJakarta in a presentation at an early warning conference in the US as an example of what can be done with the Twitter network during natural disasters.

“We are proud to be involved and offer our help for the upcoming monsoon season in the Jakarta region. We’re anticipating that a lot will be learned and that this project can serve as an example to other regions in the world,” he said. JW
OUTSTANDING ALUMNI RECOGNISED

ENGINEER, PSYCHOLOGIST, DOCTOR SHARE AWARDS

A n engineer who is making a major contribution to her homeland of Bhutan, a psychologist who heads a crisis counselling service and a young doctor working in regional NSW have won the 2014 UOW Alumni Awards.

Eminent Member of the National Council of Bhutan, The Honourable Tashi Wangmo, won the Outstanding Alumni Award, Lifeline South Coast Executive Director Grahame Gould won the Community Service Alumni Award and Junior Medical Officer at Tamworth Rural Referral Hospital Dr Teena Downton won the Young Alumni Award.

The recipients were recognised at a formal dinner for the awards and conferral of University Fellowships hosted by Chancellor Jillian Broadbent AO at the Innovation Campus in October. Guests included Minister for the Illawarra John Ajaka, Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Wellings CBE and Wollongong Lord Mayor Councillor Gordon Bradbery OAM.

The Outstanding Alumni Award was bestowed on Tashi Wangmo who studied mechanical engineering at UOW as an international student more than 20 years ago. Since graduating, Ms Wangmo has made immeasurable contributions to Bhutan’s progress and development. In 2008, at the age of 35, her service was recognised when the King of Bhutan chose Ms Wangmo as a representative on the National Council.

“We are honoured to be part of the extraordinary journey Ms Wangmo has taken from a remote village to her appointment as an Eminent Member of the National Council of Bhutan,” Ms Broadbent said.

Mr Gould, who completed a Master of Clinical Psychology at UOW in 2000, has spent more than 20 years assisting people who are experiencing a personal crisis through Lifeline, which operates 24 hour crisis support and suicide prevention services.

“Grahame Gould has been Lifeline’s face and ambassador in this region, going beyond the mere coordination of services to engage with a wide spectrum of the local community,” Ms Broadbent said. “Under his leadership, Lifeline South Coast is one of the most respected of Lifeline’s services. As a direct impact, it has saved lives.”

Dr Downton, who graduated from UOW in 2012 with a Bachelor of Medicine and a Bachelor of Surgery, received the Young Alumni Award.

While a student, Dr Downton took it upon herself to become an advocate for rural health and rural health practitioners. She has continued her advocacy role since relocating to Tamworth as President of the Tamworth Resident Medical Officer Association and Deputy Chair of the Junior Medical Officer Quality and Safety Committee.

“Teena Downton is an outstanding model of engaged community leadership. She has inspired country kids at rural high school visits and Indigenous festivals, sharing her own story and promoting health-care opportunities,” Ms Broadbent said.

UOW Director of Advancement Monique Harper-Richardson said: “The University of Wollongong Alumni Awards were established in 2013 to recognise the extraordinary achievements of our alumni worldwide. They are our greatest ambassadors.

“The finalists and recipients, though diverse in their chosen field of study, employment, industry and location in the world, share a passion and skill for inspiring others and making a contribution to the world around them.”

At the dinner four distinguished women who have made major contributions to UOW were presented with University Fellowships – regarded as the highest recognition for outstanding service to the UOW. Associate Professor Linchong Chorrojprasert from Assumption University in Bangkok was recognised as a committed member of the Alumni community and for helping to strengthen ties between UOW and Assumption.

Former Dean of Students, Associate Professor Yvonne Kerr, was recognised for dedicating two decades of her career to developing policies and procedures to guide teaching practices and shape the student experience at UOW.

Lynn Woodley was recognised for her service to the University over 40 years and contribution to sound governance, academic quality and strategic renewal. Lynn joined the Wollongong University College in 1973 to help prepare for its transition to an autonomous University in 1975, and went on to serve in a number of key administrative roles over the next four decades.

Halina Majer was recognised for her unique contribution to the University as Executive Assistant to all four Vice-Chancellors over 30 years. A portrait of former UOW Chancellor Michael Codd AC by renowned artist Mathew Lynn was also unveiled on the night. JW
It was one of those cricketing moments that would have put a satisfied smile on the face of the late Sir Donald Bradman. At Bowral’s Bradman Oval in October the Mumbai maestro Sachin Tendulkar warmly greeted the University of Wollongong student from Hyderabad selected as UOW’s inaugural Bradman Scholarship holder.

Here was the Indian batting superstar, identified by Sir Donald early in his career as the batsman whose technique most closely resembled his own, standing alongside first year Civil Engineering student Mohammed Shuja Ahmed Khan. The 19-year-old UOW student said he could not believe he was standing next to his Indian cricket idol. “It’s a fantastic day for me to meet the ‘God of Cricket’ – if only I could do straight drives like Sachin I’d indeed be a very happy person,” mused Shuja, whose own cricketing speciality is as a medium-pace bowler with the University Blues.

Shuja was awarded the inaugural Bradman Scholarship after an India-wide search in 2013, and began his four-year Bachelor of Civil Engineering course early in 2014. He said he had always dreamed of attending a world-class university overseas and is adamant he has found that in the University of Wollongong.

UOW inaugurated the Bradman Scholarship in 2012 to honour Sir Donald who is widely regarded as the greatest-ever cricketer. The scholarship is awarded each year to an Indian student – male or female – who has completed secondary school and demonstrates a combination of academic, sporting, personal and social skills, as well as strong participation in cricket.

UOW established the scholarship with the Bradman Foundation, a charitable trust established in 1987 with the blessing of Sir Donald Bradman to promote cricket as a cultural, educational and sporting force. BG

The University of Wollongong has teamed up with men’s health fundraisers the Movember Foundation and Australia’s major sports on a multi-million dollar project which aims to address mental health issues among adolescent male athletes.

The Movember Foundation awarded UOW almost $2 million over the next three years to conduct the most comprehensive study of its kind into the role of sport in helping adolescent males identify and overcome mental health issues.

The project will see UOW partner with Australia’s top sporting organisations through the Australian Sports Commission, including the AFL, Cricket Australia, Tennis Australia, Swimming Australia, Basketball Australia and Football Federation Australia, as well as mental health providers The Black Dog Institute and the Australian Drug Foundation’s Good Sports Program.

More than 5000 young men, from across the sporting codes, are expected to take part in the UOW-led research.

Sports Psychologist Dr Stewart Vella, from UOW’s Early Start Research Institute, will lead the project, which will use a grassroots approach to provide clubs with the tools they need to support their young members who are grappling with depression and suicidal thoughts.

“Our aim is to reduce the suicide rate among adolescent males, provide strong social and community networks, and reduce the stigma associated with mental health problems,” Dr Vella said.

Dr Vella said Australia’s strong sporting culture provided an avenue to reach a large proportion of adolescent males, who experience disproportionately higher rates of suicide and mental health concerns.

“We are excited to be working with Movember, which is such a powerful force for change and so innovative in raising the profile of men’s health issues.” EP

Dr Stewart Vella is leading a study on ways of using sport to address mental health issues among Australian males.