

Sustainability Representative Network NEWS

Guess Who's Turned 60?

The Sustainability Representative Network is growing! We now have over 60 volunteer representatives from 21 various faculties and administrative Departments across campus. I would like to extend a warm welcome to new members who have joined over the last quarter. It is a pleasure to have you on our network.

Congratulations to all of the SRN members who took part in this year's Department Challenge and particularly for your tremendous effort in coordinating and supporting your Departments. The Challenge has provided a great opportunity to engage with colleagues on sustainability and to achieve simple things which make a difference. As well as benefiting the environment, the Challenge has fostered a sense of community on campus and promoted teamwork amongst Departments.

Cindy Cunningham, SRN Coordinator



ACTS Conference Wrap Up - by Carlene Kirvan

Carlene Kirvan from the Faculty of Arts was given the opportunity to attend the recent Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability (ACTS) conference in Adelaide, following her successful application. SRN members were invited to submit an Expression of Interest to attend the 2011 ACTS conference, with Macquarie Sustainability funding the flights, conference and attendance for the successful candidate. Please read below for Carlene's wrap up:

I would recommend the Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability (ACTS) conference to anyone, at any level, who is interested in sustainability and sustainable practices in Tertiary Institutions.

Universities and TAFEs are the role-models, educators, researchers and developers for the future, consequently sustainable practice, as well as policy development starts with us and our students. The ACTS conference provided a wonderful opportunity to discuss sustainability with like-minded individuals from campuses across Australasia. I learned a lot from the experience and actively participated in discussion groups. The conference taught me that sustainability is more achievable than many realise, as it doesn't take much more effort or cost a lot of money to be sustainable, but it does require a different way of thinking. Becoming a sustainable campus requires change, and sometimes our progress is blocked by barriers arising from a reluctance to change old habits and an indifference to making more sustainable choices. Sustainability frequently starts with an individual and grows with an organisation.

During the panel discussions, representatives from campuses across Australasia described initiatives that have taken place in their institutions. Macquarie University has several significant initiatives and projects in place that are "greening" our campus, but there is still a lot more that can be done and should be done. The good news is that with some strategic thinking and some simple changes in our habits, we can all easily participate in getting us towards that "greener" and healthier future. Who wouldn't want that?



DIARY AND EVENTS

Save the dates!

Workshops:

1 November: Free Sustainable Living Workshops
2 November: Free Sustainable Living Workshops
3 November: 2-4pm: Bushcare
5 November: Free Cycle Skills Courses

SRN Meeting:

8 November next SRN meeting

For more information, visit

www.mq.edu.au/sustainability/newsandevents.html

WELCOME TO NEW REPS

A warm welcome to new SRN members:

Peter Field – Access Macquarie
Lesley Manton-Hall – Access Macquarie
Tina Kalogirou – Banksia Cottage
Ben Pretty – Campus Experience
Leigh Skene – Campus Experience
Clare Wade – Campus Experience
Peter Keegan - Faculty of Arts
Lisa Cuffe – Faculty of Arts
Rosemary Elliott – Faculty of Arts
Bert Peeters – Faculty of Arts
Jean-Philippe Deranty – Faculty of Arts



Annabel Voysey – Faculty of Arts
Cameron Holley – Macquarie Law School
Vijaya Nagarajan - Macquarie Law School
Lara Hardy – Faculty of Business & Economics
Gai Ramesh – Faculty of Human Sciences
Jessica Payne - Faculty of Science
Lucinda Coates – Risk Frontiers (Faculty of Science)
Greg Flannery – Learning & Teaching Centre
Nataliya Pysarenko – Macquarie University Property
Bronwyn Forster – VC's Office

It is a pleasure to have you join our Network.

Environmental Planting Site in Fauna Park

Recently, a remediation and bushland planting process has begun in an unused southern enclosure of the University Fauna Park. Continuing over the next two years, this work is part of the University's commitment under the Concept Plan 2009 to improve intact bushland on Campus and enhance remnant vegetation.

New bushland planting will connect with a stand of 'Sydney-Turpentine Ironbark Forest' (STIF) vegetation, which is also our largest bushland area on Campus. STIF is protected as an endangered ecological community under both NSW and Commonwealth law.

The planting site will supplement an existing bush restoration project in adjacent forested areas coordinated by Macquarie Sustainability since 2010. The works will provide an improved management boundary for existing bushland and a restoration zone that extends the largest native vegetation patch on Campus by approximately 25%.

The restoration process will use multiple bush regeneration methods. Pictured is an example of a section of the enclosure, where assisted natural regeneration has already had some success. Around the base of the pictured Scribbly Gum, a previous thick cover of invasive weeds such as Kikuyu grass has been removed, allowing natives like Kangaroo Grass, Lomandra and Dianella to rebound and gradually become the dominant ground layer plants.

Other sections of the enclosure are lacking any native seed bank in the topsoil. These sections will require ploughing and direct-seeding with a native grass mix in the coming Autumn, supplemented by other planting (trees and shrubs) in Spring.

The restored vegetation will enhance the University Arboretum, and the site will both provide an ongoing resource for research on restoration ecology, and contribute to undergraduate curriculum taught by the University.



Native regeneration in progress with untreated areas in background

Department Challenge Awards Night Photos



flickr™

Please click here to see the rest of the photos on our flickr stream ...

Your Say ...

SRN members will be given the opportunity to provide valuable feedback on the SRN and how we can further improve it to support you in your role as members. By completing the survey you will go in the draw to win a bottle of organic wine and two movie tickets.

The survey link will be emailed in November. Watch this space!

