



MACQUARIE
University

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
AND ENGINEERING**

28 June 2019

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From the Dean

NEWSLETTER

This month our scientists have shown that most [diamonds](#) come from the ocean floor, [frogs](#) in PNG need our help to keep them fungus free and [location will matter](#) for many species living in our national parks as climate change takes effect.

This month we also celebrate the many achievements of our staff and alumni with congratulations in order for Professor Francis Separovic who was awarded an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for her distinguished service to science education. Francis completed her PhD at Macquarie University.

Queens Birthday Honours were bestowed on our current staff too with Dr Helen Ramsay, an Honourary Senior Lecturer in our Department of Biology, awarded a Member of the Order of Australia (AM).

We are also delighted to announce that Professor Ian Wright has been named as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science, Professor Helen Pask will be a keynote speaker at the upcoming Asia-Pacific Optical Sensors (APOS) Conference in Auckland and Dr Vanessa Pirotta, one of our up and coming research stars, delivered a talk on oceans as part of TEDx Melbourne.

There is also a great deal of change afoot in my office with our current General Manager, Dr Emma Bowen, leaving us to take up a new and exciting role at the University of Sydney. Emma has been instrumental in our success in so many areas over her three years with us. You can read more about Emma's achievements [here](#).

In July the faculty will welcome our new General Manager, Amanda Croft. Amanda joins us from the Faculty of Medicine at University of Sydney.

And, in late August, I too will be moving on from my role as Executive Dean for the Faculty of Science and Engineering to take up a new role at the University of Sydney. It has been an honour to serve as Executive Dean for four years and I am proud of what we have achieved as a faculty in that time.

I will leave the faculty in capable hands with Professor Bernard Mans taking up the role of interim Executive Dean.

If you want to know more about what's happening across the faculty, follow our Twitter account [@MQSciEng](#) and my personal account [@BarbaraMesserle](#).

If you've got news to share, please tweet about it and include our faculty handle so we can see it and retweet. If you're not on Twitter, then email us at fse.execdean@mq.edu.au and we'll share the news.

Regards,

Barbara

Earth recycles ocean floor into diamonds



The diamond on your finger is most likely made of recycled seabed cooked deep in the Earth.

Traces of salt trapped in many diamonds show the stones are formed from ancient seabeds that became buried deep beneath the Earth's crust, according to new research led by Macquarie University geoscientists.

Most diamonds found at the Earth's surface are formed this way; others are created by crystallization of melts deep in the mantle. [Read more here.](#)

An island haven for frogs



New Guinea is one of the only places in the world where frogs are safe from the species-destroying chytrid fungus. An international team of scientists has published a new paper that shows how to keep it that way, but they need help to carry out their plan. [Read more here.](#)

More safe havens for native plants and animals needed in NSW's west



Location matters for species struggling to survive under a changing climate. A new study led by Macquarie University has found we need to provide more safe havens for wildlife and plant species to survive under climate change in New South Wales' west. [Read more here.](#)

CubeSats, Uncrewed Aerial Vehicles and their Applications (CUAVA) open for business

The ARC Training Centre for CubeSats, Uncrewed Aerial Vehicles and their Applications (CUAVA) was officially opened by Senator for NSW, the Honourable Arthur Sinodinos AO on 17 June.

The Centre's mission is to train the next generation of workers in advanced manufacturing, commercial space and Uncrewed Aerial Vehicle (UAV) applications. Macquarie University is one of five academic partners.

Australian Proteome Analysis Facility



The Australian Proteome Analysis Facility (APAF), located within the Department of Molecular Sciences at Macquarie University, has been granted accreditation to ISO/IEC 17025 under the Research and Development Accreditation Program. ISO/IEC 17025:2017 is an international quality standard for testing laboratories and is assessed by an external body. It will be the first time a facility at MQ has gained this.

Farewell Emma Bowen, Faculty General Manager

Emma Bowen has made very significant contributions to improving the outcomes of the faculty throughout her three years as General Manager. Her enthusiasm and energy,

coupled with immense practicality and “can do” attitude to problem solving, meant she was very successful in solving many difficult problems and improving process and workplaces in all the departments.

In particular, Emma was instrumental in bringing cultural change within the professional services team. Her first assignment was to finish and implement an administration structural change within each department. The result of this very significant change is now seen as a successful model for other faculties. She has ensured consistent administration support across departments, taking administration tasks away from academics so they can focus on their teaching and research.

Emma also initiated “Project Catalyst” which took a very different approach in reviewing our technical services support group by using design thinking a catalyst for change. Emma was instrumental in bringing together a large number of technical and academic staff to discuss, challenge and prototype different ways of solving problems. The Faculty is confident this will continue a positive culture of collaboration. Project Catalyst will lead to significantly improved technical services within the faculty.

Emma’s contribution to our marketing and outreach was invaluable and very significant. Emma stayed engaged with the university marketing teams through multiple iterations of change to ensure the faculty remained well connected with the university and outside world. In particular, she recognised the need for extra science and engineering communication support and brought in external marketing and media expertise to support us on our journey of change

While continually working to attract the best and brightest staff and students, Emma started to develop and plan a Science and Engineering specific student experience Team. The aim is to ensure that Macquarie students remain well supported throughout their time in the Faculty of Science and Engineering.

And last, but not least, Emma has worked tirelessly to maintain up-to-date infrastructure and plan for new laboratories and buildings in areas of need. Her work will pay off in the long term.

Emma brought to the faculty her inclusive leadership style, helping our professional teams grow and maintain a consistently high standard of service. Her high energy, empathy and motivation will be sorely missed.

Congratulations corner

Queens Birthday Honours

Congratulations to Professor Francis Separovic who was awarded an AO for her distinguished service to science education, particularly to biophysical chemistry, as an academic, and to young women scientists.

And congratulations to Dr Helen Ramsay, an Honourary Senior Lecturer in our Department of Biology, awarded a Member of the Order of Australia (AM).

TED X Melbourne

Dr Vanessa Pirotta delivered a talk on the importance of the oceans at TEDx Melbourne 5 June.

Keynote presenter at APOS

Professor Helen Pask will be a keynote speaker at the prestigious Asia-Pacific Optical Sensors Conference (APOS) in Auckland this November. Helen will speak about developing new remote sensing methods to measure the water temperature and salinity in our oceans and waterways.

Academy Fellow

Plant ecologist Professor Ian Wright from the Department of Biological Sciences has been named a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science. Ian is internationally renowned for his work in analysing plant traits at a global scale, understanding how climate and soils affect plant function, and using human economics to understand plant evolution and ecology. [Read more here.](#)

Faculty news and notices

New staff | Opportunities

Welcome to new faculty staff

A warm welcome to all the new staff who have joined the faculty in the last month.

Amanda Croft, Fabio Berzaghi, Benjamin Ashton, Ellie O'Brien, Celestina Saavedra Lacombe, David Robertson, Rosa Didonna, Adam Joyce, Alireza Jolfaei, Ian Wood, Tarique Anwar, Aaron Colusso, Guo Qiyanyi and David Arnold.

Opportunities

Engineering

Lecturer in Mechatronics (continuing), [click here](#)

Lecturer or Senior Lecturer in Civil Engineering (continuing) [click here](#)

Associate Professor or Professor in Civil Engineering (continuing) [click here](#)

Computing

Lecturer or Senior Lecturer in Computing (continuing position) [click here](#)

Lecturer or Senior Lecturer in Cyber Security (two continuing position) [click here](#)

Connect with us

If you have comments, questions or research news you think might be of interest to the rest of faculty, I'd love to hear from you. Drop me a line at fse.execdean@mq.edu.au.

Connect with your Faculty online:

- Website: science.mq.edu.au
- Faculty on Twitter: [@MQSciEng](https://twitter.com/MQSciEng)
- Barbara on Twitter: [@BarbaraMesserle](https://twitter.com/BarbaraMesserle)

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