

## Sustainability Representative Network NEWS

### Switch to Fair Trade this Easter

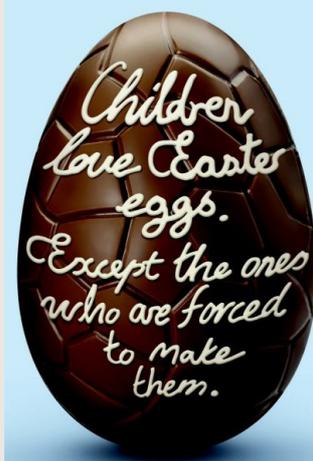
Before you make your last minute dash to the supermarket to buy gift eggs this Easter, take some time to think about where the chocolate you're buying came from. By choosing chocolate that carries the fairtrade or similar certified label, you're helping create a better and brighter future for cocoa farmers, their families and communities. These farmers receive a fair price as well as additional funds to help develop their communities and invest in everyday things like education and healthcare.

You can visit The Fair Trade Association of Australia and New Zealand (FTAANZ) at [www.fta.org.au](http://www.fta.org.au) to discover brands and stockists of fairtrade chocolate. Also, Cadbury Dairy Milk chocolate has recently received fairtrade certification so there is no need to look further than your local supermarket to show your support of the movement. They have even recently launched a Fairtrade Certified Easter Egg!

More and more, products are becoming available with both fairtrade and organic certification. All organically certified cocoa is grown without pesticides and other chemical treatments. Look for brands that have both and you can feel confident your chocolate gets an all-round ethical thumbs up.

Wishing you a yummy and relaxing Easter break! Cindy

Source: Planet Ark



### SRN Grants Up for Grabs

Do you have a sustainability initiative which requires some funding to make it happen? Why not get your colleagues involved in coming up with some ideas or table it for discussion at your next departmental meeting. From a total pool of \$5000, grants of up to \$500 are available to assist SRN members implement sustainability focused initiatives which will:

- Engage staff and raise sustainability awareness;
- Improve workplace sustainability;
- Reduce environmental impacts;
- Promote social responsibility and well being.

Applications have started to roll in so don't miss out. Campus Experience has already received a grant to establish an organic herb garden to grow a selection of herbs which will be used in the central kitchen. Staff will be involved in learning about growing herbs and caring for the garden. What a great project! To download the grant guidelines and application form see [www.mq.edu.au/sustainability/ourteam/srn/grants.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/sustainability/ourteam/srn/grants.html) Call Cindy on 9850 1087 if you have any questions or need any assistance with the grant application. Remember that Cindy only works Mondays and Tuesdays so please leave a message if you call outside these days.

### Sustainable Procurement Training Opportunities

Many SRN members took part in a sustainable procurement workshop last November with very positive feedback. For those of you who missed out, further training workshops are being delivered after Easter and are open to all staff on campus. The procurement of goods, services and capital projects accounts for a significant percentage of Macquarie University's total expenditure. The University recognises the impact its purchasing activities have on the financial, social and environmental health of the University and the broader community and has a goal to become more sustainable in its procurement practices.

The sustainable procurement workshops assist staff in developing the skills and knowledge necessary for undertaking sustainable procurement. It is relevant to staff who are directly and indirectly involved in procurement. The workshop takes around 2 & ½ to 3 hours and equips staff with the 7 habits needed to incorporate sustainability into purchasing behaviours, taking participants through concepts such as life cycle analysis, whole of life value for money and greenwashing.

Participants receive a certificate for successful completion of the course which is something you can add to your curriculum vitae. Please promote this training opportunity to staff in your area. Staff can register to attend by emailing [sustainability@mq.edu.au](mailto:sustainability@mq.edu.au)



#### DIARY AND EVENTS

Bushcare@MQ	5 May
SRN Meeting	10 May
Bushcare@MQ	2 June
SRN Meeting	2 August

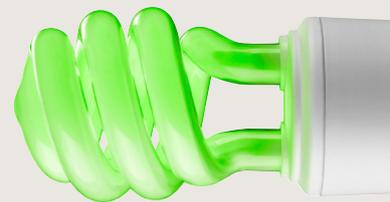
#### WELCOME TO NEW REPS

Paul Howse	Library
Perri-Lee Sandell	PACE
Nikki de Souza	FoHS
Huma Ahmed	CE
Catherine McDonald	CE

## Energymark

Macquarie University has registered to run an Energymark group and would like to invite interested staff across campus to join. Energymark is a CSIRO initiative in partnership with the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water. Participating in Energymark is an opportunity to:

- Become better informed on energy, climate change, water and waste issues
- Engage in public debate on these issues
- Reduce your impact on the environment
- Lower your carbon footprint at home, work and in the community
- Reduce your energy consumption
- Save on power bills at home.



The program brings people together in small groups over eight sessions to learn about energy and climate change issues and discuss what they can do to make a difference. Participants work through information and discussion materials provided by the CSIRO and also complete questionnaires and carbon footprints. At the end of the program, feedback is provided back to the CSIRO about the opinions, behaviours and challenges people face when trying to make changes to their carbon footprint and energy consumption around the home, workplace and community. This information will be used to assist governments, industry and technology developers make informed decisions around energy policies and technologies for the future. To register your interest in being part of this exciting program please email [sustainability@mq.edu.au](mailto:sustainability@mq.edu.au). For more information visit [www.energymark.com.au](http://www.energymark.com.au)

## Face to Face with SRN Member Nick Opperman



### How long have you been with Macquarie University?

As an employee I have been at the University for four and a half years and before that I was a student here.

### What is your position at Campus Experience?

Environmental Sustainability Coordinator which involves managing all of the sustainability initiatives for Campus Experience (CE). This includes undertaking energy auditing of CE facilities including Campus Hub, Sport & Aquatic Centre, sports fields and childcare centres etc; reporting on utilities usage (ie electricity, gas and water) for CE operations and overseeing the Environmental Management System (EMS).

### What is an Environmental Management System?

An Environmental Management System (EMS) is a management tool designed to help an organisation to reduce its negative impacts on the environment and improve its environmental performance. CE developed one a few years ago for all its facilities.

### What sorts of projects have you been working on?

A lighting review for the Sports & Aquatic Centre and water efficiency upgrades for the childcare centres and Campus Hub. Have also commenced reviewing the existing Environmental Management System with the view to seeking ISO (International Organisation for Standardisation) 14001 accreditation.

### What do you hope to achieve by the end of the year in your role?

Commence implementing energy audit recommendations including the replacement of existing lights at the Sports & Aquatic Centre which is expected to achieve a 42% saving in electricity consumption. I also want to be involved in the Departmental Challenge with the hope of my area taking out the title for 2011!

### What changes have you seen at Macquarie University during your time here, in moving towards a more sustainable campus?

Increased awareness on campus regarding sustainability through communications and events and the move towards a non-smoking campus.

### What is the benefit of being a member on the SRN?

Get to hear what other departments are doing on campus about sustainability, opportunity to undertake valuable training and get a delicious lunch at quarterly meetings!

### What is your favourite place in the world and why?

South Africa because it is my home and everything there is pretty much an adventure, such as going to game reserves. Most of my family is also still there.

### What is something about yourself that most of your colleagues would not know?

I spent my early childhood living on a farm with my grandparents in South Africa and I secretly watch 'A Farmer Wants a Wife'.

## SRN Highlights 2010 Report

The SRN Highlights 2010 report is now available and can be viewed at [www.mq.edu.au/sustainability/ourteam/srn/annualreport](http://www.mq.edu.au/sustainability/ourteam/srn/annualreport). The report highlights various SRN members involved in the network and provides a snapshot on some of the significant achievements of members in the first year of the sustainability network. Promote the SRN to your colleagues as we are seeking more enthusiastic and motivated staff that are keen to make a difference towards sustainability at Macquarie!