

Sustainability Representative Network NEWS

SRN Reps Take a Stand

SRN members have been effective in instigating changes for sustainable procurement, with a particular focus on reducing the amount of excess packaging from office supplies and encouraging staff to purchase more environmentally friendly alternatives. Championing the cause recently are four members of the SRN, Claire Phelps (Human Resources), Lara Hardy (Macquarie Law School), Suzane Azzi (Faculty of Human Sciences - Administration) and Hiranya Anderson (Faculty of Human Sciences – Department of Linguistics), demonstrating a cross-departmental effort to address the issue of unnecessary waste generation and promote the purchase of products which have a reduced environmental and social impact.

Numerous office supply orders at Macquarie University result in orders being packed in individual cardboard boxes, with plastic bags and packaging fill, leading to the generation of large quantities of packaging waste being brought onto campus. The use of reusable containers was identified as a more sustainable alternative and currently OfficeMax are investigating this, in collaboration with procurement staff from the University. Further to this, although OfficeMax has a separate catalogue identifying environmentally friendly office products, they are developing a dedicated list of eco-friendly alternatives to commonly purchased items at the University, to make it easier for staff to make more informed sustainable purchasing decisions. Staff will be informed on progress in this area.



Eco-Leave

You may be aware that continuing professional staff members are eligible for volunteering leave and may access two days of this leave per calendar year to volunteer. However, you may not be aware that you can use this leave for participating in bush care activities on campus, through Macquarie University's bush care program, 'Bushcare@MQ'. Bushcare@MQ is recognised as an authorised organisation for which you can volunteer.

Established in October 2008, the Bushcare@MQ group involves volunteer staff, students and local community members who meet each month to help enhance and preserve the biodiversity of our beautiful campus under the supervision of a professional bush regenerator. Volunteers have turned a bare and degraded riparian zone along Mars Creek into a healthy habitat through their hard work. They are also commencing restoration of important remnant bushland in the area above the campus lake which contains an endangered ecological community, through removing weed infestations and planting a buffer zone with native plants.

With your supervisor's approval you can arrange to use volunteer leave by coming along to a Bushcare@MQ session on your own. Or you might take the opportunity to organise some colleagues to come along from your workplace.

Sessions are typically held on the first Thursday of each month from 2pm-4pm. Alternatively, a dedicated bush care session can be arranged for your team. For more information, contact John Macris, Biodiversity Planner at john.macris@mq.edu.au or 9850 4103.

Staff Travel Loan Scheme

Macquarie University is actively supporting your travel to and from campus by public transport through the Staff Travel Loan Scheme. With the train station on campus, and the combining of private and state bus fares into a single ticketing system, now is an opportune time to change to using public transport if you don't already do so. Interest free travel loans are available for continuing and fixed-term staff for the purchase of quarterly or annual MyMulti or MyTrain tickets. Loan applications can be found at www.mq.edu.au/transport/travel_loan_scheme.html Applicants must include a commencement date for their MyMulti or MyTrain travel ticket to start between Monday 4 July and Monday 18 July 2011 (inclusive). Applications close on Friday 17 June, 2011. No late applications will be accepted after this date. For further information contact Adrian Emilsen, Sustainable Transport Officer at adrian.emilsen@mq.edu.au or 9850 6153.



DIARY AND EVENTS

- 1 June 12pm Lighthouse Theatre - Reconciliation week tree planting
- 2 June 2-4pm World Environment Day celebrations with Bushcare@MQ
- 2 August 10-1pm McKenzie Room Level 3 Campus Hub - SRN Meeting

For more information, visit www.mq.edu.au/sustainability/newsandevents.html

WELCOME TO NEW REPS

Attila Csavas CE Food and Beverage
Dave Gangel CE Infrastructure Support



ACTS Membership



As a member of the Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability (ACTS), all Macquarie staff and students have access to the resources and member benefits of ACTS. To log in, simply visit www.acts.asn.au and register with your @mq.edu.au or @students.mq.edu.au email address. ACTS is currently accepting submissions for the 2011 ACTS Conference in South Australia from 28 - 30 September, and has opened submissions for the 2011 Scholarship program.

Bush Tucker Garden

A new Bush Tucker Garden is now open for your enjoyment. The garden is located at the eastern end of the University between Wally's walk and building E7B, near the thermal storage tower. The garden features plants native to the greater Sydney area, some of which were used in traditional food and medicine by the Darug and other Indigenous people.

Late in 2010 the Office of Facilities Management (now known as Property) donated space formerly used as a car park to Sustainability for conversion into a new garden for the Arboretum. A plan for the garden was developed by David Harrington and Alison Downing from the Department of Biological Sciences, with input from other staff and students.

The garden is heavily shaded by building E7B, so the plants selected at the planning stage were chosen for their preference for shade. Many of the plants selected are native to the North Ryde area, but the garden also includes species from further afield, including northern NSW and Queensland. As a bush tucker garden many of the plants have strong connections with Indigenous cultural practices, either as food or medicine. Local species include Blueberry Ash (*Elaeocarpus reiculatus*), Lilly Pilly (*Acmena smithii*), Plum Pine (*Podocarpus elatus*), Grey Myrtle (*Backhousia myrtifolia*), Pale Vanilla Lily (*Arthropodium milleflorum*) and Burrawang (*Macrozamia communis*). Other not so local species include Moreton Bay Chestnut or Black Bean (*Castanospermum australe*), Creeping Boobialla (*Myoporum parvifolium*), Native Ginger (*Alpinia caerulea*) and Zig-zag Vine (*Melodorum leichhardtii*).

In coming months information will be posted about the bush tucker species in the garden and around campus. Signage will be installed and self-guided walks developed.



For more information, contact Samantha Newton, Coordinator Arboretum Project at samantha.newton@mq.edu.au or 98508170.

Face to Face with SRN Member Perri-Lee Sandell



How long have you been with Macquarie University?

Since 1999. I started in the library as a Reference Librarian and have had six different positions since then.

What is your position at Macquarie University?

I have two part-time roles. I am the Manager, Liaison & Research Services (Sciences and Human Sciences) at the Library and Office Manager, Executive Assistant/Research Assistant at PACE – (Participation and Community Engagement). PACE provides opportunities for students and staff to actively contribute to positive social change in communities, while developing valuable career skills. The aim of PACE is mutually beneficial learning and engagement. I am the Sustainability Representative for PACE.

What sorts of sustainability initiatives will you be focusing on at PACE?

Reducing paper usage, sustainable procurement of items for office, signage and investigating separating light switches in our office area.

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

This year I aim to raise awareness amongst PACE staff regarding issues surrounding sustainability.

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

I have seen a lot of changes such as the incorporation of 'sustainability' into the University's Strategic Plan; establishment of a dedicated team and budget to drive sustainability and overall increased communications and events on sustainability related matters. Another major change has been the addition of the extremely innovative New Library building which aims to have a Green Star Rating certification. It will be the first such building on campus and will be a significant milestone for the University as it strives to minimise its environmental impact and establish itself as a leader in sustainability.

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

Networking with others on campus and having a common goal.

What is your favourite place in the world and why?

The Maldives. It brings back many happy memories of a great holiday, meeting new friends and experiencing the beauty of another country.

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

I went on a dive trip searching for hammerhead sharks at 7am in the morning. It was an overcast day so it was quite dark in the water. We found a school of about 20 of them. They were amazingly shy and graceful. We couldn't get very close, each time we moved forward they kept their distance with us. They were fascinating creatures that I have a huge respect for.

Hug Your Hub Competition

Hug your Hub and WIN a new mountain bike (if you don't have one) or a set of panniers (if you have a bike). Simply take a happy snap of yourself hugging one of the campus Bike Hubs, upload it to the Bike Macquarie Facebook page (www.facebook.com/bikemacquarie) and tag yourself and tell us how you get to campus! Entries close 31 May, 2011. The bike was kindly donated by SRN member, Lara Hardy from the Macquarie Law School.