

Sustainability Representative Network NEWS

Challenge Kicks Off

Commencing on Monday 25 July, the 2011 Department Sustainability Challenge is open for all Departments to take part in. Last year's Challenge was found to be a rewarding experience that facilitated staff engagement and motivated staff initiative. As well as benefiting the environment, the Departmental Sustainability Challenge fosters a sense of community on campus and promotes teamwork.

A total of 30 departments from across the University took part in the 2010 Challenge, with Human Sciences being awarded the Winning Faculty and Campus Experience receiving the award for the most sustainable Professional Office. Last year Departments were given the opportunity to claim points for taking up their own sustainability initiative. Some of these creative initiatives included:

- Access Macquarie put together a team called the "Access Mac Mo Bros" and grew their mustaches to raise more than \$3,000 in 'Movember' to change the face of men's health.
- Campus Experience started the Worldly Soles initiative to collect 'used' shoes and send them to developing countries.
- Accounting and Finance held a conference in conjunction with our own ARIES institute called "Sustainability in Key Professions – Accounting".
- The Faculty of Human Science postered elevators with "Burn Calories, Not Electricity" to remind people to take the stairs.
- The Office of Financial Services set up a community vegetable patch outside 299 Lane Cove Rd in a patch of soil that was previously growing nothing.



To make coordination and administration of the Challenge easier, this year we will be recruiting a bigger group of Macquarie University internship students to undertake the role of Challenge Liaisons. The Liaisons will support and help you implement the initiatives and win the many great prizes along the way.

I urge you to encourage your Departments to get involved this year and be in the running for a prestigious sustainability title. Please register at www.mq.edu.au/sustainability/departmentchallenge.html. In 2011 the Challenge will draw to a close in late September and the awards night will be on Thursday October 6th. Put this date in your diary!

Be a Swapper

Swap parties are a great way to pass on unwanted but good quality items and acquire some new things at the same time! Recycling your pre-loved goods puts them back into circulation. By passing on things to others you are diverting materials from landfill thus conserving resources and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Reusing a product, rather than buying a new one, reduces the demands for water, energy and raw materials.

So, go ahead and encourage your Department to clean out their cupboards at work and at home and bring along things like books, folders, stationary, clothes, CDs/DVDs and nic nacs etc to the upcoming MQ swap party: **Wednesday 10th August - Friday 12th August, 10am-3pm** in the E7B Courtyard.

For every item you bring in, you will receive a Swap Token. Each Swap Token allows you to pick up one item for FREE! If you don't have any items to swap, come along anyway and pick up any item you like for just \$1. For more information, see www.mq.edu.au/sustainability/swapparty

DIARY AND EVENTS

- 7 July 2-4pm: Bushcare
- 2 August 10-1pm McKenzie Room Level 3 Campus Hub - SRN Meeting
- 4 August 2-4pm: Bushcare
- 10 - 12 August 10-3pm E7B Courtyard - Swap Party

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

WELCOME TO NEW REPS

Stephanie Lee PACE
Rebecca MacPherson CE



Face to Face with SRN Member Felicity Crombach, Cochlear

Tell us a little about Cochlear and the move onto campus.

Cochlear manufactures implants that help people profoundly hard of hearing. Cochlear moved its global headquarters from Lane Cove onto campus in August last year. Our building is located on University Avenue, next to Gumnut Cottage.

What is your role at Cochlear?

I have been working for Cochlear for 9 years. My role is a team assistant in the Implants Development Department and to the tool room.

Does Cochlear have an internal sustainability team?

Cochlear has an internal sustainability team called 'greenFEVER' whose goals are to raise awareness of environmental issues, promote sustainable living at work and at home, and identify areas for consideration to reduce Cochlear's environmental impact. The group was initiated around six years ago by four staff from the implants development group.

What sustainability initiatives has the team worked on?

At our previous premises in Lane Cove we undertook an energy audit which was followed up by a 'switch off' awareness campaign. We also championed for a paper and co-mingled recycling system for the new building on campus.

What initiatives is greenFEVER currently focusing on?

Currently our big priority is to promote carpooling amongst staff. We have 500 manufacturing staff that will be moving across from the old premises to Macquarie University in the near future. This presents a great opportunity to encourage carpooling as a sustainable transport option. We are also very keen to expand the greenFEVER team and reinvigorate its focus.

What do you see as greenFEVER's challenges in promoting sustainability at Cochlear?

The challenge is to build a culture that promotes sustainability and for a stronger strategic direction on what we want to achieve for sustainability in our company.

How did you hear about the Sustainability Representative Network on campus?

When we moved onto campus I looked up the Macquarie University website and found information on the Sustainability Representative Network. I subsequently made contact and joined the network. Our Human Resources are very supportive of us developing a relationship with the university in relation to sustainability.

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

The SRN provides me with encouragement and motivation. It is an opportunity to gain knowledge, access resources and share ideas regarding sustainability. It also provides me with leverage to encourage Cochlear to be more sustainable since we are part of the Macquarie University campus.

What is your favourite place in Australia and why?

I live at Mona Vale on the northern beaches. For me the local environment and views makes it my favourite place.

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

I am a big Sydney Swans fan.

