

CAMPUS NEWS

Research ranks the success of local government councils in adopting a reform agenda

Research at the University of Wollongong has identified those local government councils that are perceived within the industry to be the leading reformist councils.

Dr Robert Jones and Mr Michael Gross in the Department of Management surveyed the general managers of each of the 177 local councils in NSW asking them their response to the following:

'Name the five councils which, in your opinion, have achieved the greatest success in adapting to the changed conditions in which local government is now operating in NSW.'

Dr Jones said that demands have been placed on local authorities to become

more responsive, accountable and effective in the manner in which they provide to their local communities.

The catalyst for this was the 1993 Local Government Act, although several councils began their reform agendas well before this.

'Some local authorities have been far quicker off the blocks in their reform agendas than others and different authorities have adopted different approaches and techniques in their efforts to change their traditional ways of operating,' he said.

Based on the survey a ranking has been constructed of those councils perceived by their peers to have achieved the greatest success in adapt-

ing to the changing local government environment.

The ranking is: 1 Liverpool, 2 Wollongong, 3 Newcastle and Sutherland (equal), 5 Wyong, 6 Penrith, 7 Fairfield, 8 Mosman, 9 Bankstown, Dubbo, Singleton, and Wagga Wagga, 13 Gosford, Parkes and Ryde, 16 Hurstville and Rockdale.

Dr Jones said the Department will study the managerial change approaches of those local authorities perceived to be the top reformist councils.

Any councils who wish to contribute to this research are invited to contact Dr Jones in the Department of Management, phone (042) 213 707.



Rare privilege

One of Australia's most distinguished scientists, Professor Arthur Birch, presented the Bert Halpern Memorial Lecture at the University on 12 October. He is pictured (left) with the Head of the University's Department of Chemistry, Professor John Bremner.
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Scientist's visit a rare privilege

The University was privileged to host a visit by one of Australia's most distinguished scientists, Professor Arthur Birch, on 12 October.

In spite of illness, Professor Birch, who is more than 80 years old and 'not prepared to give up yet' came to the University to present the Bert Halpern Memorial Lecture.

Bert Halpern was professor of Chemistry at this University from

1970-1980 and was also a distinguished Australian scientist.

Professor Birch knew Professor Halpern and spoke of his creativity and technical ability and said that 'his premature death robbed Australia of one of its most outstanding interdisciplinary chemists'.

In his lecture, Professor Birch examined the basis for his novel reclassification of research.

During his chairmanship of the review into the CSIRO in 1976-77 he rejected the terms 'pure' and 'applied' as being too simplistic in favour of 'fundamental strategic' and 'fundamental uncommitted'.

'Because of the unforeseeable results of all types of research (even of straightforward information collection) all pure research can ultimately result in practical applications,' he said.

'All applied research can contribute in unforeseeable ways to scientific and technological understanding, as does pure research, although the proportions may differ with the types and timescales.'

Those attending the lecture were treated to some frank views from Professor Birch on scientific policy and decision making and into the role of the CSIRO.

Professor Birch presented the University with a copy of his autobiography 'To See The Obvious' which was written at the invitation of the American Chemical Society.

Professor Birch was the only Australian among a group of internationally prominent scientists to be invited by this society to write an autobiography.

Research into epic theatre

Lecturer in the Faculty of Creative Arts, Mr Clem Gorman, will be researching epic theatre in America during his forthcoming study leave.

He will be based at Rollins College in Orlando Florida - home of Disneyworld.

As well as pursuing his research here and at other universities, he will be teaching a few classes in the Australian Studies Department at Rollins College, which has an excellent reputation.

Epic theatre is a very little researched field and Mr Gorman is excited about what he may discover.

He intends to compare the epic drama written by Americans with plays of the same genre written by Australians, into which no research at all has been done.

Epic drama, which deals with the search for heritage, became unfashionable with the rise of plays about individual psychology, but Mr Gorman believes the epic can be relevant in the 21st century to a young country which is seeking its roots.

At the end of his visit Mr Gorman is taking some leave to go to Los Angeles to discuss some script ideas with movie executives.

**** ALL WELCOME ****

1995 17th Sir Richard

KIRBY LECTURE

IN INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

will be presented by

The Right Honourable Mr Jeff Shaw
NSW Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations

on

Wednesday, 8th November, 6.45 p.m.

McKinnon Building (67.104)
University of Wollongong

Queen's Birthday honours for electrician and former VC

Jaako Laajoki, an electrician in the Buildings and Grounds Department for the last eight years, received an Order of Australia Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours presentation at Government House this year.

Jaako, a Finnish man who came to Wollongong 27 years ago with his family, has always had strong connections to his homeland.

When he came to Wollongong he joined the Finnish Society and was president from 1985 until 1994.

His service and dedication to the Finnish community, along with his representative sporting achievements, earned him the Medal of the Order of Australia.

His service to the community and his love of sport have combined in his role as organiser of the annual Finnish Games.

He is a track and field athlete and has represented Australia in middle-distance events.

He has been to the world championships and this love of running is instilled in the Laajoki family.

His wife has represented Australia in world championships and his son and daughter both compete at state championship level.

Jaako became an Australian citizen in 1983 and he believes he is the first Finnish-born Australian to be



Former Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ken McKinnon, with Jaako Laajoki at the Queen's Birthday Honours presentation this year.

awarded the OAM.

At the Queen's Birthday awards the former Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ken McKinnon, was also recog-

nised for his service to education, the community and the arts – he became an Officer in the General Division (AO).

World's Women Online – a new site on the Internet

World's Women Online is an Internet web site created for the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women.

The site became active from 18 September and was officially opened by Dr Frances Dyson at the Faculty of Creative Arts on Thursday 12 October.

This graphical exhibit is intended to display the work of Australian women from many disciplines and to encourage women to use and consider new technologies.

Australia's exhibition/display has been created in Wollongong and goes beyond the art brief to bring together the work of women in Australia from all walks of life.

Wollongong's World's Women Online is one of the largest Web sites yet created in Australia, bringing together the work of artists, craftspeople, writers, re-

searchers and theorists working in fields ranging from the performing arts, literature, craft, visual arts, sociology, information technology and design.

Wollongong's World's Women Online brings innovative hypermedia design and connectivity to a diverse range of work by women in Australia.

The site uses the exciting possibilities of hypermedia and the richness of Net culture – the unique phenomenon of an ongoing interdisciplinary exchange of information.

From Marie-Claire O'Sullivan's Children: the Future, to a journey through the virtual digestive system of artist Louise Manner, to the digital images of Kajiya Yasuyo, this exhibit is one of the largest and most innovative web sites produced in Australia.

It is also one of the most accessible and diverse.

The URL is: <http://www.uow.edu.au/wwwo>

When's the best time to burn the bush?

The bushfire emergency of January 1994 brought into sharp focus the need to protect ourselves from wildfires.

'Fight fire with fire' is a common catch-phrase.

Certainly, applying controlled fires to the bush on a regular basis can reduce the risk of a wildfire.

'Hazard-reduction' burning is deliberate burning to reduce the amount of fuel (leaves, twigs and other plant material), and is carried out typically in winter and early spring.

This ensures that the fires can be controlled more readily.

But burns in cooler weather probably happen infrequently without human intervention.

What effects does this change in the



natural fire regime have on vegetation?

Professor Rob Whelan from the Australian Flora and Fauna Research Centre at the University of Wollongong has been studying fire ecology for many years in several

countries.

'Ecologists and environmentalists are becoming increasingly uneasy about the potential impact of frequent, cool-season fires on the plants and animals in the bush,' he said.

'Too-frequent fires can cause local extinction of some plant species and can also change the habitat to make it unsuitable for some native animals.

'Fires in an inappropriate season of the year might affect wildlife populations when they are particularly sensitive – such as during the nesting season.'

Professor Whelan and his team of researchers are starting a three-year research project to see how plants recover after fires at different times of the year.

Working in collaboration with Sydney Water, they will be burning several small areas of bush within the Metropolitan catchments in the next two years – some fires in winter, some in autumn.

During the project, they will be following the fates of seedlings of several different species that appear after the fires. Many seeds germinate only after a fire.

'Studies in other regions, such as Western Australia and South Africa, suggest that seeds germinating after a spring fire are doomed, because they won't survive the hot dry summer,' Professor Whelan said.

'In contrast, seeds that germinate after autumn fires have a wet autumn and mild winter to get them started.

'Of course, the climate of the Sydney region is quite different, so the research we are carrying out will be crucial in determining whether hazard reduction burning as we currently practise it is bad for our native plant communities.'

The results of studies such as this will help in the management of areas of bushland, where conservation of plants and animals is one of the important management objectives – such as in national parks, nature reserves, state forests and water catchments.

This article is part of a series produced by students and staff in the Australian Fauna and Flora Research Centre at the University of Wollongong.

INVITATION

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gerard Sutton,
and the Lord Mayor, Mr David Campbell,
invite you to attend the

'Town Vs Gown' cricket match

University of Wollongong Oval
Sunday 29 October, 1995, from 10am to 5pm

Celebrity NSW cricketers Rod Davison and Richard
Chee Quee will join teams selected for
Wollongong City and University of Wollongong

ALL WELCOME

Come and be part of the picnic atmosphere

(Food and refreshments will also be available for
purchase)

Supported by The Friends of the University of
Wollongong Association

Enquiries: David Muscio, ext 3073, or Antoinette Matarranz, ext 3169.

Focus on Asia courtesy of the British Council



Deputy University Librarian, Ms Felicity McGregor, with Manager, Illawarra Technology Corporation International Education and Training, Mr Bill McGaw, who launched the exhibition.

The Library is hosting a travelling British Council books exhibition entitled 'Focus on Asia' until 3 November.

The British Council promotes cultural, educational and technical cooperation between Britain and other countries and is an independent, non-political organisation.

The British Council aims to develop world-wide partnerships and improve international understanding and has offices in more than 100 countries, including Australia.

The Council has a strong relationship with this University which dates back to 1990 when they assisted the Department of English to run the Commonwealth Writers' Prize.

The 'Focus on Asia' exhibition includes more than 200 new British books and journals.

The subject areas include commerce, politics, history, geography, cultural studies and the visual and performing arts. A complete listing of the items included in the exhibition is available.

Library renewals - you asked for it!

Library clients have for some time wanted the ability to renew items without having to bring all borrowed items back to the Library.

The Library now offers clients two different renewal alternatives.

(1) You can renew items yourself at any of the online catalogues in the Library or from your desktop on campus or via modem.

To renew items simply select the VIEW patron record option from the main menu on the catalogue, enter your identification number when prompted and,

- Display the items checked out

Library News

(Option C)

- Choose the renew option
- Select the items you wish to renew and if accepted a new due date will be assigned.

Renewal denied messages will appear if the item is on hold for another patron; the item has been renewed once before; or if it is too soon to renew the item.

For example, in the case of academic renewals, items cannot be renewed any earlier than four

weeks before the original due date.

- (2) You can also renew items over the phone. Call the Library Loans Desk on 213 545 and have your identification card handy to provide your student/staff number or barcode number.

During busy periods you may encounter slight delays. The Library staff member handling your phone renewal will advise you if the renewal is not successful.

Items can still of course be renewed at the Loans Desk, but these additional options will allow you to take control of your own renewals.

Workplace Health and Safety - a shared responsibility

How much do you know about your occupational health and safety responsibilities?

In every workplace, the employer has an obligation to provide a safe environment for its employees.

This extends to include provision of a workplace that is not detrimental to your health, not simply to avoiding more obvious hazards.

However, as an employee, you have reciprocal responsibilities.

You must comply with instructions from your employer regarding safety issues and use safety equipment provided.

You must also act to remedy any unsafe situation you become aware of.

Where do you think the responsibility lies in the following examples?

A supervisor correctly instructs a new staff member to wear the supplied, appropriate face protection whenever using a particular piece of workshop equipment.

After instruction in the operation of the machine, the supervisor leaves the employee to get on with the work.

He returns to find that the employee has taken off the face shield, because it is hot and uncomfortable.

The supervisor shrugs and says it is up to the employee, but the employee

should be wearing the face protection.

Later that day, the employee receives cuts to the face and eyes from debris thrown up by the machine.

Can your supervisor make you wear protective equipment?

Is the supervisor being negligent if he/she does not do so?

The answer to both these questions is yes.

The implementation of the former might be difficult, but in an extreme case, the supervisor should stop the work from being carried out until the problem is resolved.

In the example above the supervisor should have insisted on the protective gear being worn, and told the employee to stop the work if the employee refused.

There is the potential for Workcover to step in and fine both the supervisor and the CEO of the company concerned.

How is this different if the person being instructed in use of a piece of machinery is a student enrolled in a course?

In fact there is little difference in the eyes of the law.

A student refusing to comply with safety instructions should be removed from the class.

Again, if an accident occurred, there would be the potential for the supervisor and the university to be fined.

In another example, a member of staff moves a broken chair into the corridor. Someone else comments that this is a safety hazard, but the chair remains.

A week later there is a fire in the building.

During the evacuation, chaotic in the actual case of a fire, a staff member falls over the chair and is knocked out.

The staff member is overcome by smoke and subsequently dies in hospital from burns.

The responsibility starts with the employee who put the chair in the corridor, and includes every person who did not make an attempt to get the chair removed.

The supervisor of the area also carries the blame, as the staff should have been educated to know not to leave a chair in the corridor.

The supervisor is also at fault for not ensuring safe work practices were implemented in all areas.

This responsibility continues up the line to the top.

This may sound like an extreme example, but could happen so easily.

It should be always be on our minds to keep accesses clear. Are the corridors in your unit free from obstructions?

Many hazards are ignored until an accident occurs.

Sometimes this is caused by lack of knowledge, and sometimes it is apathy on the part of those close to the situation.

The Occupational Health and Safety Committee is trying to increase the knowledge level on campus and increase the interest level in matters pertaining to health and safety.

Suggestions on how these aims might be effectively achieved would be welcomed by the committee.

If you would like to observe the operation of the committee or if you would like to make suggestions, please contact the Committee Chair, Ms Julie Gray, ext. 3441.

Degrees of Quality

Invitation to Course Information Evening

7pm, Wednesday 29 November

The University Centre, 210 Clarence Street, Sydney

Discover our postgraduate programs in:

Total Quality Management (TQM)

Maintenance Management

Systems Engineering

Study options include:

University of Wollongong Campus

University Centre, Sydney

PAGE (Distance Education)

One week blocks

Short courses and workplace-tailored courses

RSVP before 24 November or call for a complete course brochure:

Faculty of Engineering

Tel: (042) 213 491

Fax: (042) 213 143

\$45,000 Fisheries award for student

Sue Murray-Jones, a PhD student in the Department of Biological Sciences, has just been awarded a substantial grant from the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation.

Sue has been given \$45,000 to continue her studies on the population biology of the sandy beach clam, commonly known as the pipi.

The Fisheries Research and Development Corporation is a major Federal funding body for fisheries-related research.

Sue is naturally very pleased with the award: 'For a start, part of the grant includes a scholarship for two years.

This means I can get a lot more work done, rather than spending so much time earning a living. But more importantly, it is recognition of what I'm doing.'

Students don't usually pursue their own funding.

Most PhD students start with a scholarship or stipend, often with an allocation for expenses. But Sue didn't start straight after her first degree.

I came back to study as a mature age student, which tends to make it harder to get a scholarship, at least initially,' she said.

'So I decided to do it the hard way. It is possible to do a PhD and earn a living at the same time, though it's very hard.

I had to drop to part-time this year.'

Sue has had several careers before coming to Wollongong, including biophysical research, writing (both fiction and non-fiction), research into safety on farms, and running general interest courses on anything from marine life for divers to media skills workshops.

Since coming to Wollongong, she's been supporting herself by writing and commercial diving, as well as teaching for Yallah TAFE, and demonstrating and tutoring at the University of Wollongong.

Under supervision from Associate Professor David Ayre and Dr Andy Davis, both of the Australian Flora and Fauna Research Centre within the Department of Biological Sciences, Sue has spent the last two and a half years looking at the biology of the pipi.

It's amazing how little we know about this animal, when you consider that quite a large commercial catch – worth about \$1m – was sold through fish co-ops in NSW in the last financial year,' Sue said.

'But much of the really basic information is missing, such as how fast they grow; how old they are when they become sexually mature; and where new, immature pipis come from.

The catch is growing rapidly as mar-

kets expand, but we don't know if the amounts taken will be sustainable in the long run.

'NSW Fisheries are particularly interested in what I'm doing, and Dr Neil Andrew of the Fisheries Research Institute was really helpful in assisting me in putting together my grant proposal.'

Sue has already looked at the genetics of the pipi, and some other aspects of life history.

The next phase is to look at how many animals are coming off specific beaches.

The recreational catch of pipis can be very large – and is completely unknown,' she said.

I'll be spending a lot of time trying to weigh people's catches on several beaches, including the north coast where there is also a commercial catch.

I'm also tagging animals in order to age them, and looking at their reproductive biology.

I couldn't really do much of this without funding.

'Getting a four-wheel-drive up to Stockton Beach regularly is expensive, and my teaching commitments made getting away for field work difficult.

'My supervisors have been incredibly supportive, and I think are even more relieved than I am that I have some money at last. Now I will really be able to get on with the work.'

International food and friends

The Department of Economics held its annual International Food Day on Monday, 16 October when postgraduate students had opportunities to develop links with all members of staff.

The Department has members, both staff and student, from many countries around the world.

Each year, the depth of this international flavour is displayed in a most delectable way, when the Department holds its traditional International Food Day.

It is catered for by Department members themselves.

The range of culinary delights representing the diverse backgrounds of staff and postgraduate students is truly spectacular.

Students find themselves in a stimulating, but friendly, academic environment.

Postgraduate Coordinator for the Department of Economics, Dr Nelson Perera, said the International Food Day



Economics Postgraduate Coordinator, Dr Nelson Perera, and Acting Department Head, Professor Don Lewis, share some food with Master of Commerce students (from left) Reetu Verma, Duong Thi Nguyet and Liliana Vlachos.

is not only a great way to taste food from other countries, but it is very important for social interaction between staff and students.

Thanks to the efforts of Julie Chin and Sophie Abercrombie, who organised the International Food Day, the day was enjoyed by all.

General

The Campus Alumni Bookshop is open on the second and fourth week-ends of each month. Campus East, Cowper Street, Fairy Meadow (opposite Science Centre). All proceeds directed towards campus projects. Donations of material are invited. Enquiries to Alumni Office, phone 213 249 or 291 951.

7-9 November: Business and Economic Development in Middle Eastern and Mediterranean Countries. This international conference is being run by the International Business Research Group. Venue: The University Centre, 210 Clarence St Sydney. Enquiries: Mokhtar Metwally, Dept of Economics, University of Wollongong. (042) 214 017 Fax (042) 213 725.

26 November: Conference on surveillance, 10am to 5pm. Cost: \$20. Enquiries: Brian Martin at the University on 213 763 or 297 393 at home, Ann Aungles 213 745, Richard Joseph 213 606 or Graham Sewell 213 642.

What's On

27-30 November: Australian Computer-Interaction Conference (OZCHI). Enquiries: phone (042) 213 757, fax (042) 214 474.

Long Gallery

Exhibition program for 1995:

Until 5 November: Archaeologies: Structures of Time, Diana Wood Conroy and Sharon Marcus. Reciphering: Katharine Nix. Pathways: Paper works by Ian Arcus.

13 November – 10 December: BCA graduating exhibition.

University Staff Club

8 November: BBQ lunch, McKinnon Dining Room.
Become a member and enjoy a variety of social events. A chance to meet others across the campus Contact Jim McKee by E-Mail or ext 3376.

Union Activities

- 25 October: Uni Movies - 'Apollo 13' and 'Village of the Damned'.
26 October: Face Plant and Christ Art Museum play at Uni Tavern.
27 October: Uni Movies - 'Hard Boiled' in the Union Hall.
31 October: Talent quest final in the Union Hall foyer, 12.30-1.30pm.
1 November: Uni Movies.
8 November: ABC concert, Don Spencer in the Union Hall. \$6 a ticket (or \$5 for groups of 20).
24 November: Henry Rollins and Babes in Toyland, all-ages concert. \$25 Wollongong Uni students. \$30 guests.

30 October: Meditation for students. Free classes. 12.30pm or 7pm Kemira Room, Union. Presented by the University's Sri Chinmoy Meditation Society.

Stop Press

Institute for education managers and administrators

AITEA stands for the Australasian Institute for Tertiary Education Administration.

AITEA is a professional body that fosters the development of tertiary education managers and administrators in a climate of fellowship and goodwill.

It was established in 1976 and has a national membership of 4000, with a national council and branches in each of the Australian states and territories and in New Zealand.

Membership is open to anyone occupying a managerial or administrative position within tertiary education.

If you are interested in joining or in attending any of their courses please contact Kim Roser, ext. 4136.

Campus News is published weekly on Wednesdays. Send material, preferably by Microsoft Mail or on disk, to E-Mail account 'Campus News' by noon on Monday of the week before that of publication. For any other enquiries contact the Editor, Gillian Curtis (042) 21 3926. Campus News has a circulation of 3000. It is distributed on campus to staff and students. 1000 are mailed to the community and overseas including schools in Illawarra, southern Sydney and Canberra; local, Sydney and Canberra media; Friends of the University; business representatives; MPs and numerous individual requests.