

# RESEARCH NEWS

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## WELCOME

The Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor has grown substantially in 2012 with the appointment of the two Associate Pro Vice-Chancellors, Professors Deborah Sweeney and Deborah Stevenson, the Innovation Unit led by Dr Fiona H Cameron, Operations Manager Research Institutes, Philip Blunden, eResearch Team led by Dr Peter Sefton and staff located in the Innovation and APVCR offices. The Research Institutes now report directly to the PVCR and I look forward to working closely with the Institutes in growing the UWS research portfolio.

We now have a very strong experienced and dedicated team working on all aspects of research support, we can look forward to significant benefits by working together.

Professor Andrew Cheetham  
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research)

## FUTURE RESEARCH LEADERS PROGRAM

I am delighted to advise that the University has licensed the "Future Research Leaders Program from the Group of Eight Universities. The program is aimed at staff who aspire to a research leadership role. The program consists of eight modules. Each module requires approximately four hours of independent online learning to be completed before the face to face workshop. The eight modules will be customised for UWS where appropriate. A cohort of current Research Lecturers will be the pilot group for this program, we will let you know when it becomes more widely available.

### Summary of Grant Applications and Approvals for 2011

Total Number of Applications	Total Number Approved	Total Unsuccessful	Total Number of Applications still Pending
520	162 (31.15%)	274	84

## HUMAN ETHICS – PEER REVIEW COMMITTEES

There are now two broadly disciplinary Peer Review Committees (PRC) receiving applications related to human ethics at UWS:

- » Health and Science – covering health, biomedical, public health and psychology.
- » Humanities and Social Science – covering education, studies in human society, language, communication and cultural research and business.
- » Peer Review Committees examine the research merit and integrity of:
  - » all unfunded research projects involving human participants, excluding higher degree research candidate projects.
  - » all Undergraduate Honours research projects involving human participants.
  - » all Postgraduate Coursework projects involving human participants.

Funded research and HDR candidate projects should be sent directly to the Human Ethics Officer. For more detailed information: <http://www.uws.edu.au/research/researchers/ethics>

## ONLINE INTRODUCTION TO HDR SUPERVISION

We have been delighted with our new on-line introductory higher degree research program for staff new to UWS. It allows new staff to join the Graduate Supervisor Register without delay and is a well rounded introduction to HDR supervision at UWS. In a little over six months over 70 staff have joined the program. Contact Mary Krone [m.krone@uws.edu.au](mailto:m.krone@uws.edu.au) or Tel x2463 and Mary will arrange your access.

## EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH FOR AUSTRALIA (ERA) NEWS

### Research Evaluation Committees

The ARC has announced the Chairs of the Research Evaluation Committees (REC) for Excellence in Research for Australia 2012.

Physical, Chemical and Earth Sciences	Professor Robert Vincent
	University of Adelaide
Humanities and Creative Arts	Professor Joy Damousi
	University of Melbourne
Engineering and Environmental Sciences	Professor Rose Amal
	University of New South Wales
Education and Human Society	Professor Mark Western
	University of Queensland
Economics and Commerce	Professor Kim Langfield-Smith
	Monash University
Mathematics, Information and Computing Sciences	Professor Mary-Anne Williams
	University of Technology Sydney
Biological and Biotechnological Sciences	Professor Jeffrey Schwartz
	Griffith University
Medical and Health Sciences	Professor Hugh Barrett
	University of Western Australia

The following UWS staff have been invited to serve on a Research Evaluation Committee:

- » Professor Bob Hodge – Humanities and Creative Arts
- » Professor Kenny Kwok – Engineering and Environmental Sciences
- » Professor Simeon Simoff – Mathematics, Information and Computing Sciences
- » Professor Vaughan Macefield – Medical and Health Sciences

## ERA 2012

Submission data for ERA has been collected for the following reference periods:

Data Type	Reference Period	Years
Research Outputs	1 January 2005 – 31 December 2010	6
Research Income	1 January 2008 – 31 December 2010	3
Applied Measures	1 January 2008 – 31 December 2010	3
Esteem Measures	1 January 2008 – 31 December 2010	3

Researcher eligibility is based on a single staff census date, which is 31 March 2011.

Data collation has been finalised and the Office of Research Services has submitted the UWS ERA 2012 portfolio.

## CALLING ALL RESEARCH SUPERVISORS

UWS has made great strides in the quality of the experience of higher degree research students. However, there continues to be a very poor response rate to the national Postgraduate Research Experience Questionnaire (PREQ), which registers the experience of HDR candidates. HDR supervisors can help improve the feedback process from their students by encouraging them to complete the PREQ questionnaire once they are approved for graduation. All Australian higher education institutions participate in this annual survey of HDR graduating students which measures

1. Supervision
2. Intellectual Climate
3. Skills Development
4. Infrastructure
5. Thesis Examination Process
6. Clarity of Goals and Expectation
7. Overall Satisfaction

The PREQ results help UWS to provide a better research student experience and identify areas of priority to invest further resources.

## ON-LINE HDR CANDIDATE PROGRAM – COMPLETIONS AND BEYOND

(see related story page 4 on the Australian government's current consultations and development of a research workforce strategy)

*Completion and Beyond* comprises six modules covering specific aspects of completing and submitting a Masters (Honours) or PhD thesis, as well as planning for life after the thesis. Each module is self-contained, so candidates can choose when and in what order they wish to access them via vUWS.

Supervisors can have access to *Completions and Beyond*. Please send your staff id to Mary Krone, m.krone@uws.edu.au to arrange access.

HDR candidates access Turnitin through *Completion and Beyond*. They are given access once the Confirmation of Candidature is successfully completed.

The course incorporates video clips of supervisors, candidates and career advisors and modules cover:

1. Writing to Finish
2. An Editing Clinic
3. Submission and Examination
4. Maintaining Momentum
5. Supervision – Managing the Changing Relationship
6. Beyond the Research Degree

Two blogs to read or follow on twitter that will interest UWS researchers and students are [thesiswhisperer](#) and [researchwhisper](#) (Research Whisperer)



## ART AND SCIENCE

### UWS Confocal Biolmaging Facility Collaboration

The UWS Confocal Biolmaging Facility (CBIF) research scientist and manager Dr Anya Salih was Principal Scientific Collaborator with multimedia artist Lynette Wallworth at the CBIF as she developed a project to bring art and science together using imagery of fluorescent corals from Anya's research. The project raises social awareness of the destruction of the world's coral ecosystem by portraying the beauty of reefs and the threat of climate change using augmented reality posters. This was initially made possible by Synapse, Australia Council and the Australian Network for Art and Technology (ANAT Residency awarded to Lynette

in 2009). As part of this project, Sydney's Taylor Square has been transformed by projections of images of corals on to the T2 building that acts as a virtual reality portal to coral reef science during the next 5 months. <http://misociety.com.au/new-open-air-art-gallery-taylor-square>

Linking footage of corals with the Transit of Venus event including microscopic imagery taken in the confocal lab by Dr Salih, Wallworth has further developed the project, Rekindling Venus (RKV) <http://rekindlingvenus.com/> into a film for digital planetariums to sit alongside the earlier augmented reality work. Rekindling Venus draws it's name from the hope to rekindle our responsibility for the marine world and to inspire

an intention to act as a global community to reduce the threats to the world's oceans due to climate change. RKV film and multimedia works will premiere on 5 June 2012 at Royal Observatory, Greenwich, as part of the London Olympic Festival, with simultaneous presentations in full-dome theatres around the world, including New York, San Francisco, Delhi, Manila, Tel Aviv, Amsterdam, Paris, Yeosu Expo South Korea and Melbourne. It is intended to be a global project about global co-operation and the astronomical event, the Transit of Venus, that falls on World Environment Day, was chosen since it marks the first known attempt at global scientific co-operation in 1761 and 1769 when the transit of Venus was mapped

by nations across the world. Concurrent with RKV launch, the World Science Festival will link participating climate-change scientists and artists at the World Science Festival presentation at the American Museum of Natural History with a live feed of the transit event offered by the Exploratorium. An important component will be bringing RKV audiences through social media and educational outreach programs to connect them to the critical state of the world's oceans.

UWS research at <http://rekindlingvenus.com/research>

## WHAT IS A CURF?

A Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) is a file of responses to ABS surveys or censuses that have had specific identifying information about persons and organisations confidentialised. CURFs contain the most detailed information available from the ABS.

CURFs are used to undertake data manipulations requiring individual unit record data reflecting the diversity within a population. Some typical applications include production of papers, journal articles, books, PhD theses, microsimulation, modelling and conducting detailed analyses.

Data contained in a CURF is also used for producing detailed tabulations requiring data in a disaggregated form.

CURFs are an invaluable source of information for 'high-end' researchers and statisticians investigating a wide range of social or labour related topics. Extract from ABS website: <http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/About+CURF+Microdata>

## 2012 THREE MINUTE THESIS COMPETITION

[http://www.uws.edu.au/research/current\\_research\\_students/three\\_minute\\_thesis\\_competition/2011\\_three\\_](http://www.uws.edu.au/research/current_research_students/three_minute_thesis_competition/2011_three_)



- » UWS Final – 10 August 2012
- » Trans-Tasman Final at UQ – 11 October 2012

Research higher degree students have three minutes to present a compelling oration on their thesis topic and its significance. 3MT is not an exercise in trivialising or 'dumbing-down' research but forces students to consolidate their ideas and crystallise their research discoveries.

3MT develops academic, presentation, and research communication skills and supports the development of research students' capacity to effectively explain their research in language appropriate to an intelligent but non-specialist audience. It's also a lot of fun and generates public and media interest in what researchers do.

Anyone who is active in a doctoral or M(Hons) program (including thesis under submission) will be eligible to participate in 3MT.

Schools and Research Institutes will be holding their preliminary competitions to select their finalists before mid August.

### UWS Prizes

- » All participants will receive a UWS Flash drive.
- » First prize of \$2000 plus economy airfare, one night accommodation and airport transfers for the winner and one supervisor to the University of Queensland to compete in the national title.
- » Runner up prize of \$1000
- » People's Choice prize of \$500
- » Trans-Tasman Prizes
- » Winner: \$5000 research travel grant
- » Runner-up: \$2000 research travel grant
- » People's Choice: \$1000 research travel grant

For details about the rules and judging criteria see the web [http://www.uws.edu.au/research/current\\_research\\_students/three\\_minute\\_thesis\\_competition](http://www.uws.edu.au/research/current_research_students/three_minute_thesis_competition)

## RESEARCH WORKFORCE STRATEGY

The Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education (DIISRTE – dessert) has been undertaking a series of consultations with a view to ensuring Australia has the "breadth and depth of skills required to support innovation, educate the next generation of Australians, and ultimately drive productivity improvements across the economy."

As part of these consultations towards the development of policy and programs a wide range of organisations have participated including, the Australian Council of Learned Academies, industry, universities and individuals.

For UWS's submission to a component of this process, please see Meeting Australia's Research Workforce Needs <http://www.innovation.gov.au/Research/ResearchWorkforcelssues/Documents/RWSsubmissions/Submission21%20.pdf>

For access to the full DIISRTE consultation see <http://www.innovation.gov.au/Research/ResearchWorkforcelssues/Pages/default.aspx>

## MARY KRONE

My title is senior policy advisor (research training) but my role is so much more. A substantial part of my time is spent developing resources for higher degree research education. Over the years A/Prof Janne Malfroy (TDU) and Dr Claire Aitchison (SLU) and I have brought some fascinating speakers from all around Australia and overseas to the Research Supervisor Forums. This session we have Dr Hugh Kearns from Flinders University and Professor George Walker, Vice President of Research and Graduate Studies at Cleveland State University.

NB to everyone disappointed to miss out on Hugh's April forum; he will make an encore performance at UWS mid year.

A highlight for me was winning the 2011 VC's Excellence Award with my excellent comrades Janne and Claire. I have had a sustained professional partnership and friendship with Janne – started in our early years at Hawkesbury – and with Claire – from when UWS unified (2000).

I love writing and get to play with words all day long; even what might seem boring genres bring pleasure; I often work with policy documents, handbooks, newsletters, web material, supervisor forum talks etc. This interest extends beyond UWS with my idle time spent writing essays and poetry. I now have a twitter account for HDR students to be launched as soon as we get the art work sorted out. Twitter is a fabulous resource, much misunderstood. It's all about mavens (information collectors) who you can follow while they graze around the world to bring you everything you would ever wish to read about – whatever happens to turn you on. Two blogs I have found to read or follow on twitter that will interest UWS researchers and students are thesiswhisperer and researchwhisper.

