



2003 Awards for Outstanding Achievement in Collaboration in Education & Training



Applications were sought earlier this year and were judged by an experienced panel of judges under the chairmanship of Professor Leon Mann, Pratt Family Chair in Leadership and Decision Making, University of Melbourne and President of the Australian Academy of the Social Sciences, comprising:



Dr Annabelle Duncan, Chief of Division, Molecular Science, CSIRO
Dr Bob Frater AO, Vice-President for Innovation, ResMed Ltd
Ms Lesley Johnson, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Australian National Training Authority
Mr Peter Laver, Chair, Victorian Learning and Employment Skills Commission
Dr Jane Munro AM, Principal & Chief Executive Officer, Firkbank Grammar School
Dr Peter Scaife, Director, Centre for Sustainable Technology, The University of Newcastle



The criteria for evaluation included:

1. Innovativeness
2. Strength of the relationship between collaborating partners
3. Outreach inclusion (e.g. overseas - to other groups, companies)
4. National benefits
5. Cultural impact on the partner/organisation.



The Deputy Secretary of the Department of Education, Science and Training, Mr Grahame Cook, presented the Awards at a gala dinner at the Sheraton Towers Southgate in Melbourne on Tuesday, 25 November 2003.



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Winning entries are:

Small-Medium sized Companies and Project/Program 18mths-5years in train:

Sponsor: Shell Australia Limited

Winner: The University of Sydney and Compuware Asia-Pacific

Title: **Attracting and Retaining Top Students in Information Technology**

Compuware Asia-Pacific and the School of Information Technologies at the University of Sydney have been collaborating in an ambitious program to *attract and retain top students*, especially women, to study Information Technology. We have collaborated on three main initiatives. First, the *Compuware Computer Science Summer School* is an extensive residential Problem-Based Learning experience for around 60 students and four teachers each year, involving intellectual challenges, team work and broad problem-solving skills. The second is the creation of a new degree program, the *Bachelor of Arts Informatics*, which integrates broad Arts studies with IT. The third aims to retain IT students through developing *outstanding teaching resources* under the Science Lectureships initiative.

Honourable Mention:

Centre for Design (RMIT University), Urban and Regional Land Corporation (VicUrban), Sustainable Energy Authority Victoria and EcoRecycle

Title: **AURORA Sustainable Housing**

Aurora is a long term building development of 8,500 homes over 10-15 years. Aurora is designed to be a leading edge sustainable housing development which raises the bar for social, environmental and economic standards. To achieve this, the Urban and Regional Land Corporation is working closely with the 12 builders involved in the project. This was done through strict design controls and an innovative program of research, education and support for the builders. The Centre for Design was involved in developing the material selection guideline for the project. SEAV and EcoRecycle contributed to the development of the guideline methodology. Through a series of consultative meetings with the builders a workable flipchart was developed based on the guideline. There have been two collaborative educational workshops to aid in increasing builders' awareness of manufacturers of environmentally preferable building materials. The interest from manufacturers and builders alike is growing as the project continues. In fact the flipchart and interactive educational model has been used in other developments as a basic framework for encouraging improved environmental performance.

Small-Medium sized Companies and Project/Program more than 5 years in train:

Sponsor: Griffith University

Winner: Macquarie University and the Association of Superannuation Funds of Australia

Title: **Superannuation Management Education Program**

ASFA and Macquarie University have collaborated since 1990 to offer the Superannuation Management Education Program for anyone working in the superannuation industry. This open-entry distance education program provides the Diploma of Superannuation Management to students who complete eight course units.

A team of professionals at ASFA, working with around 50 volunteer industry practitioners, produce course notes and assessment materials which are then reviewed by academic staff at Macquarie University.

ASFA, Macquarie University and the superannuation industry are dedicated to ensuring that a rigorous academic standard is maintained in terms of both study materials and assessment levels for diploma units. Assessment for all units is by way of a compulsory assignment and final examination.

Large Companies and Project/Program 18 months-5 years in train:

Sponsor: Queensland University of Technology

Winner: Dept of Education, Science and Training, Business Council of Australia, Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee, Graduate Careers Council of Australia, Australian Association and Graduate Employers and the National Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services.

Title: **Higher Education Workplace Skills Olympiad (HEWSO)**

The Higher Education Workplace Skills Olympiad (HEWSO) provides experiential learning, in a competition framework. IN early 2001 eleven universities were linked with 11 host employers, in 2002 thirteen universities and employers participated and in 2003 eighteen campuses and employers and close to 50 student teams were linked. It is expected that 24 campuses and employers will be linked in early 2004 across metropolitan and regional areas in 6 states/territories.

Each university can enter up to 5 teams of 8 students drawn from any discipline. Through a site visit they are exposed to the culture and structure of their host organisation. The groups are then presented with a business issue/problem by their host employer and asked to present their solution four weeks later. Each host employer selects the strongest team – based upon a business report and a 20 minute presentation. These winning teams from across the country then re-present in the national finals where a Judging Panel selects the 'National Winner' and three 'Highly Commended' teams.

Honourable Mention:

Macquarie University, Computer Sciences Corporation, Compuware, Unisys/The Australian Centre for Unisys Software (ACUS), EMC Corporation and the Macquarie University Office of Information Services

Title: **Systems Engineering Project**

This project emerged as a program to create alliances between our top Computing students, academics and industry to the benefit of each party. From the student's viewpoint, the objective of this program is to assist students in taking responsibility and initiative for their own learning and to prepare them for a career in IT, which will primarily involve working in project teams to deliver IT solutions. Novelty, the students manage their own projects and present a lecture series to their peers. From the project sponsor's viewpoint, the objective is to provide sponsors with students that have a firm foundation in the fundamentals of computer science and an ability to apply and adapt that knowledge to solve a real business problem. Benefits to the university are the provision of an industry-relevant experience to students and the development of a bridge between academics and industry partners that is leading to more industry-relevant teaching and research collaborations. A number of spin-off benefits have resulted in the form of joint seminars, scholarships, employment opportunities and research projects.

Large Companies and Project/Program more than 5 years in train:

Sponsor: RMIT University

Winner: Deakin University and Coles Myer Limited

Title: **The Coles Myer – Deakin Alliance**

The project is the development of the Coles Myer Institute. The Institute was formally established in late 2002-early 2003 through a long-term collaboration between Deakin and Coles Myer Pty Ltd.



The project represents a breakthrough in education and training and is the first university/corporate partnership of its kind in Australia. The Institute is now a benchmark in effective collaboration between industry and higher education.

The Coles Myer Institute:

- Enabled the creation of a holistic approach to learning and development,
- Provided Coles Myer with an ability to link education and training with business outcomes, and
- Provided a new strategic driver for delivering training to employees all over Australia.

Outstanding Achievement in Collaboration in Education & Training with a Regional Focus

Sponsor: University of Ballarat

Winner: University of Tasmania, CPA Australia, Australian Institute of Company Directors, Garrison's Financial Services, Tasmanian State Audit Office, National Institute of Accountants and the Tasmania Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Title: **Accounting and Business Education in the Tasmanian Community: Working for Mutually Beneficial Outcomes**

The project is about establishing and continuing to build relationships with various Tasmanian and Tasmanian-based organisations and the community. The School of Accounting and Finance has become an integral part of the community and a valuable resource for the State. This is particularly so for the rural areas of the State, where the provision of educational and financial services has often been neglected.

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Note your diary – applications for next year's Awards in Outstanding Achievement in Collaborative R&D and Best Entrepreneurial Educator of the Year will be called in **May 2004**.

Professor Ashley Goldsworthy AO OBE
Executive Director
Business/Higher Education Round Table
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25 November 2003