



PRESS RELEASE

Winners of the 2009 B-HERT Awards for Outstanding Achievement in Collaboration in Research & Development, Higher Education & Training, Vocational Education & Training and Community Engagement



Applications were sought earlier this year and were judged by an experienced panel of judges comprising:



- ❖ Mr Peter Laver AM, Vice-President, Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (*Chairman*)
- ❖ Dr Peter Binks, CEO, General Sir John Monash Foundation
- ❖ Dr Annabelle Duncan
- ❖ Emeritus Professor Chris Fell AM, Former Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of NSW
- ❖ Mr John Grace, Director, Nextec Biosciences Pty Ltd
- ❖ Ms Patricia Neden, CEO, Innovation and Business Skills Australia
- ❖ Mr John Vines OAM, Chairman, Innovation and Business Skills Australia



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. Wider outcomes achieved
5. Cultural impact on the partner/organisation.



The Hon Julia Gillard MP, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, gave an Address at the Awards gala dinner at the Arts Centre, in **Melbourne on Thursday, 5 November 2009.**



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Winning entries are:

Best Research & Development Collaboration

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TECHNOLOGY
NETWORK
OF UNIVERSITIES

Winner: University of Wollongong and Railcorp (NSW)

Title: Australian Rail Track Innovations

Research found an urgent need to improve track strength and stability to cater for heavier, faster trains.

The problem was transporting increased amounts of freight, coal and ore on rail at higher speeds demands a strong and reliable track structure. (a) Rock of high quality for rail ballast is a diminishing resource and extensive quarrying degrades the environment. (b) Indiscriminate use of and replacement of older ballast is a significant waste of scarce resources. (c) To improve track speeds, new alignments over soft ground (avoided in the past) need to be considered, and improvements in track design are needed to manage the high intensity repeated loads.

Achievements have been the redesign of the ballast grading to enhance its strength and stability, the Introduction of geogrids to improve performance of recycled ballast and the use of prefabricated vertical drains to improve the performance of soft soil under the repeated loading from heavy trains

Honourable Mention:

University of South Australia, InterDynamics Pty Ltd and Integrated Safety Support Pty Ltd

Title: Managing Fatigue-related Risk

This collaboration has revolutionised the management of fatigue-related risk in Australia and overseas in the last 10 years. It has delivered an entirely new class of risk management products and helped Australia define an entirely new regulatory approach to fatigue management. The highly effective collaboration between UniSA and InterDynamics was initiated as a result of a research program initiated in the late 1990's to develop scientifically and legally defensible approaches to ensuring work practices are both operationally flexible and demonstrably safe in a de-regulated industrial landscape. The collaboration has produced a suite of software products and consultancy services that have generated a new category of scientific fatigue risk management solutions both in Australia and overseas. The tools developed during the collaboration have emerged as a de facto standard for fatigue management in transport, mining and health care sectors in recent years.

Best Higher Education & Training Collaboration

Winner: Advice & Protection, Alwyn Peffer & Co. Chartered Accountants, ANZ Financial Planning, Aspire Financial Planning, Association of Financial Advisers, AXA Financial Planning, BDO Kendalls, Cooper Reeves, CPA Australia, Ernst & Young, Financial Planning Association, Gold Cast Financial Planning, Griffith University Finance & Business Services, HN Financial Partners, IQ Accountants, KPMG, Personal Financial Planning Services, Q Invest, Quantum Planning, SV Partners, Tupicoffs, Wealthfarm Financial Planners, WMS Chartered Accountants, Griffith Business School, Professional Investment Services and WHK Horwath

Title: Bachelor of Commerce (Professional): Partnering to Put the Skill into WIL

Griffith University, in collaboration with a range of accounting and financial planning organisations, developed and implemented an innovative and unique degree that responds to the demands of students and industry to develop graduates that are 'work ready'. Introduced in 2008, the Bachelor of Commerce (Professional) degree ("degree") creates a meaningful link between study and career, and engages industry in the learning process. This is achieved by building a 3 year degree that incorporates not only a two year internship but also an integrated

continuous professional development program (“PDP”) that develops student professional skills and awareness, generic skills and self-efficacy, with industry partners delivering key components of it. The strong partnerships with industry have produced a unique work-integrated degree with empirical evidence of significant improvements in student satisfaction, engagement, vocational skills, self-efficacy and generic skills.

Honourable Mentions:

Queensland University of Technology, Defence Materiel Organisation, International Centre for Complex Project Management, Lockheed Martin, BAE Systems, Raytheon & Boeing

Title: Complex Project Management (CPM) Initiative

In 2006, DMO appointed QUT as its partner in a Complex Project Management (CPM) initiative, to design and deliver competency development programs to improve the organisation's performance in managing large and complex projects. Also engaging an industry association and defence industry corporations, the partnership has delivered a competency development program, that has been embraced by the Australian and increasingly the international defence industry, that includes:

- Executive Master of Business (Complex Project Management) and (Strategic Procurement);
- A series of Continuing Professional Development events;
- Applied Research into complex projects and project leadership.

Best Vocational Education & Training Collaboration

Winner: RMIT University, Fuji Xerox, Merchantlink, City of Melbourne, CitiPower & Powercor Australia, Ernst & Young, Portmans, Litmus Group, GrantREady, Lewis Holdway Lawyers, Oistar and MST Lawyers

Title: RMIT Business Plan Competition

RMIT's Business Plan Competition (BPC) commenced in 2001. It enables students from across RMIT - TAFE and Higher Education - to turn innovative ideas into successful business ventures via the development of high-quality business plans. The BPC is an ongoing RMIT flagship program. Ninety seven teams (261 persons) entered the 2009 Competition. These include an exceptionally wide range of students from disciplines such as science, engineering, fashion, architecture, management and industrial design. 10 teams from RMIT Vietnam participated this year. Industry collaboration has been an essential element of the BPC since inception, and in the 2009 program, 76 industry judges and 23 mentors are contributing their expertise and experience. Eight major sponsors are contributing \$38,000 cash and \$35,000 in-kind prizes in 2009. Many successful businesses have come out of the Competition.

Best Community Engagement

Winner: University of South Australia, City of Tea Tree Gully, City of Burnside, City of Unley, Local Government Association of South Australia, City of Campbelltown and City of Holdfast Bay

Title: Community Panel

Community Panel was established as a joint initiative by the Ehrenberg-Bass Institute at the University of South Australia (the Institute) and three large metropolitan city councils, with support funding from the Local Government Association of South Australia (LGA). Working in partnership with councils to engage local communities, the project has established 'community panels' of residents in five city councils. The panels are used as a primarily research and engagement tool with each council's community. The concept of Community Panel is to engage residents of all ages and backgrounds, to gather feedback from these 'panelists' about decisions affecting their local community using online surveys, and then for council to use these research results in decision-making. It also allows for council residents to engage online and offline with others who live in their local council area.

There are currently over 2000 Community Panel members regularly contributing; and Community Panel continues to grow with new councils adopting Community Panel and residents continuing to join the existing panels. The project is establishing an innovative new model of community research and engagement, which better meets the needs of councils and the community, enabling more residents to have an input into local decision making, and empowering council managers and elected members by providing data that accurately reflects the views of their residents.

and

Winner: Swinburne University of Technology, Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations, Department of Planning and Community Development – Aboriginal Affairs Victoria, Consumer Affairs Victoria, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, South Australia and Horizons Education and Development, Queensland

Title: Indigenous Business Governance Program - Managing in Two Worlds

The Governance Training Program, 'Managing in Two Worlds' aims to develop the skills of directors of Indigenous corporations and senior staff working in the Indigenous community sector to ensure that organisations are effective and accountable. This will play a key role in addressing Indigenous disadvantage and facilitate progress across a range of economic, social and cultural programs and objectives.

Over 600 people from well over 300 organisations across most states and territories have taken part in this training since late 2005 through the collaboration. Approximately one-third of these participants have gone on to undertake accredited training at Certificate IV or Diploma level. As there are over 2000 Indigenous corporations registered with ORIC alone, constant renewal of the people on Boards & in senior management positions, and a strong focus on 'closing the gap' for Indigenous Australians, the need for this training is expected to continue for an extended time.

Best Collaboration with a Regional Focus in Research & Development or Education & Training

Winner: Sunraysia Institute of TAFE and Illuka Resources

Title: Collaboration with Illuka Resources Ltd – Kulwin Mine

In its infancy, the relationship between SuniTAFE and Illuka was likened to David and Goliath! How could such a small regional training provider with little mining experience meet the demands the world's biggest mineral sands mine? Indeed it did, and a truly collaborative relationship was built based on mutual respect, trust, responsiveness, professional and customised service and effective communication. SuniTAFE proved an invaluable ally in supporting the new mining venture near Ouyen, flexibly and proactively meeting Illuka workforce and regulatory needs as they faced various hurdles in establishing the mine. Illuka willingly shared its vast mining experience and industry knowledge to ensure the training provided was best practice in a true partnership arrangement, innovative by nature and design.

Honourable Mention:

Bairnsdale Regional Health Service, East Gippsland Institute of TAFE, Monash University and RMIT University

Title: Building Capacity for Clinical Placements in East Gippsland for Undergraduate Health Professional Students

This project was a collaborative effort between three education providers and a health industry partner to increase the capacity of a health service to accommodate and improve student placements from nursing and other health professions. The development of a collaborative clinical learning model was pivotal in providing the leadership and commitment from all key stakeholders to identify the barriers and opportunities for clinical placements. The quality of the clinical learning experience was enhanced and the new model better prepared students for the realities of practice. Optimising the use of clinical resources through the development of a more flexible clinical education model significantly increased the numbers of students placed. This increase in student placements is expected to enhance the future recruitment of graduates to the health service and contribute to the development of a sustainable workforce in the region.



Award for Best Entrepreneurial Educator of the Year 2009

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ENGINEERS
AUSTRALIA

Purpose

To recognise the importance of education in the process of developing and nurturing entrepreneurs; and to showcase best practice in entrepreneurial education.

Judging Panel

- Mr David Hind, President, Business/Higher Education Round Table
- Ms Leanne Hardwicke, Director, International & National Policy, Engineers Australia
- Mr David Henderson, Managing Director, UniQuest

WINNER

Professor John Breen, Victoria University

Professor John Breen has been involved in teaching and research into entrepreneurship and the small business sector for 20 years. Across that period he has attracted external funds in excess of \$1m and has developed a national reputation in the field.

His reputation and expertise is evidenced by the number of board and committee memberships he has been involved with. John is currently a member of the Victorian Employers Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VECCI), Small Business Leaders Panel and Small Enterprise Research Journal Editorial Board. Previously he has been a Member of the Small Business Advisory Committee for the Victorian Minister for Small Business for seven years. He was also a Board member of the International Council for Small Business for two years. He was President of Small Enterprise Association of Australia and NZ (SEAANZ) for two years and also secretary for five years. John is now a life member of that organisation. He has been a member of small business committees of the Australian Taxation Office, CPA Australia and the Commonwealth Government. He has also been a judge of several small business award programs.

John's doctorate which was completed in 1999 investigated the development of enterprising attributes in secondary school students. Since that work was completed he has continued to develop education programs and activities that are designed to encourage and support the development of entrepreneurial capabilities in young people. For example in 2007 John was involved in a successful tender to the Dept of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry that delivered an entrepreneurial program for young rural leaders.

The desired outcome is an increase in the entrepreneurial capacity of young people in the western region of Melbourne. This will occur if there is a continuing increase in participation in the Bachelor of Business in Small Business and Entrepreneurship at Victoria University and the second is a business plan competition for students in secondary schools in the Western Region of Melbourne.



Award for Outstanding Philanthropic Support of Higher Education 2009

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Purpose

To recognise support for higher education; and to draw attention to the extent of this support, the key role it plays in enabling important and innovative programs, and in leveraging further support.

Judging Panel

- Dr Sue Anne Wallace, Former Chief Executive Officer, Fundraising Institute Australia
- Mr Michael Joyce, Director of Development, Melbourne Grammar School
- Mr Bruce Argyle, Membership Manager, Vic & Tas, Philanthropy Australia

WINNER

David Gonski AC
The University of New South Wales

David Gonski has demonstrated extraordinary leadership in philanthropy especially in relation to the establishment of the Centre for Social Impact. His energy and drive in encouraging philanthropy in others is unsurpassed.

Since 1998, David Gonski has been directly involved in the growth and development of philanthropic giving to the University of New South Wales. His leadership and impact on philanthropic giving to UNSW is immeasurable. David's influence, network and generosity with personal donations of both time and money has positioned UNSW for the 21st century as a University where leaders and stakeholders support not only the monetary value of donations to the University, but the engagement with community that takes place through philanthropic giving.

David's leadership position and support for philanthropic activity at the University and in the higher education sector was consolidated in 2005 when he was named Chancellor of the University. In 2006, he was appointed Chair of the UNSW Foundation Limited Board of Directors, UNSW's philanthropic arm.

David Gonski and the Gonski Foundation's direct philanthropic support to UNSW has resulted in improved infrastructure, increased access to transformative knowledge for students and an enhanced culture of giving to the University.

Through personal giving, advocacy and dynamic leadership, David Gonski and the Gonski Family Foundation have contributed to a variety of disciplines and areas of the University.

HIGH COMMENDATION: Michael Crouch AO, The University of New South Wales

For his drive and enthusiasm in getting the Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship up and running. He is motivated by his belief in the importance of education, innovation and entrepreneurship.



The Ashley Goldsworthy Award for Sustained Collaboration between Business and Higher Education

This Award recognises a sustained effort by a university, business or individual to foster collaboration between the sectors, resulting in significant benefits to higher education, business and the broader community. This Award is made on the basis of verifiable evidence of a range of collaborative initiatives and peer recognition. It is an open award, not restricted to members of B-HERT. It is a prestigious award contemplated for any worthy candidate in Australia. The breadth and quality of applications made to the B-HERT Awards over recent years have been taken into consideration.

The judging process consisted of an analysis of organisations or individuals that had demonstrated sustained efforts in inter-sectoral collaboration over the last five years evidenced through their participation in the B-HERT Awards and the success they achieved. This analysis was supplemented by publicly available material (strategic plans, annual reports etc.), AUQA Portfolios and Reports and consultations with referees.

WINNER:

Queensland University of Technology

The AUQA 2005 Report noted the branding 'a University for the Real World' and commended QUT for the strategies it had adopted to bring this about. It notes the high priority given to community engagement at all levels in the planning process and the emphasis placed on working with government, industry and community groups.

The third of the five strategic priorities in the QUT Blueprint states '*to strengthen our "real-world" positioning in teaching and research, business support functions and infrastructure*'. Strategy 2.1 in the Learning and Teaching Plan also talks about developing '*real world learning approaches*' including work integrated learning as a component of undergraduate curricula, whilst active partnerships are developed within and beyond the university. The university places considerable emphasis on the use of experts in current industry or government employment in both an advisory capacity and as sessional teachers.

Unlike last year QUT has now considerably more information available on its public web-site, an essential feature if it is to encourage outside organisations to approach it when seeking collaborative arrangements. Its Engagement Strategy 2009-2013 (set out at http://students.ed.qut.edu.au/commun/combusgov/pdfs/engagement_strategy_2009_2013.pdf) is a robust statement of intent and is directly sponsored by a Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

Dr Sharon Winocur

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5 November 2009

Note your diary – applications for next year's Awards for Outstanding Achievement in Collaboration in Research & Development, Higher Education & Training, Vocational Education & Training, Community Engagement, Best Entrepreneurial Educator of the Year and Outstanding Philanthropic Support of Higher Education will be called in **May 2010**.

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