Upcoming Events

30-31 May
Assessment Planning: A practical workshop with Alverno College

31 May
VC’s address to all staff
When: 10-11am
Where: UQ Centre
Register here to attend.

28 Jun
Academic staff appraisal – must be completed

03 Jun
Results are released to students

29 Jul-2 Aug
School Review

30 Aug
Closing date of School Teaching Awards

Travel form tip

If another entity outside of UQ is funding your trip, please specify how much funding was provided for all categories. Please do not specify UQ in the budget section on the travel form if UQ is not funding the trip.

Workshop

Please be advised that both the existing Electrical Workshop (44-161) and the Seddon Mechanical Workshop (82-J102) will close at 4pm on Friday 17 May 2013 in preparation for their relocation to the AEB. It is anticipated that these facilities will be unavailable for approximately 4 weeks from this date. However, you will be notified by email when these two workshops commence normal operation in their new location.

Please note:

Electrical work requests – Any new, non-emergency electrical work will not be accepted after Friday 17 May 2013 until the new workshop is fully operational.

Mechanical work requests – All requests for mechanical services/work should be directed to the Mansergh-Shaw Mechanical Workshop in the first instance until further notice.

Staff contact details will remain the same but the locations after the move will be;

- AEB Mechanical Workshop Enquiries 49-107
- Electrical Workshop Enquiries 49-112

We apologies for the inconvenience caused during this period and will endeavour to resume support from these facilities as soon as practically possible.

Congratulations

Congratulations to MEA. They have won a $222k AusAID Australian Leadership Awards Fellowship to bring 6 mining academics from Peru, Ecuador and Columbia to Australia for training in education in sustainable mining practices. The program contemplates a 6 week stay in Australia for 2 academic members from Universities in each country.

School Review

A draft of the School Review documents was sent out for comment to staff on 17 May. Please send any feedback you have to k.lamb@uq.edu.au by 27 May.

New Staff Expo

The New Staff Expo will be held on 4th June 2013 from 9am – 11am. The Expo is very interesting and it is mandatory for all new staff to UQ to attend. If you are a new staff member, please register your attendance.

See page 3 for an update of our Admin Team
Exchange Scholarships

UQ Abroad has recently launched a new campaign to increase outbound exchange participation at five targeted universities in Asia, most of which have seen little or no exchange activity over the past 5 years. Eligible students commencing their exchange in either Semester 1 or Semester 2, 2014, and who select to study at one the universities listed below, will be guaranteed at least a $1000 UQ Abroad Travel grant. If additional funding comes available through the Department of Innovation AsiaBound funding, eligible students will receive the greater amount. For more information see http://www.uq.edu.au/ugabroad/index.html?page=196871&pid=35449

The targeted universities are:

Korea – KAIST
Hong Kong – Chinese University of Hong Kong
Singapore – Nanyang Technological University
Taiwan – National Taiwan University
Thailand – Chulalongkorn University
PRC – Sun Yat-Sen University

These institutions offer many courses in English across a wide range of disciplines and provide UQ students an excellent opportunity to immerse themselves in an Asian culture. More information about these institutions can be found on the UQ Abroad website (http://www.uq.edu.au/ugabroad/).

Semester 2 2013 timetable

The priority draft timetable for Semester 2 2013 has been completed. You can review your timetable information through myS1-net. Once the priority timetable has been reviewed, the scheduling of all other repeat tutorials/workshops will commence.

ACCM2013

The first Australasian Conference on Computational Mechanics (ACCM2013) will be held on 03-04 October 2013 in Sydney, Australia. The conference is intended to cover all the aspects of computational mechanics in all disciplines of engineering and sciences. The conference consists of parallel sessions in different topic areas, such as structural mechanics, CFD, multiscale modelling, materials, manufacturing, biomedical engineering etc. Visit http://web.aeromech.usyd.edu.au/ACCM2013/ for further details. The deadline of abstract submission is extended to 31st of May.

Influential People

The Premier's department has asked the university to nominate about 6-8 "influential people" from UQ who would like to play a role in the upcoming Queensland Week celebrations. There are two levels of involvement – one where the influential people provide a photo and very brief answers to questions (e.g. about Qld's big recent achievements in Engineering) for use in media etc, and another where the influential people also make themselves available for media interviews during Queensland Week. They have sponsorship agreements with The Courier-Mail, Network 10 and ABC 612 radio, so they expect some coverage on those outlets.

If you would like to put your name forward, please email enquiries@mechmining.uq.edu.au a brief 2 line response to the above and a photo.

Funding

Prime Minister’s Australia Asia Awards

Applications for the Prime Minister’s Australia Asia Awards are now open. These scholarships are available to Australian undergraduates and postgraduates and are designed to assist with costs associated with travel, tuition, internship contributions, and travel insurance. Scholarship recipients can apply for programs/projects in the People's Republic of China (including Hong Kong and Macau), India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Viet Nam. Students must submit their completed applications online before 11.59am Sunday June 30, 2013.

Australia Awards Endeavour Scholarships and Fellowships

There are scholarships and fellowships for undergraduate and postgraduate study, vocational education and training and professional development. Applications are open now for the 2014 round. Applications close Sunday 30 June 2013 at 11:59 PM AEST. For more information visit: http://www.innovation.gov.au/InternationalEducation/Endeavour/Pages/Endeavour.aspx

Australia-China Young Researchers Exchange Program

This is an annual exchange scheme for young researchers between Australia and China. The application form and further information on the scheme, participant eligibility and funding information is available at: http://www.go8.edu.au/university-staff/programs_and_fellowships/australia-china-young-researchers-exchange-program. Applications for this scheme must be submitted to UQR&I no later than Wednesday 5 June 2013, 5:00pm.
The Green Office Welcomes Chelsea Hayward

The Sustainability Office would like to welcome Chelsea Hayward as the incoming Green Office Assistant. Chelsea is currently studying a Bachelor of Chemical Engineering, minoring in Environmental Engineering. She is passionate about looking for new alternatives in industry and daily life to reduce human impacts on the environment. Working with the Sustainability Office, Chelsea looks forward to gaining an insight into sustainable practices at the university, as well as promoting new ideas to improve these practices. As part of the Green Office Program, Chelsea hopes to increase awareness on living and working with minimal impact on the environment, and about new sustainability initiatives around the world. Chelsea is eager to learn more about how others incorporate sustainable practices into their work and everyday lives. We look forward to welcoming Chelsea to the Green Office Program and sharing her knowledge through Green Office.

Sustainability Walk Treasure Hunt

During the first three weeks of April, Green Offices were invited to participate in the Sustainability Walk Treasure Hunt. A total of 11 Green Offices registered, answering questions about UQ’s sustainability initiatives, research, and biodiversity on campus. Fun tasks were also incorporated in the treasure hunt, allowing teams to get up close and personal with the campus’ fauna and flora. The results were close, but the Student Centre was the clear winner with the most correct answers, winning them a UQ Store Fair Trade gift, valued at $100. Congratulations to the Student Centre on a wonderful job and we hope all teams not only enjoyed the Sustainability Walk, but also learned something new. If you would like to explore the Sustainability Walk, you can download a map [here](#).

Thank You Amanda!

Amanda Weltman joined the Green Office in April 2012 and has spent a fabulous year with us. Sadly she will be concluding her time at the end of this semester when she graduates from her Masters of Environmental Management in Conservation Biology.

Amanda has been a wonderful co-ordinator of the Green Office program and has enthusiastically guided our new Reps, supported our existing Reps and has taken on any requested task with passion. She has co-ordinated the development of the fantastic new Sustainability posters and helped introduce additional opportunities and competitions for Green Offices. Amanda’s smile will be missed in the Sustainability Office. Thanks Amanda!

We wish Amanda all the best for her career in sustainability and in pursuing her love of conserving endangered species.
The world’s population is steadily increasing, and cities have become home to over half of the human population. In the next 30 years, it is estimated that an additional 2 billion people will move to urban areas, and the number of cities around the world will increase from the current 400 to 600 by the year 2025. The shift to urbanization can pose many challenges for the environment, but opportunities can also arise to design a more sustainable built environment, which can help offset the impacts of our growing population. UQ has shown its commitment to a sustainable built environment by constructing the Advanced Engineering Building, the university’s first Green Star rated building, and the Global Change Institute, the first living building to be built in a subtropical climate. If you would like to contribute to a more sustainable built environment, try to introduce more green space in your office or home by planting native trees and shrubs, installing solar panels or a green roof, being conscious of your energy use and being more efficient with your space usage.

**Make Your Built Environment Sustainable**

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**GO Rep Highlight: Kylie Belford**

Kylie Belford was our guest speaker at the most recent New Representative Training Session, and she told us about her continued dedication to paper recycling at Co-op. Two years ago we mentioned the Co-op’s initiative for reusing paper up to three times by first using paper on both sides, then shredding the paper to use for packaging materials, and finally giving any excess that is not used to pet stores. At the training session, we discovered that Kylie took the initiative to take home four 60L tubs of paper once a month to be shredded through her wood chipper! She started doing this because Co-op needed a large amount of packaging materials that took too long through a normal shredder, but now only takes 10 minutes with the wood chipper. Kylie has gone above and beyond her Green Office duties, and has brought new meaning to "thinking outside the box". Thank you Kylie for your continued dedication to sustainability!

**All Substances Lead Back to the Environment**

Have you ever taken a moment to notice the storm drains on campus? If you stop to take a look, you might be surprised to see a message that says all substances flow back to the creek or ocean. Being mindful about your waste disposal not only applies in the office or at home, but outside as well. It is important to dispose of our waste properly so that harmful substances do not end up in nearby creeks and streams which can impact on the local wildlife. Many drains, like the ones on campus, are marked with images of fish or animals, but care should still be taken even if there are no signs present. The substances that go down the storm drain do not get treated or filtered for harmful chemicals. The next time you are walking around campus, take notice of the storm drains, and do your part by picking up any garbage you see close by.

**Time for GO Annual Assessments!**

The time has come to start conducting your annual assessment for your area. Assessments should be conducted from May - August and this year we will also be collecting feedback on the assessment process. Please notify the Green Office when you will be conducting the assessment in your office. The Green Office will help conduct the assessment and write up a summary report. You are also welcome to conduct the assessment independently if preferred. We know how busy your offices can get so please allow yourself enough time to conduct the assessment and send in your results. New areas that have conducted a baseline assessment in the past 12 months do not need to conduct an annual assessment. Forms for the assessment can be found online.
What is the difference between biodegradable, compostable and degradable?

These terms often get confused with each other, but there are differences between them:

- Biodegradable materials completely break down into water, carbon dioxide and biomass within a short period of time through the help of living organisms.
- When compostable materials breakdown with the help of oxygen, they turn into humus, which adds nutrients to the soil and increases water retention. They do not produce toxic materials and can support plant life.
- Degradable materials break down into smaller pieces but need the be exposed to sunlight for extended periods of time in order to decompose through a chemical reaction.

For further information contact the Sustainability Office, Property & Facilities Division:

Green Office Coordinator (p/t) 33469959  greenoffice@pf.uq.edu.au
Suzanne Davis, Sustainability Coordinator 33652076  s.davis@pf.uq.edu.au

Website: www.uq.edu.au/sustainability

Green Office Update Session: Ipswich Landscape

Mark Glindemann made a short presentation for staff and students at Ipswich on the Sustainable Landscape Management Plan. He looked at the origins of the concept of sustainability, and then moved on to examine the Plan’s sections and how they impact on making a more sustainable landscape at Ipswich. Ipswich has become a “waterless landscape” through reducing the area of the lawn, mulching areas of lawn, selecting drought tolerant native species, and controlling weeds which compete for soil moisture. Benefits to having a sustainable landscape include the use of native plants, reducing our carbon footprint and creating shade for buildings. Following the presentation, the group was lead on a walk around campus to view examples of what has been achieved.

Green Office Update Session: Water Tour

At the beginning of April, Green Office Representatives were invited on a tour of the St. Lucia Lakes Precinct to learn about the water irrigation system and the history of the area. Shane Biddle informed the Representatives about how the water in the freshwater lake is used for irrigation on campus in places like the great court. The lake relies on rainfall during the summer months as its main source of water supply, which in turn creates a renewable water resource. The two ponds next to the lake are also supplied by rain water, in addition to recycled water from the Fairfield Sewage Treatment Plant. The two ponds irrigate the sports fields on campus throughout the night. A fun fact about the fake ducks in the pond was also revealed; they were originally aerators for the lake until a new system was installed, so they have now become a permanent fixture in the water.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the difference between biodegradable, compostable and degradable?

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Upcoming Events

Fair Trade Fortnight
4th - 19th May 2013

World Environment Day
Wednesday 5th June
More information: http://www.unep.org/wed/

Green Office Update Session, St. Lucia - Let’s Not Waste UQ
Friday 7th June, 10:00-11:00am  Duhig Library Conference Room
RSVP by Tuesday 4th June 2013 to greenoffice@pf.uq.edu.au.

International Ride to Work Day
Monday 17th June
More information:  http://www.ridetowork.org/