

April / May 2009

Research News



Professor Neal Ryan
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research)

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research)
Research Directions

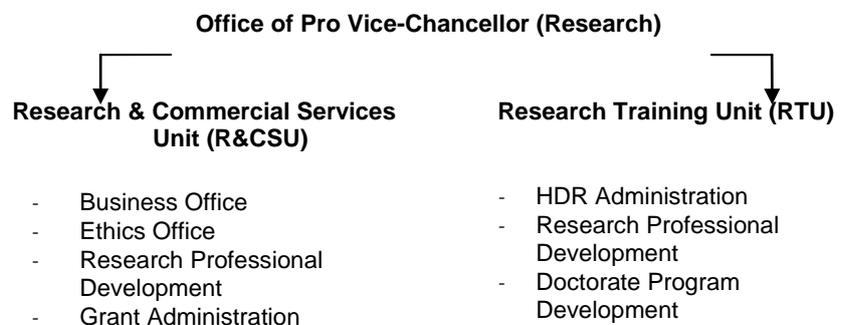
Welcome to the Division of Research update.

Research News aims to inform you about research opportunities, orient you to the new services provided by the Division of Research, introduce you to staff, and outline the exciting research being undertaken within SCU. We welcome any contributions staff would like to make to *Research News*, especially identifying opportunities to engage in collaborative projects, to join in with joint research proposals or to inform staff of other research opportunities which might exist. *Research News* will provide one means of communicating research across the university.

Research within SCU is undergoing change in accordance with changes occurring across the whole university system in Australia. There is a greater emphasis on focusing research into areas of excellence and collaboration across institutions. We have made some changes at SCU to respond to these national challenges. During 2008 we sought broad input into an evaluation of the services the research office provides, and in late 2008 gained SCU Executive support to implement structural change.

The Division of Research, previously known as the Graduate Research College, is committed to assisting staff and HDR students to develop as nationally and internationally recognised researchers. The Division of Research comprises two units: the Research & Commercial Services Unit (R&CSU), and the Research Training Unit (RTU). These units are a response to changing expectations of university research in Australia, especially in relation to quality, research funding and accountability. The two units concentrate specific service provision, i.e. the RTU provides broad administrative support to HDR candidates from enrollment to examination, ensuring timely completion; the R&CSU provides specific support to researchers, including contract negotiation, grant application support, and ethics administration.

The Division of Research Organisational Chart below identifies the functions of these units.



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Steve Williams
Director, Research &
Commercial Services

With the establishment of the Research & Commercial Services Unit, the major focus has been on: the recognition of the need for, and provision of researcher support; continuing with the development of commercial arrangements; and the management of IP and publication security.

A major task of the unit in the first three months of 2009 has been to manage the 2009 Cooperative Research Centre Bids. The Unit has been working hard on bid applications over the past couple of months. These applications include –

- *Biofuels*: a Second Generation \$10m bid involving eucalypts as biomass for biofuels;
- *Biofuels CRC*: a \$90m bid over eight years Round 11
- *Innovative Wound Healing Solutions*. This new CRC bid is being led by QUT. SCU involvement is through the Centre for Phytochemistry & Pharmacology.
- *Tourism CRC rebid*: SCU is a core participant leading one of three programs
- *Desert Knowledge CRC rebid*: SCU has expanded its participation, and is now an Essential (core) participant involving several areas of the University (Business, CPCG, CPP)

The unit is also managing the tendering and implementation of the Research Management System (RMS), with a targeted completion over the next 18 months. The milestones for this project are now:

- recording the national research quality research system (Excellence in Research, Australia – ERA);
- developing a central database of research outputs such as grants, higher degree completions and publications; and
- converting ethics and higher degree processes into a user friendly electronic form.

Future work of the Research and Commercial Services Unit will include –

- Annual Operating Plans for Research Centres
- Workshops for each campus covering unit services
- The next CRC round in July, 2009.

Excellence in Research Australia (ERA)

Research Evaluation Committees have been formed to evaluate overall research performance of the eight discipline clusters. There are three broad categories of research measures:

- (i) Indicator of research quality;
- (ii) Indicator of research volume and activity; and
- (iii) Indicator of research application.

Cluster 1, Physical, Chemical and Earth Sciences, and Cluster 2, Humanities and Creative Arts, draft version guidelines were released on 12th March 2009. The ERA Submission Guidelines and ERA Technical Specifications can be accessed through Wendy Scott, ERA Liaison Officer – wendy.scott@scu.edu.au.

Key points on the development of the ERA initiative are:

- All information will be evaluated at the four-digit [Field of Research \(FoR\) code](#) level.
- The reference periods are
 - (i) Research outputs 1st January 2002 – 31st December 2007
 - (ii) Research income 1st January 2005 – 31st December 2007
 - (iii) Applied measures 1st January 2002 – 31st December 2007

Data collection commenced across Southern Cross University in February 2009.

Cluster 2 (Humanities and Creative Arts) includes the following creative works categories – original creative works; live performance of creative works; recorded/rendered creative works; and curated or produced substantial public exhibitions and events. For these research outputs to be eligible they must have been made publically available during the research reference period.

Research income that formed part of Southern Cross University's HERDC return for 2005 - 2007 is to be used for both quality and as a measure of research activity. Applied Research - is associated with Southern Cross University including patents, plant breeders rights, registered designs and research commercialisation income. If you have any questions please contact the ERA Liaison Officer - Wendy Scott (02 6626 9371).

Following the appointment of Professor Phil Hayward as Director, Research Training (RTU), the unit is currently engaged in a major review and revision of rules and procedures, designed to both streamline and enhance quality assurance mechanisms for the examination of Higher Degree theses.

A revised set of HDR Rules (PhD, Masters by Thesis), and new PhD Qualifying and Masters Qualifying Rules have been approved by Academic Board, and are being sent for ratification by University Council. These new standards will be posted on the University website within the next four weeks. The changes include new Rules for Appeals processes, Confirmation of Candidature, and Examination process.

New procedures for membership, appointment and duties for members of the Higher Degree Research Committee are currently being discussed, and are intended to be implemented by midyear.

Planning is underway for the integration of the Professional Doctorates (PD) Committee and PD management system into the Higher Degrees Research Committee and Research Training Unit system. This integration is due to commence in August.

April Staff Profile

Professor Phil Hayward

Director, Research Training

Professor Philip Hayward is an active researcher in two main areas:

Island Studies: Professor Hayward is co-editor of *Shima: The International Journal of Research into Island Cultures* <www.shimajournal.org> and is also international network convener of SICRI – The Small Island Cultures Research Initiative <www.sicri.org>. SICRI's 5th International Conference takes place in June in Sado Island, Japan.



Contemporary Music Studies: Professor Hayward currently holds two ARC Discovery grants:

- (i) with Dr Denis Crowdy (Macquarie University) 2006-2009 on the Melanesian Music Industries, and
- (ii) with Dr Rebecca Coyle and Professor Michael Hannan (SCU) 2007-2010 on Australian Feature Film Music Production.

Phil is also a member of an ARC Collaborative team led by Professor Huib Schippers (Griffith University Conservatorium of Music) researching Sustainable Musical Futures.

His two areas of research specialism overlap in several of his current projects, including research on music, tourism and local culture in Hainan Island - China (fieldwork being undertaken in April 2009); in the Tokara and Amami islands - Japan (being undertaken in June 2009) and on Chiloe island – Chile (being undertaken in January 2010).

Recent changes to Research Administration

Research Infrastructure Levy (RIL)

A 15% Research Infrastructure Levy was recently approved by University Executive. The Research Infrastructure Levy will not be applied to the following:

- Australian National Competitive Grants (NCGs) as listed in Appendix 1. The grant funding provided by NCGs cannot be used to provide for overhead costs incurred by the University. The federal government returns money to the University via the Block Grants Scheme against these projects.
- Industry contributions to the University Internal Collaborative Research Grants (CRGs). A CRG is provided as a precursor to an application for an ARC Linkage grant with the Industry partner. The ensuing ARC grant would not attract the Research Infrastructure Levy.

The Research Infrastructure Levy *will now be applied* to all research projects of greater than \$5,000 (GST exclusive) value, including Commonwealth, State or Local Government funded projects. Projects under \$5,000 (GST exclusive) or less will be exempt from the infrastructure levy given the associated projects would have very little capacity to provide for such a charge. For further information on the introduction of the RIL, visit the website – <http://www.scu.edu.au/research/businessoffice/>

SCU is spending more on research and these funds are part of the increasing commitment to supporting research at SCU.

Feature Research Project Rail CRC

The CRC for Rail Innovation is a collaborative venture between leading organisations in the Australian rail industry and Australian higher education sector, including Southern Cross University. The CRC will invest around \$100m in rail industry research over the next seven years. This makes it the single biggest research program in the history of the Australian railway sector.

The vision of the CRC for Rail Innovation is to undertake research to generate \$6.5b of economic benefits to Australia. It has a broad scope and embraces five programs:

- Economic, Social & Environment (ES&E)
- Operations & Safety
- Engineering & Safety Program
- Education & Training
- Commercialisation & Utilisation

SCU leads the ES&E program and, together with the Australasian Railway Association, has been entrusted with the program's development and vitality.

Some of SCU's Active Projects include: Emissions Trading; Environment Regulations Pertaining to Rail: Developing Best Practice; Collaboration in Rail Supply Chains; Urban Rail Demand Management Strategies; and Very Fast Train.

For further information on SCU's involvement in Rail CRC, contact Dr Michael Charles – Michael.charles@scu.edu.au - Or visit the Rail CRC website - <http://www.railcrc.net.au/>

Opportunities for Staff

Publications Bonus: The Publications Bonus Scheme was introduced in 2000. It is designed to encourage academic staff and students to -

- publish in eligible categories;
- submit the details to the Division of Research; and
- provide all the necessary forms and material to sustain their claims.

Eligible categories include books, book chapters, peer reviewed journal articles and peer reviewed conference proceedings.

The University will accept publication information at any time up to 30 April, of the year following the year of publication for eligible items. Please ensure you provide all 2008 publication information to Robyn Anderson by the required April 30 deadline. The maximum paid in respect of most work will be \$500, and where there are multiple authors, payment will be pro rata. For further information about the Publications Bonus scheme visit the website –

<http://www.scu.edu.au/research/college/index.php/dds>

Website: The Division of Research will be updating the website over the coming weeks. It will provide all the latest research news and forms, as well as a link to this newsletter. The website is:

<http://www.scu.edu.au/research/college>

Calendar – April/May 2009

Research Committee Meeting Dates

Higher Degree Research Committee	17 th April, 2009	+	8 th May, 2009
Research and Research Training Advisory Committee	24 th April, 2009	+	22 nd May, 2009
Human Research Ethics Committee	20 th April, 2009	+	18 th May, 2009
Animal Care & Ethics Committee	21 st April, 2009	+	26 th May, 2009

Research Grant Opportunities

ARC Scheme	Proposals Close	Announcement
Discovery Indigenous Researchers Development For funding commencing 2010 **	13 May 2009	October 2009
Linkage Projects (Round 1) For funding commencing January 2010 **	13 May 2009	October 2009
Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities For funding commencing 2010 **	20 May 2009	November 2009

NHMRC Scheme	Applications Open	Proposals Close
Programs Grants	April 2009	July 2009
Building Capacity – Training (Postdoctoral) Fellowships	2 March 2009	1 May 2009
Building Capacity – Postgraduate Scholarships	4 May 2009	31 July 2009

ANSTO Research Fellowships – applications close 31 May 2009 (www.ainse.edu.au)

2009 Prime Minister's Prizes for Science – applications close 8 May 2009 (<https://grants.innovation.gov.au>)

Ian Potter Foundation Grants – applications close 1 June 2009 (http://foundation.ianpotter.org.au/how_to_apply.html)

Professional Development Workshops

The Division of Research is pleased to announce a series of workshops being offered over the next few months, covering a wide range of information and skill development opportunities for staff and research students alike.

Monday 20th April - NVivo Training Workshop: 9.30am - 4pm Library training room, Lismore campus: This workshop is designed for users of NVivo qualitative data analysis software. A certified and experienced NVivo trainer will undertake the training - limited to 12 places. Registrations: Kath Fisher – kath.fisher@scu.edu.au.

Tuesday 28th April - Developing Industry Partners for Research: 11am-1pm Invercauld House: Presented by Prof Neal Ryan and Steve Williams, offers tips and strategies for finding research partners. Note that this workshop will be offered at the Coffs Harbour campus on Monday 2nd November. Registrations: Jackie Hudson – jacqueline.hudson@scu.edu.au.

Wednesday 29th April - Supporting research: What the Library can do for you: 9.30am - 12.30pm Library training room, Lismore campus. The workshop will provide an overview of Library resources and services relevant to researchers, including: research liaison services, ePublications@SCU, digital theses, document delivery, citation analysis tools, ERA developments, and new resources. The workshop will also offer the opportunity for researchers to give feedback on how the Library can optimise support for the research process. Registrations: Libby Pownall - libby.pownall@scu.edu.au.

Thursday 14th May - Word Workshop for postgraduates: 10.30-1.00pm Library training room, Lismore campus. Covers setting up a thesis template; creating styles; generating tables of contents, lists of figures and tables; copying styles between documents; creating master documents (limited to 20 places). Note that this workshop will be offered at the Coffs harbour campus on Friday the 21st August. Registrations: Kath Fisher – kath.fisher@scu.edu.au

Tuesday 19th May - Research workshop for women: 9am-3.30 pm Invercauld House. Provides information, strategies and tips from experienced researchers on how to develop a research career, open to all women academic staff and PhD students Registrations: Rachel Callahan - rachel.callahan@scu.edu.au.

Friday 5th June - Grants writing workshop: 8.45am-1pm Invercauld House. Presented by Emeritus Prof. Peter Baverstock, mainly covers tips on applying for ARC Linkage grants. Registrations: Annie Hart - anne.hart@scu.edu.au .

Friday 26th June - Supervisor Professional Development Workshop: 9am-3pm Invercauld House. Covers processes and procedures that supervisors need to know as well as opportunities to share experiences with other supervisors. It is a condition of supervisor eligibility that supervisors attend a workshop every three years. Registrations: Anne Hart - anne.hart@scu.edu.au.

Media Training: These two hour sessions hosted by the SCU Media team will provide a general overview of the SCU Media Unit and how we can assist with media releases and other communication, how the media works and preparation and interview techniques. The sessions are designed for academic staff and researchers who come into contact with the media as part of their work with SCU. Requests to attend the media training should be sent to brigid.veale@scu.edu.au or phone 83006. Other media training sessions can be scheduled on request.

Coffs Harbour, June 16, 10am to noon

SCU Riverside, June 23, 10am to noon

Lismore, September 22, 10am to noon

If you are interested in attending any of the above workshops, please reply to the relevant staff member collecting registration information as indicated. Reminders will be sent out closer to the dates of each workshop. A full year's calendar of workshops and training opportunities will soon be available on the Division of Research website.

General Information: If you wish to contribute to future Research News, or have suggestions on how to improve the way in which we inform staff and students on research activity, please contact Judi Summers – judi.summers@scu.edu.au, or phone 02 6620 3809.

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