



ATN in PROFILE

Volume 3, Edition 1 – February 2007

Welcome ...

to the 9th Annual ATN Conference 2007

Welcome to the 2007 ATN Conference. Our annual conference allows us to get together to discuss and agree upon directions for the year. It also gives us an opportunity to get to know each other better as we bring together senior staff from the five universities. This mix of work and social interaction helps build the ATN as a national community and provides us with an opportunity to showcase the results of our successful collaboration. This year, we welcome to the conference a delegation from ISTA – one of our most significant international alliances.

The conference theme is "Impact – The weight of tradition versus future potential". Over the last couple of years we have all been struggling with the weight of tradition – most notably in the debate around the RQF. We have had great success in challenging the original concept of the RQF which privileged a particular



■ ATN Chair and Vice Chancellor, University of South Australia, Professor Denise Bradley, AO

form of research which just happened to be the strength of the traditional universities – the GO8.

The ATN has played a significant role in influencing the final shape of the RQF and whilst there is still some uncertainty in the critical area of funding, we have been successful in ensuring that, for the first time, not just the quality but also the impact of research undertaken in our universities will be measured. The ATN argued that research impact could

be credibly defined, validated and assessed, and that the inclusion of impact in the RQF was important for the country's future as a site of innovation. But it is not just the ATN which has argued this position – business has been a major stakeholder in this debate. The nation's peak business lobby, the Business Council of Australia, has been a strong advocate for ensuring impact was part of the assessment process.

2006 was a year of great success for the ATN – a coalition which is now viewed by government and peak business bodies as focussed, effective and politically savvy. We have worked together now for more than a decade and have learnt how to pick the projects or issues where we can collaborate well. I invite you all to work and interact with your colleagues from other universities during the conference – enduring institutional alliances are built on personal relationships.

Denise Bradley

Professor Denise Bradley, AO

9th Annual ATN Conference 2007

"Impact – the weight of tradition versus future potential"

7 - 9 February 2007

Hosted by: University of Technology, Sydney

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member universities

University of South Australia

Curtin University of Technology

RMIT University

University of Technology, Sydney

Queensland University of Technology

www.atn.edu.au



AUSTRALIAN
TECHNOLOGY
NETWORK
OF UNIVERSITIES

9th Annual ATN Conference 2007

PROGRAM

Wednesday, 7 February

Working Group Meetings

Members of the ATN Working Groups will meet on campus on Wednesday to discuss group strategic plans for 2007.

Cocktail Function

All Conference participants are invited to attend the Cocktail Function

Thursday, 8 February

Registration on arrival

Conference Plenary

Conference Dinner – L'Aqua Restaurant, Darling Harbour

Friday, 9 February

Conference Plenary Sessions

Conference Close

SPEAKERS

Mr Phil Clarke

Member of JP Morgan Advisory Council & BCA Representative on the RQF Development Advisory Council

"What Business wants from the RQF"

Professor Richard Johnstone

Executive Director Carrick Institute for Learning & Teaching in Higher Education

"The Future of Teaching and Learning in Australian Universities"

Professor Nian Cai Liu

Director Office of Planning and Institute of Higher Education
Shanghai Jiao Tong University

"Academic Ranking of World Universities: Methodologies and Problems"

INTERNATIONAL GUESTS

Vice Chancellors & Senior Academics from:
– Consortium Linking Universities of Science & Technology for Education & Research comprising European Universities of Technology

– International Strategic Technology Alliance (ISTA), China

– South Africa Technology Network (SATN)

– Vice Chancellors of Ghana, South Africa



■ *Engineering Tomorrow's Engineers* is a national project designed to address Australia's engineering skill shortage.

National project aimed at *Engineering Tomorrow's Engineers*

The ATN has once again shown its strong focus on collaboration across the network and with industry, receiving funding from the Collaboration and Structural Reform Fund (CASR) for a national project designed to address Australia's engineering skill shortage.

With one in four of the nation's engineering students studying at an ATN university, *Engineering Tomorrow's Engineers*, a federally-funded project, aims to place the ATN at the forefront of delivering a solution to the current shortage of engineers and recruiting more school leavers with the necessary aptitudes to be tomorrow's engineers.

The three-year project, commencing in 2007, will address the national skills shortage in engineering by developing an Australian Technology Network Engineering in Schools initiative; developing a national marketing campaign to improve the profile of the profession; nationally piloting a course aptitude test for undergraduate entry; and developing accreditation pathways and an accreditation

stream for degrees which ensure that graduates are not only technically competent, but also have the skills to allow them to operate effectively within a corporate environment.

Working closely with Government and key industry stakeholders, *Engineering Tomorrow's Engineers* will reinvigorate the engineering profession as a potential career path for students.

Announcing the grant, the Federal Education, Science and Training Minister, the Hon. Julie Bishop acknowledged the critical importance of the project.

"Australia's strong economy has led to increasing demands for skilled workers in certain industries. A number of the projects I have approved from the 2006 funding round will assist further in addressing these skills issues.

"For example, the \$680,000 *Engineering Tomorrow's Engineers* project will look at ways of increasing the number of trained engineers through a range of activities including at an early stage through an Engineering in Schools initiative."

New Chair for ATN

RMIT Vice Chancellor, Professor Margaret Gardner takes over as ATN Chair from February 9.

Professor Gardner, replaces University of South Australia Vice Chancellor, Professor Denise Bradley, who has been in the role since February 2005.

Professor Gardner is a relative newcomer to the ATN, commencing in her role as RMIT's Vice Chancellor in 2005. In addition to her extensive university background, she founded and co-convened the National Colloquium of Women Senior Executives in Higher Education and is

a member of various Committees in the areas of the arts, education and industrial relations.

As well as ongoing contributions to Australia's higher education policy debate and preparations for the upcoming RQF, the ATN will be moving forward in exciting new directions in 2007, with a stronger international engagement strategy; the launch of e-Grad School (Australia) courses; further collaborative research; the conclusion of the ATeNergy project; and the commencement of the Engineering Tomorrow's Engineers project.

Professor Margaret Gardner BEcon (Hons), PhD Syd., FAIM, GAICD

Professor Margaret Gardner commenced as Vice-Chancellor and President of RMIT University on 4 April 2005.

Prior to commencing at RMIT, Professor Gardner was Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at the University of Queensland from December 2000 to March 2005. From 1994 to 2000 Professor Gardner held the position of Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Business, Equity) at Griffith University.

She has been a member of various Committees in the areas of the arts, education and industrial relations, and is currently a member on the Learning and Teaching Performance Fund Advisory Committee and the Department of Education, Science and Training's Business/Industry/Higher Education Collaboration Council.

Professor Gardner currently chairs RMIT International University Vietnam Pty Ltd and RMIT Vietnam Holdings Pty Ltd, and holds directorships on RMIT Training Pty Ltd, RMIT International Pty Ltd, Carrick Institute Board and Open Universities Australia.



First e-Grad School course to be launched at conference

The first course offering for the ATN e-Grad School (Australia) will be formally launched by ATN Vice Chancellors at the ATN conference.

The e-Grad School, an ambitious joint venture funded by the first round of the Collaboration and Structural Reform Fund (CASR) in 2005, will be commencing its first course offering in February 2007.

The online Graduate Certificate in Research Commercialisation is jointly branded by all five ATN universities, and aspects of the course have been developed by each member, according to their specific strengths.

The e-Grad School and the Graduate Certificate represent the culmination of a steadily increasing collaborative delivery process that began with ATN LEAP (Learning Employment Aptitudes Program) in 2001.

ATN universities plan to heavily leverage the new qualification as part of their involvement in the new Commercialisation Training Scheme (CTS), with the e-Grad School looking forward to providing other universities with the tools that they need to facilitate their own involvement in the scheme.

More information about the Graduate Certificate may be found at www.egradschool.edu.au.

Senior women support WEXDEV workshop

Taking place in association with the 2007 ATN Conference, the 5th WEXDEV Research Leadership Capability Building Workshop is an opportunity for women across ATN universities to come together for a two-day workshop designed to increase their capacity to be successful in an academic research career.

With women researchers under-represented at senior levels within universities, developing

the skills and support network across the ATN to address this situation is important for the network, which considers equity issues to be an important part of our members' identity.

Support for WEXDEV's mission to achieve a greater gender balance within the ATN receives widespread support at all levels, and this year the 10 workshop participants will benefit from the experience of two of the ATN's

most senior women.

Professor Vicki Sara, Chancellor of UTS, and Professor Linda Kristjanson, PVC (Research) of Curtin University, will address workshop participants to give their perspectives on the skills needed to succeed as a research leader. The encouragement for WEXDEV is widespread across the network, allowing participants in its programs to benefit greatly from the knowledge of senior

women within their universities who they may not normally come into contact with.

This level of support has allowed WEXDEV to grow to the point that it has reached today, with major events now attracting international participants and looked upon as a highly valuable experience.

The workshop will take place at UTS from 5-7th February.

Clare Burton scholarship recipient to put nursing under the microscope

With Australia suffering a nursing shortage, understanding the culture surrounding the profession is increasingly important. Given our ageing population, this is perhaps especially relevant when it comes to aged care nursing. The Clare Burton scholarship provides recipients \$10,000 to support postgraduate research into gender equity. Currently, 90% of staff in nursing homes and aged accommodation are female, making equity research in this speciality particularly appropriate.

University of South Australia student, Valerie Adams, is currently working with UniSA's Hawke Research Institute, Research Centre for Gender Studies and was previously a nurse for 30 years of her professional career.

She will use her scholarship to explore and uncover the values and experiences of nurses working in Australian aged care facilities. She plans to examine gender segregation and socialisation in the field to give us a better understanding of the culture associated with this important speciality.

As well as the funds provided to support her research, Valerie will also receive individual support and mentoring related to her current research and future career from the university.

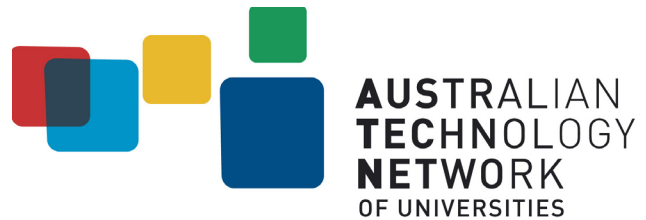
The Clare Burton Scholarship was established by the five ATN universities to honour and continue the work of Dr. Clare Burton, a pioneering Australian researcher, into aspects of gender equity.



■ **The experiences of nurses working in aged care will be the focus of research by scholarship**

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

FINDING SOLUTIONS



THE Australian Technology Network brings together five of the most innovative and enterprising universities in the nation.

We are committed to forging partnerships with industry and government to deliver practical results through focused research.

We educate graduates who are ready to enter their chosen profession, dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and eager to claim a stake in building sustainable societies of the future.

ATN universities teach around 180,000 students, or almost 20 % of Australia's student population. With 1 in 4 international students choosing to study at an ATN university, we are also the largest provider of international education, both with our onshore and offshore students.

The ATN's aim is to help secure Australia's reputation as the clever country, and contribute to its social and economic wealth, while championing the principles of access and equity that have ensured its members are the universities of first choice for more students.

■ For more information about the ATN, our organisation and activities, please visit our web site at www.atn.edu.au



member universities

University of South Australia

Curtin University of Technology

RMIT University

University of Technology, Sydney

Queensland University of Technology

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