



ATN in PROFILE

WELCOME ... from the Chair...

Welcome to the 2011 ATN Symposium.

This symposium is timed to take advantage of the current attention to Australia's future research and innovation workforce and will explore and work towards strategies for developing that workforce. It's a matter which must be of concern to us all – business, industry and the broader community.

The symposium will draw the link between the criticality of good research to underpin our reputation and our performance – both as institutions and more importantly as a nation. Put simply, if we don't have an ongoing supply of quality researchers, our economy will suffer. The link between a strong university sector that attracts the brightest minds (by way of both students and academics), an internationally competitive research culture, a strong marketing proposition and a strong national economy is often overlooked.

But the fact remains that our reputation (and our economic viability) as a nation rests with our ability to compete in a global economy – and that includes in the innovation sector. This, in turn, cements our reputation and



ATN Chair, Professor
Ross Milbourne

enables our universities to attract international students who contribute to our national economy and academic staff who underpin our teaching, learning and research. It is within this context that the focus of this symposium is to be about building the research workforce – not just for us but for the future productivity of our nation.

The 2011 Symposium will also provide an opportunity for us to come together to explore and develop new ideas and form stronger relationships as we bring together senior staff from our member universities. Combining work and social interaction enhances the ATN's position as we look to showcase the results our successful collaboration is delivering. This year, we welcome to the conference Senator the Hon Kim Carr, Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research.

As well we will hear from speakers from diverse areas such as university rankings, the automotive industry, the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Austrade and our newest appointed University Chancellor, Dr Ziggy Switowski. All have one thing in common – each has a stake in the future of our universities and in a sustainable research workforce – be it through marketing and reputation management, recruitment of industry prepared PhDs or the growth of our national innovation economy. 2010 was another year of great success for the ATN. The network continued to be the

ATN Symposium

1-2 February 2011

*"Building Australia's
Research and
Innovation Workforce"*

Hosted by University of
South Australia

Australian university group with the fastest growing research capacity and we continued to be the group with a respected voice with the Federal Government in the development of policy for the higher education sector.

The ATN lobbied successfully for a review of the international student visa system, working with the Business Council of Australia on this issue. We worked closely with the Rudd/Gillard Government to ensure equitable outcomes for our students in relation to income support measures and, in my capacity as ATN Chair, I accompanied the then newly appointed Federal Education Minister, Senator The Hon Chris Evans, to China.

The strength of our network is our shared commitment to collaboration internally, nationally and internationally. It is this culture which enables those who study within the ATN, those whose research is based with the ATN, and those who view us as an employer of choice, to enjoy the significant additional benefits of internal cooperation and external linkages.

The ATN symposium is the perfect forum in which to further embed this collaborative culture and I invite you all to work and interact with your colleagues from other universities during the conference.

Again, as Chair of the Australian Technology Network of Universities, I welcome you to the 2011 ATN Symposium – enjoy!

Ross Milbourne

Professor Ross Milbourne
Chair ATN and Vice-Chancellor and President,
University of Technology, Sydney.

member universities

University of South Australia
Curtin University of Technology
RMIT University
University of Technology, Sydney
Queensland University of Technology



AUSTRALIAN
TECHNOLOGY
NETWORK
OF UNIVERSITIES

SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

TUESDAY 1 FEBRUARY

6pm - 6.30pm: Pre-Dinner drinks, Business Attire, Samstag Museum of Art, Hawke Building, University of SA

6.30pm - 9.30pm: SYMPOSIUM DINNER

Hosted by Professor Peter Høj, Vice Chancellor and President University of South Australia.

Speaker: Dr Zygmunt (Ziggy) Switkowski, Chancellor MIT University.

WEDNESDAY 2 FEBRUARY

8.15am - 8.30am: Pre-Registration (tea/coffee on arrival) Bradley Forum, 5th floor, Hawke Building, University of SA

8.30am - 8.45am: **CONFERENCE OPENING** – Professor Ross Milbourne, ATN Chair

8.15am - 8.30am: **KEYNOTE: 2010** – Research Workforce Strategy and National Innovation Agenda – where to from here? Senator The Hon Kim Carr, Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research

9.30am - 9.45am: **CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE DAY** – Vicki Thomson, Executive Director, ATN

9.50am - 10.30am: **Centres for Doctoral Training in UK** – Ms Lesley Thompson, Director – Research Base, Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, UK

10.30am - 10.45am: **Morning tea**

10.50am - 12 noon: **PANEL DISCUSSION** – Developing ATN Centres for doctoral training and employment outcomes for PhDs. Facilitator: Professor Margaret Gardner AO, Vice Chancellor and President, RMIT University

12 noon - 12.30pm: **Lunch**

12.30pm - 1pm: **Building Australia's Research and Education Brand** – Professor Caroline McMille, DVC Research, UniSA

1pm - 1.30pm: **What would a new ranking look like?** – Ben Sowter, QS Research

1.30pm - 2.45pm: **PANEL DISCUSSION** – Powering Australia's international research and education brand. Facilitator: Professor Peter Coaldrake, Vice Chancellor and President, Queensland University of Technology

2.45pm - 3pm: **CLOSE SYMPOSIUM** – Professor Jeanette Hackett, Chair ATN, Vice Chancellor and President Curtin University

Top dinner speaker

One of Australia's most respected technology, innovation and business leaders, Dr Zygmunt (Ziggy) Switkowski, will address the ATN Symposium dinner.

Drawing on his extensive knowledge and experience as Chairman of the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation as well as a distinguished career in telecommunications, Dr Switkowski is ideally placed to provide an expert business perspective on the challenges facing business and academe in advancing research and innovation in Australia, the requirements to build the necessary research workforce and the opportunities for collaboration between industry and academe.

Dr Switkowski, who was appointed Chancellor of RMIT in January this year, has been Chairman of the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation since 2007 and of Opera Australia since 2009.

His distinguished career in business has included serving as Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Telstra (1999 - 2005), Chief Executive Officer of Optus (1996 - 1997) and Chairman of Kodak (Australia) (1992 - 1996). He has had extensive experience on company boards, as well as engagement with arts organisations and universities.



International education needs reliable regulation

Australia's international education industry has come under significant scrutiny of late, with a number of reviews underway on how Australia's third largest export can be protected. In its response to the consultations surrounding the Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000 (ESOS), the ATN has emphasised the need for attention to be directed where it is needed.

ATN Executive Director, Ms Vicki Thomson, reiterated the importance of ensuring the strength of the sector.

"It is critically important that international education be properly regulated," Ms Thomson said. "As an \$18 billion export industry, we must ensure that Australia's reputation for quality education and training services is protected. Recent negative publicity around the closure of some education providers just underlines that importance.

"But while the provisions of ESOS may well be in need of review, the main issue has been for some time the monitoring and enforcement of the regulations. There is a risk that unnecessary focus may be placed on increasing the proscriptive nature of ESOS requirements, when strengthened enforcement is more important and would have averted much of the recent damage to the industry's reputation.

"Comprehensive, consistent and effective management of ESOS will be the real key to protecting 'brand Australia'.

"Part of that management will be directing resources in the appropriate direction. While we absolutely support the development of updated regulations, it will be important to ensure that providers who comply with both the letter and spirit of the ESOS framework, such as universities, do not become so tied up in new processes and compliance requirements that they have to divert resources away from productive areas such as student recruitment and provision of student support services."

Other key aspects of the ATN's submission include:

- Institution of an independent national accreditation authority to provide oversight for capacity and quality, recommended to be the new Tertiary Education Quality Standards Agency (TEQSA);
- Risk assessment based on defined, transparent criteria;
- A tiered approach to managing risk, with commensurate registration periods
- Alignment of criteria review to quality audit cycles.

Access the full ATN response to the consultation paper from www.atn.edu.au

Reforms vital for student visa system

The ATN strongly supports the announced review of Australia's student visa system and measures to immediately address current anomalies.

ATN Chair, Professor Ross Milbourne, said the ATN, which has strongly advocated urgent reforms and a risk-based approach to protect our third largest export sector, was particularly pleased to see the changes announced regarding assessment levels of our two largest markets – China and India. "Research commissioned by the ATN and presented to Ministers Evans and Bowen highlighted the anomalies which exist between students coming from different countries, whereby the level of financial proof required by students from our key markets of China and India are substantially more onerous than that required by students from Singapore and Malaysia.

"These anomalies send mixed messages to prospective students in our key markets. Changing the assessment level from 4 to 3 is a critical step in both addressing the anomaly and sending a positive message to



Reforms are needed to protect the international student sector.

these key markets."

Professor Milbourne said the ATN group, which educates one in four International students currently studying in Australia, said the priority given to the university sector by the Government was a strong recognition of the integral role of universities in supporting the national economy.

"Higher education is the most economically significant part of the International education sector, generating 57 per cent of export revenue. It is therefore appropriate

that issues affecting our sector be addressed as part of this review process," he said.

Professor Milbourne said the review should consider the following key policy options:

- Should Australia have a single student visa for higher education students, as per the reference set of countries considered?

- Should the financial requirements test be limited to the first year of tuition/living expenses as per other countries?

- Should there be an emphasis on proof of funds rather than proof of source of funding?

- Should the higher education student visa include a post-study work component?

The ATN support policy options two, three and four as areas the Government can immediately address without compromising broader policy objectives. "The issue of a single visa category for Higher Education students is one that we believe merits further consideration, but only after detailed analysis of the impact of such a policy initiative on the International education sector," Professor Milbourne said.

ATN Fast FactsATN Fast Facts ATN Fast Facts....

Did you know...

- International engagement and cooperation has been particularly strong:
 - The Australia-China NanoNetwork made significant strides forward, with the signing of an MOU to establish an ATN/Southeast University Joint Laboratory on Nanoscience.
 - We began the year with the first round of the ATN/University of Waterloo Researcher Exchange Program, with collaborative activity now under way.
 - Likewise, the first round of the ATN/German Academic Service (DAAD) Australia Germany Joint Research Cooperation Scheme is currently underway, with results to be announced shortly.
- ATN/Australian Procurement and Construction Council (APCC) collaborative Postgraduate Programs in Strategic Procurement were established.
- The ATN has undergone continual strong engagement with Government in development of the Research Workforce Strategy and methods to revitalise and grow Australia's capacity in research-trained people.
- ATN academics received eight awards in the 2010 Australian Learning and Teaching Council Australian Awards for Teaching Excellence.
- Our cooperative focus and strengths continue, with QUT and UniSA ranking 4th and 5th in Australia for Commonwealth CRC funding, respectively.

- Curtin researcher Dr Katherine Trinajstic awarded the Malcolm McIntosh Prize for Physical Scientist of the Year in the 2010 Prime Minister's Science Prizes.
- Professor David Wood, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International) at Curtin University, awarded Vietnam's Medal for Educational Achievements, the country's most prestigious education honour.
- UniSA awarded \$5 million under the federal government's priority Australian Space Research Program, leading the charge in developing a new satellite-based wireless sensor network; with industry support the project is worth \$12 million.
- The CRC for Contamination Assessment and Remediation of the Environment, based at UniSA, awarded a further \$29 million over nine years by the Federal Government, with an additional \$148 million in industry support.
- UniSA awarded \$8 million NHMRC program grant to help reduce the incidence and adverse health impacts of diabetes and cardiovascular disease in Indigenous communities.
- UTS' School of Finance and Economics was ranked top in Australia for economics research.
- UTS received \$50 million from the Government's Education Investment Fund towards its new Faculty of Engineering and IT building.
- The largest ever philanthropic gift in history by an individual for a university building in Australia was gifted to UTS, from Chinese

- business leader Dr Chau Chak Wing - \$25 million to support the new Faculty of Business Building designed by Frank Gehry.
- Australia's first Chinese Medicine Confucius Institute was opened at RMIT by His Excellency Xi Jinping, Vice-President of the People's Republic of China. The Confucius Institute will promote the study of Chinese culture and language, with a focus on Chinese Medicine.
- Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard opened the RMIT Vietnam University, Hanoi campus. This year, RMIT will celebrate ten years of rapid growth in Vietnam.
- Antoni Gaudí's unfinished masterpiece, Temple Sagrada Família, was consecrated by Pope Benedict XVI in November. Professor Mark Burry, Federation Fellow and Founding Director of the RMIT Design Research Institute and Professor of Innovation (Spatial Information Architecture), has been working to unravel Gaudí's compositional strategies for the basilica since 1979.
- QUT's Dr Clinton Fookes won the prestigious People's Choice Awards in the Australian Museum Eureka Prizes for his research on technology to make public spaces safer with the use of smarter computers and surveillance.
- World-renowned optometry researcher Professor Nathan Efron from QUT's Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation won the "Nobel Prize" of optometry – the American Academy of Optometry Glenn A Fry Annual Lecture Award, for his 10-year research project on ophthalmic markers of diabetic neuropathy.

– New Chair for ATN –

Curtin Vice Chancellor, Professor Jeanette Hacket takes over as ATN Chair from February 3. Professor Hacket replaces Professor Ross Milbourne who has held the position for the past two years.

Professor Hacket was appointed Vice-Chancellor of Curtin University of Technology in April 2006. Prior to this appointment she held the position of Deputy Vice-Chancellor, a role that she had undertaken since 2004.

Professor Hacket has a particular interest in international higher education and quality assurance and has undertaken numerous roles in international education leadership including Pro Vice-Chancellor International and Enterprise at Curtin University. Professor Hacket holds undergraduate and masters degrees in law and a PhD in Strategic Management.

She has worked as a legal practitioner and later as a legal academic with a particular interest in international law and health law. Professor Hacket's board memberships have included IDP Education Australia Ltd, IELTS Australia, Open Universities Australia, Future Directions International, the Australian Higher Education Industrial Association, the Australian Universities Quality Agency and the Universities Australia Indigenous Higher Education Advisory Council. She is also a Councillor on the Australia Business Arts Foundation and Commissioner of the Western Australian Football Commission.



Professor Jeanette Hacket will become the new ATN Chair.

ATN responds to 21st century skills development

"Building Partnerships: Finding Solutions" is the ATN maxim cementing a high priority on the link between industry and our universities.

This year sees the culmination of a two-year collaborative project between the ATN and the Australasian Procurement and Construction Council (APCC) with the launch of industry specific post graduate programs in strategic procurement.

Commenting on the partnership, ATN Chair, Ross Milbourne said, "Australia has weathered the global financial crisis more strongly than most other countries, with a particularly positive long-term economic outlook predicted.

"The need for Australia to maintain a strong economy has been clearly demonstrated, and we believe that one of the advantages we have in that goal is the skilled and educated workforce we produce through our high-quality education system".

In a national first, the Masters by coursework programs of each ATN member will offer professional procurement managers and those aspiring to higher level/executive roles the opportunity to accelerate their technical expertise and fast-track their career in procurement.

Developed by expert industry and university staff, the initiative builds upon the existing strong suite of programs in the procurement discipline across a number of the ATN member universities.

For more information visit Strategic Procurement at the ATN.

Leadership roles flow for ATN senior staff

The ATN congratulates Professor Caroline McMillen on her appointment as Vice Chancellor University of Newcastle. Professor McMillen joined the University of South Australia in 2005 and has made an enormous



contribution to the ATN. Her outstanding strategic vision of research has been a major driver of the growth in UniSA's research performance over the past five years and to national recognition of UniSA as one of the up-and-coming stars in Australian research. Strategically, one of her most important contributions has been to analyse and explain the developmental trajectory of research in young universities, and to show that rapidly developing institutions like those in the

ATN perform exceptionally well compared to longer-established institutions once age is taken into account.

Caroline has a national and international reputation for her work – she is currently a member of over 20 external boards and advisory councils covering a wide range of activities including the Automotive Industry Innovation Council, the AutoCRC Board, the Resources Industry Development Board and the Manufacturing Consultative Council.

The appointment of Professor McMillen as Vice Chancellor of Uni Newcastle sees another addition to the long line of ATN senior staff sought for promotion to Vice Chancellor. Four of the six most recently appointed Vice Chancellors in Australia have come from ATN universities: Professor Jim Barber, Professor Jane den Hollander and Professor Peter Lee taking up the leadership of UNE, Deakin and Southern Cross universities respectively.

ATN member universities

University of South Australia

Curtin University of Technology

RMIT University

University of Technology, Sydney

Queensland University of Technology

www.atn.edu.au

contact us

Postal address

GPO Box 2471

Adelaide 5001

South Australia

Email: vicki.thomson@unisa.edu.au

Phone

+618 8302 9132

Fax

+618 8302 0943