



# ATN in PROFILE

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## From the chair ...

THAT the Bradley review and its recommendations are eliciting such strong views should come as no surprise.

Those involved in the sector are passionate about the value and contribution of universities to the national economic and social agenda.

We rightly assert that our place is critical in contributing to a nation that is internationally competitive and grounded in a sense of a fair go for all.

The ATN, with almost 200,000 students, has long advocated the need for reforms that go to the core of our universities' business: our students, and therefore teaching and learning, and our research capacity.

This is why the review may have come as a shock to some who believe that they and their universities, by weight of tradition, should be the main beneficiaries of national reform. Instead, this review has centred the debate on the needs of students as a means of human capital development, a notion the ATN supports and indeed advocates.

This package delivers a long-term vision for the nation's higher education sector and it does so in three fundamental ways: it rightly argues that university education must be widely accessible; it offers a framework that will enable universities to play to their strengths, thus ensuring diversity but not at the expense of quality; and it offers a funding model that puts increased government contributions

at the core rather than further student contributions. Denise Bradley and her team have put forward a document that has as its foundation a vision for a strong national university system that will deliver the human capital we need for the future.

It is a vision in which all eligible undergraduates have access to an equal quality education regardless of socioeconomic status or geographical location.

And it is a vision that recognises that a demand-driven student entitlement system, with appropriate quality assurances in place, is necessary in an environment where we must, as Bradley herself points out, broaden the base of university qualifications to meet the skill needs of the future.

The Bradley review is strong on social inclusion. We also support the setting of participation targets around attainment of a university degree and participation of low socioeconomic status students.

We certainly recognise that achieving these targets will be a big ask. But we must have aspirational targets that will drive policy settings at government and university levels.

It is because the main role of public policy is to create a strong cohesive society that the Bradley review recommends Australia maintain and enhance a world-class university system.

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*Ross Milbourne*

– ATN Chair Professor Ross Milbourne



### member universities

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

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# New Chair for ATN

Strengthening Australia's capacity to engage in the global community, ensuring the ATN is a leading contributor to the development of a world class university system, and advocating access to higher education for all those who seek it regardless of background or circumstance were the themes of Professor Ross Milbourne's address to the ATN conference as he assumed the role of Chair, ATN.

In looking at the challenges ahead, Professor Milbourne stated that the Bradley and Cutler reviews had brought into focus the nature of the sector and provided a valuable opportunity to evaluate what the best higher education system would be as we moved forward into the next decade and beyond.

"The ATN is well positioned to be a major participant in this process. This network gives us a national platform from which to engage at both a network level and also at the external level with government, industry and the community" he said.

"But we couldn't do that if we didn't have a collaborative base from which to put forward the best arguments which are in the national interest – and I would argue strongly that we are the group which acts most firmly in this space and we are recognised as such".

Professor Milbourne received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of NSW in Econometrics, and his PhD in Economics from



the University of California, Berkeley (supervisor, Nobel laureate George Akerlof).

His research interests have been in the general area of monetary economics and macroeconomics and more recently economic growth in open economies. He was appointed Vice Chancellor of UTS in 2002.

Under the ATN's MOU, the position of Chair rotates every 2 years. For the first time since becoming a Network, the ATN will have a Deputy Chair. Professor Jeanette Hackett will undertake this role in 2009-2010.

■ **ATN Seated:** Prof. Jeanette Hackett (Curtin) Prof. Margaret Gardner, AO (RMIT) **Back:** Prof. Peter Høj (UNISA), Prof Peter Coaldrake, (QUT) and Prof Ross Milbourne, ATN Chair and VC, UTS

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It rejects the notion of a chronically underfunded system, except for one or two highly funded universities allowing access to only 5 per cent of the undergraduate student population and thus continually reproducing a small, elite privileged class.

As a key player in the research and innovation system, the ATN also supports the recommendations of the Bradley and Cutler reviews in relation to research. The full funding of research will allow those universities contributing to research to concentrate and deepen research strengths. The recommendation of an increase in the value of the postgraduate stipend is also essential if we are to build the intellectual base needed to make Australia competitive in this century and to build a future university workforce capable of delivering the teaching needs necessary for the future accumulation of human

capital. The Bradley recommendations are underpinned by a funding model that, if implemented, will begin to redress the parlous state of university resourcing.

We note the strong financial commitments previously announced by the federal Government and also recognise the fiscal limitations facing government in the economic environment.

However, we argue that increased recurrent funding for each student will allow for staff and student intakes that will provide the greatest economic stimulus in the present environment and also bring long-term benefits to the economy.

A strong commitment for the next two decades and beyond is required from all stakeholders - government, industry, the professions and universities – to ensure we have a sustainable, world-class university system. The recommendations lay the groundwork for that vision.



■ Professor Stuart White, Director, Institute of Sustainable Futures, UTS and Project Lead, ATN Emissions Reduction Programme

# Carbon emissions right on target

In a national first, the ATN has collectively set a target to reduce emissions by 10 per cent over the next four years, fulfilling a 2008 pledge to adopt energy targets as part of their ongoing commitment to sustainability.

In addition, the network has set a longer term target for 2020-21 of a 25 per cent reduction in emissions below 2007 levels, which is equivalent to an ATN benchmark greenhouse gas intensity of 105 kg CO<sub>2</sub>-e/m<sup>2</sup> per annum.

The ATN will also establish annual reporting of the carbon footprint for the ATN universities using a common reporting format with a 2008-09 carbon footprint.

This will be compiled in the second half of this year to align ATN greenhouse reporting with Australian Government reporting requirements.

As a partner with government, industry, business and local communities, the ATN intends to play a lead role in implementing effective and efficient sustainable practices.

It is important that universities measure, monitor and address the impact of their ecological footprint within a local, national and global context.

To that end, we will meet our present needs without jeopardising future generations.

As part of the initiative ATN Universities will:

- Report on selected Scope 3 emission sources in the ATN carbon footprint starting in 2009-10. These sources will include electricity generation, air travel by university employees, waste disposal and wastewater treatment.
  - Maintain or increase existing levels of Green Power purchase as a proportion of total electricity use through to 2020 or replace Green Power commitments with equivalent emission reduction options
  - Maintain or increase existing Green Star commitments for new and refurbished buildings.
  - Implement high-priority measures identified in energy audits.
  - Undertake an annual review of progress towards the greenhouse gas reduction targets.
  - Undertake a review every two years of the adequacy of the targets in light of changing scientific knowledge and the broader climate policy context. The first such review will be in 2010-11.
- In adopting the targets, ATN universities will collectively invest more than \$20million by 2013.

## ATN EVENTS

### 7th Annual Higher Education Summit

“Exploring issues of interdependence, connectivity & the development of the individual institution”

**2-3 April, 2009  
Grand Hyatt, Melbourne**

The ATN supports the Higher Education Summit as an event involving key representatives who will discuss the future of higher education in the context of the post-Bradley Review environment. It will draw from the vibrant discussions and debates that are taking place and the agenda has been centred on the theme of - “interdependence”, “connectivity” and “the development of the individual institution”.

The summit will include a state keynote ministerial address, four international speakers, and the speaking participation of five TAFE directors. In addition, the inaugural Regional Higher Education Engagement Forum will be hosted by BHERT. The speaker faculty also includes 13 VCs as well as many other key higher education representatives. In total, an expected 48 speakers will be joining the Summit speaker faculty, making this event an excellent opportunity for networking and sharing information.

### Partnerships in Clinical Trials

**20-21 May 2009  
Radisson Plaza Hotel Sydney**

Partnerships in Clinical Trials Conference is organised by IIR Conferences and endorsed by the Australian Technology Network.

ATN members are entitled to a 10% discount on their registration fee.

The conference will give you practical knowledge and the tools to maximise your partnership relationships in order to maintain successful, effective and financially viable partnerships.

Don't miss this fantastic chance to meet, network and receive expert guidance from senior-level representatives from major pharmaceutical companies, innovative biotechs and top CROs.

## ATN EVENTS

### Innovation and Commercialisation – LESANZ Annual Conference

**2-4 April 2009  
Park Hyatt Canberra**

This premier event titled "Creating and Driving Impact" will bring together international and national speakers on a range of engaging topics including:

***Making a difference through successful innovation*** – technology transfer models, social entrepreneurship, indigenous commercialisation

***Having the tools and skills to support change*** – capital raising, negotiation skills, international engagement, intellectual property, conflict resolution.

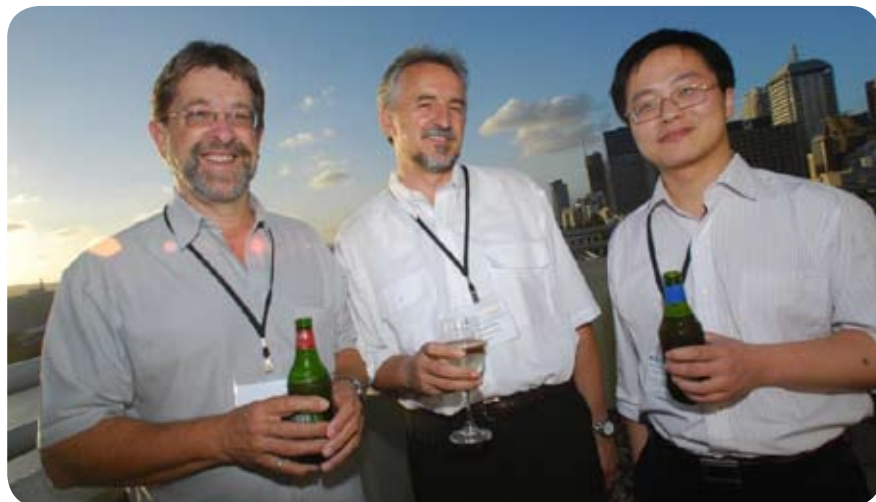
### Professional Development Workshops

**2 April 2009 – Canberra**

The Licensing Executives Society (LESANZ) will be presenting a series of 4 half day workshops and 1 full day workshop. These in-depth and practical workshops represent excellent value and the opportunity to improve your skills and knowledge:

- Life's a Pitch – practical skills for successful pitchers – a must for researchers, innovators, entrepreneurs and business managers
- IP Intelligence – intellectual property analytics for business decision making
- Biotech Licensing – drafting the hot licensing clauses
- Patent Enforcement – an international perspective
- Gene Technology for Decision Makers – DNA for the non-scientist

# MOU establishes NanoNetwork



■ **ATN Project manager, research, Professor Neil Furlong with two members of the ATN-ISTA Nano Network, Professor Dusan Losic, (UNISA) and Professor Wanlin Guo – Director, Institute of Nano Science, Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics, at the ATN Conference Welcome Reception.**

At the recent 2009 annual meeting of the ATN its then Chair, Professor Margaret Gardner, AO, joined with the Chair of ISTA, Dr Lui, in signing an ATN-ISTA Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishing the ATN-ISTA NanoNetwork.

Under the agreement, Australian researchers from across the five member network will partner those at Chinese universities in the field of nanotechnology. During 2007-08 nanoscience technology researchers from all ATN member universities have met with researchers from the 20+ strong ISTA member base of Chinese universities.

The aim of these discussions was to begin to build professional and personal networks whilst gaining further understandings how their various research capabilities in nanoscience might be harnessed via a collaborative research network. The ATN/ISTA

NanoNetwork MOU provides an operational framework through which ATN and ISTA researchers can build multi-university research teams and seek endorsement for their proposed projects.

Key elements of the MOU are:

- priority research themes as health diagnostics, environment and renewable energy;
- researcher exchanges between ATN and ISTA member universities;
- encouragement for the joint supervision of research students between ATN and ISTA universities;
- co-ordination support and assistance for Research Grant Applications for NanoNetwork projects from the ATN/ISTA secretariats;
- bi-annual NanoNetwork research workshops (in Australia and China).

## Professional development for leaders in tertiary education

Registrations are now open for the LH Martin Institute's Executive Education Programs. The Executive Education programs have been specifically designed to meet the leadership and management development needs of the next generation of leaders in higher education and VET institutions.

These programs provide relevant and practical professional development solutions for academic and administrative leaders working in higher education, VET and private institutions.

Upcoming seminars and workshops include:

- Managing the Teaching/Learning Process, 25-27 March, Melbourne

- Systems Induction – VET, 30 March, Sydney
  - Making Committees Work, 2-3 April, Sydney
  - Executive Leadership and Management in International Education, 7-8 April (first of two modules)
  - Heads of Department, 13-15 May (first of three modules), Melbourne
- Places are strictly limited and early registration is encouraged to secure your place. For more information on the growing range of Martin Institute programs, to download the prospectus, or to register please [visit our website www.mihelm.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.mihelm.unimelb.edu.au), alternatively you can contact Anna Steer on +61 3 8344 3157 or [asteer@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:asteer@unimelb.edu.au)

# Review catalyst for reform

The ATN has welcomed the recent responses from the Federal Government to the Bradley Review of Higher Education, saying it represents a major step toward the most significant long lasting reform of the tertiary sector in the last two decades.

ATN Chair, Professor Ross Milbourne, said if the Review was an historic watershed in Higher Education policy, the response from the Deputy Prime Minister, Julia Gillard will shape the future of our universities and Australia's place at the international education table.

The key announcements around participation rates, funding and the regulatory environment delivers the first plank for the much needed structural reform which will ensure Australia can develop a world class university system.

"We strongly endorse Minister Gillard's



■ Professor Peter Coaldrake , VC QUT and Chair –Elect, Universities Australia with Emeritus Professor Denise Bradley, AC at the recent ATN Conference.

The ATN also strongly endorsed the announcement by the Federal Government that it will support a target of 20 per cent by 2020 of students from low-socio-economic background accessing university is a critical first step towards redressing university access and participation.

The Government has indicated that it would support the recommendations in the Bradley Review of Higher Education to lift the university participation rates of people from low socio-economic backgrounds. ATN Executive Director, Vicki Thomson said that with the current level at around 16 per cent, reaching the 20 per cent target would require a collaborative effort.

"ATN universities enrol 20% of the nation's students, 19% of low SES students, 14% of disabled students and 17% of indigenous students. Our retention rate across the ATN of disadvantaged students is above the national average," she said.

"The ATN strongly endorses target setting as a means to social, economic and cultural development for the nation. Universities are an integral part of local, regional, national and international networks influencing the political, social, cultural and economic climate. They act as catalysts fo positive change and development. This change requires the combined efforts and resources of all stakeholders equity and access is a shared responsibility."

**“ Australia must have high quality graduates who will supply the abilities and skills the nation needs for its social and economic future ”**

announcement that by 2025, 40 per cent of all 25-34 year olds will have a qualification at bachelor level or above. Australia must have high quality graduates who will supply the abilities and skills the nation needs for its social and economic future.” Prof Milbourne said.

"We have long argued that a demand driven system, if adopted as announced today, must be underpinned by appropriate quality assurances. Such a move is necessary in an environment where we must broaden the base of university qualifications to meet the skills needs of the future.

"Given the diversity in the sector and the scale of international higher education it is important that there is national certainty about the capacity and quality of the sector in order to ensure a world-class system. The Minister has delivered that."

## ATN rallies to support fire victims

The ATN Network, with a student and staff population of almost 200,000 combined recently to contribute to the Victorian Bushfire Appeal. Chair of the Australian Technology Network of Universities (ATN) and Vice Chancellor of the University of Technology, Sydney, Professor Ross Milbourne, said the entire nation had been affected by the enormity of the devastation in Victoria.

"Our thoughts and sympathies go out to all those affected by the Victorian bushfires. This donation is a small part of what must be a larger and sustained effort to rebuild the communities and its people," Professor Milbourne said.

"The ATN, with universities in each mainland Australian State is underpinned by the notion of collaboration and partnership two great characteristics of the Australian people. The Victorian community is part of our national fabric and we must all be a part of the effort to rebuild."

The ATN contributed \$100,000 to the Bushfire Appeal with a focus on the funds being used to assist in the provision of education services at the local level. This funding is in addition to the \$75,000 contribution already made by RMIT, Melbourne.



## 2nd Annual University Planning and Design Forum

24 - 26 June 2009

### Brisbane Marriott Hotel

Following on from the inaugural 2008 Forum held last year in June in Melbourne at which over 100 senior executives gathered from Universities, TAFE, Colleges, Architects and Consultancy Firms, the 2nd University Planning and Design Forum will be held in Brisbane on 24-25 June.

The event is this year again endorsed by the ATN.

What does the 2009 Forum aim to achieve?

It aspires to support the recent push for the growth and renewal of Australian campuses by showcasing good planning and design case studies.

The forum will include a new and exciting speaker faculty and case studies in the Asia Pacific region, including a keynote Australian federal government address by Philip Marcus Clark AM, Chair, HEEF Advisory Board.

The forum agenda aims to incorporate strategic planning, master planning, urban planning, funding, partnerships, project delivery, resource management and allocation, heritage management and refurbishments, and environmental sustainable design and planning.

## 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](http://www.atn.edu.au)



## member universities

University of South Australia

Curtin University of Technology

RMIT University

University of Technology, Sydney

Queensland University of Technology

[www.atn.edu.au](http://www.atn.edu.au)

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