

Leadership Networks for Climate Change NEWS



December, 2010

In this issue

- Network Action!
- University of Tasmania
- University Updates
- Final Retreat

Network Action!

A year of teaching is over and the Networks at each institution have busily begun putting their ideas into action. This has involved mock trials, animations, students speaking in Sustainability Fairs, new undergraduate units, discussion between students in Wollongong and the US as well as many plans for next year. See the updates on each institution for details of these network activities.

Much reflection has been undertaken regarding the reality of facilitating student-led learning and the practicalities of distributed leadership. These ideas were discussed at length at the end of year Retreat held in Hobart, November 29th and 30th.



End of Year Retreat, Hobart



Paul Brown (UNSW) and Emma Pharo (UTAS) reflecting on the first day of the End of Year Retreat, Hobart

"I was actually surprised by how much I enjoyed researching for this assessment – I think this was because I could actually see the point in it for once..."

Student Reflection from the 1st Year Climate Change subject at University of Wollongong in relation to the student-led mock trial assignment.

"Student-led learning is a roller coaster of a teaching experience. Thrilling, exciting, scary... Sometimes I wonder if students are getting it. Other times I wonder if we are giving them enough scaffolding to get the most out of this method of learning. But as we move through the semester I can see the students becoming more comfortable and more confident with themselves, with us and with the process of learning from each other".

Kristin Warr

LNCC Project University of Tasmania, University of Wollongong, University of New South Wales, Murdoch University lncc.up@utas.edu.au



Focus on....

The University of Tasmania



Emma and students from 'Making Sense of Climate Change' a cross-disciplinary subject ran from the University of Tasmania presenting their ideas at the Hobart Sustainable Living Expo



The UTAS teaching network - Emma Pharo (plant ecologist), Eric Wapstra (evolutionary ecologist), Kristin Warr (curriculum designer), Aidan Davison (social geographer), Miranda Harman (Journalist). Members not shown include Colin Jones (entrepreneurship educator), Lucy Bleach (installation artist) and Richard Corry (philosopher).

'Making Sense of Climate Change'

A highlight of the year for the UTAS Climate Change teaching network was the implementation of a cross-disciplinary undergraduate unit designed by the ideas of students coming out of the first year of the UTAS network in 2008. This subject was coordinated and team-taught by Aidan, Kristin and Emma and each member of the UTAS network presented a guest lecture. An exciting finish to this unit saw a group of students volunteer to speak at the Hobart Sustainability Expo, 6-7 November, 2010. The students presented to the expo audience their thoughts about the responsibility and role that their various future professions have in relation to issues of climate change.

Reflections...

"This unit has been by far one of the most interesting, informative and REAL subjects I've ever attended. I loved the unorthodox, yet effective approach to teaching; as it seems the only way necessary to sufficiently deal with a unit as big as 'making sense of climate change'. The use of 3 teachers... gave an amazingly diverse perspective; and coupled with the array of guest speakers, one could ACTUALLY gain an understanding of climate change and how climate change has unfortunately come to be viewed as a 'debate'.

- Student participating in 'Making Sense of Climate Change'

"The fact that we now have a dynamic couple of years in which we are extremely collegial did effect the way that students engaged with us... the three of us were in the classroom a lot, this wasn't just a team taught unit in terms of serial teaching. Being in the classroom together and negotiating things with each other in front of students... that kind of distributed leadership within the classroom transferred really well and modeled really well to students and then picked up the opportunities we gave them in the unit to lead what happened.." - Aidan Davison



Student posters presented as part of a group assessment

University Updates...



Paul Brown
UNSW



Sarah Terkes,
UNSW



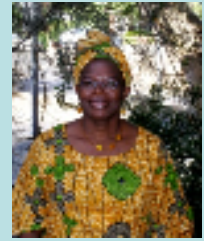
Peter Devereux
Murdoch
University



Davina Boyd
Murdoch
University



Helen
McGregor,
UoW



Pamela
Abuodha, UoW

Murdoch University, WA

One highlight of the last few months at Murdoch has been the 'Tackling Climate Change' Student Creative Exhibition. Students from 'Global and Regional Sustainability' explored the nature of climate change by reflecting on their own personal and practical contribution to resolution. The outcome of this process was an exhibition of student work held at the Murdoch University library and involved diverse works from posters of a 'bike to work challenges' to a board game called 'oil slicks and rainbows' inspired by the Gulf of Mexico Disaster.

University of New South Wales

An exciting development out of the UNSW network has been the collaboration with UNSWTV and PhD students to create short animated videos to deliver basic information related to climate change. The idea is to use animated material as a resource to explain basic science of climate change and dispel common myths. The network has created a UTUBE channel to share this material.

An exciting project proposed for next year is a mock trial titled 'Our Drowning Neighbours' in which students will put Australia on trial for its response to environmental refugees in the Pacific.

University of Wollongong

The network in Wollongong ran a mock trial regarding a fictional caravan park development on a flooding foreshore and its affect on the endangered Green and Golden Bell frog. This involved collaboration between 1st year students in an interdisciplinary Climate Change unit and 3rd year Environmental Law students. The 1st year students were responsible for gathering scientific evidence for the third year law students to use in their case. This motivated the 1st year students to research with a depth and clarity unusual to this subject.

The 1st year students also participated in a survey and joint tutorial with students in a similar subject in the University of San Diego in which they discussed the perceptions they had of each other's country's in relation to resource consumption and climate change.



The 'Tackling Climate Change' Exhibition, Murdoch Library.
Photo: Peter Devereux

<http://www.youtube.com/climatechangeleaders>

Project Team Retreat

29th – 30th November, Hobart

**Some Project Team
reflections from our end of
year meeting in Hobart...**



“... out of the woodwork came the range of people and projects... It seemed to unearth some energies for doing this kind of collaborative interdisciplinary work that often gets talked about but suddenly for a lot of people here was a vehicle through which they could do that”.- Paul Brown

“ I think in February when given my role I was fearful... This is a huge role and the project in Wollongong depends on the Network Integrator... but it all worked well” - Pamela Abuodha

“It’s really changed my perspective on teaching and I’m really surprised about that”. - Kristin Warr

“It’s been a real surprise how nice it has been to teach with more than one person in the room and that I haven’t had the opportunity to do that until 11 years into my teaching here at UTAS... I really kind of feel for the first time as a teaching academic that I’m really happy with what happened in the classroom and that I’ve achieved some things that I’ve wanted to achieve for a long time” - Emma Pharo

“... In February I remember just feeling really overwhelmed by everything... but I’ve been surprised by how well our network has turned out. It’s been a big success in my eyes” - Sarah Terkes

“I was surprised ... in second semester when we started to teach this climate change unit the whole project came together for me... “ Aidan Davison



“... At one level I’ve been nervous of what we would achieve in Perth... and then realising at the end, when we got together just a couple of weeks ago, that actually our quiet, behind the scenes hard work had actually paid off”.
- Peter Devereux

“...a realisation for me is not being too hard on yourselves and celebrating every little thing that we achieve...”.- Davina Boyd



Next Issue...

Focus on Murdoch University

For further information about the project or to be included on the email list please email lnc.up@utas.edu.au

