NEWS FROM THE RSO
NEW EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO THE DVCR

Marie Reitano has been appointed to the role of Executive Officer to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research). Marie will be starting in this role from Monday 3 August 2015.

Marie Reitano is the new Executive Officer to the DVCR

Marie will be well known to many staff here at Flinders as she served as Executive Officer to former DVCR Professor David Day from January to April in 2013 prior to accepting the position of Executive Officer to the Vice-Chancellor at Torrens University Australia during its establishment phase.

RSO ROAD SHOW

There was strong interest from both academic and professional staff sessions in the June 2015 RSO Roadshow. You can view the slides and recording of the RSO Roadshow at the Past workshop presentations page. This page requires a FAN and password.

RESEARCH NEWS AND SUCCESS

PROFESSOR MICHAEL KIDD APPOINTED TO COUNCIL OF NHMRC

Flinders University’s Professor Michael Kidd will play a “vital role in guiding the current and future health of Australians” following today’s announcement of his appointment to the Council of the NHMRC.

Professor Kidd, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, is one of 13 members announced by the Minister for Health, Sussan Ley.

"The new Council provides an impressive cross section of high level skills and experience which will be extremely valuable to this key organisation," said Ms Ley.

The NHMRC is Australia’s premier source of expert advice on health, research ethics and funding for research, and will play a vital role in setting the direction for the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF).

Appointments to the Council of the NHMRC are for a three year term.

Article sourced from Marketing and Communications Office

Event highlights:

New Executive Officer to the DVCR

Flinders receives $2.35m for research with industry

Flinders partnering in OLT grants to improve university teaching

China groundwater partnership continues

Book release: Prehistoric marine life in Australia’s inland sea

SA Science Excellence Awards

SEMINARS, CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

Research Funding Workshop: Research Professional

Ethos Breakfast Forum

ARMS Foundation Level Accreditation

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FLINDERS RECEIVES $2.35M FOR RESEARCH WITH INDUSTRY

Flinders has received funding for six projects in the latest round of Australian Research Council Linkage funding, securing a total of $2.35 million in grants.

With 50 per cent of the University’s applications being successful (the national success rate was 35 per cent), Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Rob Saint said it was an excellent outcome for Flinders.

“This is also an impressive result in terms of the spread of the research, and through the University’s engagement with industry these projects promise to deliver a range of significant benefits to the community,” Professor Saint said.

The projects, with the Flinders staff involved, are listed below.

Associate Professor Damien Keating will lead a multi-institutional team which received $370,000 for a project that aims to gain a deeper understanding of nutrient sensing pathways present in enteroendocrine cells within the human intestine. The industry partner is Pfizer Inc.

Professor Kostas Mavromaras will lead a multidisciplinary team comprising Professor Julie Ratcliffe, Dr Stephane Mahuteau, Associate Professor Ann Harrington, Associate Professor Lily Xiao and Dr Linda Isherwood in a $195,000 project. This project aims to provide new evidence on how to attract, retain and up-skill workers in a rapidly expanding demand environment, as the aged care sector strives to achieve a sustainable and skilled workforce fit for the future needs of older Australians. The partners are Eldercare Inc, the Trustee for the James Brown Memorial Trust and the Churches of Christ Life Care Inc.

Dr Vincent Post, Professor Okke Batelaan and Professor Adrian Werner are part of a team that secured $420,000 funding for a project that aims to develop a methodology for community-led adaptive water management on resource-constrained islands. The partners are Power and Water Corporation, the University of Auckland, and the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation.

Professor Craig Simmons and Professor Peter Cook will lead research granted $332,767 that aims to improve the estimation of the age of groundwater using a range of environmental tracers. The partners are CSIRO and Rio Tinto Pty Ltd.

Associate Professor James Stangoulis will lead a project team that received $497,000 to seek pathways leading to the accumulation of zinc, an important element for human nutrition, in wheat. The partner is the International Centre for Tropical Research.

Professor Wei Zhang and Professor Colin Raston received $543,000 for a project that aims to improve seaweed processing to deliver multiple high-value products which have food, cosmetic and pharmaceutical uses. The partner organisation is Australian Kelp Products.

The Australian Government recently announced $4.7 million in funding for grants and fellowships to promote excellence in learning and teaching in higher education.

The grants are made through the Government’s Office for Learning and Teaching (OLT). “$3.2 million will go towards nine grants that will support leading academics, working collaboratively, to develop and drive innovation in higher education teaching and learning,” Minister for Education and Training, the Hon Christopher Pyne MP said.

Flinders University will be partnering on two of these OLT grants. Associate Professor Linda Sweet, School of Nursing and Midwifery will be partnering with Professor Stephen Billett from Griffith University on one such grant titled ‘Augmenting students’ learning for post-practicum educational processes’.

Inspiring achievement
This project will identify, trial, evaluate and adapt possible post-practicum interventions. Through developing the capacities of teaching staff to use these interventions and preparing associated text resources this project directly promotes graduate employability.

Professor Martin Westwell, Director of the Flinders Centre for Science Education in the 21st Century, will be partnering on another OLT grant lead by the University of South Australia’s Professor Julie Mills. This project is titled ‘What should I study? Improving tertiary pathways by improving support for prospective Students’.

The project will examine the ways in which Year 12 students determine what to study at university, and how universities, high schools and government organisations engage with them as they make this decision.

The knowledge gained from this project will enrich our understanding of the prospective student experience and result in the development of a framework and process model that will be used to design better support and development strategies for prospective students.

Article sourced from Department of Education and Training, Australian Government

CHINA GROUNDWATER PARTNERSHIP CONTINUES

Associate Professor Andy Love and Kathryn Bellette from the School of the Environment furthered their partnership with the China Geological Survey (CGS) in June, with a visit to Xian and Beijing.

Representatives of the China Geological Survey

Like South Australia, Northern China is arid and the CGS has called upon Great Artesian Basin expert Associate Professor Love to join their groundwater team and apply innovative techniques to characterise their groundwater resources. Associate Professor Love and the CGS representatives are preparing for a field trip to occur later this year in the Qaidam basin of north western China.

The Qaidam Basin has rising groundwater tables that periodically flood villages. This current groundwater investigation aims to determine why the groundwater is rising so the government can develop a strategy to address the problem.

Kathryn Bellette held workshops with the CGS outlining the legislative, policy development and decision making processes relating to water resources management in South Australia, on behalf of both the university and the SA Government.

The CGS is particularly interested in management mechanisms around maintaining groundwater dependent ecosystems, groundwater contamination, water sensitive urban design and managed aquifer recharge.

Article submitted by Kathryn Bellette, Lecturer, School of the Environment

BOOK RELEASE: PREHISTORIC MARINE LIFE IN AUSTRALIA’S INLAND SEA

Imagine a world where Australia’s red centre was flooded by a vast shallow ocean. Dr Danielle Clode’s forthcoming book Prehistoric Marine Life in Australia’s Inland Sea explores a time when Australia was an archipelago and giant marine reptiles ruled the Eromanga Sea.

Dr Danielle Clode is a Senior Research Fellow at the School of Humanities and Creative Arts

Article submitted by Kathryn Bellette, Lecturer, School of the Environment
This book, the third in Museum Victoria’s Nature series, follows Dr Clode’s best-selling Prehistoric Giants: The Megafauna of Australia. Using the work of palaeontologists from Flinders University, the SA Museum and other national and international institutions, Dr Clode reconstructs the life histories of the strange creatures of Australia’s ancient inland waterways in an accessible and richly illustrated form.

“Understanding our past is so important for dealing with many of the challenges we face in today’s world – climate change, mass extinctions, human population pressures. We need more engaging ways to communicate this research with a broader audience,” says Dr Clode.

Prehistoric Marine will be released in mid-August with a series of events at the SA Museum and around Australia. Dr Clode is currently a senior research fellow at Flinders University funded by an Australia Council Literature Grant. She will be discussing her work, including this latest book, on Conversations with Richard Fidler (Radio National) on September 2nd.

SA SCIENCE EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The 2015 finalists for the SA Science Excellence Awards have been announced and People’s Choice voting is now open. To vote in the People’s Choice award, and for more information visit: http://www.scienceawards.sa.gov.au

Flinders University has five finalists in the Science Excellence Awards. Professor Craig Simmons, Director of the National Centre for Groundwater Research and Training at Flinders University is among four finalists for SA Scientist of the Year.

Four Flinders University postgraduates are in the running for South Australian Science Excellence Awards this year. Dr Katherine Moore and Dr Christiaan Ridings, from the School of Chemical and Physical Sciences, and Dr Scott Groom from School of Biological Sciences are finalists in the PhD Research Excellence category. Dr Maria Parappilly, School of Chemical and Physical Sciences, is a finalist in the Early Career STEM Educator of the Year – Tertiary Teaching category.


SEMINARS, CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

RESEARCH FUNDING WORKSHOP: RESEARCH PROFESSIONAL

The Research Professional system is accessible to all Flinders staff and students interested in sourcing research funding opportunities, and gives users access to a powerful database of worldwide funding opportunities. The system can also be used to send automated regular email alerts for new funding opportunities to you or to your research group.

Rene Logan – Sales Manager, Australia and New Zealand, and Luke George – Client Services Manager for Research Professional from the UK will be visiting Flinders on Friday 28 August to hold a 90-minute Research Professional workshop, hosted by the Research Services Office.

This workshop/update session will provide users an opportunity to learn about developments to the Research Professional system; as well as learn about the functionality of the system. If you are interested in sourcing a broad and diverse range of research funding this workshop will be of interest.

When: Friday 28 August 2015, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM
Where: Flinders University, Bedford Park Campus, Health Sciences Building, Lecture Theatre 1.09

ETHOS BREAKFAST FORUM

Three high profile research leaders will each review their list of seven principles key to their success with industry collaboration. The forum will explore the differences and similarities and review actions driving best practice.

We will discuss research collaboration with industry from the perspective of three industry sectors and then extrapolate to collaboration to a wide range of external partners. We will also place a spotlight on the project management of research projects with industry.

Inadequate project management of research projects with industry is emerging as a major ‘derailer’ of relationships between industry and universities. How should research groups address this? We will review some of the literature discussing global best practice in industry collaboration with universities.

Research leaders and researchers intending to engage with industry or currently engaging with industry should attend. Research managers facilitating relationships between industry partners and researchers should also attend.

When: Tuesday 25 August 2015, 7:15 AM – 9:00 AM
Where: Majestic Roof Garden Hotel
55 Frome St
Adelaide SA 5000
RSVP: Call Mark Douglas on 0418 846 343 or visit http://www.ethos.com.au

ARMS FOUNDATION LEVEL ACCREDITATION

The NSW Chapter of the Australasian Research Management Society (ARMS) is offering the following accreditation modules:

When: Thursday 27 August 2015,
Time: 8:30am – Module C: Legislation as it affects research in Australia
1:30pm – Module F: Research Ethics - human and animal
Where: Macquarie University,
Building E6B,
Room 136
RSVP: Register here by 13 August

The Victorian Chapter of ARMS is also offering the following accreditation modules:

When: Friday 28 August 2015,
Time: 8:30am – Module G: Research Integrity
1:30pm – Module A: The National Research and Innovation System in Australia
Where: RMIT City Campus,
Building 80,
Level 07,
445 Swanson St,
Melbourne VIC 3000
RSVP: Register here by 14 August

For further details about the ARMS Foundation Level Accreditation Program including assessment requirements please refer to the FAQs or the ARMS Accreditation Policy and Procedures Manual.

For more information please contact: ARMS Executive Office - tracey.kelly@flinders.edu.au, 08 8201 5592