The stars will come out, at Macquarie

It’s that time of year again: Macquarie’s night of nights, when all the stars come out - literally.

Saturday 20 October is the 48th annual Astronomy Open Night, a celebration of astronomy and physics where University and amateur astronomers come together to give members of the public an opportunity to get close to the stars.

This year’s special guest speaker is physicist Tim Bedding, University of Sydney. Bedding has worked with NASA’s Kepler space telescope to study the structure of stars and discover planetary systems outside our own - will delve into the secrets of solar systems in his talk about planets and starquakes.

Also featuring this year is the brand new planetarium, equipped with a state-of-the-art projector for a virtual tour of the cosmos that will blow you away. Popular favourites such as laser graffiti will return again, as well as a range of displays and activities for kids of all ages.

“Any one who has ever looked up into the sky with wonder should come down to the open night,” says event organiser Dr. Daniel Zucker. “Whether you’re an avid astronomer or just a curious stargazer, there is going to be a bunch of fun activities for everyone to enjoy.”

Tickets are available in advance or can be purchased on the night. For more information visit the Physics and Astronomy website.
In the second of our series on volunteering leave we meet Ian Harding, an IT support engineer in the Library. Once a month, Ian leaves the desk and computer screen behind and takes to the water as a volunteer for New South Wales’s Marine Rescue service.

“It’s a complete switch off, and it’s just so nice to be able to cruise around the harbour,” says Ian. “I still pinch myself now when we go under the Harbour Bridge or cruise past the Opera House, because I guess, 10 years ago I never thought I would be here.”

Ian came to Australia from the UK five years ago with his partner when they had both had enough of the British weather. “She’s South African,” he explains. “Although I met her in the UK she obviously hated the climate and Sydney is a lot more like Johannesburg, where she’s from.” He’s been making the most of the Sydney sunshine ever since.

“I love going down the beach. I’ve done windsurfing all my life as well so I just wanted to do something, and initially I was going to sign up down at Manly to be a surf lifesaver but at the time they weren’t taking any more people on.

“But then August came along and I went to the Sydney boat show and there I saw what at the time were Coastguards. They explained to me what they did about cruising around Sydney Harbour being on board the vessel, learning boating skills and all the other things that go with it like navigation, radar, and I thought: that sounds fantastic!”

Once a month Ian spends his weekend on shifts for the Marine Rescue service, either on the water in a patrol boat, or in the radio station at South Head, helping co-ordinate sea-going traffic and keep the harbour safe.

“The radio shift has a fantastic view because it’s 360 degrees and we look straight out to sea so during the whale season we sometimes see the whales, which is great,” says Ian. “Alternatively, if we turn around we can look into the harbour and see the Opera House and the bridge in the distance so it really is a fantastic spot.”

Ian and his fellow volunteers monitor radios for boaters heading out to sea, logging their destination, passengers and contact details, then checking in with them on a regular basis until they return safely. Whilst most shifts are uneventful, Ian has a lot of dealings with Maritime and the water police, co-ordinating their efforts in the event of an emergency.

Marine Rescue is fully staffed by volunteers, and although Ian mainly volunteers outside working hours, the University’s volunteering leave allowed him to take time off and help keep revellers on holiday safe on the water over the Christmas holiday period.

“Because we support Sydney Harbour during the Christmas period – and we try and do it most of January – there’s a lot of people on holidays and they’re using the water, so we try to cover that mid-week as well. There’s a lot of people who, because they’re mostly retired, don’t have to worry about work, but because I saw the email that came out and said that if you volunteered you’re entitled to take two extra days, I used it up and said to the guys down at the base that I would be available for two days on this period,” Ian says.

“If I hadn’t have taken it I just wouldn’t have been able to do the duty. I’d have said: I need to stick to the weekends when I’m available because I have work commitments,” but that availability was there so I thought: ‘I may as well make use of it.’ They were grateful because it’s not always easy for them to get a set number of crew.”

Volunteering for Maritime Rescue is more than just a one-way street for Ian. Whilst he gives up his time to keep seafarers safe on the water, he’s also learned a range of skills that keep him safe himself when he sets sail.

“I was determined to get my own boat and I just saw this as an opportunity for them to give me all the training so that when I did purchase my own boat I had all the skills to be able to operate it safely, and I have since done that – purchased my own vessel,” he says.

From wet and cold in the UK, to wet and warm in Australia, Ian loves nothing more than taking to the water and enjoying the city he now calls home, and for two days a year the University pays for him to do just that. With typical British understatement, he agrees he’s got it pretty good.

“Yeah. I can’t complain,” he says.

Take a **two-minute volunteering leave survey** to let us know how we can promote and support you in finding volunteering opportunities that interest you.
In a speech that identified the diversity within our Chinese community itself, with students cheering for mentions of their home provinces, Kevin Rudd thanked students for choosing to study in Australia, “You represent a huge future contribution to the bilateral relationship between our two countries.” The speakers also encouraged the student community to embrace opportunities for cross-cultural exchange at Macquarie University, one of Australia’s most culturally diverse universities with students from over 120 countries.

City of Sydney Councillor Robert Kok, a Macquarie graduate himself, said, “This [cultural exchange] has become more and more important in the last few years, especially now this is billed as ‘The Asian Century’. Cultural exchanges are very important, in that cross-cultural awareness is able to be understood each other’s culture.”

Wang Xiaojia, educational consul of the Chinese Consulate in Sydney, also spoke about the future for the relationship between China and Australia, seen through increased participation in the exchange program between the two countries.

Hosted by the Macquarie University Chinese Students and Scholars Association, the event aimed to raise awareness of the diversity and rich culture of China and for Australians to better understand and appreciate it.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students and Registrar) Deidre Anderson spoke about our diversity, saying “Our University community continues to be enriched by the Chinese student population, and these types of events are important for building a stronger sense of community, one that is accepting and respectful of our different cultures.”

The festival included presentations from four distinguished speakers, dance performances, cultural displays, food and games for all Macquarie students. Further engagement with China will continue in October, when Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Jim Piper will lead a major delegation of academics from across our four Faculties to China.
### Bulletin Board

Submit your notice by emailing staffnews@mq.edu.au

### CALL FOR PAPERS:

**FOURTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF AAHANZBS**

The Academic Association of Haitianists in Australian and New Zealand Business Schools (AAHANZBS) with hold its fourth annual conference 10-11 December 2012. The event, entitled **Into the Magic Wardrobe: The Past as Gateway to Present and Future** will be hosted by The Centre for Workforce Futures.

Due dates

Full papers will be blind refereed by two referees and must be submitted by 15 October. Non-refereed abstracts or full papers must be submitted by 1 November.

In addition to the theme the conference also considers:

1. The role of historical research in developing theoretical perspectives in business and management
2. Teaching history in business and management schools.

Papers, abstracts and proposals for discussion panels or themed sessions should be sent to the conference organiser Professor Ray Markey at ray.markey@mq.edu.au Please visit the Faculty of Business and Economics website for more criteria.

For conference updates and more information please visit The Centre for Workforce Futures website.

**Where:** 10-11 December

**Location:** Level 3 Function Rooms (C10A)

### MENTORING - STAFF SURVEY

You are invited to participate in a research project investigating your experiences and understandings of MENTORING.

Findings from this research will be used to further develop approaches to mentoring designed to support staff in the university context.

If you decide to participate, you will be asked to complete an anonymous online questionnaire that will take about 10 minutes to finish.

**Take the survey now**

If you have any questions about the research you can contact Dr Trudy Ambler: trudy.ambler@mq.edu.au

### 2012 SALT FESTIVE APPEAL

Please help us to raise money this festive season to purchase presents for local families in need.

Donation boxes can be found at participating outlets from Monday 15 October 2012.

For a full list of locations, visit: www.campuslife.mq.edu.au

### FOR YOUR DIARY

Submit your entry by emailing staffnews@mq.edu.au

### COMING UP

**BRUCE ALLEN MEMORIAL LECTURE:**

**CONNECTING ATTITUDES, ASPIRATIONS AND VALUES - AUSTRALIA’S MEDIA ENGAGEMENT IN THE ASIA PACIFIC AND APPRENTICESHIP IN SOFT POWER**

**Wednesday 31 October (6pm)**

In this lecture Murray Green provides a road map for Australia’s media engagement in the Asia Pacific in the light of current thinking about public diplomacy and the potential of Soft Power.

**Location:** Level 3 Function Rooms (C10A)

**Tickets:** Free but registration is essential

### CELEBRATE THE MELBOURNE CUP

**Tuesday 6 November (2.45pm)**

You’re invited to the race that stops the nation, broadcast live in the Atrium, with a bite to eat and a drink for you to enjoy.

This is an opportunity for us to take a little time out from our busy schedules to come together as a community and enjoy an iconic Australian event. For the University it’s a chance to acknowledge the contribution of staff across the entire campus.

Some staff may already have made other arrangements for Melbourne Cup day, however if you are free, please come along.

**Location:** The Atrium (C10A)

**RSVP:** Please register online by Wednesday 31 October. Special dietary requirements will be catered for.

### PUBLIC LECTURE:

**TOO YOUNG TO NOTICE? YOUNG CHILDREN’S ATTITUDES TOWARDS, AND AWARENESS OF, ETHNIC DIVISIONS**

**Wednesday 28 November (6pm)**

Join Professor Paul Connolly who will show how the attitudes of children as young as three years of age are already being shaped by the wider patterns of racial and ethnic divisions that exist within society. Drawn from his extensive research of racism among young children in England and pre-school children in Northern Ireland, he will explain how early attitudes towards race and ethnicity are established among young children. He will also explore what can be done to reduce the development of prejudice among young children and to foster respect for diversity.

Professor Connolly will also show the power of early childhood programmes and the important contribution they can make in helping to address racial and ethnic divisions and build peaceable societies.

**Location:** Theatre 1 (Y3A)

**Tickets:** Free but registration is essential by Friday 23 November to sally.thompson@mq.edu.au.

### Warriors@Work

Warriors@Work takes a holistic approach to health, ensuring that members of the campus community are aware of all of the options the University offers in terms of social, physical and mental wellness.

Your FREE Warriors@Work activities include:

- Weekly walking groups
- Chiropractic spinal screening
- Healthy eating workshops
- Nutritional seminars
- Mental wellness presentations
- Staff-only social sport
- Personal trainer office visits
- In-house health assessments (blood pressure, heart rate, BMI, etc)

Jump online for more information: staff.mq.edu.au/warriors_at_work

### MOVING OVERSEAS SALE

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**What:** Breville iron.

**Price:** $100

**About:** 23” (58cm) flat screen television.

**What:** Model No. AT-23LEC1.

**Price:** $400

**About:** Front load washing machine.

**What:** Bosch, 6.5kg (9 months old).

**Price:** $150

**About:** Freedom furniture Jetson four shelf storage unit with white cane baskets (similar to Brighton Storage basket).

**Price:** $40

**About:** Freedom furniture Jetson four shelf storage unit with 95cm, with four white cane baskets.

**Price:** $150

**About:** Freedom furniture Jetson four shelf storage unit with unit currently advertised on the Freedom furniture website).

**Price:** $27,890 plus on-road costs.

**About:** 2011 Mitsubishi Outlander 2WD.

**Price:** 6.5kg (9 months old). Black in colour and features a six-speed automatic transmission, 16” alloy wheels, six-speaker stereo, central locking, cruise control and rear wiper. Also includes dealer fitted touch control display with reverse camera and GPS navigation, DVD/CD player, Blue tooth and FM/AM radio. Dealer installed window film tint and paint protector. Well maintained. No accidents. Must view.

**Price:** $27,890 plus on-road costs.

**Contact:** heron.jayawarden@mq.edu.au

### FOR SALE
You may have spotted John Simons, Faculty of Arts Executive Dean, on Open Day in his striped blazer. One of his many fashionable pieces; John is known as a man of style and was even voted ‘best dressed on campus’ by the students during a previous post at University of Winchester.

Stripes have been a favourite of John’s for years, acquiring his very first striped blazer in 1968 from Carnaby Street in London. Owning a number of them in the past, he now only has two, one of which is the jacket for which he is known at Macquarie. A blue and white vintage blazer dating from the sixties, he came across it by chance some years ago when John and his wife were walking past a vintage store that was closing down.

“My wife, who used to deal in vintage clothes, went in and bought the entire stock and in the collection were 20 or so stripy blazers. This was the best of the bunch, so I claimed it,” says John.

His stripes haven’t always been a hit though says John. When he began at Macquarie in 2009 he was asked to send a photo of himself to go along with the public announcement. When sending in a photo of himself in the jacket he found an unusual reason for opposition to it.

“I was told I looked too English and so they asked me to send another photo. I sent one of me in a dark grey suit instead which must have somehow looked more Australian because it was accepted,” jokes John.

Describing his look today as ‘English eclectic’ John says that for him the key to being well dressed is comfort.

“It’s important to have clothes you like, that you feel comfortable in and that are made from good fabric.”

We welcome your comments and suggestions. For all enquiries please contact the Communications team by calling 9850 6766 or email staffnews@mq.edu.au. For more information about how to submit content, please visit staffnews.mq.edu.au.

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