



The purpose of this newsletter is to update staff on key issues and developments at the University and with State and Commonwealth policy and funding initiatives.

Welcome Back and to New Staff

The 2012 year is full of challenges and opportunities for the University and heralds the introduction of the new market-driven arrangements by the Federal government. I welcome staff back from leave and convey to new staff our best wishes.

Enrolment Update

The enrolment situation for our domestic students in TAFE and higher education is proving to be a challenge for 2012. The University made 481 pre-Round 1 direct offers, 424 early round offers and 1304 Round 1 offers for our higher education programs. The University is also planning to make a smaller number of Round 2 and direct offers during February. For 2012, an additional 483 students who have been made an offer have deferred and this compared with 332 in 2011. The University expects to enrol around 1,800 new higher education students for the start of the year and to have a record total number of domestic higher education students of around 5,400.

TAFE enrolment trends have been more complex and unpredictable and it will be a few more weeks before enrolment numbers will be available. While many TAFE Institutes throughout Victoria are reporting the loss of significant levels of training activity as a result of student ineligibility and competition, the University of Ballarat, with its diverse and industry connected operations, is experiencing less of an impact. Also, while overall student numbers declined during 2011 in campus operations, VET students at the University enrolled in more course hours indicating a trend towards full course completion rather than the gaining of partial qualifications through skill sets.

There is an indication that international student numbers have started to stabilise compared with previous years. However, the implementation of the Knight Review recommendations, combined with the application of more stringent English language requirements, are likely to impact later this year. On campus international student enrolments are up on last year at this time.

New Children's Centre Opens its Doors

The University of Ballarat has opened its new \$2.5 million Children's Centre for Early Childhood Education at the SMB Campus. This is a state of the art facility, which is located between Lydiard and Armstrong Streets. It provides high quality

education and care in a flexible, stimulating and inviting environment. The Centre can accommodate up to 80 children and incorporates teaching space for Early Childhood Education students in VET and higher education programs. The Centre features five children's rooms and a new kindergarten program. The Centre accepts the children of students, staff and members of the community. The Centre was funded by the Commonwealth.

2011 Sustainability Outcomes for the University

The following sustainability outcomes were achieved in 2011:

- Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 5% over 2010
- Reduction in electricity of 5% over 2010
- 0.5% increase in natural gas over 2010
- Reduced fuel consumption by 8,000 litres or 4% over 2010
- Reduction in paper use of 21% or over 4,453 reams over 2010
- Reduction in water consumption of 9% over 2010
- Reduced waste to landfill by 60 tonnes or 17% over 2010
- Increase recycling rates to 32% of total waste (31% in 2010)

These are important achievements for the University and highlight the significant contribution of staff and students, and especially the University's Sustainability Champions, in reaching our sustainability targets.

Indigenous Review

A Review Team, led by Professor Larissa Behrendt, visited the University in early February as part of the Commonwealth's Review of Higher Education Access and Outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People. The University made a formal submission to the Review and staff met with the Review team during their visit. Professor Behrendt will report to the Commonwealth government later this month.

Queries?

Staff are encouraged to keep up-to-date with developments in the University through UB News via the News link on the UB Homepage <https://www.ballarat.edu.au/staff/ub-news2/>

If you have any specific queries about items in this Newsletter then these can be directed to: vc@ballarat.edu.au

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7 February 2012