

# PURPOSE /N ACTION

Issue 3: 2023



UNIVERSITY  
OF WOLLONGONG  
AUSTRALIA

—  
/NNOVATION  
CAMPUS

# The Future of Sustainability

## PLUS

### THE POWER OF COLLABORATION

Sicona Battery  
Technologies grows from  
strength to strength.

### MENTAL HEALTH REVOLUTION

Recovery Camp is an  
award-winning social  
enterprise with a focus on  
mental health recovery.

### LEADING BY EXAMPLE

Regional Development  
Australia believes good  
leadership is integral  
for a community and  
businesses to thrive.



# PURPOSE /N ACTION

Issue 3: 2023

With the return of *Purpose in Action*, this third issue continues to celebrate the success and achievements of researchers, businesses and individuals who make up the Innovation Campus community. This issue addresses our community's sustainability, innovation goals and accomplishments that deliver ongoing benefits to the Illawarra. It is produced by the Innovation Campus Management Team within the UOW Commercial Developments Unit.

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## Welcome to the 3rd edition of Purpose in Action.

As we bring 2022 to a close and reflect on the last 12 months at the Innovation Campus, there is undoubtedly a lot we can celebrate and look forward to.

The years following COVID-19 have seen a shift in the way businesses, industries and people operate both personally and professionally, and I'm proud to see that through adversity, the Innovation Campus has continued to produce results.

We have celebrated incredible highs with some of our research partners located on campus who continue to push the limits of research boundaries and change the direction of the future as we see it. We watched as our long-term commercial start up Scalapay reached successes worldwide while sitting in our humble Wollongong offices, and we walked alongside our commercial tenants Cancer Council while they raised much needed funds toward a cancer free future. We can attribute these ongoing accomplishments to our connected community, innovative processes and unique work life environment.

The University of Wollongong and Innovation Campus are excited for what the next year will bring, the opportunities that will arise for the Illawarra region through proposed developments and the successes we can reach as a community. We welcome you to join us on this journey.

**CHUCK STONE**  
Director, Commercial Developments Unit

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ARTWORK BY SAMANTHA  
HILL, DHARAWAL/  
WANDANDIAN WOMAN

## Acknowledgement of Country

**We acknowledge that Country  
for Aboriginal peoples is an  
interconnected set of ancient  
and sophisticated relationships.**

The University of Wollongong (UOW) spreads across many interrelated Aboriginal Countries that are bound by this sacred landscape, and intimate relationship with that landscape since creation. From Sydney to the Southern Highlands, to the South Coast. From fresh water to bitter water to salt. From city to urban to rural.

The University of Wollongong acknowledges the custodianship of the Aboriginal peoples of this place and space that has kept alive the relationships between all living things.

The University acknowledges the devastating impact of colonisation on our campuses' footprint and commit ourselves to truth-telling, healing and education.





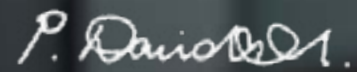
## Vice-Chancellor's Foreword

The University of Wollongong is committed to inspiring and empowering students to make change through innovation, research and education. As a leader in innovation with local and global impact, we continue to be an active partner in ensuring Wollongong reaches its full potential as a vibrant, prosperous and globally competitive city. The Innovation Campus is a key component to this commitment.

The Innovation Campus is an award-winning research, business and community precinct which helps drive the growth of the Illawarra's innovation and technology ecosystem. For the past 16 years, this campus has fostered young and upcoming businesses, encouraged collaboration between UOW research entities, students and businesses, and produced innovative results, paving the way towards a better future for the region.

It is not only the businesses or facilities that reside at the Innovation Campus that makes this location unique, but the increasingly diverse community that has been built and fostered over time. The opportunities for organisations and individuals to collaborate, grow, and produce results is unmatched within the Illawarra. We are extremely excited for the future of the campus, with developments underway set to focus on health and wellbeing, sustainability and sport and community engagement.

This edition of *Purpose in Action* highlights the opportunities the Innovation Campus offers to organisations and individuals, and the incredible work that has been produced over the past year. I hope you will join me in celebrating the year that was, and look forward to the future we can build together.



**Professor Patricia M. Davidson**  
Vice-Chancellor and President





# The Future of Sustainability

## The University of Wollongong commits to Carbon Neutrality by 2030.

Climate change is a mounting challenge that has affected every aspect of human life. Parts of the world are already experiencing hotter temperatures and extraordinary climate changes leading to frequent wildfires and extensive periods of drought and floods, severely impacting the day-to-day lives of people.

In recent years we have experienced extreme weather and climate events. In 2022, Sydney experienced its wettest year on record. The last few years have seen the hottest days on record. Many of the extreme events have led to human disasters and destruction of habitat. The University of Wollongong (UOW) acknowledges the need to take strong climate action and is committed to working towards a more sustainable future. Over the past decade, UOW has reduced its carbon footprint through educational, engineering and purchasing improvements.

The University's carbon neutrality commitment is spearheaded by the Director of the Sustainable Buildings Research Centre (SBRC) and Chair of the Sustainable Futures Committee, Professor Tim McCarthy.

Located at the heart of the Innovation Campus, SBRC is a multi-disciplinary facility that aims to be a leader in ideas and solutions that address the challenge of transforming our buildings and built environment into sustainable, resilient, and effective places in which people live and work, powered by renewable energy.

Through research, collaboration, and linkage with industry, the centre aims to meet the challenges of improving the performance of the nation's new and existing building stock by focusing on making buildings more liveable, sustainable, cost-effective and kinder to the environment.

### SUSTAINING THE FUTURE

In July 2022, staff and students were asked to complete a survey to gauge their sustainability awareness and assess the readiness of the University's stakeholders for the carbon reduction strategy towards which the University is heading.

An important aspect of the survey was for the Sustainable Futures Committee to understand what staff and students considered were the top environmental issues currently facing Australia.

The results from both groups uncovered similar concerns with 'carbon emissions' as the top concern and 'waste disposal' as the third. Staff were identified as holding 'renewable energy generation' as their second highest concern, with students observing 'natural disasters and extreme weather events' as their second highest concern.

Professor McCarthy said the aim of the survey was to ensure the University's plans to be carbon neutral by 2030 were in line with the appetite of the people who would use the campus and its facilities on a day-to-day basis.

### SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIES

Over the past 10 years, the strategies implemented by SBRC have enabled the centre to achieve its target of being a net zero energy and water facility.

UOW has monitored water and electricity usage around Innovation Campus and student accommodation for some time now and has witnessed many students taking the initiative in trying to reduce their own carbon footprint.

Although water and electricity are included in the rent for on-campus accommodation, Professor McCarthy said he has seen some of those residences institute energy-saving contests to see which residential accommodation facilities use less energy.

At SBRC the staff like to live by example through vegetable and fruit garden initiatives, composting facilities and utilising EV charging points for students and staff.

The centre will soon be installing a new 150 kW fast charge point – the fastest in the Illawarra – which has the ability to fully charge an electric vehicle within 40 minutes. This new facility will be open to the public for a standard charging fee. For context, a standard charge 3-pin 2.4 kW source can only charge a car to about 50% at home over a 12-hour period.

### SUSTAINABLE BUILDING STANDARDS

As well as the lifestyle and behavioural changes SBRC promotes, the centre has been involved in practical industry research into building design to meet the new seven star national housing energy rating scheme (NatHERS) that all new builds from 2023 must meet.

This shift will see houses constructed using energy-efficient products such as double glazing and new building products like novel walls and cladding.

SBRC developed their own walling system which was incorporated into the construction of the 2013 award-winning Solar Decathlon Illawarra Flame House and the 2019 Green Globe awarded Desert Rose House to achieve high thermal performance and airtightness.

SBRC is currently working on developing ways to ensure buildings are more resilient to bushfires with sprinkler systems and protection from ember attack. The centre is also working on developing a building standard that will be applied to the rebuilding of homes that were lost during the Black Summer fires in 2020.





# UOW Recognised as a Global Top 100 Sustainable Institution



## Newly released rankings reflect University's impactful social and environmental initiatives

The University of Wollongong has been ranked 85th globally in a new rankings framework that compares the world's top universities against a range of environmental and social sustainability metrics.

In October 2022, around 700 global institutions were assessed on their environmental and social impacts for the first edition of the QS World University Rankings: Sustainability.

The ranking measures a university's research impact and graduate outcomes, as well as on campus measures to reduce a university's environmental footprint.

The metrics for social impact are employment and opportunities, equality, life quality, impact of education, and knowledge exchange. Those for environmental impact are sustainable education, sustainable institutions, and sustainable research.

The QS Sustainability Ranking uses a combination of performance indicators from across global bodies, including the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to determine how institutions are creating a positive impact in the global community.

UOW is a signatory to the University Commitment to the UN SDGs and has been at the forefront of creating positive environmental and social impacts through research, education and innovation.

Recently, UOW released its annual SDG report outlining its various activities and initiatives that contributed to achieving UN SDGs and how it's creating a better future through sustainable research, international partnerships and providing quality education.

Along with UOW's carbon neutrality commitment by 2030, the university is also committed to creating equal opportunities for students by providing quality education, skills development and supporting communities, and by offering scholarships and encouraging female participation across its campuses.

More than 65 per cent of members on the University Council are female and over 77 per cent of medical graduates in 2021 were female – an indication of UOW's commitment to gender equality and inclusion.

UOW Vice-Chancellor and President of the Council, Professor Patricia M. Davidson, welcomed the first edition of the rankings and said the University would strive to keep improving its sustainability performance in all areas.

Full details of UOW's sustainability initiatives can be found on the SDG website: [uow.edu.au/united-nations-sustainable-development-goals](https://uow.edu.au/united-nations-sustainable-development-goals)

**Author:** Yogesh Bhatia

## Australian Government's Commitment to Energy Futures Skills Centre



### The Energy Futures Skills Centre to train the clean energy and clean manufacturing workforce of the future.

As part of the 2022-23 October Budget, Federal Treasurer the Hon Dr Jim Chalmers MP confirmed the Government's election commitment of \$10 million to establish the Energy Futures Skills Centre at the University of Wollongong.

UOW is committed to helping unlock Australia's renewable energy potential by supporting our community and local industries to create sustainable jobs. The Energy Futures Skills Centre will support the education, training and engagement needs for the workforce of the future in partnership with local industry, community and global partners.

The Illawarra area is particularly well placed to take advantage of the clean energy revolution. UOW has a vision to harness the cohesive features of our community, further developing our highly skilled workers to demonstrate a clean technology pathway for communities and act as a model for all of Australia.

The Energy Futures Skills Centre will deliver skills development programs with courses jointly designed by UOW and TAFE NSW to train the workforce of the future using state-of-the-art clean energy and clean manufacturing teaching laboratories.

The Centre will also collaborate with new and established businesses to develop business models in the clean energy and manufacturing space and operate as an energy outreach centre, engaging communities in the development of an equitable energy future with strategic partnerships between UOW, TAFE NSW and industry partners.

UOW has a long-established system of working closely with industry partners to provide sustainable solutions that support existing and emerging businesses as they look to adopt clean energy and manufacturing technologies.

**Author:** Ben Long



# Breakthrough Energy Storage Technology Uses Legacy Mine Shaft

**Green Gravity develops and operates cutting-edge gravitational energy storage systems, with the aim to become the world's lowest cost and most sustainable provider of energy storage technology.**



## AN URGENT NEED

As decarbonisation of the energy system progresses, the share of variable renewable energy will increase the variability of electricity production in the grid. Energy storage capacity of numerous depths will be required to provide energy when customers require it, and in turn support system stability. The Australian Energy Market Operator forecasts storage demand between 30 and 45 gigawatts to 2040 across its scenarios.

Further, the rich mining history of Australia and the world has resulted in vast numbers of legacy mining assets which remain unrehabilitated. In Australia, there are around 100,000 legacy mines, with up to 1,000 likely still connected to or with close proximity to the electricity grid.

## THE TECHNOLOGY SOLUTION

Green Gravity's energy storage system moves multiple heavy weights vertically in a legacy mine shaft to capture and release the potential gravitational energy of the weights. By simply using proven mechanical parts and disused mine shafts, Green Gravity's energy storage technology is low-cost, long-life and environmentally compelling. Through early adoption of advanced artificial intelligence, Green Gravity is able to accelerate the development of this technology.

Storing energy in this way uses no processed chemicals and has no performance degradation. Moving weights vertically allows for high Round Trip Efficiency and using

legacy mine shafts allows reuse of existing structures, contributing to the circular economy, reducing waste and lowering costs.

## A SUSTAINABLE SOLUTION

The Green Gravity technology offers a sustainable solution relative to other energy storage technologies through factors like:

- Minimal environmental footprint that offers minimal noise, small land footprint, no water resources, no recycling downside, low carbon on installation and reduces the need to develop greenfield sites.
- Safe operational equipment that uses inert materials and has no thermal runaway risk.
- Low costs, due to the use of pre-existing infrastructure via legacy mine shafts which reduces capital cost. No fuel inputs are required due to the utilisation of gravity as the storage media.
- Sustainable supply chain resulting from technology that uses simple components which removes the need for complex global chemical refining chains.
- No performance degradation because the energy does not dissipate when stored.
- Simplicity because the technology combines existing proven components in an innovative way. There are few parts, no complex processing, and relatively little

development risks compared to other green energy innovations.

- Resilient to the changing climate. Unlike hydroelectricity, chemical storage, wind and solar, gravitational energy storage is resilient to more extreme temperatures and lower rainfall.
- Flexible and incremental investments which lower capital size risks.

## THE POTENTIAL ECONOMICS

The economics of gravitational energy storage are linked to the amount of mass moved and to the height of movement. Green Gravity can take advantage of reusing mining infrastructure, gaining access to a great height, thereby lowering the required capital. The installed cost of capacity is forecasted to compete well with lithium-ion grid solutions. The simplicity and use of proven components allows for very long infrastructure life, something that is well suited to the electricity grid.

## THE POTENTIAL SCALABILITY

The unique approach Green Gravity has developed allows for significant mass to be moved through mineshafts. The scale of energy storage potential in commonly available deeper mine shafts is equivalent to many of the big lithium-ion batteries getting installed in the grid today.

## OUR PROGRESS AND PLANS

Green Gravity launched early in 2022 following a period of intense engineering and development. Since then, the team has expanded to 13 members and the technology, along with partnerships, has continued to deepen.

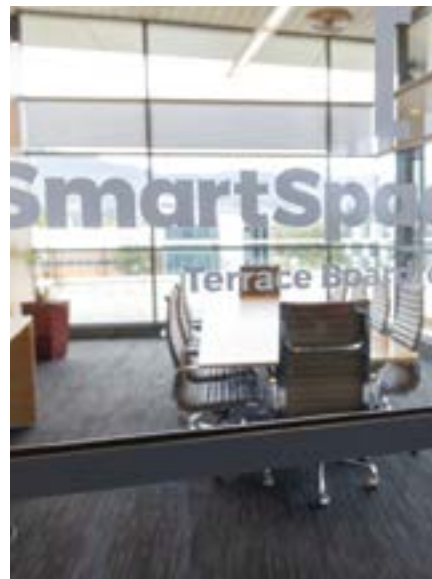
In the coming months Green Gravity expects to make final investment decisions on a large-scale demonstration plant to be located at a legacy mine. Green Gravity is engaging with mining, energy and industrial companies to strengthen relationships and to prepare for commercialisation. The company is developing the technology in Australia, with emerging global engagement within key markets, including India and the United States.

**Author:** Mark Swinnerton





# Taking the Smart Option



While businesses around Australia were closing their doors during the height of the pandemic, there was one space that was getting busier. SmartSpace, located at Innovation Campus, reached capacity through the pandemic and its waiting list is ever-growing.

Over the past two years, SmartSpace's Business Manager, Sarah Sugden, observed an increase in local and Sydney-based businesses looking to downsize from large commercial tenancies. Many of these businesses were looking for the perfect space that enabled them to continue to manage their teams and meet their administration needs while growing their business network.

SmartSpace first opened its doors in 2017, offering a unique experience with premium serviced co-working spaces, day suites and meeting rooms with top-of-the-line telecommunications facilities.

Its sought-after beachside location, cutting edge facilities, easy parking and opportunities to take advantage of UOW's reputation as a leading research facility has added to its success.

**“The kind of product we offer in the post-pandemic world caters to the hybrid working model which has emerged,” Sarah said.**

It's not just established businesses that are utilising the services that SmartSpace offers. The hub caters to a range of sole traders, small businesses, national and international corporations, government bodies and not-for-profit organisations. With private offices, virtual offices, and meeting spaces, the hub provides the perfect environment for networking and collaborative engagement.

With a direct connection to world-class students, SmartSpace clients have the opportunity to connect with UOW's large community, many of whom provide internship and research opportunities to students and graduates.

SmartSpace is part of the Innovation Campus lifecycle. The idea is that businesses begin their journey as part of the world-class iAccelerate business incubator program, from there they look to transition into the SmartSpace community and eventually expand their business to a commercial tenancy.

The changing world of work over the past two years has meant hybrid working models and remote working have become the new norm rather than the exception and it is something at which SmartSpace excels.

**Author:** Keeli Cambourne

**IT'S MORE THAN JUST AN OFFICE. IT'S THE NEXT STEP TOWARDS A THRIVING BUSINESS.**

Contact the SmartSpace team today to join Wollongong's premier shared, serviced office space at the heart of the thriving Innovation Campus community.

**P:** 02 4258 3400  
**E:** [admin@uowsmartspace.com.au](mailto:admin@uowsmartspace.com.au)  
[Innovationcampus.com.au/smartspace](http://Innovationcampus.com.au/smartspace)

UOW is proud to have been ranked in the top 100 institutions globally in the QS World University Rankings for Sustainability.

- 85th globally
- 11th in Australia
- 66th globally for Environmental Impact
- 148th globally for Social Impact

## Find your why at UOW

At UOW we're here to help you find your passion and equip you with the skills to launch your career in a field that inspires you. We focus on teaching not just specialist knowledge, but the skills you will need to embrace change and solve tomorrow's challenges. Experience it for yourself and apply for one of the following courses:

- Doctor of Philosophy (Business) – Innovation Campus
- Doctor of Philosophy (Law) – Wollongong, Innovation Campus
- Doctor of Philosophy Integrated (Business) – Innovation Campus
- Master of Research (Business) – Innovation Campus

## Find out more and apply online today:

**P:** 1300 367 869

**E:** [futurestudents@uow.edu.au](mailto:futurestudents@uow.edu.au)  
[uow.edu.au/study](http://uow.edu.au/study)



UNIVERSITY  
OF WOLLONGONG  
AUSTRALIA



# Heart in Wollongong, head in Milan

**Local entrepreneurs call Wollongong the Siligong Valley, with its high-speed communications, a world-class university and close proximity to Sydney – they're onto something. For this reason, Wollongong is the ideal location for businesses looking for access to highly skilled staff.**

One of these companies that settled on Wollongong is Scalapay – a fast-growing FinTech StartUp specialising in buy now, pay later (BNPL), allowing consumers to pay for products in interest-free instalments while charging a merchant fee.

Located at the Innovation Campus, the company was founded in 2019 by two Australian entrepreneurs, Johnny Mitrevski and Simone Mancini. Scalapay has quickly become one of the most important payment companies in Europe, with 233 employees operating across six different countries. For Johnny, a UOW graduate, the Illawarra has always been home, and it made perfect sense to base the core technology team of the company here.

With offices in Milan, Paris, Spain, Portugal and Dublin, Scalapay has kept its core tech team of 45 employees in Wollongong. Johnny said that he's very proud to be in a position to proactively support the University of Wollongong and its talent by offering UOW alumni (28 at last count) world class employment opportunities right in the heart of beautiful Wollongong.



"UOW has always done an amazing job at engineering, and the quality of the education is superb. It has a great package: the campus is fantastic, the lecturers are great, the courses relevant, and the opportunities that come from it are excellent – especially within the software and computer sciences realm," Johnny said.

With the whirlwind of success, many accolades have followed the fast-growing StartUp. In 2021, Scalapay was awarded the StartUp of the Year in Italy and became the major sponsor for Milan Fashion Week and X-Factor Italy. In February 2022, they celebrated achieving unicorn status, a title awarded to privately-owned companies valued at over US\$1 billion. In Australia, Scalapay is 'Great Place to Work' certified and placed on 'Australia's Best Workplaces' list. In October 2022 at the Business Illawarra Awards, Scalapay took out three awards - Excellence in Tech, Excellence in Import/Export and the coveted IMB Bank Business of the Year Award.

This year, Johnny was very proud to be able to give back to where, for him, it all started. He awarded the first Scalapay Next Generation Scholarship through UOW, a generous \$10,000 annual stipend for a student enrolled in a relevant degree. This is the start of what he hopes will be an ongoing commitment between Scalapay and UOW.

"When we were starting up, we had a single desk downstairs in the SmartSpace of the UOW Innovation Campus. Then, we got a few people together, and from that single desk, we moved to a small office, and now we're pretty settled on nearly a whole floor at Innovation Campus. Just in the last year, we've grown globally from 50 to 233 employees; about 45 of them are here in Wollongong," said Johnny.

And that is where they want to stay and continue to grow. "I've worked in other parts of the world – in Europe, Japan, India and the US – but the strength of FinTech and engineering is just not at the same level as here. So as a company, we want to keep our hearts locally and have our heads facing globally. This way, we're proudly waving our Wollongong flag."

**Author:** Alex Reszelska





iAccelerate is a unique pre-accelerator, accelerator and incubator program that allows businesses to nurture their ideas or scale-up existing businesses. iAccelerate is suited to individuals or early-stage businesses seeking support to validate their business idea and ramp up to the next stage.

iAccelerate is invested in the long-term success of their resident companies to grow and contribute to the local Illawarra economy and community.

Step inside and discover the potential to grow an idea or business and its impact.



# Mental Health Revolution

According to a recent national survey, over two in five Australians aged 16–85 will experience a mental health condition in their life. Mental illness can have serious and challenging effects on individuals and families – and it is often difficult to access impactful care. One area of mental health care that has received increased attention is time spent in nature, away from everyday life to focus on one's mental health, which can make a real difference to quality of life.

Recovery Camp is an award-winning social enterprise with a focus on mental health recovery, education and research. Since 2013, Recovery Camp has taken individuals with a lived experience of mental illness to a week-long recreation camp in the Australian bush. At the camp they are joined by registered mental health nurses and nursing students, the future health professionals. The recovery-oriented initiative sees the students and individuals with lived-experience engage with a wide range of structured therapeutic recreation activities. These activities allow the participants to learn from one another about mental health, mental illness, and recovery.

Research published in over thirty peer-reviewed journals shows the longitudinal impact of Recovery Camp, empowering people living with mental illness by building resilience, increasing confidence and self-determination, and contributing to mental health recovery. Data also shows a reduction in the use of acute mental health services following the attendance of a Recovery Camp.

For nursing students, camp is a non-traditional clinical placement opportunity that reduces stigmatising attitudes and enhances their ability to deliver trauma informed, recovery-oriented care.







change stigmatising attitudes and better prepare the future health workforce.

Available nationwide, the multi award-winning program has significant evidence of a profound effect on its participants. Published peer-reviewed research demonstrates increased student clinical confidence and clinical competence and decreased stigmatising attitudes when compared to other workplace experience placements.

Recovery Camp started as a research project from the UOW School of Nursing and is now establishing itself as a social enterprise and resident company at iAccelerate on Innovation Campus. To date, Recovery Camp has run 35 camps with around 1000 people with lived experiences and over 1250 students.

"We are working to make a sustainable impact. We hope to reach many more people, enhancing and transforming the lives of people who are living with mental illness, and better preparing mental health professionals for the future," says Dr Patterson.

**Author:** Tara Edworthy



The collaborative learning approach at Recovery Camp means the future of mental health care is shaped by those who have experienced it themselves, not just from textbooks and lectures.

Dr Christopher Patterson, Director and Co-founder of Recovery Camp, is working with Professor Lorna Moxham to develop and deliver this transformational program. He says that ongoing research supports Recovery Camp's positive contribution to individuals' wellbeing and mental health recovery.

"By focusing on and promoting hope and strengths at camp, people are empowered, and carry this with them post-camp into the community," Dr Patterson explains.

Since 2013, Recovery Camp has provided more than 100,000 hours of clinical placement to health students across Australia. The camps work to empower people with mental illness, putting them in the driver's seat to



# The Power of Collaboration

**Sicona Battery Technologies, one of iAccelerate's resident companies, continues to grow from strength to strength as a leading battery material company outside of the Asia-Pacific region.**







Founded in June 2019 by Christiann Jordaan, an experienced entrepreneur, and Dr Andrew Minett, a highly credentialed materials scientist, Sicona Battery Technologies is the ultimate example of how companies can work and tap into UOW's rich knowledge and grow within iAccelerate.

The battery technology company has had a long and productive relationship with UOW. Dr Minett is a proud UOW graduate, gaining his PhD in materials science more than two decades ago.

Jordaan and Minett were drawn to the region by the combination of entrepreneurship, research, and locality offered by iAccelerate, and by the Innovation Campus. Sicona Battery Technologies were already familiar with iAccelerate through the company's major investor Artesian. This company also manages iAccelerate's \$10M Seed Fund, which is an early-stage venture capital fund that makes seed and follow-on investments in iAccelerate start-ups.

Establishing a new base at Innovation Campus gave Sicona Battery Technologies access to world-class facilities and a number of research institutes whose interests and expertise perfectly complemented

those of Sicona Battery Technologies, including the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Electromaterials Science (ACES), and the Australian Institute for Innovative Materials (AIIM).

Housing the community of entrepreneurs that first attracted Sicona Battery Technologies, iAccelerate is a unique pre-accelerator, accelerator and incubator program where ideas are nurtured, and existing businesses are scaled up. Companies like Sicona Battery Technologies work alongside other entrepreneurs, start-ups, scale-ups, social enterprises and intrapreneurs. To date, iAccelerate has supported over 250 companies through its programs, generating over 900 jobs.

Sicona's collaboration with UOW researchers is a cornerstone of their success as they commercialise an innovative silicon-composite battery anode technology, developed and perfected over the past 10 years. According to Christiann Jordaan, this material will enable the company to produce better quality battery materials.

"We believe it has a bright future in the rapidly growing battery market – cost-effective large-scale synthesis is

absolutely key to success," Jordaan said.

Dr Minett also recognises another bonus for the company is the talent pool generated from the University of Wollongong.

"We have access to bright young minds in engineering, software, IT, from both the undergraduate and postgraduate cohorts at UOW that will help drive our business forward".

Dr Minett has been thrilled to be able to give back during his time in iAccelerate, passing on his knowledge and expertise in an informal capacity to other start-ups as part of the iAccelerate community.

The team behind Sicona have big plans for their company and for the region. Tapping into the university's research, expertise, and equipment, while benefiting from the iAccelerate ecosystem, will help Sicona to carve out its place among the revolutionary start-ups creating change and making a lasting impact on the world.

**Author:** Ainslie Tweedie

**SICONA**  
Battery Technologies

# AIIM – Australian Institute of Innovative Materials



## The Australian Institute of Innovative Materials is a purpose-built facility on Innovation Campus that helps transform multi-functional materials research into commercial reality.

The researchers at AIIM are at the cutting edge of developing and applying new and innovative material and bring together biologists, clinicians, chemists, physicist engineers and materials scientists.

AIIM is the first facility that bridges the gaps between breakthroughs, prototyping and commercialism, consisting of:

- The Electron Microscopy Centre (EMC)
- The Intelligent Polymer Research Institute (IPRI)
- The Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Electromaterials Science (ACES)
- The Institute for Superconducting and Electronic Materials (ISEM)

### AIIM // INNOVATE! CREATE! INSPIRE!

At the Australian Institute for Innovative Materials (AIIM) the professional and academic staff contribute greatly to the success of the institution. In 2022, four AIIM staff received UOW Vice-Chancellor's awards for Researcher Of The Year:

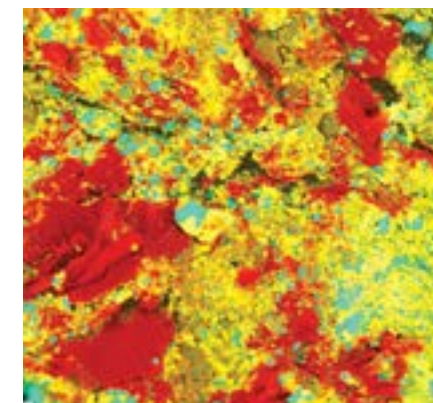
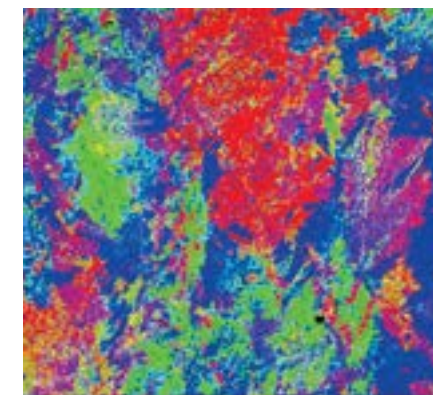
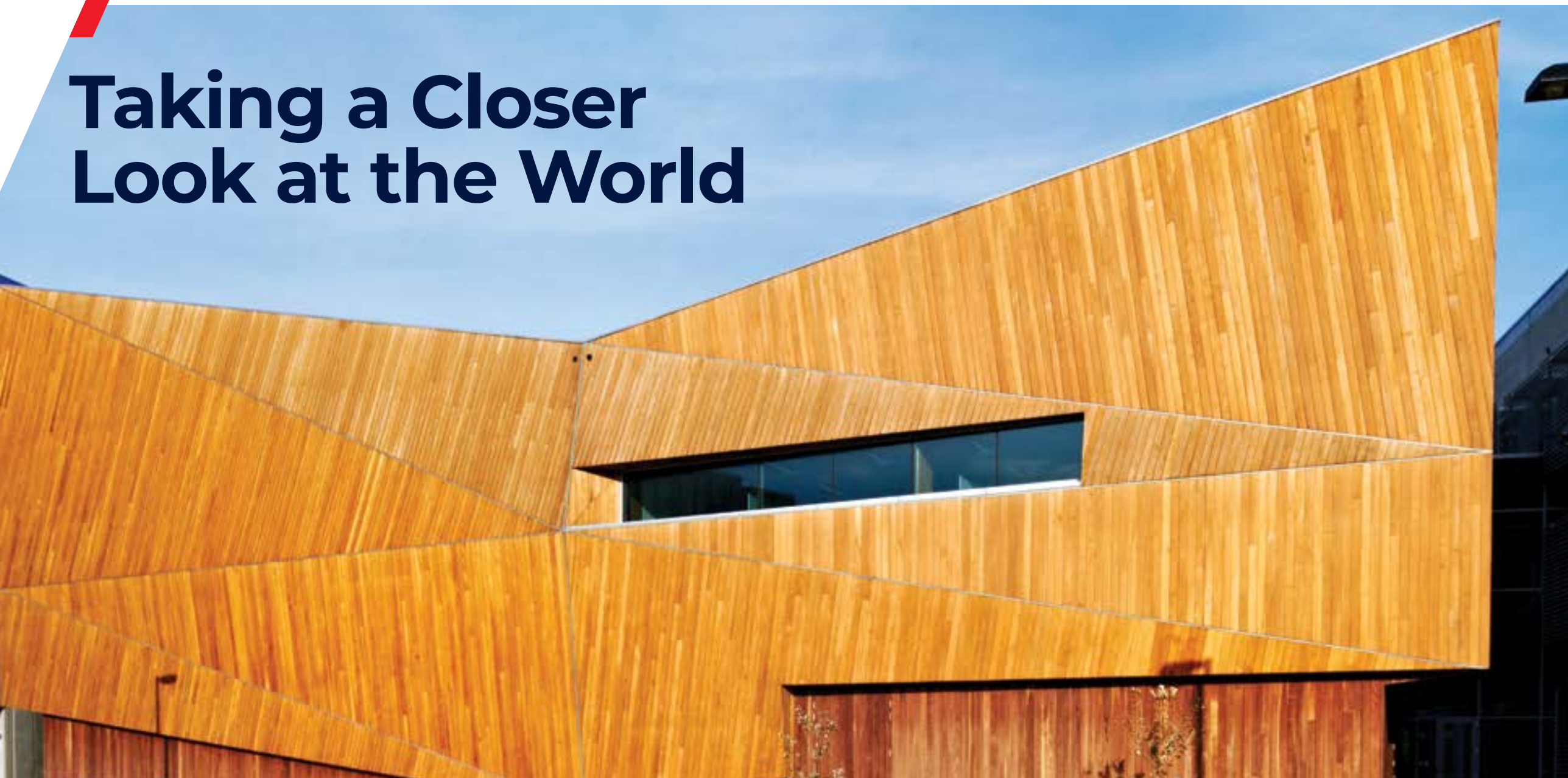
- Professor Shujun Zhang, Emerging Researcher
- Dr Nana Wang, Research Supervision – Emerging Researcher
- Dr David Cortie, Outstanding Service for Professional Services Staff
- Mr Michael Parlas, AIIM WH&S Manager.

Michael streamlined the WH&S processes by developing and implementing UOW's first digital laboratory inspection checklist. This optimisation stopped duplication of process handling, substantially reduced paper waste and largely improved time efficiencies.

**Visit [aiim.uow.edu.au](http://aiim.uow.edu.au) to learn more today.**



# Taking a Closer Look at the World



## From analysing ancient stones, to determining the atomic make-up of new materials, UOW's Electron Microscopy Centre (EMC) can do it all in one place.

It's the one-stop-shop for anything that requires the specialised and highly sensitive analysis of data using state-of-the-art microscopes that are housed in a specially built facility - one of the only all-in-one centres of its kind in Australia. The centre is highly specialised and focuses on supporting a large variety of different projects nationally and internationally.

The EMC works with other universities and local industries such as BlueScope to conduct investigations into materials used. In collaboration with these partners, they have uncovered industry answers to a range of questions surrounding corrosion, fatigue versus overload failures, fluid penetration in refractories, confirmation of material compliance, paint and coatings to

name a few.

EMC Director Professor Elena Pereloma states that, "Most engineering and material questions can benefit from some degree of electron microscopy due to the sheer resolving power of the instruments and their exceptional analytical abilities."

The EMC is located on Innovation Campus and is the first purpose-built

building of its kind in NSW and one of the few in Australia. The specially designed centre offers mechanical stability with no machinery or lifts inside the building and no magnetic or electrical fields that could interfere with the microscopes. The timber building ensures the optimal performance of each microscope, with room temperatures kept at a zero point five degree stability for ideal data acquisition.

The centre has seven microscopy suites, which are supported by two modern and well-equipped specimen preparation laboratories, plus open plan offices for research and technical staff,

higher degree research (HDR) students and visiting academics.

The facility works with a large variety of samples including steel, titanium, geological material, soft matter, and 3D printed materials for medical instruments.

The EMC works in collaboration with the mining industry in the analysis of soil, BlueScope on steels and their coatings, degradation of materials as a result of corrosion, biological samples, and geochronology/geology for early signs of life. The facility investigates not just the surfaces and features of materials but also conducts elemental analysis and atomic resolution

investigation to accurately determine the atomic structure of materials.

EMC has a team of highly regarded staff who undertake years of training to become skilled microscopists and to understand and perform the complex techniques involved in preparing, acquiring, and interpreting the information from samples. The facilities, expertise and reputation attract many groups who may have access to similar facilities elsewhere in the world.

**Author:** Keeli Cambourne





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## UNIACTIVE

# Events, Venues & Catering



## EVENT SERVICES TO SUIT EVERY STYLE EVENT

The Aspire team provides Events, Venues and Catering services across the University of Wollongong, Innovation Campus and local Illawarra region.

Our Premium Event Centre is located at the Innovation Campus or enjoy the various facilities within the extensive University grounds including UniHall, versatile function spaces, pictureque lawns, Sports Hub or the vibrant UniBar.

If you have a venue, we can provide the food and beverage solutions also!

Our hospitality professionals provide full support to ensure your next event is a success.

Contact our team to request a tailormade proposal and receive current seasonal menus.

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A bowl of seasonal whole fruit

Morning tea served with chefs bakery treat

Seasonal lunch buffet including soft drinks and juice

Afternoon tea served with cookies

Conference pens and note pads

A bottle of water and mints to share

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Conference Room Hire (based on minimum delegates)\*

\*Conditions apply

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# Through Adversity, Success

## FIRE, FLOODS, COVID

Droppoint is passionate about the delivery of innovative solutions and support to the field service and logistics sector. This was true when the business was established 20 years ago and remains so today. Both sectors were incredibly impacted by the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic which were exacerbated by the spate of natural disasters that have occurred throughout Australia over the past 12 months. Droppoint's agile approach to solutioning and their commitment to being "Always On" for their customers

meant that they were able to continue to operate and innovate despite these broad-reaching challenges. The modification of existing logistics infrastructures and significant software advancements has enabled Droppoint to craft effective and bespoke solutions for their customers. This dedication to their clients throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, and flood and fire events has helped build strong credibility for Droppoint across their customer base and expand their name recognition in the field service industry.



## INTEGRATED STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Being based at Innovation Campus has enabled Droppoint to continue to excel. Their relationship with the Innovation Campus administration, graduate outreach programs, and their proximity to the university gives Droppoint access to a broad pool of talent. They are proud of the fact that at any given time, nearly half of Droppoint's staff are UOW alumni. Their growth has also meant an increase in staffing, giving Droppoint the opportunity to employ more Illawarra locals. Even with this growth, they have maintained their small company feel, with engagement and camaraderie remaining strong across the organisation. Over the past twelve months, Droppoint has responded to challenges in a way that propels them forward. Built on a foundation of a diverse, cohesive, and effective team culture, the trials of the pandemic became a springboard for growth, fuelling innovation to consolidate and continue their gains in this period. Droppoint are ambitious to expand their growth and to deliver their solutions to a broader customer base. Droppoint will continue to meet any challenges with the same customer-centric, problem-solving attitude that has helped them achieve so much in the last year.

**Author:** Keeli Cambourne

## TRANSFORMING FIELD LOGISTICS

Droppoint has continued to build momentum as the country emerged from the pandemic restrictions, expanding work with existing clients and acquiring new business rapidly over the past six months. This explosion of growth has necessitated increased dynamism and flexibility within the Droppoint team, requiring them to develop innovative solutions for both their internal processes as well as externally for their customers. Their ambition is to increase this rate of growth, delivering effective solutions to field service organisations across Australia and New Zealand. Their continued dedication to quality has been recognised with Droppoint being listed as finalists in the Illawarra Business Awards 2022. Shortlisted in the categories; "Excellence in Innovation", and "Outstanding Young Business Leader", Droppoint has shown a clear passion for driving exceptional results for their customers and nurturing their talented staff. Investing in their dynamic team has been a critical factor in their continuation to deliver complex and effective solutions for their customers.







# Innovation Campus Commercial Leasing



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While focusing on facilities, there is an even stronger focus on connections. The enterprising spirit of research institutes, global companies and entrepreneurs makes the UOW Innovation Campus different from many other commercial facilities.

This is a unique opportunity to move your business into an award winning precinct, with areas available from 220m<sup>2</sup> - 2,000m<sup>2</sup> within both Enterprise 1 and The Central building.

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# Illawarra Relay for Life Takes a Bold New Step



**After a hiatus of two years, the iconic Cancer Council NSW's Illawarra Relay For Life stepped back into the charity's calendar on 15 October with a new track and a host of new participants.**

The Illawarra Relay for Life has been a fixture in the Cancer Council's fundraising program since 2001. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the event had to be put on hold with the last physical event taking place in 2019.

This year, organisers decided to welcome back their long-standing teams and newcomers to Relay For Life at the new location of Innovation Campus, breathing fresh life into the decades-long event.

Illawarra Relay For Life have had long-standing cohorts of teams and participants that have taken part in the event for many years. This year's event was 12 hours from 9am – 9pm, and although teams didn't need to walk for the full 12 hours, the continuous walking signified 'that cancer never rests, so neither do we.'

To celebrate 21 years of Relay, Cancer Council wanted to make the return of the event a real party with the theme being 21st Birthday – Celebration & Party.

This celebration was an opportunity to bring back those long-standing teams and come together to remember those who have passed. It was also a great opportunity to welcome new teams to the new location of the walk.

The Illawarra Relay For Life Committee wanted to make a big return and ensure the Relay was even more community oriented than ever. With the new location of Innovation Campus, it proved to be a beautiful

place for the community to come together. The Relay track circulated the gorgeous pond located in front of the Enterprise 1 building and allowed participants to take in the natural scenery and wildlife. This path provided a refreshing change from the circular flat track of previous years.

With food vendors and entertainers situated around the path, there were many things to see and do. In between laps around the pond, teams could

enjoy the celebratory atmosphere and easily access their tents to rest.

The success of the event has been borne out in the number of participants and money raised. Prior to the event, 52 teams had registered with 460 participants, but the new location saw a number of people join in on the day, raising the participation numbers to over 500 people.

So far, the Cancer Council's Southern NSW office have raised over \$67,000 with more donations still coming in.

Every dollar raised makes a difference and goes towards supporting Cancer Council's life-saving cancer research, prevention, advocacy, and support programs (like the 13 11 20 Information & Support Line) for all Australians impacted by cancer.

**Author:** Keeli Cambourne







# Leading by Example

**Good leadership is a must for any organisation. But it's also integral for a community to thrive.**

Over the past 10 years, Regional Development Australia Illawarra (RDA) has helped foster 101 leaders who have taken their expertise back into the Illawarra community to make it a more vibrant, diverse and prosperous place.

RDA Illawarra was established to play an active and facilitative role in the Illawarra region, with a clear focus on growing a strong and confident regional economy that harnesses competitive advantages, seizes on economic opportunities and attracts investment.

## THE LEADERSHIP ILLAWARRA PROGRAM

The Leadership Illawarra program is one of RDA Illawarra's most successful initiatives and despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic over the past two years, it has continued to flourish.

This year RDA Illawarra celebrated 10 years of its Leadership Illawarra program – a collaboration between the RDA, Sydney Business School, University of Wollongong and The Illawarra Connection, which has produced in that time inspired and well-connected

visionaries to lead the region into the future.

The two year program provides business leaders as mentors, and includes one-day master classes, adaptive leadership coaching in leading teams, emotional intelligence, individual coaching, as well as site visits to organisations such as BlueScope and the Parliaments of Australia & NSW.

The program brings people together across all parts of community, industry and government who go through a shared experience over the two year period.

part of the community and contribute or give back to the community.

Although the program caters for those mostly in middle management positions, Debra Murphy, CEO of RDA Illawarra, said age is not relevant and participants have ranged from 26-59 years. Participants come from a range of industries and organisations from small and large businesses to councils, universities and the community sector.

The program allows participants to look at themselves, how they interact with people, how to motivate teams as well as the behavioural side of managing people.

**“If you have been in one place for a long time your paradigm is within that organisation and this program exposes people to other industries to see how they may be coping with certain challenges,” said Ms Murphy.**

The program provides a great avenue for networking. The Illawarra benefits from this program by receiving well-rounded and resilient leaders who understand the community and are much more equipped to tackle any challenges.

The program also offers credit points for those participants who may want to continue into a Master of Business Administration through the Sydney Business School.

The program costs successful candidates \$4,000 per annum over two years and requires around five hours a month of commitment to attend forums, classes, and site visits.

For more information go to [rdailawarra.com.au/about/leadership-illawarra-program](http://rdailawarra.com.au/about/leadership-illawarra-program)

**Author:** Keeli Cambourne







# Learn to innovate and identify entrepreneurial opportunities

Whether you are a start-up or work for an organisation wanting to become more innovative in business, our postgraduate qualifications will teach you the theoretical knowledge and tools to lead innovation and entrepreneurship in the world economy. Flexible weekend and evening classes are now offered in Sydney and Wollongong. Apply for one of the following courses:

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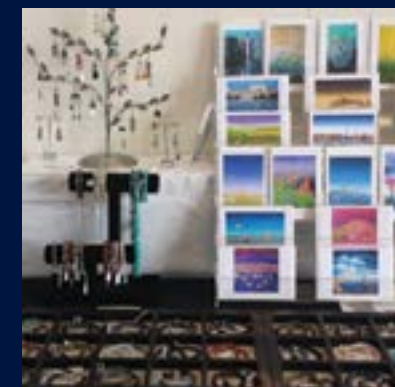
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## Events

**We believe that innovation comes down to great people and great ideas. Our diverse and expanding program of initiatives create invaluable opportunities for our community to connect socially and professionally.**

### MAKERS MARKETS



The Wollongong Makers Markets kickstarted the 2022 events calendar with over 100 talented local artists, artisans, craft-smiths and makers from the Illawarra and Southern Highlands showcasing their unique and handmade gifts. The two-day event consisted of live music, drinks, several food trucks and the opportunity to engage with various environmental support groups. We look forward to the next event in 2023!

### CANCER COUNCIL ENGAGEMENT

Cancer Council is Australia's leading cancer charity that supports people impacted by cancer when they need it most, speaks out on behalf of the community on cancer issues, empowers people to reduce their cancer risk, and finds new ways to better detect and treat cancer. Cancer Council's Southern NSW office is located at Innovation Campus, which provides the campus with the opportunity to support and engage with events throughout the year.

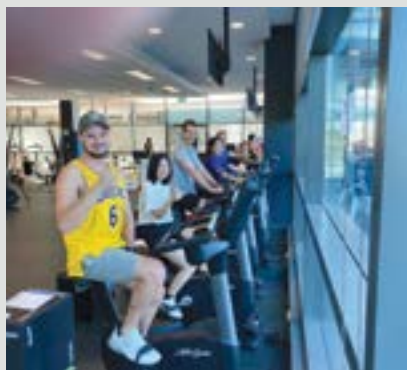
### AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST MORNING TEA



In May, Innovation Campus held an Australia's Biggest Morning Tea in support of our tenants Cancer Council and to raise much needed funds towards a cancer-free future. In partnership with Piccolo Me and The Jade Teapot, located in The Central and Enterprise 1 buildings, the community came together through a mutual love of coffee and snacks and enjoyed some live music from UOW graduate Rachel Tidbury while raising money for a great cause.



## UNIACTIVE TOUR DE FRANCE



The UniActive Tour de France, held on the 28th of July, was a chance for the Innovation Campus community to challenge themselves in a six-hour team cycling event to raise money for Cancer Council. Michael Rodrigues from BMR Sports & Remedial Massage, located at SmartSpace, rode for the full six hours completing 189 kms! This was a brilliant effort from all participants with the challenge raising over \$1100.

## UNIACTIVE RIDE500



The Cancer Council's Ride500 is a challenge set to encourage participants to ride 500 km in a month. During September, UniActive teamed up with Cancer Council and invited several Wollongong based CEOs from local businesses including Wollongong 2022, Destination Wollongong, Dreizi Properties, Leadership Creativity, Disability Trust, Win Network, Cancer Council, Immune Deficiency Foundation and Samaras to participate.

## R U OK?DAY

R U OK? Is a harm prevention charity that encourages people to stay connected and have conversations that can help others through difficult times in their lives. Innovation Campus held an R U OK? Day morning tea on 8 September, bringing the community together to start a meaningful conversation with someone that could make a difference. We were joined by iAccelerate's resident company Recovery Camp and UniActive to offer mental and physical health support. With live music from UOW graduate Nick Moses and delicious treats, it was a great way to connect with those in our community.



## RELAY FOR LIFE



Innovation Campus were proud to be the host venue for this year's Relay for Life. Held on 15 October, this community fundraising challenge

raises vital funds for those impacted by cancer. This event saw hundreds of participants walking around the beautiful pond, engaging in Survivors Morning Teas, paint and sip, market stalls, family-friendly rides, live entertainment, and delicious food options.

## FLAG RAISING CEREMONY

As part of Reconciliation Week, the Australian, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags were raised over Innovation Campus for the first time. We were joined by Aunty Joyce Donovan, who officially welcomed everyone and spoke about the importance of connection to Country,



coming together as a community and working towards a better future. Following the flag raising we joined UOW Senior Lecturer Dr Summer May Finlay in an Allyship workshop and traditional bush tucker feast. This was an important and momentous afternoon that the Innovation Campus community was proud to be part of.

## GIRLS IN PROPERTY



The Property Council of Australia developed the Girls in Property program to raise awareness amongst high school students about the raft of career paths the property industry offers, encouraging greater female participation in the property industry. On 14 June, Innovation Campus hosted the first Illawarra Girls in

Property Program with 35 students from Dapto High School and Kiama High School. The day was led by an inspiring panel of women which comprised of Jennifer Macquarie, Michaela Adair, Daniel Buchanan and Amy Lewis. Innovation Campus is proud to support the future of entrepreneurial women in the property industry.

## FOOD TRUCK THURSDAYS

To support local businesses and offer our tenants something different, the first Thursday of every month we welcomed a local food vendor to campus. Working through unpredictable weather conditions, the campus welcomed Klarie's Kitchen, Eat Fuh, Bun Me Bar, Samaras Food Truck, 2 Smokin' Barrels and Nani's Food Truck.

## 2022 ROAD WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Road World Championships is an annual world championship event for bicycle road racing, organised by the Union Cycliste Internationale. This exciting event saw over 300,000 spectators descend on Wollongong with global broadcasts reaching 300 million people across 110 countries. UOW was named an official UCI Bike City Community Partner with Vice-Chancellor Professor Patricia M. Davidson announced as a Wollongong 2022 Ambassador. Innovation Campus was designated an ideal location for the volunteer hub and campus management worked cohesively with the event organisers. It was an exciting week that highlighted the stunning City of Wollongong and the Innovation Campus.





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## UOW Strategic Plan 2020–2025

Our future is being shaped by global mega forces. These geopolitical, economic, environmental and technological forces have the power to transform our world, presenting us with unprecedented challenges and opportunities.

#### OUR VISION

UOW – inspiring a better future through education, research and partnership.

#### OUR VALUES

- Intellectual openness
- Excellence and dedication
- Empowerment and academic freedom
- Mutual respect and diversity
- Recognition and performance

#### OUR PILLARS

Building on our history, our 2030 pillars support the university to seize new opportunities and continually prepare for our future.

These pillars reflect the distinctive nature of the university as a leading international civic university.

- Global outlook
- Trust built through partnership
- Change that matters

Visit [uow.edu.au/about/our-vision-strategy/2020-2025-strategic-plan](http://uow.edu.au/about/our-vision-strategy/2020-2025-strategic-plan) for more information.





# Evolve. Question. Never stand still.



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## **/INNOVATION CAMPUS**

For more information about the  
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**W:** [www.innovationcampus.com.au](http://www.innovationcampus.com.au)

