

## PRESS RELEASE

### Searching for Australasia's most Sustainable Institutions

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#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Australasia's sustainability champion for the tertiary education sector, ACTS, has today launched the highly anticipated 2015 Green Gown Awards Australasia. In their sixth year, the annual Awards are now established as the most prestigious recognition of sustainability best practice within Australia and New Zealand.

As sustainability moves up the global agenda, the Green Gown Awards Australasia is providing the opportunity to recognise and reward institutions and individuals that are putting sustainability at the heart of their initiatives. The awards continue to grow in size, reputation and prestige and are definitely the sustainability Award that everyone wants to win!

*"The Green Gown Awards Australasia is a fantastic initiative acknowledging and inspiring significant sustainability achievements across our sector."* Gitanjali Bedi, Swinburne University of Technology, 2014 Award winner.

Two new categories in 2015, making a total of 11, means there should be something for everyone! The new Leadership Award aimed at senior strategic leaders, with organisers looking for those Vice Chancellor's and senior leaders that are leading by example and putting sustainability at the heart of their institutions.

The second addition of the Built Environment Award is aimed at greening our campuses and recognising eco credentials within new or refurbished buildings.

There are also a number of revisions in our favourite returning categories, including the ability for judges to award up to two winners, for small and large institutions, in some categories.

The Awards are truly going global, with the Australasian winners set to go head to head with the UK winners and French speaking Europe and Canada to win the coveted International title in three categories. An agreement with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) will also soon see the Awards being embedded further into Europe and even further afield.

Respected and valued by institutions, government, decision makers and industry these Awards are truly the most anticipated in the tertiary education sector calendar. ACTS President Leanne Denby says *"The Green Gown Awards provide an excellent opportunity for educational institutions to show business, industry and the community just how seriously and innovatively they are addressing sustainability across all elements of core business. The international component of the Awards is particularly exciting as Australasian institutions hope to shine on a global level and continue their drive for excellence"*.

Entries are now open for all tertiary education institutions, including universities; TAFEs; polytechnics, and Registered Training Organisations (RTO's); as well as third party organisations for the 2015 Green Gown Awards Australasia. Being part of the Awards not only inspires those already taking part but motivates others to do more! Applications must be submitted by **Wednesday 29 July 2015**.

The Green Gown Awards Australasia would not be possible without the generous support of our 2015 sponsor: Envizi.

For more information please visit: <http://www.acts.asn.au/initiatives/ggaa/2015-ggaa/>

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**Notes to the editor:**

2015 AWARD CATEGORIES (*\*International Category*)

1. Best Newcomer
2. Built Environment - NEW
3. Carbon Reduction
4. *Community Innovation\**
5. *Continuous Improvement – Institutional Change\**
6. Facilities & Services
7. Learning, Teaching & Skills
8. Leadership Award - NEW
9. *Student Engagement\**
10. ACTS Award of Excellence – Staff
11. ACTS Award of Excellence – Student

1. The awards were founded in the UK by the Higher Education Environmental Performance Improvement Programme (HEEPI), and are now run by the [Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges](#) (EAUC), the Awards were created in 2004 to recognise and reward those institutions making a positive impact towards sustainability within the education sector. The Awards just celebrated their 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in the UK, firmly established within the sector calendar.
2. [Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability](#) - ACTS is a non-profit member based organisation representing higher and further education institutions within Australia and New Zealand. ACTS aims to inspire, promote and support change towards sustainability within the operations, curriculum and research of the tertiary education sector. ACTS currently represents over 90% of the universities in Australasia, with many TAFE, polytechnic and RTOs as well.
3. The Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC) is the sector champion for sustainability with the UK for universities and Colleges.
4. [UNEP](#) currently have an agreement with EAUC to expand the International Awards.
5. The Awards will be held in conjunction with the [15<sup>th</sup> Annual International ACTS Conference at Deakin University, Geelong, Victoria, 21-23 October 2015](#) themed 'refocus & renew'.
6. The International Green Gown Awards is currently open in 4 countries – Australasia, UK, French speaking-Europe and Canada with plans for further expansion into Europe and worldwide. Visit [www.eauc.org.uk/international\\_green\\_gown\\_awards](http://www.eauc.org.uk/international_green_gown_awards)
7. 2014 saw a tremendously successful Green Gown Awards Australasia, recognising 21 winners and highly commended institutions for their excellent initiatives, including RMIT University, University of Tasmania, Monash University, University of Canberra, Swinburne Institute of Technology, University of Western Sydney, University of the Sunshine Coast and Macquarie University.

Green Gown Awards Australasia branding:



International Green Gown Awards logo:



2014 Green Gown Award Australasia Winners and Highly Commended:

