



# ACTivate!

ACTS newsletter  
Winter edition

**ACTS** INC AUSTRALASIAN CAMPUSES  
TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY



**WEBSITE REDEVELOPMENT**  
The new ACTS website is live. Discover the new features at [www.acts.asn.au](http://www.acts.asn.au)

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# ACTS Website Redevelopment

We are very excited to let everyone know the new ACTS website is live. Check out the new site at:

[www.acts.asn.au](http://www.acts.asn.au)

For our members this means:

## Memberships

- Memberships renewals are now due. In the past all ACTS memberships were due on the 31st March each year. Under the new structure memberships fees are now based on a sliding scale system and all memberships are now valid for 12 months on completion of registration. You can register your institution online.
- Welcome to those institutions who are already current members (check out the list on the website if you are not sure: [www.acts.asn.au/membership/acts-members-list/](http://www.acts.asn.au/membership/acts-members-list/))
- All staff and students of member institutions can now register to access the member only content of the website. In the not to distant future they will also have access to our online forum and ebulletins.
- By the end of June only current members of ACTS will continue to receive communications from the Association. After this point you will need to make sure your membership is renewed and once renewed have set up your individual profile.
- If you have any questions regarding membership, please do not hesitate to contact [info@acts.asn.au](mailto:info@acts.asn.au).

## Resources

- We encourage you to share your sustainability resources and knowledge from your institution or organisation. Our resource area is dependant on input from our members and we look forward to seeing it grow and become the primary resource hub for sustainability in the tertiary education sector. If you have a resource/s you would like to share through ACTS please email: [info@acts.asn.au](mailto:info@acts.asn.au)

## 2011 ACTS Scholarships

- The 2011 round of ACTS Scholarships are now open. The following three categories are available to
  - Conference Scholarship – Employees
  - Conference Scholarship – Students
  - Development Scholarship

We appreciate your patience during redevelopment of the ACTS website and look forward to introducing many more online features which will benefit our members.




2011  
ACTS Scholarships  
now open

# 2011 ACTS CONFERENCE

## “Sustainability as Core Business: Building the Case for Change”



**SAVE THE DATE!** ACTS Conference - University of Adelaide, SA  
Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> - Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2011

 Green Gown Awards Australasia  
Including 2011 Green Gown Awards Australasia  
Applications open 13 June 2011 - [www.acts.asn.au](http://www.acts.asn.au)

This year's conference will take place 28-30 September 2011, hosted by the University of Adelaide at the National Wine Centre, South Australia. The conference will reflect the new direction of ACTS by moving away from a traditional conference format and creating an interactive environment to learn and engage with like-minded colleagues.

In order to be more sustainable, tertiary education institutions need to embed principles of sustainability into all aspects of core business. From learning and teaching, to campus operations and community engagement, there is little about an institution that should not be touched by sustainability.

Yet, building the case for change remains a major challenge for the higher education and VET sector. Academics, teachers, professional staff, students and service providers all grapple with placing their work in the context of an integrated whole rather than simply individual elements.

The ACTS 2011 Conference will tackle this challenge, exploring how sustainability fits into core business and providing tools and techniques to enable the required change.

## Abstract Submission Details

ACTS invites abstracts from the sustainability community for the “ACTS 2011 Conference - Sustainability as Core Business: Building the Case for Change”. The call for abstract submissions is now open and will remain open through to 1<sup>st</sup> July 2011.

Engage attendees from across the globe during the region's largest campus sustainability conference. The ACTS Conference offers a unique platform to present innovative ideas to university, TAFE, business and governmental partners focusing on sustainability.

For those interested, you can submit a paper for peer review for inclusion of a special edition of the International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education (IJSHE) and the Sustainability, Accounting, Management and Policy Journal (SAMPJ). More information regarding this opportunity will be forthcoming.

### Abstract Submission Limits

Potential presenters can submit no more than 2 abstracts for ACTS 2011. Limit 250 words.

### Submission Categories for Review

Academic Programs & Courses; Facilities Management; Research; Behaviour Change; Innovation & Creativity; Student &/or Staff Engagement; Co-Curricular Activities; Measuring Sustainable Benefits; Sustainable Governance & Leadership; Community Engagement; Partnerships; Transportation; Coordination and Planning; Procurement; Waste; Energy; Promotion & Communication; Water.

# 2011 ACTS CONFERENCE

## Types of Submissions

All sessions are 90 minutes in length. ACTS may pair two submissions into one session to fill the 90 minute time slot.

- Paper: 30 minute presentation followed by 15 minutes Q&A
- Workshop / Roundtable / Symposium: 90 minute interactive presentation
- Poster Session: 1 mandatory staffed plenary presentation

Please note that the focus is on interactive learning and engagement. As such, those abstracts that demonstrate this element will be given priority for inclusion in the conference agenda.

## Room Setup

- All Sessions: Round tables with 8-10 seats per table, head table with podium and microphone, projector and screen
- Poster Session: Posters should be no larger than 4x4; Board and pins for hanging provided by ACTS

## Businesses & Government Partners Submitting Abstracts

Our business community and government partners are important to us. In order to make things clearer for presenting as a business, please see the below revisions to our business community presentation regulations:

- Any presentation, sponsored or not, made by a business must include a higher education co-presenter, preferably an institution that has a success story to share directly related to the main presenter's subject matter.
- Any business presenting at the conference, whether in a sponsored presentation or not, must become an Associate Member with ACTS.


## Submission Process

All submissions should be made online at [www.adelaide.edu.au/ecoversity/acts2011conference](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/ecoversity/acts2011conference). For more information regarding the conference or submission process, please email:

[acts2011conference@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:acts2011conference@adelaide.edu.au)



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# ACTS Regional Directors & Portfolios

Our last ACTS Newsletter introduced our new board, executive directors and regional directors. Last but not least, we introduce Mark Boulet, Sam Kashuk, and Paula Tovey as ACTS Regional Directors. All three of them put up their hands to jointly manage the important Victoria and Tasmania region. So welcome Mark, Sam and Paula!



## Mark Boulet

**Manager - Education Programs, Monash Sustainability Institute  
Victoria/Tasmania (External Partnerships)**

Mark has an excellent training and sustainability background, with experience in a broad range of sustainability initiatives within university, community and government organizations. He managed the Monash University Green Office program and was involved in bench-marking waste production and recycling across the organization before moving to Environment Victoria to focus on community environmental education and engagement.

Mark evaluated community engagement on sustainability while working for the Office of the Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability (Victoria) and developed environmental curriculum for the Gould League of Australia. He also spent two very enjoyable years running environmental education programs in Thailand as part of the Australian Volunteers International program.

Mark has been a senior trainer with the Green Steps program since 2003 and is currently the Education program manager for the Monash Sustainability Institute.



## Sam Kashuk

**Adjunct Research Fellow and Lecturer, Victoria University/  
Melbourne University  
Victoria/Tasmania (External Partnerships)**

My goal in teaching environmentally sustainable design at Victoria University is to prepare future engineers to make a more sustainable world. Developing new approaches to sustainability, particularly of buildings, is one of my main research areas and working with ACTS provides opportunities to provide substantial practical solution to sustainability issues.



## Paula Tovey

**Manager - Environment, Deakin University  
Victoria/Tasmania (External Partnerships)**

Paula has over twenty years experience in natural resource management. Recently joining the tertiary education sector in 2009, Paula has worked in local government, various state and territory governments and in the private sector, as an environmental regulator, behavioural change manager, environmental auditor, and in mining rehabilitation. Implementation of practical initiatives in the workplace to minimise the environmental footprint of the work place has been a common theme throughout. Paula believes that many opportunities exist within the tertiary education sector to share and promulgate ideas to further progress both state and national advances in environmental sustainability.

# Awarding Sustainability Excellence

Are you making positive changes through exciting initiatives?  
Is your institution a leader in sustainability?

Then it's time to get yourself recognized and be part of THE sustainability awards scheme for the tertiary education sector in Australia and New Zealand.



ACTS is delighted to announce the second year of the Green Gown Awards Australasia, which aim to recognize and reward outstanding initiatives being undertaken in sustainability, within the tertiary education sector.

**ACTS invites you** to nominate or sponsor the 2011 Green Gown Awards Australasia.

We look forward to seeing you at our Awards Ceremony

Leanne Denby  
President of ACTS  
On behalf of the ACTS Board.

## Call for Entries!

The Awards will open on Tuesday 14 June, and the deadline for entries will be 12 noon Friday 5 August 2011. Following the exciting launch and popularity of the Awards in 2010, 3 new categories have been added, bringing a total of 6 awards for 2011.

### 2011 Award Categories

- Continuous Improvement – Institutional Change
- Continuous Improvement – Specific Area
- Learning and Teaching
- Student Initiatives and Campaigns
- TAFEs and Smaller Institutions
- ACTS Award of Excellence

9 institutions, including 3 winners – Charles Sturt University, ANU and Monash University were recognised for their exciting initiatives in 2010, so make sure you're a part of it in 2011!

Watch this space - more details, on the categories and how to enter will be available ready for launch on 14 June 2011.

## Sponsorship Opportunities!

We're also looking for forward thinking organisations that want to align themselves and have a very positive association with sustainability improvement in the tertiary education sector. So if you know of an organisation that would be interested, call or email Sue (details at bottom of page) today!

Contact: Sue Hopkins  
Manager - Green Gown Awards Australasia  
E: [ggaa@acts.asn.au](mailto:ggaa@acts.asn.au) T: 0405 564755 W: [www.acts.asn.au](http://www.acts.asn.au)



CSU values economic, social and environmental sustainability, including the responsible stewardship of resources. Sustainability and global citizenship are central values of the CSU Strategy 2007-2011, and sustainability is one of the four key themes of CSU's Institutional Development Plan (IDP). The IDP will be succeeded in 2011 by a stand-alone Sustainability Plan that is currently in development. The University has also affirmed its commitment to sustainability through signing the Tallories Declaration, an international action plan for environmental sustainability in higher education.

In 2008 CSU Green was formed to serve as a hub of communication and coordination for the University's sustainability efforts. CSU Green assists in monitoring what has been achieved, and in promoting and initiating activities. It focuses in particular on the University's sustainability targets. CSU has already made progress towards achieving several of these targets, despite the significant increase in building area and student numbers which have occurred since 2006. In particular, CSU has already gone well beyond the target for water reduction, with a 47% reduction in water consumption achieved in 2010, compared to 2006 levels.

Students and staff engage on sustainability issues through CSU's network of sustainability committees. Staff members can nominate to be on the Campus Environmental Committees (CECs). Staff and students bring ideas, and interact with members of these committees and CSU Green. A number of environmental groups have been set up by staff and students across various parts of the University, and are supported by CSU Green. In addition to these formal sustainability activities, CSU Green has an ongoing Calendar of Events which involves the University's staff and students in sustainability-related events at the University. These events, which often involve the wider communities within which the campuses are based, range from tree planting days and sustainability treasure hunts, to participation in national events such as Earth Hour and Ride To Work Day. The Calendar of Events is an important way to spread the sustainability message more widely throughout the University, as well as to promote fun and active ways for people to make a difference in their local environment.

For more information on Charles Sturt University's  
**ACTS Member Spotlight**, visit:

[www.acts.asn.au/members-spotlight](http://www.acts.asn.au/members-spotlight)

# DIVERTING EXCESS FOOD TO TASMANIANS IN NEED

Excess food from an international conference at the University of Tasmania was diverted to Tasmanians who are hungry and in need of food.

This unique trial enabled surplus food to be appropriately stored prior to being collected by fresh food rescue organisation SecondBite who distributed it to several Salvation Army agencies. UTAS Sustainability Officer Corey Peterson said the trial is an innovative and exciting collaboration between many local agencies. "Given that so many in our community go without adequate nutrition on a regular basis, it only made sense for UTAS to look around at opportunities within our system to see if there was something we could do to address this as well as having the added benefit of decreasing waste volumes," Mr. Peterson said.



More than 430 medical students attended a Global Health Conference at the UTAS Sandy Bay campus in September 2010. Under the trial, surplus lunch-time food was securely packed each day and delivered by a refrigerated truck to those in need. Pat Burton, Food Program Manager from SecondBite Tasmania, said the trial set a new standard in food rescue and will add more volume and variety to SecondBite's established food redistribution efforts. "SecondBite is grateful to UTAS for recognising that there are more sustainable options for surplus food - it does not have to be destined for landfill, but instead can be redirected to those who need it most in our community."

"SecondBite volunteers joined UTAS catering firm Scolarest to securely pack and safely store the food, ready for delivery. The surplus food not consumed at the conference was chilled, frozen and distributed through the Salvation Army Emergency Food Relief Program," Pat said. "Through the use of existing sector capacity and inter-agency collaboration the logistics of collection and redistribution have been overcome."

"SecondBite aims to bridge the gap between food waste and hunger by allowing one to serve as a solution to the other, and it is food donors like UTAS that make our work possible. We hope that other organisations follow suit." Grant Herring from the Salvation Army said the trial was part of work in collaboration with other community based services towards establishment of more sustainable food security across Tasmania. "A network of suppliers of pre-prepared foods, such as UTAS catering services, combined with reliable fresh fruit and vegetable producers and community gardens can positively impact our food security needs."

"Interagency collaboration is proving to be a key to effective and sustainable activity supporting food security for our State." "Food security' means regular access to safe, nutritionally adequate, culturally acceptable food. Dietician Sandra Murray from the UTAS School of Human Life Science said that around \$5.3 billion worth of food is thrown away by Australians each year with more than half of this as fresh food. "Food waste across Australia comprises 15 percent of the 20 million tonnes of waste that goes into landfill each year, and the recycling rate, such as composting, is very low," Ms Murray said. "UTAS is a sustainable university and the redistributing of food to those in the community who really need it fits with that philosophy."

Corey Peterson said while recycling waste streams for materials such as glass and cans are well known, food waste streams are also important to consider. "This trial was a positive action on behalf of the greater community and it would be wonderful to see it become a standard practice from caterers and venue operators throughout Tasmania," Mr. Peterson said.





# EXCEL ACTS SCHOLARSHIPS



Arc wins Highly Commended for Student Initiative in the 2010 Green Gown awards

Alex Surace, a student from the University of New South Wales, was our 2010 ACTS Conference Student Scholarship award winner. We caught up with Alex to find out more about him post-ACTS conference.

## Why did you apply for an ACTS Scholarship?

I wanted an opportunity to see where student organisations from around the country are at with embracing sustainability, and to share ideas on how student organisations could be used as a vehicle to engage and develop students while progressing the sustainability agenda.

I also nominated Arc for a Student Initiative Green Gown award and wanted to be present at the award ceremony to hear what other students from around the country had been working on.

## What did you gain from attending the ACTS Conference?

The most profound realisation I had while at the conference was the suggestion that more powerful outcomes could be realised by focusing on the core business of the higher education sector... learning and teaching. For students like myself already studying sustainability related majors and degrees it is easy to forget that not all students are exposed to these ideas.

To follow up on this I am involved with the Leadership Network for Climate Change at UNSW and undertaking some research on Education for Sustainability and Climate Change teaching, we should have something to share in time for the next ACTS Conference.

## What are you involved with at UNSW?

In 2009 I facilitated the creation of Arc's (UNSW Student Organisation) Environmental Management System and continued in 2010 to work on its implementation. During this year we were able to partner with 2 Masters classes to deliver an environment audit student precinct re-design using ecological sustainable design principals and save over \$25,000 in energy. Arc's Environment Committee (mixture of staff and students) has developed a 2011-2012 strategy and another student will take over from next year, a substantial achievement. More information on Arc's environmental Management is available from [www.enviro.arc.unsw.edu.au](http://www.enviro.arc.unsw.edu.au).

I would like to finish by thanking ACTS for recognising the important role students can have in helping our institutions embrace sustainability. It is fair to say that without the support of ACTS I would not have been able to attend the 2010 conference and been inspired to undertake research in Education for Sustainability. Please contact me on [a.surace@student.unsw.edu.au](mailto:a.surace@student.unsw.edu.au) if you have any questions.

For more information on [ACTS Scholarship Opportunities](http://www.acts.asn.au/programs-and-initiatives/acts-scholarships/), visit:  
[www.acts.asn.au/programs-and-initiatives/acts-scholarships/](http://www.acts.asn.au/programs-and-initiatives/acts-scholarships/)

# Bart Meehan



**ACTS catches up with Bart Meehan - a pioneer in campus sustainability – before he retires from his role as Associate Director of Facilities and Site Services at Australian National University.**

## **How did you end up being so involved with sustainability at ANU?**

I came to ANU after 21 years in the Air Force. The University was seeing pressure from staff and students in the 1990s to develop a Sustainability Policy. They needed someone to drive the policy development, and because I walked in late to that meeting – I was elected to be

the facilities representative on the sustainability committee. It ended up being the most fortuitous case of tardiness I've ever had! The Sustainability Policy and first EMS was launched in 1999 and led to the development of the holistic ANU Green program. I managed the program (along with other areas of responsibility) – in those days it was just me and a part time casual officer. Now we have 8 staff along with many student interns.

## **What are some of the biggest challenges you've faced in your career and how did you overcome them?**

Engaging people in sustainability is still a challenge, but it was especially difficult in 1999! Trying to convince people to take sustainability seriously required a pragmatic approach. Progress was made by getting people involved with things they were already familiar with, so we started with waste management since there was lots of national media at the time around waste practices, littering and recycling. This started to get people engaged in the sustainability journey, so we moved on to a financially driven energy management program. By taking this non-threatening approach, we built a platform for sustainability engagement. Ideas were starting to be fed back and we started to see social, environmental, and financial benefits.

## **What has been critical to your success in creating change for sustainability at ANU?**

It was critical to make sure the program we implemented was holistic. As a Facility Manager it would have been very easy to take on an engineering, operational focus, so it was a deliberate decision to get the right mix of people in the ANUgreen – we wanted a team of people who could work together, a good level of autonomy and a diverse mix of skills – mix of environmental specialist, academics and technical officers.

We also wanted engagement with staff, student and academic community. The most critical success factor for engagement has been providing opportunities that married up operations with the University's core activity – learning, teaching and research. This created an alliance – moving us away from the entrenched silos within the campus community. The linkages also created support that ultimately helped us in pushing forward – by getting executive management support and funding. It has been a very positive, beneficial strategy for us and has created strong relationships. So much so, we now have an Environmental Officer who is appointed to liaise with the academic and student community.

## **Do you have any tips for anyone just starting the journey?**

Three words: Patience, patience, patience! Keep in mind that slow change is better than no change. If you keep pressing away you will eventually build momentum. The important thing is to be persistent when someone is dismissive of your ideas. Also, be clear about where you want to end up. Don't be deterred by the time it will take to get there – remember that sustainability is an organizational life style choice – not a project with a beginning and an end. Write your plan around goals and progressively move towards them in 3 – 5 year blocks. Give some thought to a plan that is aggressive, substantive and achieves genuine sustainability practice, but be cautious of setting targets that are so great that people are skeptical about actually achieving them. They will disengage with the whole process if they think the target is unobtainable.

## **What's next for Bart Meehan?**

I will be doing some consultancy work for the International Alliance of Research Universities ([www.iaruni.org/sustainability](http://www.iaruni.org/sustainability)) for the next year, focusing on its sustainability program. I'll be redeveloping its sustainability website; developing online education packages for campus sustainability; coordinating webinars around carbon and water management; looking at linking academic research and operational sustainability and translating that into summer school packages. The purpose is to consolidate what the 10 universities in the Alliance are doing and collaborate to drive sustainability in the broader sector.

I'm also involved with the International Sustainable Campus Network ([www.international-sustainable-campus-network.org/](http://www.international-sustainable-campus-network.org/)) as a co-chair in a working party to develop standards for building and campus site operations. In the interim – maybe some golf, writing some long over due papers and doing what I can to avoid my wife's list of tasks around the house!

**ACTS wishes Bart all the best for the future, and we thank him for everything he has contributed and will continue to contribute to the sector.**