



# WINNERS' BROCHURE 2012



# Awarding Sustainability Excellence

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The Green Gown Awards Australasia 2012 Awards ceremony is in conjunction with the 12th ACTS International Conference dinner. We'd like to thank our conference hosts & sponsors:



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# FOREWORD

Now in their third year, the Green Gown Awards Australasia are quickly establishing themselves as the most prestigious recognition of sustainability excellence in further and higher education. With so many institutions working hard to ensure that sustainability is part of core business, it is appropriate to ensure we recognise the amazing efforts of colleagues in the sector.

To honour the variety of achievements being undertaken, we have introduced more categories to the mix for this year's awards, taking the number of awards up for grabs to seven. All of this year's entries demonstrate the commitment institutions are making towards achieving a sustainable future through operations, through learning and teaching and through broader community engagement. The winning and commended entries have been chosen by an independent judging panel as the best examples of these efforts, though every entry is to be applauded. I would particularly like to thank our judges for the time they put into deciding our winners.

Not only do these awards provide an opportunity to recognise the efforts of the sector, they also provide an opportunity for others to learn about ways to approach different aspects of the full campus sustainability program. I encourage you to join me in congratulating all those who have been recognised for this year's awards.



**Leanne Denby**  
President

Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability [ACTS]

# A MESSAGE FROM THE EAUC

The EAUC are pleased to announce the first year of the Green Gown International Awards, combining the excellence from the UK and Australasia. At the very heart of the Green Gown Awards is sharing and learning plus promoting and inspiring excellence in sustainability. For the sector to do this across both territories strengthens this further.

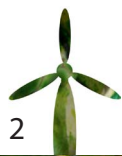
In the UK we are ensuring that the learning goes beyond the Awards with winners videos and case studies. The quality and diversity of the applications demonstrate that sustainability has the power to improve the performance of our institutions and our students.

We look forward to working together with ACTS and the Green Gown Awards Australasia in the future to ensure that our sector stands up and leads on the challenges facing our sector, our society and our shared planet.



**Ian Patton**  
CEO

Environmental Association for Universities & Colleges (EAUC)



# ABOUT THE AWARDS

The Green Gown Awards Australasia is the first and only Award scheme dedicated to recognising excellence in sustainability within the tertiary education sector in Australia and New Zealand. Their aim is to recognise and reward those institutions making a positive impact towards sustainability, providing a real and very positive platform for others to aspire to.

Founded in the UK in 2004, by the Higher Education Environmental Performance Improvement programme (HEEPI), and now run by the EAUC, the UK Green Gown Awards are now in their 8th Year, and have firmly become THE most prestigious recognition of sustainability best practice in universities and colleges across the UK.

Driving on this success and keen to embrace international collaboration, ACTS launched the Green Gown Awards Australasia in 2010. Now in their 3rd year, the Awards are growing, with more categories to recognise and reward sustainability excellence and share these success stories in a national and international arena. The future aim for the Australasian Awards is to follow in its founders footsteps and become THE most prestigious and highly coveted recognition of sustainability excellence in the sector.

This year there are 6 categories that all Australasian institutions can showcase their achievements in addition to the ACTS Award of Excellence.

In 2012, ACTS and the EAUC are delighted to announce the launch of the International Green Gown Awards, which will see the winners of both countries go head to head in three categories (Continuous Improvement - Institutional Change, Social Responsibility and Student Initiatives & Campaigns category) for the international title. We look forward to announcing the winners at the London ceremony in November.

# 2012 CATEGORIES

## Carbon Reduction

Recognising initiatives which have achieved a significant reduction in the carbon footprint of an education institution.

## Continuous Improvement – Institutional Change

Recognising sustained and successful activities to improve the performance of whole tertiary education institutions, campuses, faculties and buildings over a number of years.

## Skills for Sustainability

Recognising achievement in the development of skills relevant to sustainability. The main focus of this category is activities which are not central to the pursuit of academic qualifications.

## Social Responsibility

Recognising initiatives by higher or further education institutions which create significant benefits for local communities, disadvantaged groups and/or society as a whole in either Australasia or developing countries.

## Student Initiatives and Campaigns

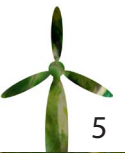
Recognising initiatives developed and/or substantially influenced by students.

## TAFE & Smaller Institutions

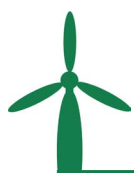
Recognising the commitment and impact of TAFEs and smaller Higher Education institutions in relation to their total sustainability agenda. It encompasses any sustainability-related initiatives which contribute to improved environmental and social conditions and outcomes.

## ACTS Award of Excellence

Recognising the sustainability achievements of an ACTS institutional member.







## CARBON REDUCTION WINNER

### James Cook University *An Integrated Approach to Energy Management*



James Cook University has embarked on an ambitious energy management and efficiency program that has realised major cost and energy savings, reduced greenhouse gas emissions and significantly reduced peak demand at its Townsville Campus.

The integrated approach includes the Central District Cooling system, the largest thermal energy storage tank in the Southern Hemisphere, a centrally controlled Building and Energy Management System, power factor correction and various other projects.

Over the past five years these projects, costing JCU over \$25 million, have been implemented across the campus. The results include a peak demand reduction of 4.5MW (40%), a 25% reduction in total energy use, \$2 million in savings annually and a reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of 10,600 tonnes per annum. The innovation lends itself well to replication in a wide variety of situations. It can be scaled up and down and used wherever air-conditioning contributes a significant cost to an organisation.

#### WHAT THE JUDGES SAY

*JCU is a fantastic example of a large scale energy management and efficiency initiative that provided significant carbon reduction benefits. It is impressive to see that JCU has recognised the area of greatest energy usage across campuses and has successfully implemented a multifaceted solution to reduce peak demand by a significant 25%.*



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## HIGHLY COMMENDED

### Sunshine Coast Institute of TAFE *First carbon neutral educational organisation*



Sunshine Coast Institute of TAFE (SCIT) has a vision to be a leader in education for sustainability and sustainable operations. To achieve this vision the Institute has initiated a multi-disciplined, multi-faceted approach which recognises their unique role in the community.

As one of the largest employers and training organisations on the Sunshine Coast, SCIT is highly cognisant of the need to maintain the natural beauty of this region. They are fortunate enough to live in a region where the local council has made every endeavour to plan appropriately to ensure sustainability within business, leisure and natural environments. SCIT maintains close links with the Sunshine Coast Council to ensure strategic compatibility in relation to all current and future growth planning for this region. Their signature achievement is to be the first and only educational institution in Australia to become carbon neutral, having received National Carbon Offset Standard (NCOS) certification.



### The University of Queensland *UQ Carbon Strategy*



The University of Queensland (UQ) is focused on embedding sustainability on all its campuses and sites and across all areas of learning, discovery and engagement. UQ is a signatory to the Talloires Declaration and the Universitas 21 Sustainability Statement.

The UQ Carbon Strategy overarches leading-edge energy efficiency programs, large scale renewable energy projects and other sustainability initiatives. The strategy's flagship project is the 1.22 megawatt UQ Solar array – currently Australia's largest flat-panel roof top PV system.

The system generated over 1.7 million kilowatts of renewable energy in its first year of operation saving 1,700 equivalent metric tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per annum. It has provided a 5% reduction in the campus peak power demand and is expected to save \$6.6 million in avoided electricity costs to 2025. The array underpins a number of cutting-edge research projects, in diverse fields including physics, engineering, economics and sustainability. One key research aim will address engineering issues on how these systems can feed into and integrate with the electricity grid. The system is the blueprint for vital solar energy infrastructure in urban and remote areas to ensure a cleaner and greener future for Australia.





## CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT - INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE WINNER

### Edith Cowan University *Sustainable Communities*



Edith Cowan University (ECU) is committed to developing a heightened awareness of sustainability within its students, staff, and the wider community to create a sense of place and value for the environment. ECU has taken significant steps to create a sustainable university community and a culture of 'healthy you, healthy environment'. Key achievements by the University in the past 5 years have been:

- The development of a University-wide Sustainability Action Plan with actions and targets addressing all areas of social and environmental sustainability and overseen by a university-wide committee;
- reductions in potable water usage and carbon;
- increase in staff participation rates in the associated University programs;
- 2009 Premier's Award for "Managing the Environment";
- 2010/11 WA Government Waterwise Award.

ECU continues to work on a number of big steps towards a smaller footprint.

#### WHAT THE JUDGES SAY

*ECU demonstrated a significant commitment to sustainability across the whole of the institution, with strong integration as seen by a structured EMS ISO14001. They have utilised good sustainability metrics for formal reporting, which is impressive and provide evidence of progression over time. The initiative had a broad sustainability approach with great results and a strong emphasis on social issues as well as operational.*

**BIG STEPS** toward a smaller footprint



## HIGHLY COMMENDED

### University of Tasmania

*Continuous Improvement exemplified by the Academic-Operations Sustainability Integration Program*

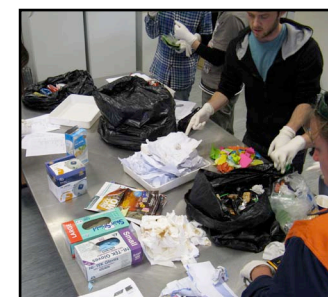


The University of Tasmania (UTAS) sustainability vision is to integrate a comprehensive sustainability plan, which is engaging and connects operational and academic interests, into core business activities. In early 2010, projects were undertaken to demonstrate the value of synchronising academic and operational sustainability goals. These successful efforts then grew into the Academic-Operations Sustainability Integration Program (AOSIP), which formalises a key UTAS objective 'to integrate the mutual objectives of UTAS' environmental management and academic programs using sustainable infrastructure and service needs as an opportunity for cross disciplinary teaching, learning and research as well as supporting and accessing the sustainability knowledge base of students and academics. Through a grounded approach of linking theory to real-world sustainability issues on campus and to skills in demand by employers, AOSIP motivates students to be active in their own learnings.

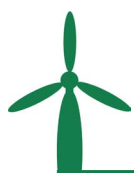
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## SKILLS FOR SUSTAINABILITY WINNER

**TAFE NSW Northern Sydney Institute**  
*Embedding Education for Sustainability  
principles and practice into vocational  
education and training*



TAFE NSW Northern Sydney Institute (NSI) made a commitment in 2011 to embed education for sustainability (EfS) into all education and training programs by 2013.

This commitment requires a whole of Institute approach to EfS including a focus through the Institute's governance model and accountability at the Executive level for embedding EfS into all training programs; building staff capability in the principles and practice of EfS relevant to their vocational areas; facilitating Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programs; engaging teachers in EfS innovations and initiatives through partnerships with community groups, government agencies and enterprises and establishing interdisciplinary programs for training.

All NSI colleges have an EMS certified to ISO14001 which provides the educational foundation of practising environmental sustainability. NSI is unique in the Australian tertiary sector to hold this certification.

In July 2012, NSI achieved a Gold Partnership with the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage in recognition of NSI's leadership in EfS and the integration of sustainability into all aspects of our business and is the only NSW Government organisation and Registered Training Organisation to obtain this level of achievement.

### WHAT THE JUDGES SAY

*TAFE NSW - NSI is an excellent example of an institution focusing on green skills within the VET sector. It demonstrates a comprehensive strategic framework and integrated approach throughout its courses. It has a solid and rigorous approach to sustainability with strong leadership and a very proactive approach to secure funding. The institution is advanced in their skills education - embedding it across the whole of the institution.*



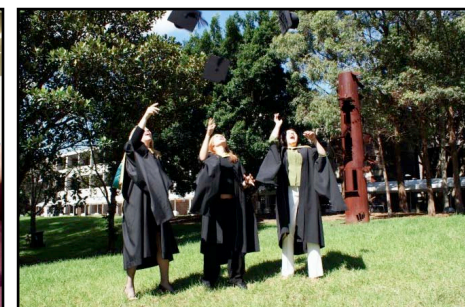
## HIGHLY COMMENDED

**Macquarie University**  
*People, Planet and Participation*



The biggest impact universities can have on the future of our planet is through approaches that equip graduates with the skills they need to actively contribute to economic, social and environmental sustainability in all facets of life. This can be achieved through active participatory learning, creation of shared experiences and the development of a collective vision of sustainability, which ultimately will help reshape the world. Macquarie offers a range of avenues to up-skill its community to motivate, equip and involve people in reflecting on how they currently live and work. Macquarie's skills-for-sustainability initiatives aim to go beyond individual behaviour change or single actions, instead seeking to implement systemic change within the University, its community, and society at large.

Macquarie addresses both formal and informal skill development. The Learning and Teaching Plan has sustainability amongst its core values, and is considered a principle and enabler that will guide the implementation of Macquarie's values. The programs and practices of the University reflect a commitment to sustainability in the University's social, physical and cultural environments. This commitment is demonstrated through their: Graduate Capabilities Framework; People, Planet and Participation Units; various sustainability training and engagement initiatives; and specific sustainability courses.





## SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY WINNER

Charles Darwin University  
*Lakeside Drive Community Garden*



The Lakeside Drive Community Garden (LDCG) at Charles Darwin University (CDU) is an award-winning outreach program of CDU's Office of Community Engagement that provides the community with tropical food production and sustainable living education in Northern Australia.

LDCG is driven by a dedicated group of community members, CDU students and staff who generously donate time, equipment, guidance and resources. Based on Permaculture principles, LDCG provides community education on food security and sustainable lifestyles with the aim of inspiring local residents to engage in promoting the growth of native species, both in their backyards and the wider community.

### WHAT THE JUDGES SAY

*The Lakeside Drive Community Garden by Charles Darwin University is a good example of an institutional approach to social responsibility. Whilst it is a simple project, it's benefits are wide ranging, and demonstrates effective leadership with a strong community focus and practical aspect.*



# Congratulations to all from ACTS!

ACTS administers the Green Gown Awards Australasia for the sector, as well as leading, inspiring and equipping our members and stakeholders with a shared vision, knowledge and the tools needed to embed sustainability within operations, curriculum and research of the tertiary education sector.

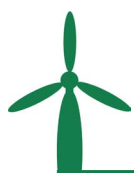
To ensure the sustainability of the Green Gown Awards Australasia, ACTS is dedicated to promoting the dissemination of the learning and best practice shown in the Awards to the sector throughout the year by events, case studies and resources.

**To learn more visit [www.acts.asn.au](http://www.acts.asn.au)**



**ACTS**<sub>INC</sub>  
AUSTRALASIAN CAMPUSES  
TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY

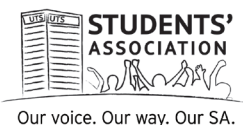




## STUDENT INITIATIVES & CAMPAIGNS WINNER

### University of Technology, Sydney - Students' Association

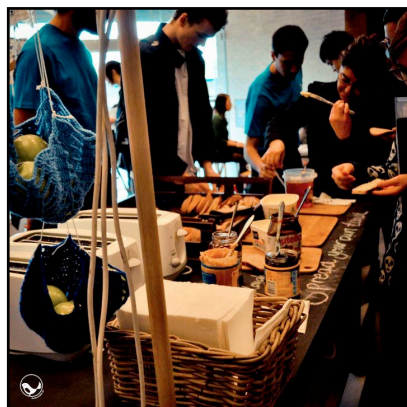
*Bluebird Brekkie: free sustainable pop-up café by students, for students*



Everyone knows that breakfast is the most important meal of the day, especially when it comes to concentration and academic performance. The Students' Association at the University of Technology, Sydney recognises that students are skipping breakfast before early lectures, or sometimes can't afford sustaining and nutritious foods, so they created Bluebird Brekkie Bar. Made by students for students, Bluebird is a large-scale pop-up café providing free, sustainable, delicious and nutritious breakfast once a week – organic muesli, permeate-free milk and natural yoghurt, freshly-baked local sourdough with avocado and spreads, fruit juice, fresh organic fruit and fair-trade tea and coffee – all in an inclusive community setting with chilled-out indie music. The aim is to improve student welfare whilst laying the foundation for positive long-term habits around nutrition and sustainable lifestyle choices. And they are doing just that, feeding around 1,000 students every breakfast and receiving encouraging feedback that the sustainability message is getting through. Bluebird has fast become one of (if not the) most popular attractions at UTS, and is the object of envy from other universities. The Association is proud to have the support of the UTS Chancellor and Vice Chancellors, and to provide a professional standard service from a grass-roots level.

#### WHAT THE JUDGES SAY

*This is an excellent example of a student led initiative - 'created by students for students'. It was innovative and quirky and provided examples of sustainability across a number of areas; student engagement and welfare, healthy eating, ethical sourcing and education. It demonstrated good partnership with other groups as well as reaching people beyond those already interested in sustainability.*



## HIGHLY COMMENDED

### TAFE NSW - Sydney Institute *Green Week Precinct*



Green Week Precinct is a full week of activities, documentary films, Q&As, informative talks, debates, fashion parades, competition and photography exhibition that raised awareness of environmental issues and offered the opportunity to all students and staff of the Ultimo Precinct to contribute, be involved and share knowledge in a fun and engaging way.

An innovative partnership between the neighbouring Ultimo TAFE, UTS University & ABC Ultimo ran from June, 4 to 8 and coincided with World Environment Day on Tuesday 5 June and World Oceans Day on Friday 8 June. Through this collaboration Green Week Precinct gave students and staff of all three organisations the opportunity to actively collaborate, educate and raise awareness of sustainability issues as well as discover and explore each other spaces, remove the unseen boundaries, creating a true precinct community spirit.





## TAFE & SMALLER INSTITUTIONS WINNER

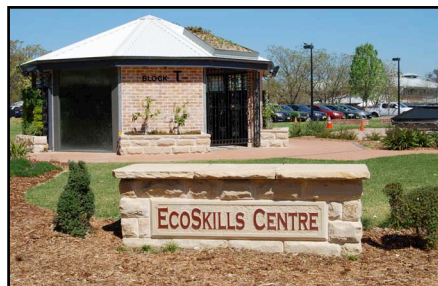
### TAFE NSW - Western Sydney Institute *Totally switched on to Sustainability*



For TAFE NSW – Western Sydney Institute, sustainability is more than just a single program or initiative; it embraces social inclusion and environmental outcomes for the community including tailored programs where refugees learn English language skills in the context of working in hands-on food production where they can utilise their traditional agricultural, using contemporary sustainability methods. Similarly, their involvement in global programs such as International WaterKeepers Alliance, United Nations Regional Centre for Expertise is bringing sustainability to life and leading the region in environmental sustainability training for a sustainable future. Commitment to reducing their own carbon footprint is evidenced by significant reductions in energy and water consumption, purchase of accredited green energy and solar cells generating energy. Their industry partnerships have resulted in new and emerging technologies and world class facilities enabling delivery of greenskills training to individuals, communities and industry learners.

#### WHAT THE JUDGES SAY

*TAFE NSW - Western Sydney Institute serves as a fantastic example of a holistically integrated and mature sustainability approach within an institution. The level of leadership demonstrated within the sustainability achievements of WSI is outstanding, as is the integration of the technology that is being utilised.*



## HIGHLY COMMENDED

### Australian Institute of Management South Australia

*Sustainable Development: Better managers & leaders for a better society*



The Australian Institute of Management South Australia (AIM SA) is a proud organisation with a passion for delivering training of the highest quality to managers and leaders (and future managers and leaders) in South Australia. They've been around since 1944, and being the largest private provider of management and leadership education in SA, they are also one of the largest professional bodies for managers. Their rich history, diverse membership base and breadth of experience helps to deliver each day on their core purpose of developing 'better managers and leaders for a better society'.

As is the business leaders of today and tomorrow who are responsible to transition society towards a more equitable and sustainable future, they believe it is their responsibility to ensure that the principles, values and practices of sustainable development are integrated into education and training and throughout core business activities.



### Great Southern Institute of Technology *Seeds of Sustainability*



With nearly 6000 people practising recycling, reusing and reducing resources, Great Southern Institute of Technology's Seeds of Sustainability project is flourishing. Significant savings from reduced electricity, paper and water use have been directed into further exciting developments to compound sustainability and numerous initiatives have been established.

The passion and commitment are almost tangible. People urge each other to do the right thing, and news is shared through the monthly gazette. Their project stands out for the high number of initiatives brought to fruition, the green mindset adopted by people, and the unashamed exploitation of their position to spread the message far and wide through the inclusion of sustainability elements in all courses.

Strong leadership from the Managing Director, who issued a 'green' challenge to staff two years ago, and a Seeds of Sustainability committee are driving this vibrant project.





## University of Tasmania



The University of Tasmania has shown increasing commitment over the past few years by defining the sustainability agenda and then over time increasing resourcing and embedding this agenda holistically into institutional strategies and plans.

This is evidenced by staff changes from a part-time contractor, evolving into a team of five continuing appointments over the last four years to provide: an increasing budget, ensuring sustainability is embedded into all relevant policies, embedding sustainability-based KPIs into service contracts (such as catering and general campus services), and to bring it all together to explain the commitment to sustainability, incorporating 'the right words' into Open to Talent 2012 and beyond, the overall University Strategy document. The document states - 'Future planning, design and management of our facilities will be guided by a vision of sustainability seeking to reduce environmental impacts, achieve economic efficiency, demonstrate social responsibility, and enhance student experience.'

This institutional support has been translated into direct involvement by 88 staff sustainability representatives to help spread information and encourage behaviour change in their areas. Also to feed back into plans and strategies as well as development of the Academic-Operations Sustainability Integration Program that 'brings it all together' in delivering operational outcomes through involving staff and students directly.

The ACTS Award of Excellence is a unique award - voted by members for members. The Award provides the opportunity for the ACTS network to celebrate the sustainability achievements of one of its own!

## 2012 JUDGING PANEL

We would like to extend a huge thank you to our panel of independent expert judges who provide their time and expertise to decide the winners. The credibility of the Awards rests with the independence of our judges and any potential conflicts of interest were disqualified.

- AASHE - Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, USA
- ACPET - Australian Council for Private Education and Training
- ACTS - Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability
- AYCC - Australian Youth Climate Coalition
- Dalkia
- Deloitte
- Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education (DIISRTE)
- Ecosave
- EAUC - Environmental Association for Universities & Colleges, UK
- Fairly Educated
- GE
- Griffith University
- InterfaceFLOR
- James Cook University
- Macquarie University
- NUS - National Union of Students
- RMIT University
- TDA - TAFE Directors Australia
- TEFMA - Tertiary Education Facilities Management Association
- The Group Training Association of Victoria
- University of Adelaide
- University of Western Sydney





# SUSTAINABLE EVENTS & AWARDS

The 12th International ACTS Conference, highlighted by the Green Gown Awards Australasia ceremony, has been run with sustainability at the heart of its ethos and practices. To compliment its guests the organisation and materials used have been done with the utmost care to the environment and the practice of sustainability.

The ACTS conference has been sponsored by Climate Friendly who will offset the carbon emissions of the event, including the travel of all delegates.

The Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre as the venue for the conference strives for sustainability and features:

- EarthCheck Silver & Green Table accreditation
- A range of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle initiatives
- Location in the heart of Brisbane, with easy access to public transport
- Partnership with Foodbank, Australia's largest hunger relief organisation
- Commitment to sustainable cleaning product use
- The very best of fresh, seasonal produce from local suppliers
- Coffee from Rainforest Alliance Certified farms
- A written Corporate Social Responsibility policy
- Controlled use of lighting and air-conditioning
- Dedicated bike racks around the facility

The Green Gown Awards Australasia trophies have been made using 100% recycled glass by an Australian glass artist. Each Award is unique in its design and manufacture. The winner's certificates and brochures have been printed on 100% recycled handmade paper made from elephant dung and office waste paper. This unique paper contributes to a sustainable industry in Sri Lanka. Its production directly contributes to villager's income and a percentage of the profits go to the Millennium Elephant Foundation.

The conference dinner is an ethically constructed menu which sources locally produced food and wines.

Minimal printing practices have been utilised across the event. All printed materials have used recycled or sustainably managed forestry products, and utilised double-sided printing where possible.

## GREEN GOWN AWARDS AUSTRALASIA 2013

**Are you making positive changes towards sustainability?**

**Do you want to be recognised for your efforts?**

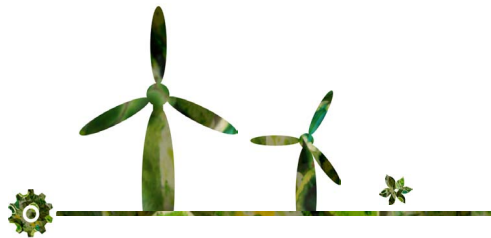
Then enter the Green Gown Awards Australasia 2013 and get the recognition you deserve! Applications will open on 3 June 2013, with the deadline for submission on 24 July 2013, so keep an eye on our website for more details:

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



**We would like to thank all our guests for coming and hope they have an extremely enjoyable, successful and memorable event.**





**You can view this document online at [www.acts.asn.au](http://www.acts.asn.au)**

The cover of this booklet is printed on 100% recycled handmade paper made from elephant dung and office waste paper. The contents pages are printed on paper produced from sustainably managed forests.