

MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S SUPPLEMENTARY TO COUNCIL: Tabled Papers
AUGUST 2007

APPROVAL TO ENGAGE FUND MANAGERS

In June 2007, Denise Osmand, Director, Financial Services wrote to the NSW Minister for Education and Training requesting approval for Macquarie to engage fund managers. This letter was forwarded to the NSW Treasurer who granted approval received 14 August 2007. Please see attached letter of approval from Minister Michael Costa.

EUREKA AWARDS EVENING – TUESDAY 21 AUGUST

In my primary Vice-Chancellor's Report – Part 2, I provided details of Macquarie's five Eureka Prize Finalists. I am now about to report that two Macquarie University academics have been lauded for their pioneering scientific research at the Australian Museum's 2007 Eureka Prizes for Excellence in Science, winning first prize in their respective categories.

Professor Max Coltheart, Scientific Director of the Macquarie Centre for Cognitive Science, won the prestigious CSIRO Leadership in Science category. Coltheart's research on dyslexia and delusional beliefs over the past 35 years has had such scientific and clinical impact that he is recognised as one of the world's leading cognitive scientists.

However, it is not what he has achieved but rather his leadership that is recognised by Coltheart's Eureka Prize. He created the internationally renowned Macquarie Centre for Cognitive Science, an Australian Research Council Centre for Excellence, and attracted \$10 million funding in 10 years. He has supervised 53 PhD students to completion, all of whom have gone on to successful careers, and currently has active collaborations with 10 of his former PhD students.

Associate Professor Catriona Mackenzie of the Department of Philosophy won the Australian Catholic University Eureka Prize for Research in Ethics. Mackenzie's innovative research on individual autonomy and the role of sympathetic imagination in our moral engagements with others was applied to a range of pressing contemporary issues in ethics, bioethics and research ethics.

While her work speaks to many issues, Mackenzie applies her theories to complex moral debates such as bioethics and the future availability of genetic enhancement; the practice of sex selection and the commoditisation of body parts. Catriona is also the Chair of our Ethics Framework Committee.

I was very proud to present year 11 student, Robbie Bishop-Taylor of Great Lakes College Tuncurry the Macquarie University Eureka Schools Prize for Earth, Environmental and Planetary Sciences for his research into salinity thresholds of plants in Australian rivers.

As a result of climate change, reduced flows have allowed unnatural amounts of saltwater to flow upstream into many river systems. Bishop-Taylor became aware that freshwater ecosystems may as a result be under threat and wondered how much salt a river's plants could withstand. He chose five important upper estuary plants to expose to various levels of salinity.

Second place was awarded to Rowan Spicer, Angus Hutton and Adam Smith of Newton Moore Senior High School, Western Australia. These students bred and released native fish into city waterways to help the fresh water ecosystem and control local mosquito and midge problems.

Shaun Williams of Keebra Park High School in Southport, Queensland shared third prize for researching the potential use of bio-diesel fuel to reduce greenhouse emissions, with Katrina Hall of Emmanuel Anglican College in Ballina, NSW who was recognised for her project investigating the relationship between the atmospheres and environments of Earth, Venus and Titan, Saturn's largest moon.

HONOURED CITIZEN AWARD

The Hon Peter Anderson, Director of Macquarie's Police, Intelligence and Counter Terrorism Centre was made an Honorary Citizen of Penrith on August 18 2007. Peter served on the Penrith Council from 1977 to 1983, where he was Deputy Mayor from 1977 to 1979. In 1978, Peter was elected to NSW Parliament as Member for Nepean and became member for Penrith upon redistribution on 1981. Peter achieved several high profile portfolios over the years including Minister for Services, Police, Police and Emergency Services, Corrective Services, Local Government, Youth and Community Services, Aboriginal Affairs, Health and Minister Assisting the Premier.

My congratulations to Peter on this wholly deserved recognition of his public work.

VALE

It is with much regret that I inform you that Mary-Jane Gleeson passed away on Friday as a result of liver cancer. Mary-Jane had been treated for melanoma but this sudden and unexpected development and the rapid progress of the disease has made her passing more difficult for her family, friends and colleagues. Many were unaware or did not have the opportunity to speak to her in this last week.

Mary-Jane was a much loved and respected member of the University. She always acted with integrity, professionalism and empathy when working with some of the most difficult and sensitive staff and student matters. She contributed greatly to our recruitment and promotions processes, and had oversight of our EEO policies and projects. Macquarie's leadership on work and family issues was reflected in a prestigious business achievement award adjudicated by the Equal Opportunity for

Women in the Workplace Agency (EOWA) in 2005. In addition, Macquarie regularly achieved Employer of Choice for Women status. Mary-Jane was also tireless in her pursuit of improved conditions and opportunities for indigenous staff and students, and staff and students with disabilities.

Mary-Jane was an activist, who believed and made change for the better happen at the level of the individual, the organisation, and society as a whole. Her qualifications were in Psychology and Adult Education and she used these in her work life in a broad career spread across Rehabilitation, Human Resources, Organisational Development and Equal Employment Opportunity.

Her greatest legacy is in the area of equal pay for work of equal worth, when as employer's representative for the State Library of NSW she guided the case for wage equity through the NSW Industrial Commission. This landmark case had implications across Australia and continues to influence other Australian female-dominated professions.

In addition to her work at the University, Mary-Jane held strong community values and worked passionately on a number of community issues most notably those focusing on Transport Strategy and the Environment.

Our condolences and best wishes go out to Kate, her sister, who is also a staff member, and the rest of Mary-Jane's family.

VICE-CHANCELLOR IN THE MEDIA

Attached:

20 August 2007 – *Australian Financial Review*, “Students win in new talent test” by Kate Marshall

Steven Schwartz
Vice-Chancellor