

# Dept meeting 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015

- update – this & that, Faculty retreat
- HDR stuff & conference (Adam S)
- undergrad prizes (Rob H)
- L&T (Michelle P)
- Open Day (Jenny D)
- Safety in Spring (Marita)
- Sustainability & Arboretum (Sam N)
  
- *Tracy Rushmer & Ren Yi on co-tutelles & joint PhD programs*

# Update from Michelle

- Eureka night
- Committees
- MQRF applicants
- VC Excellence awards for Professional Staff
- MQ – NSW OEH partnership

## From the Faculty

- Strategic planning retreat – focus on visions, values & direction (industry linkages, increasing research productivity, new science building).
- *Retreat implications for biology* – our strategic plan by December, research productivity increase (opportunities for 06 funding, cat 2 & 3 funds, MQ–index for research performance), Adv Science
- ARC Linkages – sandpits & consultant (Prof Baverstock)
- Budget process
- Faculty research awards (early career, mid career, leadership, HDR, industry)
- Marketing (Pioneering Minds)
- Schools – which ones? What support needed?
- website migration

# HDR stuff & conference (Adam S)

- 14-15 September
- Prizes & panels

1. **Field based talk** - 1 winner (Barbara Rice prize + Austral Ark), 2 runner ups (Austral Ark + \$50 voucher)
2. **Lab based talk** - 1 winner (Austral Ark + \$100 voucher), 2 runner ups (Austral Ark + \$50 voucher)
3. **Theoretical/Modelling based talk** - 1 winner (Austral Ark + \$100 voucher), 2 runner ups (Austral Ark + \$50 voucher)

# Undergrad prizes (Rob H)

Level	Existing	Proposed (new prizes)
100	Best student overall	
200	Female only Male and female	Best student overall x2 BIOL units
300	Plants (single unit) Parasite (single unit)	Best student overall x3 BIOL units
		Highest GPA for a BIOL major. Optional name 'Biology medal'
MRes (Course work)		Top student in year 1
MRes year2 (thesis)		Top student in year 2

# Learning and Teaching

- Update on Biology major
  - Late changes for 2016
  - Progress / development meetings 300 level
- Sustainability mapping
  - Began with 100 level units
  - Moving onto 200 and 300 level
  - Requesting information and meetings
- Learning and Teaching week (Sept 14-17)
  - Get along to some events
  - Call for Chairs [elizabeth.shoostovian@mq.edu.au](mailto:elizabeth.shoostovian@mq.edu.au)

# Learning and Teaching

- The new FLTC
  - Covers FSQC and FLTC matters
  - New assessment policy being developed
  - Faculty workshop – Active learning
- Increase in postgrad coursework students
  - Master of Science
  - Management and communication focus
- Science communication ugrad units
  - Revamp
  - Volunteers to contribute to ideas
- Bachelor of Innovation

# Learning and Teaching

- Faculty Learning and Teaching strategy
- Working Party is currently gathering ideas and seeking general thoughts
  - Excerpts from brief to gather your thoughts
  - Good / bad idea? Why!
  - Are we doing things now?
  - Anything that we should be doing?



# Open Day (Jenny D)

Looking for volunteers for the advising desk – no experience necessary!



Biology Spring  
Safety Fair

BIOLOGY COURTYARD  
SEPTEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup> 11am -2pm

- Take a fitness test
- **Win a fit bit !**



Biography Spring Safety  
Fair



- Guess the secret ingredient in our be healthy recipe
- Strawberry and herbs to take home
- Become a member of the fruit and Veg co-op
- BYO jar for our  **BeeSafe Honey**



Healthy Food – Healthy Body

Biography Spring Safety  
Fair

- What is wrong with this?
- Identify 20 problems to **Win a Sit-Stand Desk !**

### **Benefits of Sit-Stand Desk**

- **Reduced risk of obesity**
- **Prevent spine injuries**
- **Helps maintain better posture**
- **Reduced risk of cardiovascular disease**

**Biology Spring Safety Fair**





# Win !!!

**PRIZES**



- **Sit-Stand Desk**
- **Fit Bit**
- **Plants and Honey**



**Biology Spring Safety Fair**

# Leave the Stress Outside



# Alfresco Massages

Biology Spring Safety  
Fair

# Volunteering Leave

- All continuing staff have 2 days per year (pro rata) volunteering leave
- Volunteering leave is the perfect opportunity for a team activity
- Volunteering is a great way to give back to the community and is fun and rewarding!

## Other benefits include:

- \* Connecting you with others
- \* Good for mind and body skills
- \* Good for your career job skills
- \* Make new friends and contacts
- \* Enhance your social and relationship skills
- \* Enhance or learn valuable job skills

## How to go about it:

Discuss with your team and team supervisor (or HoD)

Pick an organisation: host organisations must be a registered charity.

For suggestions visit the volunteering website:

[http://www.mq.edu.au/about\\_us/strategy\\_and\\_initiatives/sustainability/get\\_involved/community\\_volunteering/faqs/](http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/strategy_and_initiatives/sustainability/get_involved/community_volunteering/faqs/)



# Biology Garden

The Biology garden is undergoing a makeover

Changes you can expect to see:

- Removal of some larger (lanky or senescent trees)
- Fixing of garden bed walls eg fern bed
- Redesign of annexe and installation of pathways
- New landscaping in annexe and extra plants in garden