Sustainability Awards for Staff – Winners and Highly Commended 2016

**Group Winner: Mr Peter Kurtz and team Network and Collaboration Services, Information Services for their project:**

**Unified Collaboration Program**

(Team: Michael Deayton, Carolyn Plant, David Fry, Carolina Jasinski, Maxine Fairholm, Jose Guzman, Sergio Moreno-Sciutto, Albert Wong, Nicky Duffin, Andrew Williams, Matt Long, Zak Whelan-Smith, Chris McGhie, Adam Stait, David Wilson and Esteban Nelson)

**Project summary**

Over the last 2.5 years the Unified Collaboration program has introduced the latest collaboration technologies to the Griffith community. This included video phones, high end video conference rooms, virtual meeting rooms, collaboration tools (Jabber/Webex) and a central unified collaboration infrastructure facilitating the seamless integration of these devices and tools with desktops and mobiles devices.

One of the main objectives of the project was to provide a sustainable alternative to travelling between campuses which it achieved.

The project also delivered other business benefits such as real staff productivity time savings, vehicle operating & maintenance costs and other unexpected benefits like hearing impaired staff members being able to use the video phones to communicate using signing.

Estimated savings in 2015: $1,590,577 (both staff and travel costs)

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**Group – Highly Commended: Mr Cory Everdell and team, Griffith Accommodation, Campus Life for their project: Griffith Accommodation Sustainability Initiatives**

(Team: Wade Hurst, Renee Harryman and Gina Lidster)

**Project summary**

The Griffith Accommodation Residential Life Program consists of seven key elements; Sustainability, Social, Health and Well-being, Sport, Cultural, Careers and Employment and Academic.

The Sustainability element of this program focuses on encouraging college students to consider the immediate environment and work towards minimising the footprint they leave on the environment, especially when living within the Toohey forest.

Everyone is provided with practical ways of making a difference while living in College. Events and activities include educating college members on recycling and waste management, earth hour and sustainability week participation, workshops on environmentally sound practices and sustainability initiatives such as the healthy waterways water bottle campaign & food waste management.

From the moment a new student moves onto campus, the sustainability values of the University and Griffith Accommodation are communicated to students through their welcome information pack, welcome speeches and communication with Residential Advisors and Accommodation staff.
Staff Sustainability Award Winners 2016

Group – High Commended: Mr Stephen Rowan and team, Contemporary & Applied Theatre, School of Education and Professional Studies for their project: Greening Griffith’s Theatres
(Team: Prof Michael Balfour, Assoc Prof Penny Bundy, Assoc Prof Julie Dunn, Dr Linda Hassall and Dr Madonna Stinson)

Griffith University’s Contemporary and Applied Theatre (CAT) department, Greening Griffith’s Theatres project has been driven by Senior Technical Officer Stephen Rowan. Rowan’s particular area of expertise is technical theatre production and his current role within Griffith University is Senior Technical Officer in the Drama department.

The Greening Griffith’s Theatres project was implemented as a response to a growing awareness of the impact of theatre production practices on the environment (Gingold, 2010, Greener Live Performances Project 2011, Greening the Arts, 2010, Morris, 2007).

Rowan’s research, which centres on sustainability within theatre production, has informed and permeated the production and teaching practices within the CAT department. To compliment his Honours research into sustainability in theatre production practices: Water Wars Exploring the tensions, challenges and possibilities of applying a sustainability framework to the development and production of a new independent theatre performance, Rowan has progressively embedded a green perspective in the CAT course delivery whereby greener alternatives to production technologies including power usage, design technologies, materials selection, and marketing strategies are at the forefront of our production practices.

Individual – Highly Commended: Dr Jason Nelson, Design, Queensland College of Art for his project: Digital Art and Communications: a sustainable pathway to reach the world

Increasingly our research, teaching and service requires global interaction and collaboration. Attending conferences, giving Keynote addresses, artist talks, exhibiting artwork in the past have all required extensive travel which is one of the leading causes of greenhouse gases released directly into the atmosphere, the knock-on effects related to travel through fuel consumption, expense and university resources is massive.

Therefore to have a sustainable arts practice and to engage the world with his research and teaching, over the past year Dr Jason Nelson has been exploring a variety of methods using digital tools to accomplish the same goals as traditional physical travel. Overall Dr Nelson’s sustainable practice project attempted to answer a simple and yet vital question. Can an Australian artist achieve international outcomes across all areas of a lecturer’s position without requiring any travel? Happily the answer was a resounding yes. He focuses on three areas:

1. Digital creation, distribution and implementation of his creative arts research outcomes.
3. Engaging with students around the world through the screen.