Dear alumni, staff and friends of the University of Ballarat,

Monday 1 February 2010 marked the commencement date of the revised University structures. While there have been a number of changes to our organisational structures, two major developments in particular came to fruition.

The first involved the incorporation of all of the University’s current Schools and Programs into one portfolio under the leadership of Professor Andrew Smith as Pro Vice-Chancellor (Schools and Programs). The second change has involved the creation of a second new portfolio of responsibilities focussed on ‘Learning and Quality’ under the leadership of Pro Vice-Chancellor Associate Professor Todd Walker. These and other changes to our structures will enable the University to respond with more agility to major policy changes to tertiary education being introduced by the Australian Federal Government.

In tandem with these changes to our organisational structures, the University Council has approved changes to the Senior Management and Advisory Committees of the University.

The above changes herald a new era for the University and I look forward to providing you with regular updates on various strategic matters and initiatives of importance to the University.

With best wishes for the year ahead.

Professor David Battersby
Vice-Chancellor & President

The Year of the Tiger is upon us and according to the Chinese Zodiac it is a sign of bravery. This courageous and fiery fighter is admired by the ancient Chinese as the sign that symbolises toughness, generosity and wealth earned with hard work.

It is a year for substantial change but this can also bring out the best. So welcome to a year that is emerging to be an exciting and industrious year for ub)alumni.

Many key developments have been outlined for 2010 including the formation of a China Chapter, implementation of a new Alumni Donor Management System, annual Malaysia and Hong Kong Chapter events, unveiling of an extensive Benefits and Entitlements Program, and the launch of a UB Foundation.

In addition to the above, you will be continually updated on significant UB initiatives via quarterly newsletters, offered reunion support and assistance with general enquiries.

Thank you for your ongoing enthusiastic support and best wishes for 2010!

Linda Petrie
Writer & Editor
Ms Rowena Coutts, recently appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor, spoke of **Professor Wayne Robinson**’s achievements at the farewell event. Rowena highlighted the distinguished and extensive record of Wayne’s achievements but stated it is ‘as an academic leader, Wayne truly excelled.’

Wayne commenced at UB as **Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and Research)** in September 2001, having previously been Deputy Vice-President (Academic) at Deakin University, and before that held positions as Professor of Veterinary Pathology at University of Queensland and Murdoch University. Wayne completed his PhD at Ohio State University; hence the interesting zip up academic gown he wears at graduations!

Over Wayne’s long career, he refers to **“four broad highlights which stand out like beacons”**, which include having the opportunity to enter and contribute to the profession of veterinary science; the continuing satisfaction and excitement from being involved with teaching students at three universities; a long, fulfilling and productive research career; and, finally, the opportunity to influence the strategic direction of learning and teaching at UB.

While Wayne has researched many topics which have resulted in more than 150 publications, he found the research into infectious diseases, such as those viruses in animals closely related to HIV, to be the most stimulating and rewarding. Wayne also developed the comprehensive Research Plan for UB, established the Water in Drylands Collaborative Research Project, and supported and guided UB’s Research Centres.

Wayne’s unerring commitment to Learning and Teaching saw the development of the Learning and Teaching Plan, the establishment of the Higher Education Learning and Teaching Conference and the Institute for Professional and Organisational Learning (IPOL). He Chaired the Promotions Committee for eight years and gave great encouragement to emerging academics as well as lifting the number of Professorial appointments.

Wayne reveals the most enjoyable aspect of his time at UB has been ‘to do all that I could to create an environment that encouraged both students and staff to achieve the goals they have set for themselves – to be the best that they can be. To see the bright faces of students at graduation and to see the careers of academics blossom through their achievements in teaching and research was most rewarding. Building research by doubling the professoriate, recruiting research-active staff and developing initiatives such as the early-career researchers program designed for junior members of staff to realise their research potential.’

Click to view [Professor Wayne Robinson’s profile](#).

**Professor Wayne Robinson**

BVSc(Hons)., MVSc., PhD., MACVSc., DACVP.

Wayne’s valuable advice for graduates about life after study

“It is just the beginning to becoming the best you can be in your field. Your university education has provided the framework and has helped you refine your abilities to approach new challenges confident in your ability to discover the fundamentals of any issue, to analyse its component parts, to bring it all together into a coherent whole, and to effectively communicate that analysis and synthesis. The mark of a good graduate is one who continues to learn and develop these attributes throughout their professional life.”

On Tuesday 16 February a farewell afternoon tea was held to honour four remarkable members of the University’s senior staff who are retiring from their distinguished careers. The Albert Coates Complex was bursting with staff, Council members and the wider community to bid farewell to (L-R) **Associate Professor Rosemary Green, Professor Sidney Morris, Ms Robyn Irish** and **Professor Wayne Robinson**.
Professor Sidney Morris
BSc[Hons], PhD., FIMA., CMath., FAustMS., ComplEAust., MACS.

Professor Lawrie Angus, Head of School, School of Education, spoke of Professor Sidney Morris’ achievements. Lawrie could highlight only a number of Sid’s astounding achievements as it would have taken days to mention the distinguished and extensive record of his academic career, and the lengthy list of wonderful attributes that make Sid an extremely valued staff member of UB!

After 40 years as a university academic, and having served UB for the past eight years, Professor Sidney Morris, Head of the Graduate School of Information Technology & Mathematical Sciences (GSITMS), will retire from the University on April 16, 2010.

Born in Brisbane in 1947, Sid graduated with a BSc (Hons) from the University of Queensland and one year later received a PhD from Flinders University. He has held positions at several Australian universities as well as in Britain, USA, and Israel.

Sid commenced with UB in 2001 as Professor and Head of the School of GSITMS. Sid’s tenure has been a testament to the quality of his leadership and his outstanding commitment to the University.

Over the past eight years, the student numbers increased from 500 to 2,000. The Graduate School is now one of the largest providers of international postgraduate education in IT in Australia. The School has excelled in its international activities, especially with on-shore Partner Providers and its Quality Assurance as regards moderation.

The School has a uniquely close working relationship with IBM for mutual benefit. The flagship course offered by the Graduate School, in collaboration with IBM, is the Bachelor of Information Technology (Professional Practice). IBM guarantees an employment offer for all graduates of this degree program, something it does not do for any other IT program in Australia.

Sid is a winner of the Lester R. Ford Award from the Mathematical Association of America and an Outstanding Service Award from the Australian Computer Society. He is a Fellow and Honorary Life Member of the Australian Mathematical Society, a Fellow of the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications, and a Companion of the Institution of Engineers, Australia. Sid has published five books, including an online book used in 100 countries and translated into Arabic, Chinese, Persian, Russian, and Spanish, and over 140 research papers in international journals. He has served as the Editor-in-Chief of the most cited mathematics and computing journals in Australia.

While being regarded by many as a workaholic and famous for his many emails sent at all hours of the day and night, Sid is well-known amongst his colleagues for his humour, his compassion, his coloured shirts, and his tenpin bowling. He has been married for 36 years, has a daughter studying Arts/Law of whom he is very proud, enjoys escapist TV and can often be found reading a novel with his dog on his lap.

On behalf of the ub)alumni community, I would like to thank Sid for his outstanding contribution to the University and convey best wishes to his future endeavours.

Ms Robyn Irish
GDBusAdmin., MMan.

Professor Terry Lloyd, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, spoke of Ms Robyn Irish, Director – Management Accounting and Budget achievements and contributions to UB.

The year 1988 marked a special year, with Australia celebrating its bicentennial (200 years since the first European settlement) and Robyn commencing employment at UB, on the day that only comes around every four years, 29 February!

UB have been extremely fortunate to have had Robyn for more than 22 years. She commenced employment as Administrative Assistant in Finance, moving up the ladder to become the Director – Management Accounting and Budget at UB. Within that time, Robyn also completed a Graduate Diploma of Business Administration, Master of Management, raised three children and remained enthusiasm and committed to the ongoing successful development of UB. Terry acknowledged Robyn’s two passions in life – family and UB.

Robyn has continually provided remarkable financial insight, combining her financial and management skills to consider not only the financial impact but the affect financial decisions have on individuals as well.

Terry highlighted and admired Robyn’s ability to demonstrate professional responsibility and insight combined with human compassion at all times. She has continually acted as an agent of change – displaying flexibility in order to adapt to a variety of transformations at UB. Robyn is also able to adjust to new challenges, new developments and new situations in an environment where a substantial part of that change is determined by the financial sustainability of the organisation).

Due to Robyn’s values, professionalism, dedication and integrity, she is a remarkable role model, not only for female staff, but for all staff at UB. Click to view Robyn’s profile
Dr Kim Dowling, Associate Professor and Head of School, School of Science & Engineering spoke of Associate Professor Rosemary Green. Rosemary is testament of yet another UB staff member that has a substantial and remarkable record of accolades.

After serving UB for the past 18 years, Associate Professor Rosemary Green, Head of the School, School of Behavioural and Social Sciences and Humanities, will retire from the University in August 2010. Rosemary commenced with the University in 1991, and was appointed as Head of School in 1997. The longevity of her appointment is testament to the quality of her leadership and her outstanding commitment to the University.

For two years prior to joining the University, Rosemary travelled around Australia in a bus with her family (her daughter being two years old at the time). Rosemary worked in many capacities during this trip, including as a locum Social Worker and also completed her Masters (often by candle light at night in the bus).

Having sailed through the challenges of a two year old, a thesis and no electricity, she thought UB was right for her. The prospect of designing the Bachelor of Arts – Rural Social Welfare (RSW) program was a great motivation to take up the position. This program has grown and blossomed under Rosemary’s guidance.

The RSW program has prepared hundreds of graduates for work in positions as diverse as child protection, youth work, aged and disability services, community development, and drug and alcohol support. These graduates have gone on to make significant contributions to the health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities in our region and far beyond.

Rosemary’s leadership style enables the establishment of a co-operative and supportive network, providing the culture where others can succeed and allows people to flourish in that environment.

Another notable achievement was Rosemary’s completion of a Doctor of Education in 2006. In a most unassuming way, Rosemary referred to this as ‘a pretty big effort’. However, her commitment to research has not faltered with a constant stream of quality publications during her tenure as Head of School. Rosemary’s research provides core curriculum in many universities in Australia, the United States and Canada.

Thank you Rosemary for what you have done for UB and best wishes for all your future adventures!

Recent News

December 2009 graduation ceremonies

During December 2009, in over four graduation ceremonies, more than seven hundred Higher Education (HE), TAFE and UB Tec students graduated from UB.

Christine Nixon, the former Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police, received an Honorary Doctorate and other guest speakers included Anita Nayar, Consul General of India, Dr Sharon Winocur, Executive Director, Business/HE Round Table and Angela Carey, Editor of The Courier.

Graduate Speaker Phillip Leister gave an inspiring speech to his fellow graduates. The Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Excellence was awarded to Christopher Draffin in recognition of excellent academic performance and involvement in University and community activities.

The recipient of the prestigious University Medal went to GSITMS Honours (by research) graduate, Julie Frances Ross, who completed her studies as a mature age student, parent and part time professional consultant.

Congratulations to all UB graduates for an amazing achievement and best wishes for your future!
Christine Nixon, APM awarded honorary doctorate

Christine Nixon is Head of the Victoria Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority and a member of the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund Advisory Panel. She is the former Chief Commissioner of Police, Victoria, and a former Assistant Commissioner/Regional Commander of the New South Wales Police Force.

For almost 40 years Christine has placed her intelligence, resilience, compassion and courage at the service of communities, particularly in Victoria. Christine has been a leader, a role model, an advocate of ethical behaviour, a defender of human rights, a force for modernisation, and an agent of change.

In recognition of her eminent public service, on Thursday 10 December 2009, the University of Ballarat honoured Christine Nixon with the degree of Doctor of the University Honoris Causa.

UB launches Reconciliation Action Plan

The University of Ballarat recently launched its Reconciliation Action Plan. The University has had a long-standing commitment to reconciliation through the provision of educational and employment opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Shirley Morgan, Manager of the University's Aboriginal Education Centre, said the aim was to improve services for Indigenous Australians at the University.

The Plan will focus on:
* Improving education, training and research opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students;
* Improving the visibility and status of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, knowledge and studies on all campuses;
* Recruiting and training Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff at all levels of the University; and
* Ensuring that there is involvement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the decision-making and governance of the University.

Geoffrey Blainey launched anniversary celebration

Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Blainey AC, esteemed historian and former Chancellor of the University of Ballarat, presented a public address on Thursday, 25 February, as part of the 140-year anniversary celebrations of the School of Mines, Ballarat (SMB).

Professor Blainey spoke on ‘When Ballarat Was More Important Than Canberra’ at the Ballarat Mechanics’ Institute (BMI). Throughout history, there have been many close links between the BMI and SMB. Established in 1859 and 1870 respectively, both institutions are now a major feature of the city and its people.

SMB is recognised as the oldest TAFE institution in Australia, and is a direct predecessor of UB, which was established in 1994. The BMI is Ballarat’s oldest cultural and adult educational institution and is the most intact of the 4,000 similar-type institutions created in communities in the nineteenth century.

Therefore, it was fitting that the anniversaries were celebrated together—150 years of BMI and 140 years for SMB!

UB has seen a 15 per cent rise in student acceptances to its degree courses this year, receiving 2400 acceptances and is expecting more to come from late round offers.

The University has also exceeded last year’s figures for international student enrolments at its Ballarat campuses, enrolling 170 new international students, joining several hundred other international students from more than 30 countries.
Goodbye UB, hello American Musical and Dramatic Academy, New York!

Philippa Lynas graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Musical Theatre from the University of Ballarat Arts Academy at the December 2009 graduation ceremonies.

Philippa is one of only two Australians offered scholarships to the American Musical and Dramatic Academy, the other Australian is UB 2006 graduate Edward Howard. He also completed a Bachelor of Arts in Musical Theatre with UB.

The school is considered the best musical theatre school in America. The scholarship pays for the two year postgraduate course and accommodation. The final semester of the program requires the students to complete course work at night while they audition around New York during the day.

Both Philippa and Edward found their experiences at UB Arts Academy extremely positive and inspiring, recommending UB for anyone aspiring to be a performer or actor!

Did you know that Libby Tanner is a UB Arts Academy Graduate??

Libby Tanner is well known for playing ‘Bronwyn Craig’ in ‘All Saints’, a role for which she won two Logie Awards. Libby currently stars as ‘Michelle LeTourneau’ in Channel 9’s series ‘Rescue: Special Ops’.

Simon Lock awarded the 2010 Sovereign Hill Honours Scholarship

Simon Lock, an honours student at UB, has been awarded the 2010 Sovereign Hill Honours Scholarship. The scholarship, worth $2000, was open to students enrolled in an honours degree at UB this year.

Simon’s research will investigate whether the theory behind on-line marketing is matching the practice in regional areas. Simon’s Honours Supervisor, Dr Elisa Backer, who is a tourism lecturer at the University of Ballarat, said this area of research was potentially very valuable to regional tourism organisations.

Mr Tim Sullivan, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Sovereign Hill Museums Association said the Outdoor Museum attracts 450,000 per annum and 175,000 at the Gold Museum.

“We believe the multiplier for the Ballarat economy is between 2.5 and 4 for each dollar spent at Sovereign Hill. Based on our recurrent operating budget of around $20 million a year, that’s anywhere between $50-80 million a year. Also, more than 90 per cent of our visitors are from out of our region.”

Professor David Battersby, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ballarat, said the scholarship signified the strong relationship shared by UB and Sovereign Hill.

Rabah Al-Shanti, 2007 MBA graduate

Rabah Al-Shanti is a 2007 UB MBA graduate, currently employed as the Project Officer and Economic and Financial Affairs Advisor to a Japanese International Cooperation Agency.

Rabah’s strongest memories while studying at the UB

‘The unlimited support from the University, and the extra care given to every student from the administration and academic team. Also, the many fantastic friends I met during my studies at UB!’

Click to view Rabah’s profile
David Ward, Grampians Regional Manager, Department of Transport

David Ward grew up in Ballarat, attending what was previously known as the Ballarat Junior Technical School (SMB’s Technical School) and is also a graduate from the Senior School (SMB) completing the Diploma of Civil Engineering in 1976. David spent nine years of his educational life with UB as a student and is now giving back as a Committee Member of the Buildings and Infrastructure Committee.

David is highly qualified with extensive experience in positions with significant dimensions of staff and budgets in the local government sector, private industry and in State Government Agencies in both NSW and Victoria. His experience has also involved the management of a large workforce in a competitive environment including the role of a Regional Airport Manager for over 10 years.

As the Grampians Regional Manager, David is responsible for all inter-town, inter-regional and inter-state long haul coach services, town transit services and the free school bus system. He also oversees infrastructure projects throughout the region, along with behavioural change programs.

Josh Symes, Co-ordinator, Singapore American School

Josh Symes completed the Bachelor of Arts/Teaching at UB, graduating in 1999 and has since completed two Master programs.

Josh is currently the Year 3 Coordinator at Singapore American School and has also taught in the United Kingdom, Australia, Taiwan and now Singapore.

The most enjoyable aspects of Josh’s position

I really enjoy living overseas and having the opportunity to travel to new and exotic places every holidays. Singapore is such a vibrant city to live in, and being close to Australia, it is easy to get home for a visit. The international school system is great because you make so many connections that it is possible to work anywhere in the world. The schools are really well resourced and the kids come from backgrounds where education is valued, so that certainly makes the teaching a pleasure.’

The strongest memories while studying at UB

‘UB is a fantastic place to study. It is a large university that still manages to maintain an intimate feel. I had a great time there socially and got a great education. I was also a founding member of the UB Turtles, the Aussie Rules team. We won the state title, followed by a silver medal at the Australian Uni Games. Nobody expected it, least of all the players who were just in it for a good time and the parties that followed!’

Click to view Josh’s profile

Josh & Kristin Symes in front of Westminster Abbey in London

Michael Tudball, Councillor and 2008/2009 Mayor of Moorabool Shire Council

Michael Tudball is the Director of School and Community Partnerships with the Department of Planning and Community Development, a Councillor and 2008/09 Mayor of Moorabool Shire Council.

He has also successfully operated his own Management Consultancy Company for over 13 years. Michael was a part of the inaugural MBA program at UB in 1997, graduating from the MBA (Entrepreneurship) in 2001.

Advice to current students about life after study

‘Keep renewing and educating yourself as it assists in both work and life environment. Value the people, in your organisation, your social and network groups and in your community.’

The most enjoyable aspect of Michael’s position

‘Working closely with Councillors, Council Officers and the Community to achieve the aspirations for my community.’

Click to view Michael’s profile
UB’s predecessor institution, the School of Mines, Ballarat (SMB), was established in 1870 so 2010 marks 140 years since the establishment of the institute.

To mark UB TAFE’s anniversary, events throughout 2010 will include:
* The restoration of the University’s Honours Boards
* Ex SMB Staff Morning Tea
* A Civic Reception
* Community Luncheon
* Industrial Heritage Study
* Badging of a North Ballarat Roosters game in honour of the anniversary.

140-year anniversary celebrations of UB TAFE

UB Golden Key Chapter - New Website

Golden Key International Honour Society, founded on 29 November 1977, is an academic honour society which recognises and encourages scholastic achievement among college and university students from all academic disciplines. The Society awards its members over $600,000 (USD) annually through 17 different scholarship and award programs.

The UB Chapter was charted in March 2001 and since then has grown to over 1,000 members! Each year the students that fall within the top 15% of all undergraduates and post-graduates are invited to join.

The UB Golden Key Chapter recently launched a new website. To find out more about events, scholarships and other member benefits click here.

www.ubgoldenkey.com

Hong Kong Chapter hosted the 123 Go BBQ (held January 23 – hence 1.23)

The ub)alumni Hong Kong Chapter held an enjoyable evening BBQ on Saturday 23 January at the Sai Kung Outdoor Recreation Centre, which is well-known as the ‘Back Garden of Hong Kong’.

The Camp is equipped with various kinds of recreational and sporting facilities such as a rope course, basketball, badminton, table tennis, snooker and cycling.

Approximately 20 UB alumni families participated in the event and an enjoyable evening was had by all!

Hong Kong Committee Members meet the Australian Consulate-General

Recently, the ub)alumni Hong Kong Chapter President, Mr Simon Chan and Communication Director, Mr Ivan Chan joined members of other Australian Alumni Associations in Hong Kong to visit the home of Mr Les Luck, the Australian Consulate-General of Hong Kong and Macau.

The Australian Consulate-General is the face of the Australian Government in Hong Kong and offers a wide range of diplomatic and government services to advance Australian interests in Hong Kong and Macau.

These services include: promoting Australia’s key foreign policy and trade objectives; managing Australia’s important and dynamic relationship with the Hong Kong Government; and, processing visas for those wishing to visit or migrate to Australia.

L-R: Wife of Con-Gen, Con-Gen Mr Les Luck, HK Chapter President Mr Simon Chan, Communications Director Mr Ivan Chan & Ms Jasmine Lu from Vic. Gov. Business Office

Upcoming Events

Networks & Chapter Updates
PROMOS

The Merchandise Store has moved to UniSports. To view the range and purchase online go to: www.ballarat.edu.au/unisports/merchandise

ub)alumni members save 40% on TRAVEL INSURANCE with CHARTIS

Relax with peace of mind!

Click here for a quote and buy online today!

Tell us your story!

ub)alumni would love to hear what you’ve been doing since you left the University!

Complete the Alumni Profile Template and photo release agreement and email to alumni@ballarat.edu.au.

To read about other ub)alumni experiences click here.

Are you graduating in May?

UB and Graduate Careers Australia would like to invite you to complete the Australian Graduate Survey.

Your feedback is extremely important to us and we would love to hear how you are progressing in your chosen field since you have completed your studies at UB.

The survey will be distributed to you in the coming weeks. If you have moved recently please update your details at:

www.ballarat.edu.au/aasp/student/admin/he/contact_details.pdf

If you have any questions please call Carly (Survey Officer) on +61 3 5327 6162 or surveyags.pqr@ballarat.edu.au

To unsubscribe to all ub)alumni correspondence email alumni@ballarat.edu.au ‘UNSUBSCRIBE’.

surveyags.pqr@ballarat.edu.au