**Welcome from the eGSA Director**

Hello and welcome to our June newsletter. For those eGSA students who have just completed exams I hope they went well and you enjoy a break before embarking on a new semester of study.

Semester 2 will see the roll out of the new unit, *Introduction to Intellectual Property and Research in the Master of Research Management and Commercialisation* [http://www.egradschool.edu.au/whategscourses/awards/evelque/newmasters/](http://www.egradschool.edu.au/whategscourses/awards/evelque/newmasters/) (MRMC). There is a little more about that unit further on in this newsletter. Another two new units on offer in future semesters are *Patent Law and Commercialisation and Financial Decisions for Research Management*. We hope that the revised Masters will appeal to a wider audience and look forward to new enrolments going forward. If you work in research administration and are looking for a recognised professional qualification the Masters may be what you are looking for.

Best wishes

**Paul Burnett**

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**Student Profile – Janet Price – MRMC student**

Masters student, Janet Price, originally enrolled in the Graduate Certificate in Research Commercialisation and on completion decided to continue on to the Masters. Here is her story:

**Q: What led you to do the Graduate Certificate and then carry on to do the Masters?**

**A:** As a lifelong learner I was searching for something appropriate to study and my then supervisor, Director of Research at Bond University showed me a brochure from the e-Grad School. The courses seemed to fit with my career development path so I applied to enrol. I enjoyed participating in the Graduate Certificate course so it seemed a natural progression to continue on with the Masters degree.

**Q: What are you doing at the moment (ie working? Study-PhD?)**

**A:** Currently I am working as Manager of the Griffith College for Social and Behavioural Research, which value adds to the research in social and behavioural science and humanities. Previously I worked as an Administrator in a Graduate School and prior to that I was in Education administration with a government department.

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**Q: What did you expect from the GCRC/Masters?**

**A:** At first I was concerned that enrolment in the units would place too much of a demand on my time (I work full time, have a family and also assist in running a family owned business). I also had reservations about my own ability especially with regard to my lack of experience in academic writing and the lack of background knowledge having only just started working in the research environment.

**Q: How was the fit between your expectations of the courses and what was delivered?**

**A:** I was pleasantly surprised. The readings I did in my lunch time, evenings, in fact at any spare moment. The assignments were not too taxing and I enjoyed the weekly contributions to the Blackboard and looked forward to the interactions with the other participants (many of whom were PhD students, early career researchers or Research Managers so that made it a very diverse group). The tutors of the units I have undertaken have all been very helpful and the actual content of the units of work have been interesting and most appropriate for my work.

**Q: Any other comments you’d like to make?**

**A:** I would recommend the Graduate Certificate and Masters degrees to anyone who is working in Research in any capacity. The modules give a great insight to all facets of research management paving the way to a career in all branches of the research world.

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**Meet your Moderator – Associate Professor Piet Beukman – Knowledge Transfer and Research Commercialisation**

We welcome Associate Professor Piet Beukman to the moderating role in the Knowledge Transfer and Research Commercialisation unit in the MRMC.

Piet is the part-time Director of the Engineering Management Programme at the University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand. He is also a consultant, CEO mentor and trainer as well as a business angel.

Piet works and teaches internationally in the fields of technology transfer, commercialisation and innovation strategy. He is an acclaimed “pracademic” with 35 years of experience in academia as well as in industry. Piet has a professional mechanical engineering background.

**Did you know.......?**

- Australian Technology Network (ATN) staff and students, ie those from Curtin, RMIT, UniSA, UTS, QUT, are entitled to a 20% tuition fee discount when...
they enrol in the Master of Research Management and Commercialisation (MRMC).

- The e-Grad School can tailor short (half and one-day) workshops to meet your research administration needs. Contact egscordinator@qut.edu.au for further information.

**Need help in understanding Intellectual Property and Research Policy in your workplace?**

- What do you know about the IP policy of your institution or company?
- What copyright do you produce in your job/role?
- How do you think trade and global exchanges would be affected if there was no attempt to harmonise IP laws across the world?

These are just some of the questions raised for discussion in the Introduction to Intellectual Property and Research unit in the online MRMC.

This new unit aims to provide and build on knowledge of key definitions, legal frameworks, and practices involved in the identification, protection and management of intellectual property. In exploring these, the unit will investigate essential IP practices, their use in research environments and their application to the commercialisation of new knowledge; all of which underpin the operation of a typical research services unit or R&D focussed business.

**Other new units in the MRMC**

There are two additional new units which will progressively be introduced into the Masters course. These are:

**Financial Decisions for Research Management** – still under development, this unit will provide basic accounting for non-accountants and assist students to develop a good understanding of how to seek and manage research finances.

The unit will cover fundamental financial concepts; financial statements; analysis and interpretation of financial statements; innovation financing and venture funding (incl valuation); finance and corporate governance and managerial decision making and performance measurement.

**Patent Law and Commercialisation** - This unit provides an understanding of the role of patent law and practice in protecting and providing an avenue for the commercialisation of innovation across diverse fields of industry, including agriculture, biotechnology, business methods and information technology.

The unit enables students to develop their understanding of the patent system (at both theoretical and practical levels); and to understand the nature of successful commercialisation strategies.

As mentioned earlier in this newsletter, Assoc Professor Piet Beukman has taken over the moderation of Knowledge Transfer and Research Commercialisation from Michael Doneman.

Dr Paige Maguire has been appointed Deputy Director of the e-Grad School and course coordinator of the Graduate Certificate and Masters courses. In addition to moderating the Principles and Practice of R&D Management unit, Paige will moderate the new Intellectual Property unit in Semester 2.

**Want to improve your employment skills while you study?**

The e-Grad School’s interactive online Learning Employment Aptitude Program (LEAP) modules provide postgraduate research students with the opportunity to increase their employment prospects through an increased awareness of key issues that increase their employability.

The six modules in ATN LEAP cover areas that employers and government have identified as priority skills they want postgraduate researchers to be acquainted with during their studies, prior to entering employment in their fields:

- Project Management
- Entrepreneurship
- Leadership and Communication
- Research Commercialisation
- Public Policy
- Global Sustainability

The modules are FREE to Australian Technology Network (ATN) (Curtin, RMIT, UniSA, UTS, QUT) students and cost $350 +GST per person per module for non-ATN subscribers.

**eGSA presentation at ARTA/QPR Conference**

The Deputy Director of the e-Grad School, Dr Paige Maguire, conducted a very successful round table session at the ARTA/QPR conference in Adelaide earlier in the year. The discussion focussed on the identification and remediation of unmet training needs in the research workforce by providing information on the content and delivery of eGSA award and non-award courses. Data presented indicates a need for formal training in professional skills in the research environment and demonstrates positive outcomes/rewards for both individuals who have enrolled in the courses and their organisations.

**Interesting websites/publications**

- [http://supervisorsfriend.wordpress.com/author/supervisorsfriend/](http://supervisorsfriend.wordpress.com/author/supervisorsfriend/) - the (research) supervisors friend