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Developing 'knowdes' through authentic community engagement: the Shoalhaven way of structuring social innovation at the local level

Abstract

Shoalhaven Campus recognises the importance of promoting regional development in imaginative and innovative ways. It does so by developing 'knowdes' through multiple linkages with local structures. Within Shoalhaven's unique context: structures are systems or organizations made up of interrelated parts functioning as a whole; nodes are the networks of interacting structures; and 'knowdes' are knowledge-based nodes which generate, transfer and translate knowledge for social innovation within the local community. Government departments, local schools and businesses, members of the Shoalhaven and Koori communities are examples of local structures with which Shoalhaven Campus engages to facilitate social innovation. Within the Campus itself, there are different structures: administration, faculties, research, learning and teaching, students and staff. These Campus structures link with each other at various times for different purposes. Authentic engagement with local structures is central to the Campus's social innovation. This paper describes the Sustainable Aquaculture project, involving collaboration of a private investor, the Shoalhaven Marine and Fresh Water Centre and the local Koori community as an example of a research 'knowde'. The Career Expo is presented as an administration-directed, integrated workplace learning 'knowde' for school students. The project, 'Nowra Skate Park: What it means to me' illustrates a student-driven learning and teaching 'knowde' that highlighted recreational and leisure needs of local youth to the general public through an art exhibition. In its unique way, Shoalhaven is fostering social innovation and addressing local needs by building and strengthening knowledge capacities through authentic engagement with diverse local structures.

Keywords

developing, innovation, social, structuring, way, shoalhaven, engagement, community, authentic, level, knowdes, local

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as family structures and personality formation, and argues that all of these combine to create conscious and subconscious desires for risk taking. These insights can be used to target education campaigns and service provision in innovative ways.

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Back to the future: Modernising nursing careers by exploring nursing history

Peer Reviewed Paper

Kylie Smith and Patrick Crookes

Conference Theme: Engaging Organisations in Social Innovation

There is a 'common sense' perception that nursing in Australia is in a state of crisis, where nurses are overworked and underpaid in a health care system that puts profits before patient outcomes. This system is seen to endanger patient health and place stress on nurses, patients and communities. In an effort to address the systemic problems that undermine the quality of nursing care, nursing careers and patient outcomes, a number of programs and strategies are in development both here and overseas. Many of these centre around the concept of 'modernising nursing careers' with the underlying belief being that a more modern, professional and science-based approach to nursing careers will improve retention rates, raise the quality of nurses and thus raise the quality of health care outcomes. There is much in these strategies worth considering. But is modernisation really the answer, and are things really any worse than they have always been? An investigation of nursing's history, particularly in the UK, revealed that present issues in nursing are not necessarily new, and that a potential part of the solution may also lie in the past. This paper argues that in order to provide better health outcomes for patients and communities, innovation in health care service provision does not always have to be 'modern'.

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The importance of play in organisations

Irina Verenikina and Helen Hasan

Conference Theme: Engaging Organisations in Social Innovation

The psychology of play recognises that there are benefits of incorporating play and 'playing games' at work. Managers are reluctant to publicly state that play is good for work but they are willing to use the term "Serious Games". These are games that engage users in their pursuit, and contribute to the achievement of a defined purpose other than pure entertainment (whether or not the user is consciously aware of it). The increasing use of computer games throughout our society motivates the use of games and game technology for serious purposes including education, training and research. Emerging research attention is being paid to the role of play as a 'social innovation' that can improve the emotional climate and collaborative performance of the workplace. In this presentation we report the results of an investigation into the use of online team-based gaming to develop the cooperative and social aspects of team behaviour in organisations that want to increase their human network-centric capability. We show how online team gaming sessions can enhance people's awareness and mastery of collective processes underlying teamwork and cooperation in the context of the workplace. The conduct of such a session is described and the analysis of both quantitative and qualitative data is presented. Lessons were learnt from use of this engaging but 'serious' game for building cooperation in modern network-centric organisations through play. This contributes not only to our understanding of the use of play and gaming in the workplace but also to the socially innovative methods for practice and research on this important topic

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Developing 'knowdes' through community engagement: The Shoalhaven way of structuring social innovation at the local level

Alison Wicks

Conference Theme: Structuring Social Innovation at the Local Level: Councils and Communities

Shoalhaven Campus recognises the importance of promoting regional development in imaginative and innovative ways. It does so by developing 'knowdes' through multiple linkages with local structures. Within Shoalhaven's unique context: structures are systems or organizations made up of interrelated parts functioning as a whole; nodes are the networks of interacting structures; and 'knowdes' are knowledge-based nodes which generate, transfer and translate knowledge for social innovation within the local community. Government departments, local schools and businesses, members of the Shoalhaven and Koori communities are examples of local structures with which Shoalhaven Campus engages to facilitate social innovation. Within the Campus itself, there are different structures: administration, faculties, research, learning and teaching, students and staff. These Campus structures link with each other at various times for different purposes. Authentic engagement

with local structures is central to the Campus's social innovation. This paper describes the Sustainable Aquaculture project, involving collaboration of a private investor, the Shoalhaven Marine and Fresh Water Centre and the local Koori community as an example of a research 'knowde'. The Career Expo is presented as an administration-directed, integrated workplace learning 'knowde' for school students. The project, 'Nowra Skate Park: What it means to me' illustrates a student-driven learning and teaching 'knowde' that highlighted recreational and leisure needs of local youth to the general public through an art exhibition. In its unique way, Shoalhaven is fostering social innovation and addressing local needs by building and strengthening knowledge capacities through authentic engagement with diverse local structures.

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Sifting and sorting the evidence: Development of an online catalogue of strategies for improving children's health and well-being

Kathryn Williams and Nick Marosszeky

Conference Theme: Engaging Organisations in Social Innovation

Since 2006, the Centre for Health Service Development, University of Wollongong, has been working with Victorian government departments to develop a catalogue of evidence-based strategies for improving the health and wellbeing of children and adolescents. The catalogue is a key element in the Victorian Child and Adolescent Monitoring System, which uses new and existing data sets to track 150 indicators of child health and well-being in each of the state's local government areas and in Aboriginal communities. We update and extend the catalogue annually, and it is available online. This is an example of a government-sponsored knowledge transfer and dissemination strategy aimed at improving public health indicators with recommended, evidence-based interventions and approaches. It is also a test of our ability to cope with the mountain of research information produced each year. This paper outlines our innovative approaches to knowledge transfer and dissemination, including literature searching, evaluating and classifying the research evidence. Our goal is to provide a concise, accessible and user-friendly summary for use by health professionals and others engaged in community development and health promotion activities aimed at children and their families. Interventions in the catalogue include individual strategies such as mentoring and counselling; school- and pre-school based programs to enhance cognitive and social development; and broader strategies that provide parenting support and/or address social issues such as adolescent substance use, injury prevention, food insecurity and truancy.

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A golden garment from Ancient Cyprus? Identifying new ways of looking at the past through a preliminary report of textile fragments from the Pafos 'Erotes' Sarcophagus

Peer Reviewed Paper

Diana Wood Conroy and Adriana Garcia

Conference Theme: Cultural Innovations: The New Museum

In 2001 Eustathios Raptou, (Director of the Pafos Museum, Cyprus) excavated a notable marble 2nd century sarcophagus, carved with erotes, or cherubs. Remarkably the sarcophagus contained textile fragments that appeared to be traces of a gold and purple shroud that had covered the head and shoulders of the deceased. After examining the fragments in the Pafos Museum in 2008, I applied to the Department of Antiquities in Nicosia for an export licence so that further analysis could be carried out at the University of Wollongong. This report traces some of the findings of stereomicroscope and electron microscope analysis of samples of the fibres and sediments from the sarcophagus, which included gold, silk and bone. The structure of the gold thread, once twisted around a core thread, and the identification of silk fibres indicate a high-ranking burial. The discovery of microfossils within the sample placed the archaeological material in the wider context of the physical environment. This study briefly summarises literary and archaeological evidence for gold fabrics and purple-red dyes, and relates the Cyprus gold and silk fabric to ancient trade routes. Many questions remain about the dyes used, about weaving and dye production workshops in Greco-Roman Cyprus, and the profile and origin of the gold.

This paper shares information, ideas and expertise across creative arts, archaeology and science, developing new networks to provide innovative perspectives on ancient life for scholars and museum audiences.

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