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The Social Innovation Network (SInet) University of Wollongong Final Report 2015

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The Social Innovation Network (SInet) University of Wollongong Final Report 2015

Abstract

[extract] A decade ago, discussions were held between Prof Margaret Sheil, the then Pro Vice- Chancellor (Research), and researchers in the social science on the most effective structures by which the University's Research Office could recognize and support research excellence in areas other than science and engineering. Most of the Research Strengths funded at the time adopted the traditional institute structure, which suited science and engineering where costly laboratories and equipment were needed. We pointed out that research in Social Sciences, Humanities, Business and Education tended to occur in small groups all over campus between which there were multiple connections. The resulting networks were highly effective but had low visibility and recognition.

Keywords

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Disciplines

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The Social Innovation Network (SInet)
University of Wollongong
Final Report 2015

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The Initial Proposal (2007)

A decade ago, discussions were held between Prof Margaret Sheil, the then Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research), and researchers in the social science on the most effective structures by which the University's Research Office could recognize and support research excellence in areas other than science and engineering. Most of the Research Strengths funded at the time adopted the traditional institute structure, which suited science and engineering where costly laboratories and equipment were needed. We pointed out that research in Social Sciences, Humanities, Business and Education tended to occur in small groups all over campus between which there were multiple connections. The resulting networks were highly effective but had low visibility and recognition.

In 2007 the Research Office called for applications for 3-year funding of up to \$30,000 pa from such networks. The application process was similar to that used for Strengths and Centres asking for Title, Summary, Aims and Significance, Research Direction, Proposed Activities, Budget and Membership. As the existing networks were quite informal, the effort in determining the focus and scope of these new and experimental entities was challenging.

Thanks to the work of Prof Sara Dolnicar and Jan Wright with the support of Prof Lee Astheimer the new Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research), the Social Innovation Network (SInet) was formed and has been the most success Research Network of the University under this scheme. The current SInet directors have one hardcopy of the original application.

At the time of SInet inception, the university wanted to take a lead in Social Science research and set up the first nationally recognised institute in the area of Social Innovation. SInet was seen as a vehicle to take this forward and understood that such an endeavour would have the support of the then Deputy Prime Minister Julia Gillard. Unfortunately this government support eventually went elsewhere and the university continued to retain its primary focus on research in the Sciences and Engineering. Despite this the ongoing success of SInet has demonstrated the potential for excellence in Social Science research at the University of Wollongong.

Personnel

Directors: Professor Sara Dolnicar;



Professor Jan Wright:



Project Officers: Felicity Pye, Jessica Mantei.

Membership and Structure

SI net was made up of many nodes from almost all Faculties of the University – several large centres which were well-established (listed below) and a great many smaller groups that were more fluid. In the application there is an A3 sized map of these and their interconnections at the time (July 2007)

Although there was no formal list of individual members, an email list of contacts was created from those who attended event at the then new Innovation Campus. By 2009 SI net had 150 participants many from the local community as well as the University.

Initial Nodes of SI net

Faculty of Science

Human Geography (HGeo) – GeoQuEST

Faculty of Arts

CAPSTRANS

Centre for Social Ethics and Policy (SEP)

Faculty of Creative Arts

Cultural Innovations

Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences

Centre for Health Initiatives (CHI)

Faculty of Education

Child and Youth Interdisciplinary Research Centre (CYIRC)

Research Centre for Interactive Learning Environments (RILE)

Graduate School of Business

Centre for Health Services Development (CHSD)

Faculty of Commerce

Centre for Social Marketing Research (CSMR)

Centre for Human and Social Capital Research (CHSCR)

Health, Environment, Development and Growth Economics (HEDGE)

People and Organisation Research Centre (PORC)

Centre for Small Business and Regional Research (CSBRR)

Social Accounting and Accountability (SAA)

The Launch (2008)

SInet was officially launched at the University of Wollongong's Innovation Campus on Thursday 11 September 2008 by the then Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor Lee Astheimer.

The theme of the launch was that SInet was here to improve quality of life with the welcome

Imagine a government or community body that has a complex task needing help which could be achieved by tapping into a range of academic expertise across various disciplines all in one go. Then welcome to SInet: a networked collaboration between complementary groups of researchers in the field of social innovation at the University of Wollongong. SInet will enable research into strategies and tools that empower individuals, communities, profit and non-profit organisations and the government to improve quality of life.

According to SInet Directors, Professors Sara Dolnicar (Faculty of Commerce) and Professor Jan Wright (Faculty of Education) "In a nutshell SInet's aim is to create better futures for people". SInet exists to:

- Facilitate the information flow between researchers with similar research interest
- Provide a platform for sharing ideas, expertise and networks
- Strengthen social science research at UOW and
- Strengthen the position of all SInet members by developing and promoting a brand name



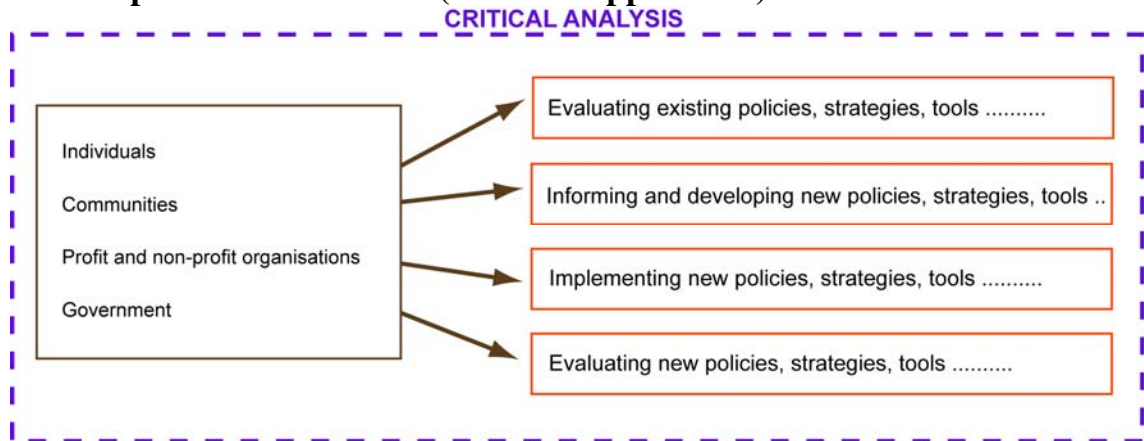
Pictured at the SInet launch (from left): Professor Jan Wright, Professor Kathy Eagar, Dr Frank Neri, Faculty of Commerce Dean Professor Shirley Leitch, Associate Professor

Chris Gibson, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Lee Astheimer, Associate Professor Gordon Waitt and Associate Professor Karen Malone.

The launch was also the first of the many SInet seminars that have over the years attracted a wide audience from with the University and the local community. There were three presentations on the theme ‘Building Stronger Communities’ showcasing socially innovative work at UOW. These talks were delivered by:

- Professor Kathy Eagar – ‘Translating research into practice: evidence-based strategies to improve the health and well-being of children in local communities’
- Associate Professor Chris Gibson and Associate Professor Gordon Waitt looking at the re-emergence of the festival in the lives of people living in non metropolitan NSW
- Associate Professor Karen Malone looking at how child friendly is my community

The Scope of SInet research (from the application)

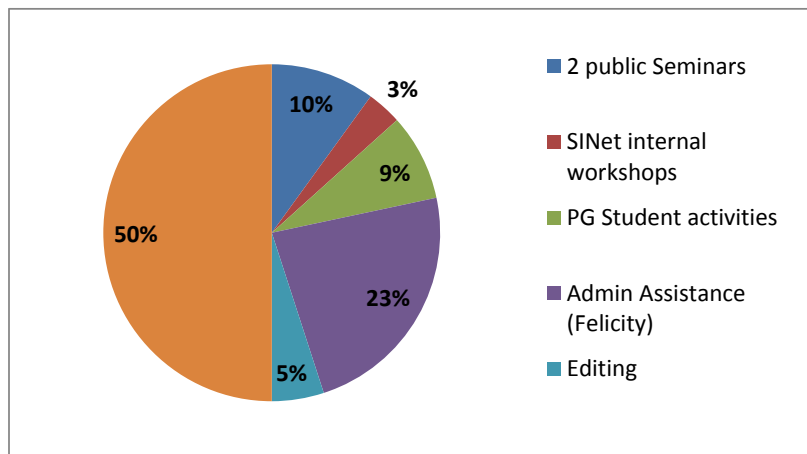


Grant Allocation and Planning

The SInet application was successful in being granted \$30,000 pa for 2008-2010 plus an extra start-up grant from the Vice Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton of \$20,000. SInet was listed on the Universities Research webpage along with Research Strengths and other key research units.

Budget

Percentage breakdown of draft annual budget 2008 to 2010 was depicted in the following:



Apart from workshops (mainly the Conference and Introduction to Confluence) the greatest expenditure was for administrative staffing, while other functions were delivered very cost effectively. However from anecdotal discussions, this cost effective delivery was dependent on the administrative support being available. Given that the critical requirement for a network structure is people, this argues that in a normal scenario where the time of participants is limited, when the network is focused on drawing on higher level or specialised skills of the members, provision of basic coordination and generalist support is fundamental to fostering an environment which allows the network to build those strengths.

Administration:

There were regular meetings of the Directors and representatives from the nodes of SInet to plan the SInet direction and activities. The Directors also met individually with key node directors to have in depth discussions on what envisaged SInet should be.

A casual Projected Officer was employed to assist with the administrative aspect of all SInet activities. SInet presented an annual report to the Research Office with a detailed description of activities and expenditures. While SInet funds were administered through the Finance Office of the Faculty of Commerce, SInet was always administered as a university wide, cross Faculty endeavour.

Activities:

As described below the activities of SInet over the first period 2008-2010 could be summarised as follows:

Seminars (at least 2 per year) were held on topics with diverse speakers and community involvement

Grants were allocated to cross-faculty projects through an internal application process

Special event: the successful 2009 conference and ebook of proceedings

Special project: Propel

Renewal of SInet 2010

SI

net was originally funded for 3 years 2008-2010. In 2010 the University's Research Office put out another call for application for Network funding for the next 3 years 2011-2013. An application was submitted by new SI

net Directors Prof Heather Yeatman, A/Prof Helen Hasan and Peter Samsa. This was successful in being granted the maximum allocation of \$20,000 for the three years.

In February 2011 a Node Directors Meeting was held followed by one-on-one interviews undertaken by SI

net Director Yeatman with each Node Director to solicit ideas to ensure relevance and effectiveness of SI

net. in Feb 2011, to facilitate engagement and involvement in planning SI

net activities.

The original Aims and Significance of the original application was continues together with activities of seminars and workshops. Because of the reduced budget allocation, the costly special projects were reduced and new activities proposed.

Personnel and Membership 2010 - 2014

Directors (2010-2014): Prof Heather Yeatman, A/Prof Helen Hasan, Peter Samsa,

Project Officers: Li Min Tan, Yoke Berry

Membership list 245



Faculty of Arts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literature Identity and Culture (LIC) A/Prof Anne Collett
Faculty of Commerce
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centre for Social Marketing Research (CSMR) Dr Gary Noble Centre for Human and Social Capital Research (CHSCR) Dr Peter Siminski Health, Environment, Development and Growth Economics (HEDGE) A/Prof Amnon Levy People and Organisations Research Centre (PandO) A/Prof Helen Hasan Centre for Small Business and Regional Research (CSBRR) A/Prof Charles Harvey Social Accounting and Accountability Research Centre (SAARC) A/Prof Mary Kaidonis Centre for Applied Systems Research (CASR) A/Prof Rodney Clarke Institute for Innovation in Business and Social Research (IIBSoR) Prof Sara Dolnicar
Faculty of Creative Arts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural Innovations Amanda Lawson and Penny Harris
Faculty of Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interdisciplinary Educational Research Institute (IERI) A/Prof Wilma Vialle
Faculty of Informatics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centre of Digital Ecosystems Prof Peter Eklund The Decision Systems Laboratory Prof Aditya Ghose Social Informatics Research Network A/Prof Peter Hyland
Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centre for Health Initiatives (CHI) Professor Sandra Jones Food and Health Professor Tony Worsley / A/Prof Heather Yeatman
Faculty of Science
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human Geography (HGeo) Professor Lesley Head
Graduate School of Business
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centre for Health Services Development (CHSD) Peter Samsa

The Conference

ACF President keynote speaker for social innovation conference

One of the world's foremost climate change scientists and President of the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF), Emeritus Professor Ian Lowe, was the keynote speaker at a two-day conference conducted in Wollongong by SInet on September 28-29 2009.

SInet (or Social Innovation Network) aims to find solutions to many of the critical problems now facing humanity such as work-life balance and environment issues. It is a networked collaboration between complementary groups of researchers in the field of social innovation at the University of Wollongong.

The conference brought together people from across the university but particularly researchers from Education, Humanities, Social Science and Commerce.

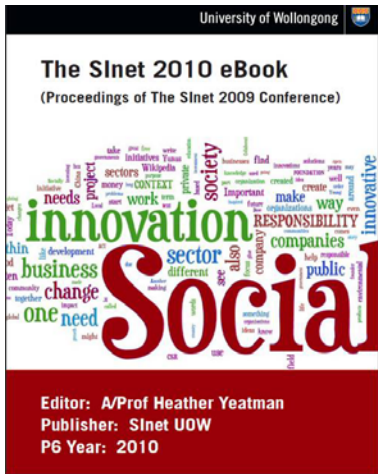
Professor Lowe is emeritus professor of science, technology and society at Griffith University in Brisbane, as well as being an adjunct professor at Sunshine Coast University and Flinders University.

He was Director of the Commission for the Future in 1988, and chaired the advisory council that produced the first independent national report on the state of the environment in 1996. Professor Lowe has been a referee for the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change, attended the Geneva and Kyoto conferences of the parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change and was a member of the Australian delegation to the 1999 UNESCO World Conference on Science.

Conference themes included: Children and young people, collaboration and communication, emissions and climate change, ethics and social justice, improving health and well-being, social and environmental sustainability and social innovation and business innovation.

A written and video opening message was sent to conference participants by Deputy Prime Minister, Julia Gillard who was unable to participate in person due to events in Canberra

UOW Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gerard Sutton, opened the conference on Monday 28 September followed by a 'Welcome to Country' ceremony.



The Conference proceedings are now available online as SInet first's electronic book- *The SInet 2010 eBook* which was launched on the Social Business & Innovation Seminar on 27th October 2010. It can now be accessed at <http://ro.uow.edu.au/sinet/>

Program for Preparing Early Leaders (Propel) 2009-2012

PROPEL is a collaborative project of the University of Wollongong **Social Innovation Network**. The project will develop and implement a one-year intensive leadership program for early career academics which will immediately start to train future academic leaders, locally and nationally, and result in a model transferable to other institutions.

PROPEL's major focus has been on breaking down the borders between disciplines and closing the gap between learning, teaching and research. Collaboration and interdisciplinarity is taught and demonstrated to program participants, who work together with peers and academic leaders across all faculties and disciplines as they complete the six elements of the program. Participants develop their leadership skills more successfully through this process than they ever could in a discipline-specific environment. For PROPEL information visit the website: <http://research.uow.edu.au/propel/>

2009-2012 Pilot Project Leaders:



Professor Sara Dolnicar, Faculty of Commerce, UOW



Professor Wilma Vialle, Faculty of Education, UOW



Professor Rob Castle, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) UOW

Significant Activities:

Confluence

In order to building the SInet Community through Collaboration and Innovation Online A/Prof Rodney Clarke led a initiative to using the wiki software Confluence. This project aimed to assist in the development of communities of practice across its groups and sub-groups. The application was purchased and installed on a dedicated server in Education. Several workshops were held to train users on the use of Confluence.

SInet Future Scenarios Workshop

A daylong workshop was held on 3rd October 2014 entitled "Looking ahead to the next decade: Responding to a range of future scenarios in digital communication and coordination" It featured eminent anthologist and Human-Computer Interaction specialist [Professor Bonnie Nardi](#) visiting from the Department of Informatics in the Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences at the University of California, Irvine. Her recent work on Collapse Informatics was the starting point for discussion and speculation on the future of the Internet and its implications for all.

In addition to a variety of SInet members, participants came from the SES, RFS, NSW police and several other universities in NSW and Queensland.

A white paper is being produced on ideas that emanated from the workshop.



Some participants in the Future Scenarios Workshop l to r: Dr Kate Crawford (Eviva) Prof Bonnie Nardi(UC Irvine USA) A/Prof Linda Dawson (Assoc Dean Research Faculty of Social Sciences UoW); Andrew Edwards (SES); Crystal Woods (NSW Police); Dr Cecile Paris (CSIRO); Shaheena Muniruzzaman (Economics)

SInet Supported Projects

The Social Innovation Network has helped a number of projects in different ways, through support encouragement and inspiration we hope to help many more. Find out here what work is currently being undertaken.

Creation of a Social Innovation Register

A Pilot Study Project led by Dr Eduardo Pol to create a Social Innovation Register at UOW as a magnet to draw social innovators and their ideas together. Developed by the Faculty of Commerce, the register would be available to industry and the community online. All members of the University, academic and non-academic, who are working with ideas that contribute to the enhancement of human well-being are invited to join the register. T

Serious Games: Investigating the Importance of Play for Social Innovation in Organisations

Investigators: Dr. Irina Verenikina, Faculty of Social Sciences, A/Prof. Helen Hasan, Faculty of Business

Output: an ARC grant application and a paper Hasan H. Verenikina I. (2009) Serious Games: The Importance of Play in Network-Centric Organisations, *Proceedings of AMCIS2009*, San Francisco, USA

Themes

The SInet Grey Theme

Due to the ageing population, there is an increasing amount of work at aged care facilities; studies in caring for elderly are necessary. SInet provides a chance to bring along people from different faculties/centre involving in aged care. There are a number of research activities at the University of Wollongong that relate to this theme and include Health Services, Population Health, Healthy Ageing, e-Health and the well-being of senior Australians. Areas of Research Strengths involving Health and Ageing are:

Australian Health Service Research Institute AHSRI

The Centre for Health Initiatives CHI,

The Illawarra Health and Medical Research Institute IHMRI

Sinet projects in the Faculties of Health and Behavioural Science, Commerce and Informatics include:

- The participation of isolate nursing home or at-home seniors in virtual social communities and the contribution of this participation to their wellbeing, contacts Helen Hasan and Lois Burgess
A project funded by IRT to investigate the quality of aged care services and the development of a health service standard. The project explores the expectations of community members and examine how the providers can meet the requirements, contacts Lois Burgess and Mary Barrett
- A project investigating the transition of people with intellectual disabilities into aged care that facilitates well-being for clients, carers and stakeholders,; contacts Chris Sykes, Peter McLean, Patrick Dawson and Michael Zanko
- A Community Engagement Grant project entitle 'Dementia Online Illawarra' - Innovative approaches to supporting the information needs of Dementia Service Providers in the Illawarra. The community partners include the Illawarra Dementia Services Network and the Illawarra Forum - contacts Lyn Phillipson, Helen Hasan and Peter Samsa
- The Centre for e-Health's research activities focus on innovative areas in health informatics and e-health research, especially areas capitalizing on emerging information communication technologies (ICTs). contacts Linda Dawson and Ping Yu
- NSW & ACT Australia Dementia Training and Study Centre is In the School of Nursing, Midwifery and Indigenous Health in HBS . This Centre is funded by the of Department of Health & Ageing (a total of \$6 million since 2006) and will complement aged and dementia care research activities in HBS, contact Victoria Traynor

The Ageing sub-theme was established by SInet's co-director, Peter Samsa and Dr Nicola Marks from Faculty of Arts, to facilitate the development of ageing research collaborations between different disciplines. An ageing seminar was held in December 2011.

The SInet Green Theme

Several meetings were held to raise environmental awareness and forge links - Several environmentally focused SInet seminars have been held and SInet members put together a letter to the Senior Executive on the downsizing of the University's Environmental Unit.

A separate Food Futures Network was initially established but later became a part of the Green theme

SInet's Green Theme connects groups across campus regarding not only research and teaching but also practice as the University's ESI unit is an active member of the network. We also connect into the local community through the Illawarra's RDA and internationally through the Women and Sustainability Network and SIGGreen, a special interest group of the Association for Information Systems.

To facilitate multi-disciplinary research in the areas of environmental responsibility and sustainability we have held several meetings to raise awareness and forge links among environmental researchers on campus (Australian Centre for Cultural Environmental Research (AUSCCER), Sustainable Buildings Research Centre (SBRC), IT, Accounting, Management) Economics, Law). We had two International visiting speakers, Prof Rick Watson from University of Georgia, USA and Dr Nils-Holger Schmidt from the University of Goettingen, Germany.

In respect of teaching we have supported the ALTC project LE9-1183, "Demonstrating distributed leadership through cross-disciplinary peer networks: responding to climate change complexity". This project has now concluded but we are applying for an NBNEESP grant from the Federal Government to sustain the cross-institutional network and use the NBN to promote multidisciplinary education on environmental issues.

From a practice perspective we obtained funding from the People and Organization Centre, a node of SInet for a pilot project to analyse the data being collected by energy sensors on the UoW campus and link it to campaigns aimed at changing behaviours on energy use. We now have matching funding from the International Islamic University of Malaysia to do a comparative study of student attitudes to green behaviours. We also have links to the Sustainable Technology in UK Universities and Colleges Group who have provided us with a Spreadsheet to assess the carbon Footprint of a campus. We met with Cathy Nicastrì of ITS about this and they are now trialing the assessment process.

We have met with RDA Illawarra and discussed ways that SInet can link into local projects such as Green jobs and environmental benefits of the NBN

Another node of SInet, IBSOR hosted a visit from Gillian Bowers from the US Women and Sustainability network arranged by A/Prof Ulrike Gretzel. UoW has become a node of this network and is eligible for support for projects. Our first project was a side event at the UN Rio+20 conference in June 2012.

SInet HDR Student Sub-Network 2011

Meeting of HDR students in SInet were held approximately once a month on Monday lunch times in 2011. SInet' end of the year HDR event attracted approximately 50 students. Christine Mason from Research Student Centre was the guest speaker of this meeting. The main outcomes of this meeting include students' discussion on what they expect from SInet and Janette Ellis and Aimee Zhang volunteered to organise SInet's HDR events in 2012 SInet

At HDR students Pizza Lunch on 17th October 2011 @40A.G81 SInet was fortunate to have Professor Linda Dawson as our guest speaker. Linda is the Head of School of Information Systems & Technology. Linda is an experienced researcher and focuses on IT research methods.

At the HDR students Potluck Lunch on 12th September 2011 @40A.G81 SInet's co-director, Helen Hasan introduced the audiences the Zing system.

At the SInet HDR students Pizza Lunch on 22nd August 2011 @40A.G81 Duncan Rintoul from Institute for Innovation in Business and Social Research (IIBSoR) was the guest speaker in this meeting

At the SInet HDR students Potluck Lunch on 11th July 2011 @40A.G81

This potluck lunch attracted 20 students. Student brought a variety of foods which represent their cultures. Hung Luu, PhD student from Education Faculty talked about "Candidate relationship with supervisor" .

At the SInet HDR students Pizza Lunch on 20th June 2011 @40A.G81 three HDR students gave interesting presentations on this meeting, they were Ta (Teerawat), Mohammad Al Mutairi, and Aimee Zhang ..

At the SInet HDR students Pizza Lunch on 9th May 2011 @40A.G81 SInet was really fortunate to have Julie King and Paul Moore as our guest speakers in the meeting[click here to read more]

At the SInet HDR students Pizza Lunches on 18th April 2011 and 21st March [2011@40A.G81](#) each three HDR students presented their experiences.

Seminars and Meetings

DATE	EVENT	SPEAKERS
Feb 2008	Research on Water	Prof Sarah Dolnicar, on media influences on water use, Prof Long Ngheim on water recycling, Prof Amnon levy on alleviating shortages in water supply
11/9/2008	Launch and Seminar "Building Stronger Communities"	<p>"Translating research into practice: evidence-based strategies to improve the health and well-being of children in local communities" Prof Kathy Eagar</p> <p>"The re-emergence of the festival in the lives of people living in non metropolitan NSW" A/Prof Chris Gibson, A/Prof/ Gordon Waitt</p> <p>"How child friendly is my community" A/ Prof/ Karen Malone</p>
-6/11/2008	Seminar 'Science, society and public engagement'	<p>Improving human performance using bionic devices Prof Gordon Wallace</p> <p>Talking future science: Global issues, global publics, global conversations, Prof Shirley Leitch</p> <p>Engaging imaginations and emotions: Understanding how the public values new or controversial science, Prof Judy Motion</p>
6/8/2009	Seminar "Social responsibility and global financial crisis: The missing link"	<p>'In Government We trust: Market Failure and the Delusion of Privatisation' Prof Warwick Funnell</p> <p>'Social Responsibility and the Global Financial Crisis: It's all in the Execution' Mr Paul Mazzola</p> <p>'Privileging Capital at any Cost' A/Prof Mary Kaidonis</p> <p>'Social Innovation, Financial Innovation and the Law of Unanticipated Consequences, Dr Eduardo Pol</p>
9/2009	Conference	Keynote: President of the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF), Emeritus Professor Ian Lowe
22/3/2010	Seminar "Food and social connections".	<p>Mayor of Kiama, Ms Sandra McCarthy, MC</p> <p>CEO of the UK's premier community advocacy group for the environment, <i>Sustain</i>, Jeanette Longfield, was the keynote speaker</p> <p>Land use and natural resource management Dr Nick Gill</p> <p>The Food Fairness Illawarra Group, a coalition that has focused on addressing local food security issues Dr Deanne</p>

		<p>Condon-Paolon</p> <p>National food regulation and policy in Australia, and local food policy advocacy A/Prof/ Heather Yeatman</p> <p>Vanessa John (Environmental Strategy Officer, WCC)</p>
24 May 2010	Green Seminar- Environmentally Aware Research and Practice	<p>Environmental Initiatives at the University of Wollongong Lisa Miller.</p> <p>Dynamics of the Environment and Human Population A/Professor Amnon Levy,</p> <p>Accounting for Carbon A/ Prof Mary Kaidonis</p> <p>The Carbon-Centred Computing Initiative (CCCI) who are working on two complementary projects. <i>Professor Aditya Ghose</i>, Prof Trevor Spedding, A/Prof Helen Hasan</p>
23 July 2010	The Social Innovation exchange	The global Social Innovation Exchange (SIX) Steve Lawrence Chief Exec of the Australian Social Innovation eXchange (ASIX).
27 October 2010	Social Business & Innovation and Launch of the ebook	Cheryl Kernot and James Dellow
11 April 2011	Interdisciplinary Collaboration- Practical Insights	Professor Judy Raper (Deputy Vice- Chancellor Research), Professor Kathy Eagar (Director of Australian Health Services Research Institute (AHSRI)) and two representatives from Regional Development Australia (RDA), Illawarra.
12 Dec 2011	Ageing Population Research @ UoW	Researchers from Illawarra Health and Medical Research Institute (IHMRI), Centre of Health (CHI), Marketing Research Innovation Centre (MRIC), Graduate School of Medicine, and Faculty of Commerce.
13 Aug 2012	The Future We Want Feedback from Rio+20	<p>Networking women for a sustainable future: Ulli Gretzel, director of the Laboratory for Intelligent Systems in Tourism"Communication, Collaboration and ICT at Rio+20"</p> <p>Helen Hasan,</p> <p>"Rebuilding post-Rio and the role of Social Innovation" Tam Hoang, representative for Green Cross International</p>
21 Nov 2012	Perspectives on Ageing	<p>Prof. Mary Barrett School of Management & Marketing</p> <p>Prof. Richard Fleming Director of the NSW/ACT Dementia Training Study Centre</p> <p>A/Prof. Helen Hasan Director IT and Seniors</p> <p>Dr. Andrew Jenner Illawarra Health and Medical Research Inst.</p> <p>Dr. Peter McLean School of Management & Marketing</p>

		Dr. Ping Yu Information Systems and Technology (SISAT)
11/12/2012	Green Research on Campus	Speakers: Paul Cooper, Will Price, Brian Andrew, Greg Rose, Konstantin Konstantinov Bruce Thomson and Deon De Saldanha (ICR)
17/10/2013	Regional Food Research - Network opportunity	Presentation and discussion the Illawarra Regional Food Strategy supported by Wollongong, Shellharbour and Kiama Councils
12/02/2014	Follow up Food event	
21/5/2014	Inequality for all	Film Showing and 30 minute Skype with Robert Riech in the USA, former advisor to the Clinton Administration.
3 October 2014	1 Day Workshop	"Looking ahead to the next decade: Responding to a range of future scenarios in digital communication and coordination" Keynote Professor Bonnie Nardi Participants from CSIRO, SES, NSW Police CQU, MaQU

Speakers at the inaugural SI net forum, from left; MC Associate Professor Heather Yeatman, Professor Judy Raper, Ms Natalie Burroughs, Professor Kathy Eagar and Ms Nicky Sloan



Participants at the 24th May 2010 Seminar- Environmentally Aware Research and Practice



Lisa and Helen



Amnon (right)



Mary



Aditya



Trevor

Participants in the 11th December 2012 Environmental Seminar



Participants in the 27th October 2010 Seminar: Social Business & Innovation



On May 2014 SInet Screened the documentary Inequality for All then Skyped to the film's presenter Robert Reich former member of the Clinton Administration.



Windup

When the SInet second 3 year term came to an end in 2013 the University decided not to continue the Network Scheme. Anticipating this, the Directors decided to continue to tune events in 2014 program extended the use of accumulated use funds for as long as possible in 2014. Now that funds are exhausted SInet wound up with a “wake” on March 11 2015 attended by all SInet directors past and present and long standing members (see below).



Lessons from SInet

The SInet experience has demonstrated the value of fostering cross-disciplinary research networks on campus and that they can be of value at relatively low cost, particularly in the Social Sciences and humanities.

The following abstract outlines a paper presented at the SInet Conference that addresses this issue. The full paper can be downloaded at <http://ro.uow.edu.au/hbspapers/2313>

Socially Innovative Research Networks: A Roadmap for SINet

A/Prof Helen Hasan

School of Economics, University of Wollongong

Abstract

The Social Innovation Network (SINet) was established for cross-disciplinary research on social innovation to “create better futures for people”. SINet is itself socially innovative since a network is a relatively unfamiliar configuration for a university-wide research unit. A network provides an identity to a research collective that is real, having status and support, but which is fundamentally different to an institute. In a network, connections and flows of knowledge tend to be horizontal not vertical. A network is flexible, reconfigurable, responsive to change and less formal, and has the potential for lower administrative overheads. As knowledge workers, university researchers perform best in an organisation that supports an open culture where knowledge workers are left alone to work, with sufficient support and resources. Their performance is maximised by capitalising on their strengths and their knowledge rather than trying to force them into moulds.

This paper compares the attributes of a research network to a more traditional hierarchical institute. It asks and answers the questions: what is a research network; why have one for intra-institutional research; and how can it be created, sustained and its value determined? Three theories will be used to (a) provide the reasons and justification for network-centric configurations, (b) make sense of the network-centric paradigm and its characteristics, and (c) understand how to act in a network-centric workplace arrangement. Not everyone is comfortable working in a self-directed network-centric configuration, so will SINet work, and if so, how?

Keywords: network, network-centric, social technologies, social innovation