Already this year has been absolutely jam-packed with O-day and E-day, with I-Day and W-day just around the corner! The Rovers who have worked so far have done an amazing job at helping the new students settle in, and begin their journey! - And that’s really what university is, a journey. The beginning of the year is always my favourite part of the academic year, as the smell of new stationary and textbooks fill the air. I love watching the happy faces of new and old students as they kick-start their journey knowing that this is only the beginning... Of course, in a few weeks we’ll all be stressed out of our brains with assessment dates looming before us, but for now, it’s peaceful. So, we’d just like to take this opportunity to say welcome back everyone! May this year bring you many more happy memories!

O-DAY, E-DAY... W-DAY?

Some of you who follow the Shoalhaven Campus Events Facebook page, may have noticed that recently Kay Lang posted a humorous knock-off of the classic nursery rhyme ‘Old McDonald had a farm’. So far, the verse includes E-Day, I-Day and O-Day, but Sue Leppan, the Student Support Advisor, wants W-Day included somehow. She is offering 5 free coffees (which would definitely come in handy over semester) for the best next verse incorporating W-Day! So, the competition is officially open, and we’re looking for someone to give us the next verse to:

Old McDonald had a farm E I E I O
With an arts student here, and a DipEd student there E I E I O

So get your creative hats on and submit your entries to ymh857@uowmail.edu.au by 10th March!
Last year, Teresa Bourke achieved her goal to work at Shoalhaven Campus and joined the staff here as the Executive Officer. For those of you who were around on Enrolment Day, she was the lovely lady making sure that everything was running smoothly, helping new students, and ensuring that the rovers were roving about, helping people!

Teresa brings to Shoalhaven Campus years of experience, obtained in various industries including Information Technology, Banking and Finance, Sales and Marketing, Human Resources and Event Management. It was over seventeen years ago however, that Teresa found her passion in Education. As Teresa has worked in Early Childhood, Primary and Secondary schools, and now Tertiary education, she has known some of UOW’s students since they were three years old! While she finds this delightful and has followed their journey with “much enthusiasm”, I’m sure this is a little embarrassing for some since surely I cannot be the only one that looks back at past school photos and shudders! Usually, it doesn’t matter since we never see our teachers again... unless - like Teresa - they follow us to Uni!

Thankfully, a year into her job here at Shoalhaven Campus, she is still happy and loving us! As she has also adopted the ‘open door policy’ which exists here on campus, she is more than happy for you to pop in with any concerns and she promises to do her best to “assist you in your journey” through university. We are delighted that Teresa is here at Shoalhaven, and we thank her for all the hard work she did last year and has already done this year!

Exchange in Shanghai, China

Throughout my degree I always looked for opportunities to turn my ‘academic learning’ into an adventure. Exchange was the perfect way to do it! As one of my majors in my Undergraduate degree was Mandarin, I chose to take my adventure in Shanghai, China. In my opinion, Shanghai is one of the most amazing cities in the world, full of people, buildings and an energy which can only be described as ‘magical’. It really is the city that never stops. While it glorifies China’s history, it’s excited about the future and offers both expats and local Chinese some of the best clubs and attractions in the world. During my stay in China, I studied at the Shanghai University of International Business and Economics and lived on campus. While I’m sure that most prison cells in Australia are bigger than my 2mx3m room (which also included a bathroom), I became extremely fond of it as I began to decorate it with pictures of my trip and tickets from various experiences. I had been to China before, but living there my mind was opened up even more, as I experienced on a daily basis the real trials people can endure, from smoky air and poverty, to limited access to health care. My time in a Chinese hospital, where they were convinced I had tonsillitis even though I haven’t had my tonsils for almost 20 years, highlighted just how wonderful the Australian healthcare system is. Overall, the experience made me realize why, for many years, Australia has been considered a ‘lucky country’. The more I travelled in China during my exchange, and experienced the different aspects of Chinese culture, the deeper my appreciation grew for the amazing country I was living in and its long and diverse history. I cannot speak highly enough of my study exchange experience, and I encourage everyone to think about the opportunities their degree offer. If you’d like to read more about my experience, I kept a blog. So, logon to http://yvetteinchina.blogspot.com.au/
Relay for Life

One of the major fundraisers for the Cancer Council each year is ‘Relay for Life’, and this year for the 9th year running, Shoalhaven Campus entered! Relay for life is a 24 hour community event where individuals can run or walk to raise money for the Cancer Council. The event will run on the 29th of March and we would love to have as many people representing the campus as possible! Everyone participates in Relay for Life for different reasons, but whatever your reason, this is a great opportunity to give back to the community, raise money for cancer research and celebrate life! This year, SPARTA will be hosting a Trivia Night on the 27th of March to raise funds for Relay for Life. There will also be great prizes to bid on, so make sure you come along! Tickets are $10 (and a gold coin donation for the kids) and all proceeds go to the Cancer Council. Last year UOW Shoalhaven raised over $2000. If you would like to have fun, make friends, and raise money for a great cause, be sure to come along. If you’d like to join one of the teams, see Robbie, or join through the ‘Relay for Life’ website. Let’s make this year our best year yet!

Get ready to SPAAAARRRRTTTTTAAAAAY!

SPARTA has done it again! The Shoalhaven People’s Association of Recreation and Training Activities (SPARTA) is UOW Shoalhaven Campus’ only recreational club – and they’re kicking goals! SPARTA’s inaugural year saw a year of hard work pay off to win UOW’s ‘Club of the Year’ in late 2013. Last year SPARTA hosted 278 events in and around Nowra, including Trivia, Frisbee, Slack Lining, Hiking, Running, Netball, Paintball, Walking, AFL, Soccer and Fishing. You name it – SPARTA is keen to make it happen! Adding to that impressive list, this year SPARTA is offering a full-blown O-week (S)party with live music from two bands down from Sydney, Snorkeling, Snow trip, Yoga, Volleyball, Flag Football and Touch Football…and that’s just the beginning! Come with your friends and family and join the SPARTAy on February 28th and meet your fellow students! Pre-sale tickets are just $12 for SPARTA members or $15 for non-members, but tickets can also be purchased at the door for $20. For more information or to purchase tickets, search for ‘UOW SPARTA’ on Facebook and get ready for the “best year at uni you could imagine”!

Dear Editor

As a student on a student budget I would really, really like to have access to hot water and a sink so that I can make myself a cup of coffee or tea, and wash out my lunch container! We pay our student fees, just like students at Wollongong, and yet they have lots of mini kitchenettes, equipped with a sink, fridge and sink, but we don’t. Could this please be noted as a student issue, and can someone please let us know how can we go about getting one?

Suspended Coffee

Years ago in Naples, Italy, a tradition was born - Espresso Sospeso. When translated to English it means ‘suspended coffee’. This humanitarian concept is simple. Someone goes into a cafe and pre-purchases a coffee (or food) which is then ‘suspended’. Someone in need can then go into the business and have this warm coffee (or food) at no cost to themselves. ‘The Haven’ cafe on campus supports the suspended coffee movement, so if you see marbles in the jar it means there are suspended coffees waiting, so please don’t be afraid to dive right in! We all need help at times!
Clean Up Australia Day

Last year over 30 Shoalhaven UOW students and staff supported the Sanctuary Point community Clean Up Australia Day, and now it’s time to do it all again! It’s time for everyone including staff, students and community members to get together, get their hands dirty and clean up Australia! Clean Up Australia Day started in 1989 when Ian Kiernan set off to clean up Sydney Harbour. He only enlisted the support of his friends and family, but on the day more than 40,000 people volunteered their time and energy to clean up the harbor. Since then, it has continued to grow with an estimated 300,000 people volunteering each year to clean up their communities. If you would like to help, there is an organized site again this year at Sanctuary Point so call 0432510617 for more information! Remember, Clean Up Australia Day is only possible because of volunteers, and as students of the future, we owe it to our community to help out! (And you can put it on your resume!) We hope to see you there!

Western Front Study Tour 2013

In July 2013, I, along with eleven other students from UOW, had the opportunity to go on the trip of a lifetime - the Western Front Study Tour! As we explored the battlefields of Verdun, Somme and Flanders Sectors, it quickly became obvious that it is impossible to come to terms with the enormity of the Western Front... and I’m not just talking about geography. Under the direction of Professors John McQuilton and Jen Roberts, we explored the cemeteries, battlefields and cities that were brought to ruin by the devastation of war. The term ‘immense impact’ could only be used as a euphemism. The endless list of names on memorials at places such as Menin Gate or Tyne Cot in Ypres is truly only an image of how this conflict has affected the world. Behind each name we saw was a personal story, one that history needs to give justice to. It’s all too easy to forget that behind each service person was a family and a community who were torn apart - even though they lived on the other side of the world. The shrapnel and shells of war still ripped through their hearts. Personally, I was overwhelmed with thoughts and emotions that I inherently had never experienced before during any of my other study of the history of WW1. The stories of the Western Front have permeated my heart, and will always be a precious reminder of human sacrifice and bravery, and even forgiveness. T.May

Library says...

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- Search ‘Summon’ for books, ebooks academic articles and newspapers which can even be sent from Wollongong to Shoalhaven
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WHAT’S NEXT?
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