

## March 2018

Welcome back to all the students at UNSW, make sure you help out new starters by offering navigation and, where appropriate, carrying out an induction. See below for our news round-up for March.

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### Safety Alert

Recently at UNSW a Lithium Polymer (LiPo) battery caught fire while it was charging. The battery was one month old and had been charged once before. On this occasion the battery was being charged on the desk and was left temporarily unattended. Five minutes into the charging process a near-by student heard noises emanating from the battery location and then saw a fire on the desk. Local staff were able to extinguish the fire quickly, so there was minimal damage (pictured). See our [Safety Alert](#) for more details, and actions for you:

- Do not leave LiPo batteries charging unattended.
  - Charge away from combustible and flammable materials.
  - Ensure a dry powder extinguisher is near-by.
  - Follow all manufacturer's instructions.
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### Nanomaterial guideline

A new [Working with Nanomaterials Guideline](#) has been released on the Health and Safety website. The purpose is to assist stakeholders in the development of risk management strategies when working with nanomaterials.

It includes some support documentation, such as [HS933a Nanomaterial risk banding checklist](#) and a standardised [nano hazard](#) warning sign that can be used.

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### Global Challenge

The Global Challenge (10,000 steps per day) is back for 2018! We had 1,071 participants in 2017 and won the title of Most Active University in



Australia for the second year in a row. Join this year and help us make it a hat trick! The Global Challenge is a team-based health and wellbeing event that runs for 100 days from 25 May, encouraging participants to increase their activity levels and aim for over 10,000 steps a day. Registrations will open shortly. If you'd like to find out more, come to our lunchtime information session on Thursday 15 March; [book here](#).

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### 'Return and Earn' at UNSW

You can now earn 10 cents for every eligible drink container you return at the new bottle return facility located at Gate 7 on High Street, near Basser Steps. UNSW is the first University in NSW to install a reverse vending machine. This facility will not just help reduce litter and provide a refund facility for the UNSW community, but will also help us to reduce the amount of disposable containers (over 150 tonnes) from going into our general waste stream. Check the [Estate Management page](#) for more information.

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### Get Healthy at Work

UNSW will be participating in the NSW Government's [Get Healthy at Work](#) program in 2018. Free face-to-face Brief Health Checks for staff members will be rolled out across the University. Health checks take approximately 15 minutes and involve a few short questions and a waist measurement. No blood or other samples are required. Participating staff members will receive immediate information and advice and have the opportunity to ask questions and chat about healthy lifestyle options with a trained health practitioner. Look out for updates on when the free health checks are coming to your faculty or division.

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### Emergency Management training

New emergency management training courses are now available for enrolment through [myUNSW](#).

- Chief Warden training (HSECFW) - Face-to-face course
  - Warden training (HSEFWT) - Online training for all wardens
  - Fire equipment training (HSEFET) - Hands-on training on how to use an extinguisher
  - First aid certificate (FIRSTA) - Practical skills completed every 3 years
  - CPR refresher (HSEFAR) - Annual hands-on refresher
  - AED training (HSEAED) - Online defibrillator training
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### Benestar EAP

The UNSW Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provider, previously known as Davidson Trahaire Corpsych, has re-branded as "[Benestar](#)".

Benestar translates to Wellbeing in local Spanish dialects. While there has been no change in ownership, there will be a range of new digital services



and more wellbeing focused courses and programs. These are in addition to the free and confidential psychological counselling services.

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## Safety and Wellbeing goals for 2018

Our goals this year include saving lives, preventing injuries, ensuring the University's operational continuity and the successful implementation of the UNSW 2025 Strategy by facilitating the development and implementation of best-practice in safety and workplace wellbeing. We aim to:

- Provide high quality safety and wellbeing services
  - Update the UNSW Health and Safety Management System in accordance with new ISO 45001
  - Finalise the Work Health and Safety Plan 2016 - 2018
  - Maintain UNSW's Workers Compensation self-insurer licence and continue successful claims management reflected in reduced lost time and reduction in claims
  - Support HR Goals and the UNSW 2025 Strategic goals
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## Lessons learnt

Recently a chemical waste container in a laboratory suddenly burst releasing the contents beyond the bund out onto the laboratory floor. The waste container had been in the laboratory since about 2016, occasionally used to collect-up a methanol and waste water mixture. The container had a fully sealed lid and gas pressure build-up within the container caused the burst (pictured). Where possible, waste containers with vented lid should be used (these are available from [UNSW Stores](#)) and waste collection containers should be disposed of regularly, even if they are not yet full. Refer to [HS321 Laboratory Hazardous Waste Disposal Guideline](#).

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