



July 2017

This month we have had a number of environmental successes with the review of the Smoke-Free Policy, securing coffee discounts for reusable cups and an energy efficiency trial in a laboratory. UNSW has been making steady progress in environmental management, see below for more information.



Coffee discounts

Australians use an estimated one billion disposable coffee cups annually, most of which cannot be recycled. You can help reduce this waste by saying 'no' to disposable and bringing your own reusable cups. At UNSW, [The White House](#) has stepped up to offer a 50c discount for your coffee when you bring your own cup. You can purchase a UNSW keep cup at UNSW Bookshops.

For more coffee shops offering discounts around UNSW and Sydney, check out the [responsible cafes website](#). For further information contact sustainability@unsw.edu.au.



Smoke-free campus

On World No Tobacco Day, 31st May, UNSW celebrated the three-year anniversary of a Smoke-Free campus. Safety and Sustainability and Arc volunteers hosted stalls and other activities across campus to improve awareness of the UNSW smoke-free status. Free professional referrals were offered to those trying to quit and there was a focus on reducing cigarette butt litter. Extra UNSW Security staff were present around litter and smoking hot spots on campus. The UNSW [Smoke-Free Environment Policy](#) was also reviewed recently. The purpose of the policy is to maintain a healthy environment at UNSW by making all University grounds and premises smoke-free environments. Minor changes have been made to the policy regarding the legislative framework.



Fume cupboard trial

A trial has been underway using an environmental and safety notification sign on fume cupboards. The sign advises users of the best location for the fume cupboard sash, for both environmental efficiency and safety reasons. The signs have been placed on fume cupboards in a lab in the School of Chemistry. Since installation the fume cupboard sash height is on average 22% lower during operational hours and 46% lower during non-operational hours. This translates into both energy saving and improved personal protection for the operator. This trial has been modelled on a [study completed by the U.S. Department of Energy](#). For more information on the UNSW trial contact sustainability@unsw.edu.au.



SafeWork NSW audit

The university recently had a follow-up visit from SafeWork NSW auditors to confirm that corrective actions from the 2016 Health and Safety Management System (HSMS) audit were completed. The auditors were satisfied with all corrective actions were at a level that was expected of a self-insurer. The auditors commended the local areas, School of Civil and Environmental Engineering and School of Biotechnology and Biomolecular Science, for their efforts and pro-active approach. The 2016 audit was part of the requirements for UNSW to maintain its [NSW self-insurance license](#) with regard to Workers Compensation, UNSW achieved a score of 98%.



Drone/UAS

The use of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), also known as drones, at UNSW has increased in recent times. It's important to consider both compliance requirements and risk management if you are operating a UAS. To ensure you are compliant refer to the [Research Ethics and Compliance Support \(RECS\) website](#). There are also a number of hazards relating to drone use, such as proximity to airports or helicopter landing sites, collision with people, property or animals, battery fire, contact with rotating parts, confrontation with disapproving members of the public/land owners. There is a UNSW Risk Management Form for operation of drones that should be followed, see [UNSW-UNSW-RMF-7146](#) in SafeSys.



Wellbeing seminar

There will be a one-hour wellbeing seminar providing hints and tips on "Getting a Good Night's Sleep" in July. Topics to be covered include:

- Learn the facts and beliefs about sleep and understand particular sleep problems.
- Overcome blocks to achieving a good night's sleep.
- Discuss practical strategies that will aid good sleep patterns.
- Learn relaxation skills and other hints for success.

This will be on Thursday 20th July, from 12pm - 1pm in Colombo Lecture Theatre A (B16), LG03. Places are limited, so register soon at [this link](#).



Kindness month

We had a fantastic response to our Random Acts of Kindness Challenge in June, with lots of wonderful kind acts performed by UNSW staff. You can read a list of kind acts on our [website](#). Those who informed us of their kind acts entered a competition for a free 20 minute workplace massage, below are the winners (note, one person anonymously allocated their prize to a colleague as a further act of kindness):

- Simone Purdon (PVC Research Training)
 - Angela Brooks (Black Dog Institute)
 - Katrina Lopez (Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences)
 - Lee Wright (School of Law)
 - Lance Islip (Safety and Sustainability)
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Global Challenge

We've completed the first stage of the Global Challenge (to achieve 10,000 steps per day for 100 days). An Australian University leaderboard has been released. UNSW is the number one university in New South Wales! However, we are ranked fourth overall in activity levels, behind the University of Tasmania, Queensland University of Technology (QUT) and UniQuest.

We are hosting regular lunch time walks, everyone is welcome to join (you don't have to be a Global Challenge participant), use the [Lunch Time Walks Registration link](#) to sign-up.



Lessons learnt

Picric acid is a chemical which if left to dry out will explode with some violence. This and similar [unstable substances](#) need to be inspected monthly to make sure they are in good condition. Within the last 12 months a student was using a new bottle of Picric Acid but left UNSW for another institute. As the [system for managing this chemical](#) was not implemented, including labelling, it went unnoticed until found accidentally. What can we learn from this?

- High-risk substances must be actively managed.
- Ensure chemicals are completely removed from their shipping container prior to storage and use.
- Do not keep chemicals inside blank cardboard boxes or other non-transparent containers.
- Dispose of chemicals by their use-by date.

For more information refer to [HS332 Hazardous Chemicals Procedure](#).
