



September 2017

This month we will host R U OK? Day activities which will lead into Health and Wellbeing Month in October. In the coming weeks we will start to promote the a range of health and wellbeing initiatives that will be available throughout the month. We hope that you find time to get involved and encourage your colleagues to join you. See below for more information.



R U OK? Day

R U OK? Day is on Thursday 14 September. We have a terrific line-up of events this year including the return of lunchtime Tai Chi and the Gratitude Tree. SafeWork NSW will be joining us with games and prizes to be won. New events this year include Star Wars Lego Challenge (where some lucky winners will get to take Lego home!) and a 5-Minute Massage from our wonderful masseuse Lara Cassar. We'll be joined in the CLB Courtyard by Student Minds who will be creating stress balls. Counsellors from CAPS and Davidson Trahaire will be available for anyone who needs help. See our [R U OK? Day webpage](#) for more information or pop-by on the day to the CLB Courtyard.



Global Challenge

The [Global Challenge](#) (10,000 steps for 100 days) is over! Final entries of step counts have been made and we will shortly know the winner of the Australian University League for the most active university. However, the real winner is anyone who took part in the Challenge and used the opportunity to increase their activity levels and health and fitness. We were very impressed by the enthusiastic support of this important event, in particular all our Team Captains and Area Managers on the wonderful jobs encouraging team members.



Fume cupboard sticker trial

UNSW Sustainability, Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) and Energy Team is ready to roll out a University-wide Fume Cupboard Efficiency Project, based on the final result of a pilot study in a laboratory in School of Chemistry.

The pilot study involved installing stickers that advises users of the best location of the fume cupboard sash. The results showed that sash height was on average 32% lower during operational hours (8am - 8pm) and 46% lower during non-operational hours (evenings and weekends) - translating to a total average of 34% lower. This results in both energy saving and improved personal protection for the operator. This project 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.



Drone operation

Operating drones in Australian airspace for UNSW business, including research and teaching, are commercial operations according to Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA). A Remote Pilot License (RePL) is not required for piloting a drone less than 2kg within CASA's standard operation conditions. A RePL is required for 2kg maximum takeoff weight or above drone operations. UNSW has developed a [Drone Moodle Course](#), where drone pilots can access the UNSW drone operation manual and procedure, log drone operation activities and complete the "UNSW sub2kg pilot induction quiz" prior to conducting drone operations. Enrolment details will be provided once an Aviation Reference Number (ARN) and a "RPAS Notification Confirmation" email from CASA are provided to drones@unsw.edu.au by UNSW drone pilots. Further information is available on the [UNSW drone information webpage](#).



Health warnings

The [UNSW Health Service](#) would like to share a number of health warnings with staff and students:

- Flu season is still here and it's not too late to get the flu vaccine. UNSW Health Service still has some stock, so [book an appointment](#) soon.
- Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) Coronavirus can cause serious illness, anyone who is travelling to the middle east, for example for the Hajj, should be aware of precautions and symptoms, refer to Department of [Health Hajj Travel Advice](#).
- An outbreak of Norovirus is causing multiple admissions and pressure on emergency departments. It spreads rapidly in close living situations and in open offices using common toilets. This

[Norovirus factsheet](#) has useful information on symptoms and how to prevent spread.



Hazard reporting

During the high-winds at the end of August part of a building roof structure came loose. This was reported to UNSW Security emergency number (Ext. 56666) which initiated the UNSW coordinated emergency response team. The area was immediately cordoned-off and temporary rectifications were made to prevent further roof damage.

Thanks to the quick action of UNSW Security, Building Contractors, Estate Management and UNSW Health, Safety and Environment staff, the area was immediately isolated and no injuries were sustained. This event highlighted the rapid and effective response of UNSW emergency management. If you see a hazard on campus that represents an immediate danger this should be reported as soon as possible either through [UNSW Security](#) or [Estate Management](#).



Staff changes

There have been a number of staff changes across UNSW, and we remind areas to ensure that their Emergency Control Organisation (ECO) team of Wardens and First Aiders is reviewed and adequately resourced. Advice on the number of Wardens needed is on the [Emergency Management website](#). Advice on the number of First Aiders needed is in the [HS905 First Aid Procedure](#). In addition, ensure that your Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) Consultation Committees are well represented, refer to [HS339 Health and Safety Consultation Guideline](#).



SafeSys: Minor enhancements

A number of minor enhancements are being made to [SafeSys](#), the electronic system for Risk Management Forms (RMF) and Safe Work Procedures (SWP). Completed enhancements are:

- Automated access to SafeSys, so that all persons with a zID are guaranteed access.
- Risk Management Forms (RMF) and Safe Work Procedures (SWP) to display the name of the current author.
- Plant and Equipment Form auto refresh if the user is inactive for more than 30 minutes.

Further enhancements that will be coming soon include, backward-linking of RMF, SWP and equipment, blocked editing by multiple people and restricted access to Competency Register.



WHS Regulation 2017

There is a new version of the [Work Health and Safety Regulation](#) in New South Wales, effective 1 September 2017. A statutory review was undertaken of the Work Health and Safety (WHS) Act, Regulation and Codes of Practice. As a result the WHS Regulation 2017 came about, this is essentially the same as the 2011 Regulation with only minor changes that do not affect UNSW operations. The SafeWork NSW website has a [able of the changes made](#).

Changes are also planned for the WHS Act, which are expected to be finalised by the end of 2017. In the meantime you can access the [statutory review report](#) with the recommended changes.



Biological PPE

There have recently been a number of minor incidents reported involving exposure to biological agents. Each of these incidents could have been avoided had the control measures been utilised. In particular, we remind workers to wear their Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) while working, especially for prevention against splashes to the face and eyes, such as face-shields, splash goggles and wrap-around safety-glasses. Other recent incidents included needle-stick injuries, animal bites and respiratory distress while cleaning equipment.



Lessons learnt

Recently at UNSW a shelf within a Dangerous Goods (DG) cabinet collapsed, due to a plastic supporting pin that sheared off. This was discovered when a glass bottle of hazardous chemical was found broken on the floor, it had fallen off the collapsed shelf over-night and fell out onto the floor. The first people into the lab in the morning found the hazard and immediately addressed the chemical spill and broken glass. The plastic shelf supporting pins were replaced with stainless steel pins. Bear in mind that your DG cabinets have a shelf-life (!) and should be regularly inspected. Cabinet doors should also self-close and latch so that items cannot fall out. For information on Dangerous Goods storage refer to [HS404 Dangerous Goods Storage Guideline](#).
