

# TEACHING IN THE SCHOOL 2004

Education at Murdoch provides initial teacher education, graduate studies in education leading to professional and higher degrees, and research studies. Its professional development qualifications and short courses are relevant to educators in a range of sectors including schools, technical colleges, universities, industry, health and social services and to those wishing to develop social research and evaluation skills for professional work as research and development, evaluation or policy officers. Many academic staff offer short courses for professional development and educational support to organisations outside the University both within Australia and internationally.

## Unifocus

Unifocus, the University bridging program taught by the School of Education at the Rockingham and Peel campuses, continued to attract a great deal of interest in the region. There were two offerings in 2004, one at Murdoch University's Rockingham campus and one at the Peel campus. We congratulated our 200th successful UniFocus participant in our December Awards Ceremony. Luke White (pictured) hopes to be offered a place to study in the Bachelor of Education (Primary) course on the Rockingham campus.

UniFocus provides a valuable alternative entry route to university for members of communities whose tertiary participation rate are historically some of the lowest in Australia.

Comments from former students also suggest the value of the UniFocus program in supporting them into and beyond their university experience. As one student explained, "UniFocus gave us practical skills that put us a step ahead of anyone else coming

to University. It also enabled us to forge strong and close ties, providing a support group that encourages and helps one another with student life and its difficulties. It also gave us a sense of identity of which we are justifiably proud. We're UniFocus students!"

The commitment of all staff involved in teaching this worthwhile program is greatly appreciated, especially Jane Pearce who is the coordinator.



Luke White – 200th successful Unifocus participant

## Primary and Secondary Initial Teacher Education

Murdoch provides a four-year Bachelor of Education degree, a one-year Graduate Diploma in Education, and a 2-year graduate entry BEd for students wishing to become primary or secondary school teachers. These courses are available full-time and part-time, and through campus-based study or distance education.

The four-year Bachelor of Education degree is the most common choice for students who wish to become primary teachers and a common choice for those wishing to become secondary teachers. Primary Teacher Education students complete a four-year program of study during which approximately three-quarters of their units are directly related to their development as teachers. The remaining units are electives students can use to broaden their general education or to develop a specialty teaching area or area of interest. Graduates are qualified to teach at junior, middle and upper primary levels. Secondary Teacher Education students typically study for the BEd concurrently with a Bachelor's degree in their main teaching area. They are awarded a double degree at the end of their four-year course of study.

The one-year Graduate Diploma in Education is a qualification for students who already hold a Bachelor degree in some non-education field (typically a BA or BSc). For Primary Teacher Education students a wide range of undergraduate degrees is appropriate, but for Secondary Teacher Education students the undergraduate degree has to be relevant to one of the learning areas in secondary schools. Teaching areas include English, English as a Second Language (ESL), Languages Other Than English (LOTE), Drama, Mathematics, Media, Science, Society and Environment.

Students who have already completed an undergraduate degree can complete the four-year BEd (Primary) or (Secondary) in a minimum of two years. These students receive advanced standing for the first two years of the BEd.

## Graduate Professional Studies

The one-year Graduate Diploma of Education Studies has two purposes: firstly it provides teachers with the opportunity to broaden or deepen their teaching repertoire by combining education and non-education studies in an area of specialisation (e.g. Environmental Education, Special Education, Aboriginal and Islander Studies, Early Childhood Education, Media, Mathematics, Languages Other Than English [LOTE] and Teaching English as a Second Language [TESL]). Secondly, it provides an avenue for students from other disciplines who wish to gain knowledge and skills in education applicable to a wide range of contexts. This program has also been of interest to other professionals and community members who are interested in educational processes and issues.

Murdoch University offers a one-year Graduate Diploma in Adult and Tertiary Education for professionals wanting a qualification in tertiary and adult teaching. Demand for the Tertiary and Adult Education Program continues to increase due to a

developing emphasis on professional educational practice in tertiary institutions and training in government, private and non-government organisations. Pathways for TAFE lecturers to enroll in the Graduate Diploma program have been strengthened by the award of credit for the completion of several professional development programs. For tertiary and adult teaching, enrolment in the course requires that students have or can arrange access to teaching groups; typically students are already in a teaching situation. The School also offers Graduate Certificates in Education Studies in Tertiary and Adult Education, Drama and Education, Early Childhood Education, and Mathematics Education which represent half of the Graduate Diploma Program.

The Postgraduate Certificate and Postgraduate Diploma in Policy Studies (Social Research and Evaluation stream) attract able graduates from education, health, social science, and a variety of other backgrounds.

## Higher Degrees

There are four degrees available at the Masters level - the Master of Education (Coursework), the Master of Education (Research), the Master of Philosophy, and the Masters by Research Training, all of which may provide advanced professional development for educators,

There are two degrees at the Doctoral level - the Doctor of Education (professional doctorate) and Doctor of Philosophy. All these degrees allow for studies in a wide range of specialist areas, some of which are shown below:

Indigenous Education; Adult Teaching and Learning; Inclusivity; Special Needs; Ethics and Values; Mentoring; Collaborative Learning; Environmental Education; Program Evaluation;

Early Childhood Education; Measurement in the Social Sciences; School-based Assessment, Measurement and Evaluation; Cultural Diversity; Vocational Education; Boys Education; Gifted Education; Personal and Social Development; Motivation; Learning and Instruction; IT and e-Learning; issues in Nurse Education; Historical Perspectives in Education; Curriculum Studies in Science, Mathematics, Society and Environment, LOTE, TESL, English, Drama, Health and Physical Education, Media, Arts Education and Curriculum Development.

## The Curriculum Resource Centre 2004

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The Curriculum Resource Centres at the South Street and Rockingham Campuses are both continuing to be extremely well patronized by students and staff in the School of Education. The staff across the two campuses are kept busy adding new resources to the collection and assisting patrons.

A free flow of resources exists between the two Resource Centres catering for student loans and staff workshops. Patrons of the two Centres include students from other universities although borrowing is restricted to Murdoch Education patrons. A close bond with the main library ensures that Resource Centre patrons receive a seamless delivery of service from each area.

The Rockingham CRC collection, which is located in the library building, is growing from its original core collection of Primary Education resources. Material will be introduced to support the Early

Childhood course in second semester this year. This collection will be shared with and augmented by the Challenger TAFE collection of resources in Children's Services which is also located in the library building.

The back cataloguing of older resources in the South Street collection is progressing with most printed and video resources now accessible via the catalogue. Changes in the school curriculum this year have affected collection activities with the purchase of class sets of the Curriculum Framework Progress Maps. Class sets of the Curriculum Guides are also forthcoming.

Murdoch education students who have not used the Curriculum Resource Centre are encouraged to make themselves aware of the variety of teaching resources available to them. Resource Centre staff are available to answer questions and guide students in the use of the Centres.



L-R Barbara Smith & Irene Paterson

## Graduate Diploma Students from Afar

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International Students: Integration, Diversity and Exchange

Wendy Cumming-Potvin, International Student Coordinator

This year, staff at Murdoch University's School of Education welcomed approximately 50 International students in the Primary and Secondary Graduate Diploma of teaching Programs. The majority of these students left behind the chilly winter in Ontario, Canada to begin teacher training at Murdoch University, under Perth's brilliant summer sun. To adequately cater to the needs of International students, the Dean of the School (Professor David Andrich), the International Student Coordinator (Dr Wendy Cumming-Potvin) and the School Experience Coordinator (Dr Lucy Jarzabkowski) liaised closely with Murdoch International staff to adjust aspects of the current academic program.

Throughout the academic year, the Dean and the International Student Coordinator organized a range of activities to promote International students' integration in the program. To provide information about the background of International students as well as sharing of teaching experiences, a professional development

workshop was presented to staff in the School of Education. Afternoon teas also proved popular with International students, as a forum for openly expressing the joys and challenges of living and studying in a host country. Recording student opinions and debriefing key staff members formed important components of this reflective process. Collaborative sessions were also organized with Murdoch International staff to coordinate administrative changes affecting International students in Western Australia, due to the transfer of authority from the Department of Education (DET) to The WA College of Teaching (WACOT).

Numbers of Alumni representing International students are rapidly increasing; many recent graduates from Murdoch University's School of Education are beginning to teach in Ontario, across Canada and in other countries.

## Environmental Education: Training Educators for Sustainability.

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Strong links continue to be forged with industry, community and government, in addition to schools, through the School of Education's Environmental Education unit (EDU250/450). EDU250/450 is a practical, hands-on, project-based unit that allows students the opportunity to network with organisations and individuals in the field of environmental education (Education for Sustainability). Growing awareness of issues such as resource depletion, air pollution, land degradation (including salinity), loss of biodiversity, and the potential effects of climate change has led to increasing demand for broad based educative programs which foster sustainable behaviours. Recent research by Catherine Baudains in 2003 has clearly indicated that environmental or sustainability education initiatives must move away from the common model of providing information only, towards integrated programs which also develop the skills and empowerment needed for individuals to actively adopt more sustainable behaviours.

Each year the unit involves a wide range of external agencies in providing professional development and resourcing students to deliver environmental education programmes throughout the state. Partner organizations include (but are not limited to):

### **Greening Australia (WA)**

**Department of Environment (Airwatch, Waste Wise, TravelSmart, Ribbons of Blue, Keep Australia Beautiful)**

**Department of Conservation and Land Management**

**Marine and Coastal Community Network**

**Water Corporation**

**School of Environmental Science**

**Environmental Technology Centre**

**South Metropolitan Regional Council**

**Conservation Council**

**Alcoa**

The participants complete a series of workshops held on campus over two weekends, evaluate an existing environmental education package, then plan, implement and evaluate a small environmental education programme of their own choice over the semester.

The goal of the student projects is to achieve positive environmental outcomes through changing human behaviour patterns. The principle of applying sound educational pedagogies to any education program/package or project is a primary focus of the unit.

For the students the unit provides:

an opportunity to build professional communication skills;

an opportunity to work with people from any group in society (community, local residents, friends, schools, industry...);

hands on experience in development, implementation and evaluation of small environmental education projects;

potential for work experience through the choice to conduct projects with an existing organisation, thereby increasing employability (a number of students have gained employment as a direct result of participation in this unit).

Training in this area is highly valued by industry, government and community environmental education providers.



## Rockingham Campus

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The Bachelor of Education Primary Teaching began in 2003 with 68 students and currently has a total of 280 students across the first three years of the course.

School of Education staff have worked closely with the local community on a number of initiatives. Jane Pearce continues to coordinate the highly successful UniFocus course which meets an important need in providing alternative entry options for students in the area. Jane has also begun discussions with Challenger TAFE to establish the CareersCombo in Primary Teaching. This course has a similar structure to other CareersCombo courses developed for Nursing, Science and Business at the Peel Campus and is designed to provide an alternative entry for students wishing to enrol in the BEd Primary degree at Rockingham campus. The CareersCombo will be offered for the first time in 2006.

Associate Professor Barry Down continues to be involved in the planning phase of the new Kwinana Senior High School campus and is a member of the Steering Committee and Curriculum Sub Committee. He has also won a large ARC Linkage Grant (2005-2007) in collaboration with the Fremantle-Peel District Office to investigate ways of enhancing school retention in the region.

A major milestone for the School has been the sponsorship of the City of Rockingham Chair of Education for 2005-2007. This innovative position will enable the School of Education to partner the City of Rockingham in a range of new initiatives to improve post-compulsory school retention and participation. The inaugural City of Rockingham Chair of Education will take up their appointment 2005.

The School has also expanded the number of education electives available at the campus. From 2005 students will be able to study electives in early childhood education and Aboriginal studies on the Rockingham campus.

Students have developed a unique sense of identity and support for each other. Mentoring is an important feature of the campus with students initiating the formation of their own association. These students have been excellent ambassadors for the University in the wider community and on campus.

Anne Allen, the Student Administration Officer, continues to offer invaluable support for students and staff alike. Her presence has given students access to a wide range of University services.



## Student Award and Prizes

### Student Award

Award Name	Award	2004
Murdoch University Vice-Chancellor's Commendation for Academic Excellence	This award recognises academic excellence amongst the best students enrolled in the bachelor degree (or in the honours degree if this does not involve an additional year). These students are selected annually by Divisions, with each Division invited to select up to 2% of its students from the previous year. Part-time students are eligible at each 24-pt mark in their degree. Each awardee must have obtained at least 15 points of High Distinctions in the previous year (or, if a part-time student, in the relevant period). However, this is only a minimum requirement; if more than 2% of the Division's students have 15 points of HDs, the Division will select awardees from within this group. Each recipient has the award recorded on her or his academic transcript and is given a certificate to mark the achievement at a presentation ceremony.	Danny SHERMAN



Danny is enrolled in BEd (Secondary) and BA in Politics and International Studies.

Since July 2004 Danny has been working on the PIPS Australia Project run by Murdoch University under the direction of Associate Professor Helen Wildy and coordinated by Carmen Sum-Leggatt.

Danny's role is to support the PIPS Project Coordinator in administering the project in Australia. This includes liaising with schools undertaking the assessment, preparing data for analysis, checking and compiling assessment feedback.

### Postgraduate Student Prizes

Prize Name	Award	Donor	2004
School of Education Prize for Doctoral Studies	Murdoch University, School of Education	Murdoch University, School of Education	Agnes MEERWALD
WAIER Post Graduate Research Award	Most deserving postgraduate student selected by each of the five Western Australian Universities.	Western Australian Institute for Educational Research	Agnes MEERWALD

## Undergraduate Student Prizes

Prize Name	Award	Donor	2004
Outstanding Achievement in a First Year Primary Education Unit (Rockingham Campus)	Best academic performance in the unit (EDU101) Introduction to Teaching	Murdoch University, Rockingham Campus	Renata KROLLIG
Thelma Harley Brown Prize in Education	Best academic performance by a graduate in the Master of Education (Research) Program	Peter Brown	Amanda COLLINS Gregory THOMPSON
Elizabeth Mary Dodd Prize in Education	Best academic performance by a graduate in the Master of Education (Coursework) Program	Peter Brown	Karen WATTS
Early Childhood Teachers Association Prize	For the highest standard of achievement by a graduand in the school experience and academic components of the Early Childhood Education Course	Early Childhood Teachers Association	Sharon HAMMOND
The Early Years in Education Society Prize	For outstanding achievement in Graduate Certificate in Early Childhood Education	Early Years in Education Society	Tamara BROMLEY
School of Education Prize for Excellence in Teaching (Primary)	For completing an initial teacher education program with the best performance in school experience (Primary)	Murdoch University, School of Education	Claire GASKIN
School of Education Prize for Excellence in Teaching (Secondary)	For completing an initial teacher education program with the best performance in school experience (Secondary)	Murdoch University, School of Education	Jennifer BAILEY-SMITH
Western Australian Secondary School Executives Association	For the highest standard of achievement by a graduand in the school experience and academic components of the Secondary Teacher Education Program	Western Australian Secondary Executives Association	Penelope COUTAS
Western Australian Primary Principals' Association Prize	For the highest standard of achievement by a graduand in the school experience and academic components of the Primary Teacher Education Program	Western Australian Primary Principals' Association	Helen TEN-HAAF

## Program Enrolments 2004

	<b>Enrolment</b>
Unifocus Bridging Course	61
<b>Initial Teacher Education</b>	
Primary (Bachelor of Education)	916
Primary (Graduate Diploma)	248
Secondary (Bachelor of Education)	240
Secondary (Graduate Diploma)	172
Tertiary and Adult (Graduate Diploma)	60
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>1 636</b>
<b>Further Professional Studies</b>	
Graduate Diploma in Education Studies*	17
Bachelor of Education Studies*	5
Graduate Certificate Education Studies/Maths*	
Graduate Certificate Education Studies*	10
Graduate Certificate in Drama Teaching*	1
Graduate Certificate in Early Childhood Education	17
Graduat Certificate in Mathematics Teaching	6
Graduate Certificate in Special Needs Ed*	3
Graduate Certificate in Tertiary & Adult*	3
MA Social Research & Evaluation*	2
Master of Education (Coursework)*	36
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Research</b>	
Master of Education (Research) + Honours	71
Doctor of Philosophy	33
Doctor of Education	26
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>130</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1 927</b>

\* Fee paying places