



December 2013

*Make it a green Christmas*

## UTS NEWS



### Green stars in time for Christmas

The first of our new Campus Masterplan buildings has achieved its green star certification. At the Dr Chau Chak Wing building 'topping out' celebration, Vice Chancellor Ross Milbourne received the 5 star certification certificate from the Green Building Council of Australia. The building's sustainability features include high-performance glazing, water-efficient fixtures, energy-efficient services, a 20,000L rainwater tank, sustainably-sourced timber, 160 bike racks, and digital signage to display the building's sustainability performance. While the building has reached its final height construction and fit-out will continue in 2014 with the opening due in August. [Details](#) and [media](#).



### Win for energy saving research

Congratulations to Vahid Vakiloraya, PhD candidate in the faculty of engineering for his recent win in the prestigious 2013 Awards of the Australian Institute of Refrigeration, Air Conditioning and Heating (AIRAH). Vahid has created an air conditioning system that uses 52% less energy and produces 60% less greenhouse gasses than conventional air conditioning.

## OTHER NEWS



### Meat free memes

Meat Free Mondays has a new social media campaign. Young designers have developed 24 memes exploring different elements of going meat free one day per week. [Vote](#) for your favourite.

## OTHER EVENTS

Green Christmas



Embrace your inner green this Christamas with these festive tips:

- Get creative and make your own tree, better still go native
- Attend an 'upcycling' workshop and make your own Christmas presents
- Get crafty with the decorations - start with a trip to Reverse Garbage in Marrickville for unbelievably cheap and funky recycled materials
- Go crazy in the kitchen, food gifts seldom get tossed out
- Consider charitable donation gifts, maybe a piglet in Vanuatu
- Consider the earth and your fellow travelers, go organic and Fairtrade
- Dont forget to **recycle the christmas tree** in January
- And most importantly, vow to be a good ancestor in 2014.



### Try2wheels

A free workshop for anyone new to cycling or just getting started. Various bikes to try, free tune-ups and lots of free advice. Sat 14 Dec. [Details](#)

## GREEN NUGGET... did you know...



### New wind turbine on building 10

Cast your eye skyward this week and you might catch the new wind turbine being assembled on the roof of the Broadway building. The 12 kW Falcon is a vertical axis turbine with blades spinning on a vertical post. Along with traditional PV solar cells, an organic rankine cycle turbine (powered by hot water heated by a solar parabolic trough) and a hydrogen fuel cell, the rooftop renewables will eventually produce 20% of the building's electricity needs. The building should be producing its own power when it opens in mid 2014.

## GREEN HERO



### Swapping veggies and...

Xavier Mayes from the Marketing and Communication Unit is a cropper and swapper. He and his partner Clare grow vegies at their lower Blue Mountains home and swap with other backyard gardeners interested in growing and making their own food. Started in 2011, Crop and Swap members meet monthly to share food and knowledge – from fruit and vegies, to bread, how to grow citrus, or tricks to get the chooks laying. "Last month we

harvested about seventy heads of garlic so we'll be taking some of those along next month," said Xavier. It's part of the 'collaborative consumption' movement that relies on sharing and is growing in popularity as people become more aware of the environmental and nutritional impacts of

industrial food production. “I love watching tomatoes grow and ripen on the vine and it's amazing how much better they taste when you grow them yourself.” Decades ago everyone grew vegies in the back yard, but these days most people have no idea where their food comes from. Crop and Swap is about changing that by rebuilding the knowledge and giving people the confidence to experiment and give it a go. “The goodwill and friendliness of everyone who comes along is truly inspiring, and so is the produce. Last month we took home sourdough bread, homemade muesli, lemons, backyard eggs, parsnip and a giant yellow zucchini! It's a pretty special feeling when you make a meal from food grown by your neighbours.”

The next Crop and Swap is this Saturday 14 December at Faulconbridge Community Hall from 10am and anyone is welcome – as long as you come with something to swap! [More details](#).

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