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## ERA (Excellence in Research for Australia)

One of the main tools for ERA is the classification of academic journals into four tiers of excellence, which will be used to generate some of the metrics used in the ERA assessment. The ARC has provided the following clarification regarding the process to develop the draft rankings: '*... the ARC did not develop the draft list. In late 2007 the four Learned Academies and a number of discipline peak bodies undertook a journal ranking exercise to develop draft journal rankings for their relevant disciplines. The lists have been reviewed by the ARC, in consultation with the Academies and the other list providers, to remove duplication and inconsistencies. The ARC has also updated RFCD codes to the new FoR codes to reflect the recently released ANZSRC.*'

The ARC has now released the draft rankings for public consultation. They are seeking feedback from universities about the accuracy of the rankings assigned to journals, and about the inclusion of additional journals.

The ARC is seeking ONE submission per university, so Research Division will coordinate the responses into a single submission and send it to the ARC. In order to respond to this request **we need to know what academics think about the individual rankings for each journal**. In particular you are asked to examine the journals for your discipline area for their accuracy and completeness, and consult with your discipline colleagues. Assistant Deans (Research) have been asked to facilitate this process so that a single response from each discipline area is provided to Research Division.

How to comment:

1. go to: <http://www.arc.gov.au/default.htm>. In the 'ERA Consultation Paper' section click on the 'quick link to the rankings', which will take you to a zip file. Open the file.

2. Click on any cell for any journal entry. This will bring up a box that seeks information to validate a request for a change to the ranking. This includes:

- (i) approving the existing FoR and Quality Ranking assigned to a journal;
- (ii) adding a new journal to the list;
- (iii) removing a journal from the list;
- (iv) changing the quality ranking assigned to a journal;
- (v) removing an assigned FoR code from a journal listing; and
- (vi) linking additional FoR codes to a journal.

Note that you can filter by two digit FoR to make it easier to find relevant journals.

**DO NOT enter your feedback in the ARC master spreadsheet.**

3. Provide your feedback to your Assistant Dean (Research), *preferably as a single response for each discipline area*. Your Assistant Dean (Research) will advise you of the date by which feedback is required. Consolidated feedback is to be provided by Assistant Deans (Research) to Research Division by 31 July 2008. Note the date change, as ARC has extended the comment period by three weeks.

Remember:

\* It is important that each institution provides feedback on as many journals as possible - this includes advice that you are in agreement with a journal's Field of Research (FoR) and ranking, so please also ensure that you affirm journal rankings in your return as appropriate.

\* The more information provided the stronger the case to change a ranking. The more institutions requesting the change, the stronger the case, so liaise with colleagues in other institutions to also request a change to the ranking.

JULY  
2008  
RESEARCH DIVISION  
NEWSLETTER

## AWARDS FOR RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

Nominations for the 2008 University of Newcastle Awards for Research Excellence are now being invited. These Awards recognise research excellence in outstanding early career and mid-career researchers from the University of Newcastle in the following categories:

**Faculty Awards for Research Excellence** - to be presented to the most outstanding applicant from each Faculty.

**Regional Campus Award for Research Excellence** - for an outstanding researcher from a campus other than the Callaghan, Newcastle hospitals and Newcastle city precincts, if not already selected for an award.

The **Vice-Chancellor's Award for Researcher of the Year** - to be presented to the most outstanding applicant for a Faculty or regional campus award.

Winners of the Faculty awards and the regional campus award will each receive a grant of \$2,000 and a certificate and will be considered automatically for the Vice-Chancellor's award for Researcher of the Year, which consists of a grant of a further \$10,000 and a certificate.

The Awards will be based on the excellence of the nominee's best research output (usually a research publication) in the previous calendar year. For the current round, this means the best research publication published in 2007.

Guidelines and nomination forms can be downloaded from the Research Services web site at <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research/index.html> (you may need to scroll down the page)

**Nominations close on August 29, 2008.** Self-nominations will not be accepted.

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### ANIMAL SERVICES UNIT

The first meeting of the Animal Services Unity Advisory Group was held on 12 June 2008. Strategic and operational planning discussions took place, with the intention to develop a draft strategic plan for 2008 - 2012 for the Animal Services Unit, for consideration at the next meeting to be held in July.

Ongoing problems with the Research Animal Management System database continue to delay the generation of accounts. Draft accounts are available for researchers who require them for budget purposes. Please contact Melissa Taylor on 16220 if you require a draft account.

The David Maddison Building level 1 animal facility is close to completion. Building works are almost complete, new ventilated caging units have been installed, the autoclave has been installed and is awaiting final connection and commissioning, biohazard hoods are due for delivery on 18 July and ancillary equipment has been ordered.

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## OFFICE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Anyone who is interested in enrolling in a Research Higher Degree in 2009 is warmly invited to attend an information session to find out more about what's on offer, availability of research scholarships and how to apply. We are delighted to advise that the guest speaker will be Professor Scott Sloan, Federation Fellow.

Cheese, wine and soft drinks will be served afterwards.

**Where:** Syracuse, Callaghan Campus

**When:** Wednesday 16 July 2008

**Time:** 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

**For catering purposes, RSVP is essential to** [researchscholarships@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:researchscholarships@newcastle.edu.au)

If you are unable to attend the session but would like further information or have any questions, please contact the Office of Graduate Studies on:

Phone: (02) 49216537

Email: [research@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:research@newcastle.edu.au)

Web: <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research/rhd/index.html>

# GRANTS

## 2009 EQUITY RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

The 2009 Round for Equity Research Fellowships is now available to assist women and indigenous academics (of levels A, B and C) in developing their research profile.

The Fellowships are funded centrally and provide for a maximum of \$25,000 to allow for time relief from teaching, administrative and other non-research duties for six months.

An additional Equity Research Grant of up to \$10,000 will also be available to cover research expenses, with the condition that the School provides a minimum 25% of the funding requested in support of the researcher's grant.

**Applications close 5:00 pm Monday 14 July 2008.**

If you are interested in submitting an application, please refer to the [ERF webpage](#) to obtain a copy of the guidelines and application form.

For further information please contact [Jennifer Saunders](#) in the Research Office on ext 16482.

## 2009 CAREER ENHANCEMENT FELLOWSHIPS FOR ACADEMIC WOMEN

The 2009 Round for Career Enhancement Fellowships is now open. This initiative aims to support senior women to enhance their profile and reputation, increase their likelihood of promotion to Level D or E and help to remove barriers to women wishing to move into leadership positions.

The Career Enhancement Fellowships are jointly funded and sponsored by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) and will provide up to \$50,000 to the successful applicants' Faculty to cover all of their teaching and administrative duties for a 12 month period plus \$8,000 to cover costs of travel to conferences or to support networking opportunities. In 2009 up to four fellowships are available to female academics (Level C and D).

**The closing date for Expressions of Interest is 5:00 pm Wednesday 6 August 2008**

If you are interested in submitting an application, please refer to the [CEFAW webpage](#) to obtain a copy of the guidelines and application form.

For further information please contact [Judy Alexander](#) in the Research Office on ext 18859.

## HMRI AND HCRF GRANTS ROUND

HMRI is now accepting applications for the 2008/09 Grants Round.

HMRI provides valuable pilot funding to Hunter researchers. This funding is a catalyst for success in obtaining highly competitive government and industry funding to further their research.

Applications forms and essential information are available from [www.hmri.net.au](http://www.hmri.net.au)

**Applications close 5:00 pm Friday 29 August 2008**

For all enquiries, please contact [Sarah Gilbertson](#) on ext 55623.

## UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP SCHEME

The University of Newcastle seeks applications for two University of Newcastle Research Fellowships to be located in Priority Research Centres: The Centre for Brain and Mental Health Research and the Research Centre for Gender, Health and Ageing.

Applications will be assessed on excellence, both in relation to the proposed research project and track record. The position will be appointed at an Academic Level B, although higher level may be considered.

### [Centre for Brain and Mental Health Research](#)

The Centre for Brain and Mental Health Research draws together researchers from a variety of backgrounds: molecular genetics, basic and cognitive neurosciences, clinical psychology, psychiatry, mental health nursing, neurology and epidemiology. The Centre aims to develop better means for early detection and prevention of morbidity/mortality, as well as more efficacious interventions/treatments for targeted brain disorders.

For further information please contact [Professor Vaughan Carr](#), Director, Centre for Brain and Mental Health Research

### [The Research Centre for Gender, Health and Ageing](#)

The Research Centre for Gender, Health and Ageing is a strong trans-disciplinary Centre concerned with one of the most challenging contemporary issues - the ageing of our population and the health of men and women as they age. Through its research themes, members of the Centre are undertaking cutting edge research and development across a range of fields. The Centre researches individual health care and societal factors that affect men and women's health and well-being as they age. The Centre also examines the ways in which communities and organisations respond to the ageing population. The Centre has considerable experience in analysing population data from routine data sources and from longitudinal population surveys including the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health.

For further information please contact [Professor Julie Byles](#), Director, Research Centre for Gender, Health and Ageing.

Both Fellowships are available for a period of up to five years. Successful applicants will receive a Research Support Grant of \$15,000.

If you are interested in submitting an application, please refer to the [Research Fellowship webpage](#) to obtain a copy of the guidelines and application form.

**Applications for the above two Fellowships close 5:00 pm Friday 8 August 2008.**

Please forward your application to: Lyn McBriarty, Director, Research Services, The University of Newcastle, Callaghan NSW 2308, Australia

# WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS

## EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER WORKSHOPS 2008

ECR Workshops for the remainder of 2008 are listed below. Information is available on the [Research Office website](#) under Workshops

While the workshops are specifically targeted towards Early Career Researchers all Researchers are welcome to attend.

The Workshops are held from 12.00pm to 1.00pm.

The format of the workshops is generally a presentation by the Research Office, by someone from the subject area followed by a discussion.

To register please go to HR Online.

### **Monday 21 July** - Research at University of Newcastle basics

An introduction to service areas which can assist them with their research needs. Presenters included Brent Jenkins from Newcastle Innovation, Arianne Galvin from the Office of Graduate Studies and Jennifer Saunders from the Research Office.

### **Wednesday 10 September** - Locating internal and external funding - Jodie Ryan

### **Thursday 7 November** - How to administer an awarded research grant - Elianne Renaud

## FREE IT WORKSHOP - Using MATLAB and Simulink in Education

Attend this complimentary seminar to find out how you and your colleagues can use MATLAB, Simulink and its add-on products to analyse and visualise data, as well as model and simulate dynamic systems. Sessions will cater to both new and advanced users of MATLAB and Simulink. MathWorks engineers, through various workshop sessions, will demonstrate how you can use the MathWorks tools for data analysis and programming, high performance computing, signal processing and control systems modelling, and production code generation.

**When:** Tuesday 22 July 2008

**Where:** University of New South Wales, Kensington

**Time:** 9:30 am - 2:30 pm

A bus will be available to take staff down for the day, contact [John Brattan](#) on ext 54174.

For more information or to register visit the [MathWorks website](#)

## NEWCASTLE INNOVATION INVENTORS DAY

Inventors Day is an initiative of Newcastle Innovation to provide both researchers and research students with an understanding of the patenting process and IP commercialisation. It is an opportunity to have any questions answered on your research/idea, next steps and patenting in general.

**When:** Friday 25 July 2008

**Where:** Industry Development Centre

**Time:** 9:30am – 11:00am

**Interviews:** 11:00am to 1:00pm

**RSVP by 16 July 2008** to [Irene Platt](#) on ext 18725

For further information and book a time for an interview visit the Newcastle Innovation website.

## FEAST - AFFORDABLE LOW EMISSION ENERGY AND WATER

This one day roundtable will provide an opportunity for industrialists, policy-makers and academic researchers to meet to consider options for intensified French-Australian cooperation in low emission energy and water technologies. In addition to awareness raising and networking, a key output will be the drafting, following the roundtable, of an agenda for French-Australian cooperation over affordable low emission energy and water solutions.

**When:** Tuesday 11 November 2008

**Where:** Canberra

**Time:** 9:30am – 5:00pm

Registration details available from: [www.feast.org/france](http://www.feast.org/france)

Please contact [science@ambafrance-au.org](mailto:science@ambafrance-au.org) for more information.

# RESEARCH INTEGRITY AND DEVELOPMENT UNIT

## ANIMAL ETHICS

Welcome back to Mary Bate. Mary has returned to her substantive position of Animal Welfare Officer after her secondment to work on the RMS project. Thank you to Mary for all her great work on the RMS project. Mary can be contacted on ext 17086. For general enquiries please contact Verne Sheather on ext 16377.

Thank you to Fiona Wallace and Brian Carlton who acted in the role of Animal Welfare Officer in Mary's absence. Brian has returned to his position of Veterinary Officer in the Animal Services Unit based in the David Maddison Building. Fiona returned to her private practice.

## HUMAN ETHICS

**Progress reports.** Approved research has to be monitored to ensure compliance with the research protocol approved by the HREC. This is a requirement of the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007)*. The minimum monitoring mechanism is an annual progress report from the chief investigator or project supervisor.

Electronic requests for progress reports are automatically sent to investigators on the first day of the month the report is due. The chief investigator/project supervisor is required to complete an online report and has until the last working day of the month to submit it.

Please complete and return all progress reports by the due date. Failure to do so will result in an Approval Expired notification and approval may then be withdrawn.

The method of requesting and completing progress reports via electronic means is new and the progress report form and automatic electronic communications are currently undergoing refinement. We would therefore appreciate any feedback and reports of difficulties on this new process to [human-ethics@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:human-ethics@newcastle.edu.au).

## DATA MANAGEMENT

The Higher Education Research Data Collection report to the federal government has been completed for 2007 data. This research publication and income information will contribute to the determination of the University's Block Funding allocations for 2009. The University has recorded an increase in both research income and publications for the year of 2007. The data collected by this process is now being compiled into data sets for statistical and reporting purposes and will be made available via the [research services web page](#) as soon as possible.

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## RESEARCH SUPPORT UNIT

### Analytical & Biomolecular Research Facility Review

The Analytical and Biomolecular Research Facility (ABRF) was originally established in 1995 to promote excellence in local research by co-ordinating the acquisition of major pieces of equipment.

In 2002 the ABRF became a recognised Research Support Unit of the University, under the management of Research Services and is currently funded centrally from operating funds.

The ABRF provides a variety of essential services to local researchers including Mass Spectrometry services, DNA and protein sequencing, protein characterisation through 2D analysis and MALDI-ToF, and Flow cytometry and cell sorting.

The Analytical and Biomolecular Research Facility Advisory Group (ABRFAG) has been requested to undertake a review of the ABRF structure. The review will focus on three broad areas; current equipment and services, current location of equipment and the needs of researchers.

Researchers will be invited to participate via an online survey shortly. Researchers who do not receive an invitation to participate, but would like to take part please contact [Judy Alexander](#) to arrange a login.

Additional information is available from the [Research Support Unit website](#) or emailing Amanda Hall-Griffin at [BRF@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:BRF@newcastle.edu.au)

## INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

The Forum for European–Australian Science and Technology Cooperation (commonly known as “**FEAST**”) is the organisation established to highlight, promote, and facilitate research collaboration between the European and Australian research communities.

FEAST aims to:

- highlight existing multilateral and bilateral S&T cooperation between Europe and Australia; and
- improve this cooperation, particularly multilateral cooperation, through identifying priorities and enhancing the quality, quantity and visibility of future action.

FEAST is in the process of putting together an online support tool that will enable researchers to simply click through a flowchart to get the answers they require – a “decision tree”. It will be made available to everyone to use. FEAST members, however, will get additional information such as statistics and case studies, which will further help them with their strategies.

### [FEAST Membership](#)

As a registered member you will:

- receive targeted information in your area of interest, funding updates, and other services,
- search the Europe-Australia community for partnership in your field,
- receive our regular [newsletters](#),
- choose to participate in or discover the [FEAST Networks](#),
- have a choice of subscriptions to [other newsletters](#).

## STATISTICS CORNER – June 2008

		June	2008
<b>Animal Ethics</b>	Initial applications managed	26	64
	Renewal applications managed	5	26
	Variation applications managed	24	108
	Facilities/procedures/Animals/Records Inspected	1	5
<b>Human Ethics</b>	Total initial applications processed	29	202
	Expedited	27	186
	Full Review	2	16
	Project variation applications	15	95
	Progress report/renewal applications	3	19
	Registration of HNEH approvals	11	34
<b>Grants</b>	External grant applications processed	26	326
	External grant awards processed	36	145
	Value of external grant awards processed	\$4.35M	\$33.72M
<b>Office of Graduate Studies</b>	RHD completions since January 1 2008:		
	Masters		8
	PhD		35
	Higher doctorates		2
	Total		45

### FP7 - PROFILE

‘Energy’

**Budget: €2.3 billion (2007 - 2013)**

Energy systems are confronted with major challenges. The urgency to identify and develop adequate and timely solutions is justified by the alarming trends in global energy demand, the finite nature of conventional oil and natural gas reserves, and the need to dramatically curb greenhouse gas emissions. These actions would effectively mitigate the devastating consequences of climate change, the damaging volatility of oil prices (in particular for the heavily oil-dependent transport sector) and geopolitical instability in supplier regions.

#### *What's the benefit for citizens:*

Citizens will benefit from energy research through more affordable energy costs and through more efficient use of energies provided by different sources. Consequently, this will help reduce the causes of climate change, which will benefit everyone directly.

#### *What's the benefit for researchers:*

Researchers will help transform the current energy system into a more sustainable one, making it less dependent on imported fuels. The end result will be a diverse mix of energy sources, in particular renewable ones, energy carriers and non-polluting sources. Energy efficiency, which includes rationalising use and storage of energy, will be enhanced, thus addressing the pressing challenges of security of supply and climate change. Activities in the energy area include:

- Hydrogen and fuel cells
- Renewable electricity generation
- Renewable fuel production
- Renewables for heating and cooling
- CO2 capture and storage technologies for zero emission power generation
- Clean coal technologies
- Smart energy networks
- Energy efficiency and savings
- Knowledge for energy policy making

#### *What's the benefit for industry and SMEs:*

Europe's industry has developed world leadership in a number of energy generation and energy efficiency technologies. It is the pioneer in modern renewable energy technologies, such as solar energy, bio- and wind energy. The EU is also a global competitor in power generation and distribution technologies and has a strong research capacity in the area of carbon capture and sequestration. In order to maintain this position, Europe's industries must continue their efforts through international collaboration.

**FP7 Calls for Proposals are advertised via What's New [click here](#) to subscribe.**