

MEMORANDUM TO STAFF

Vice-Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Community Engagement

I have accepted the recommendations of the Selection Committee and I am pleased to announce that The Ballarat Learning for Life Project has been awarded the 2008 Vice-Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Community Engagement.

The Award recognises the significance of The Ballarat Learning for Life Project which has matured as a sustainable and strategic suite of community-university initiatives. The Project expresses the mission of the University and The Smith Family in ways which give hope to children, families, people and communities which are marginalised. It is embedded within the University's teaching and learning while the reflection and scholarship of The Smith Family has informed the extension and consolidation of the Project. Further, the proposal by The Smith Family that this model be used as a basis for policy and practice nationally indicates the maturity of the Project.

I congratulate Dr Ann Gervasoni of the Ballarat Campus, Ms Heather Le Roy of The Smith Family, and all associated with this exciting program. Presentation of the Award will occur at the University's Ballarat graduation ceremony to be held on Saturday 2 May 2009.

In reaching its decision, the Committee commended the programs of all the submissions received and highlighted their importance for the respective communities involved.

I am appreciative to all those who submitted nominations for this award and for the commitment of so many to the University's mission-related community engagement programs. The University's Institute for Community Engagement provides an effective mechanism for exploring how particular initiatives can be further developed as community engagement programs.

Finally, I am grateful to the Selection Committee established to consider nominations for this important award, for its careful and thoughtful consideration of the nominations received.



Greg Craven
Vice-Chancellor
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