

Vice-Chancellor's Awards – 2011

Career Achievement Award

Professor Roger Gabb

This award is made in recognition of Professor Gabb's sustained and substantial contributions to the field of Educational Development.

Prior to his appointment as Inaugural Chair of Educational Development at VU in 1996, he was Director Educational Services, Lincoln College, Canterbury, New Zealand and Director of Education (1979-1986) at The Royal Australian College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (1986-1996). His outstanding service to the profession was recognized when he was made a Fellow of the Royal College.

Roger has been the founding Director of a succession of central and faculty Learning and teaching units at VU from 1996 to the present including: the Centre for Professional Development (1996-1998), the Centre for Educational Development and Support (1999-2004) and the Post-compulsory Education Centre (2004-2007). He currently leads the Teaching and Learning Taskforce in the Faculty of Health Engineering and Science.

The essence of his contribution to the VU community is his strong leadership via a wide range of initiatives which, when considered as a whole, amount to the shaping of VUs teaching and learning culture in positive and important ways over the last 15 years. He pioneered VUs use of online management systems including TopClass and WebCT, introduced the first university-wide student feedback system (SET and SEU), initiated the first teaching awards scheme, developed the first university-wide teaching and learning grants program, initiated the Graduate Certificate in Tertiary Teaching, oversaw the development of a comprehensive professional development program focused on learning and teaching, lead the development of key learning and teaching policies, and established the first research unit focused on investigating issues in learning and teaching at VU.

Professor Gabb's contribution to VU is almost impossible to document because of its range and depth, but his willingness to share with colleagues and students his passion for education, along with his encyclopaedic knowledge of learning teaching and characterises his work.

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Career Achievement Award

Mr Wayne Butson

This award is made in recognition of Mr Butson's sustained service to VU in the field of Community Development as a teacher and manager since joining VU 16 years ago.

Prior to joining VU, Wayne was a highly effective Youth Worker in the Western Region of Melbourne, and he brought his passion and skills as a community developer to his role as a teacher in community development programs. He was instrumental in the development of the first Youth Work course at Victoria University, and in his role later as Head of the Department of Community Services he sponsored and resourced the highly acclaimed delivery of Aged Care training, as well as other major initiatives. His deep understanding of the University and its community is evident in these initiatives as well as others he has undertaken or sponsored in the field of Community Development.

Since taking a senior managerial role, he has played a key role in the development of his current faculty and has dealt with critical issues with a minimum of fuss during a period of intense and demanding change. He is held in high regard by colleagues in both Vocational and Higher Education at VU and has demonstrated repeatedly his willingness to work collaboratively for the benefit of the organization. He is well recognized for his integrity and fairness by his peers.

Wayne's exemplary professionalism in steering university priorities, his demonstrable loyalty to the organization, and his personal qualities are at the core of his contribution to VU.

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Career Achievement Award

Mr David Jones

This award is made in recognition of Mr Jones's dedicated and sustained educational leadership of the Graduate Diploma in Secondary Education over the past two decades.

Since commencing at VU as a part time lecturer whilst still teaching at local high schools, he has guided the development of this important program and inspired students and staff as it has grown from a marginal program of 12 students to one now with an extremely healthy enrolment exceeding 300 students on two campuses. As a result of his careful and personalised course coordination, the growth of the program has been accompanied by continuing high levels of student satisfaction and graduate outcomes.

His work has had a major impact on the learning and teaching culture of the School of Education. Major innovations, trialled in his course include: the introduction of partnership-based teacher, now a defining feature of all School programs, the promotion and development of a Science stream in pre service programs including the Bachelor of Education, the development of a course coordinating team structure in all programs, and an effective review process that is now standard in the School as a whole.

David's strong links with colleagues and students, and the many ripple effects of his work are central to this award. Teacher Educators of David's quality impact on the lives of many teachers and in turn the many students, teachers, families and community members with whom those teachers work. David has, in the words of one of his colleagues, "a legendary willingness and ability to listen and think at the same time, a legendary approach to problem solving, a legendary ability to connect with anyone he meets, and legendary collegiate support"