Making a Difference – Engaging University Staff and Students in the Local Community

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Professional & Organisational Development Services

UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG

PODS

Our Vision

Strengthening individual, team and organisational capacity to meet strategic and organisational goals

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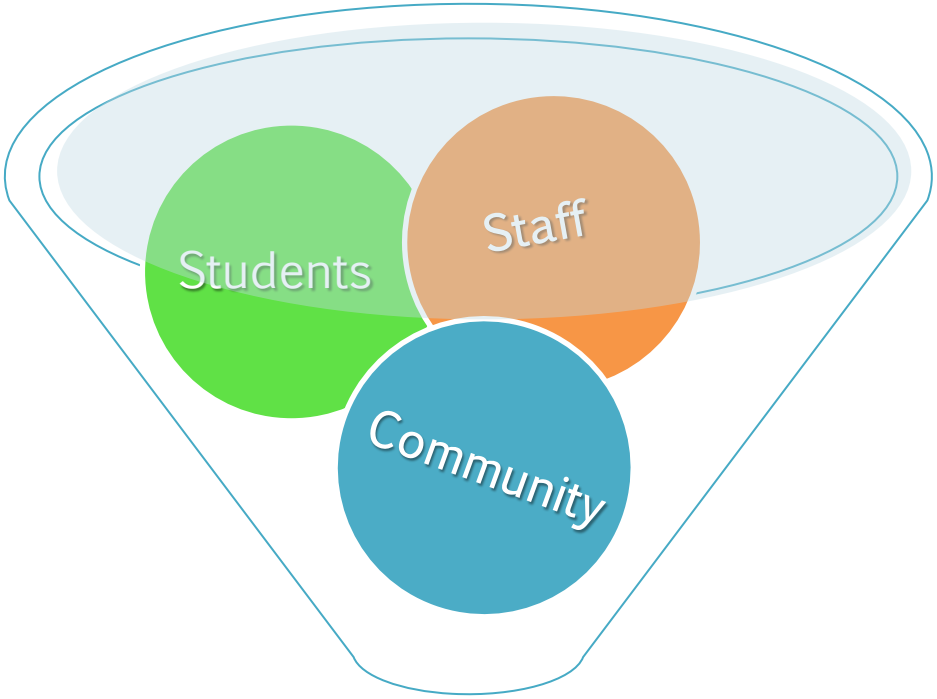

Impact@UOW

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CSE and PODS's

CSE's Role

- Recruit and prepare the students
- Identify suitable community projects
- Agree project parameters

PODS's Role

- Select suitable staff
- Train project leaders in team leadership and project management
- Mentor and support
- Debrief learnings

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The DENNY Foundation
aftercare
together for social and emotional wellbeing
RELAY FOR LIFE
Cancer Council
Relay For Life
Celebrate Remember Fight Back!
Barnardos
No child gets left behind
SCARF
Big Fat Smile
House with No Steps
greenacres
disability services
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2011	2012
4 Community Projects	5 Community Projects
7 Project Leaders	9 Project Leaders
44 Students	60 Students

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SCARF

Big Fat Smile

Barnardos

No child gets left behind

SCARF

RELAY FOR LIFE
Cancer Council

Relay For Life

Celebrate Remember Fight Back!

Susan Branch
Jenny Halldorsson

IMPACT@UOW

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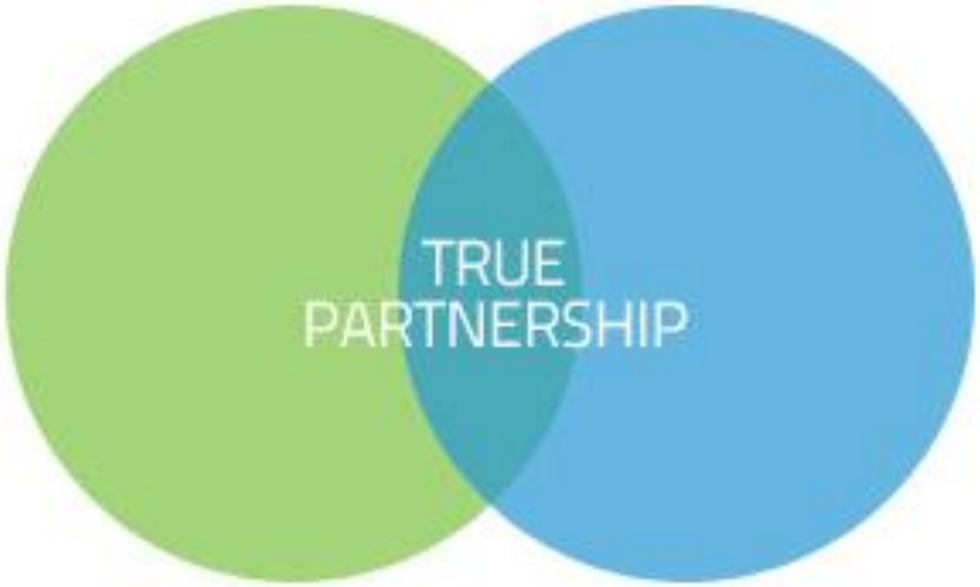
PROFESSIONAL & ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Challenge 1

Choose the ‘right’ community organisations



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Challenge 2

Maintain student focus and commitment throughout the session

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Challenge 3

Balance the project size so project leaders don't feel too stretched

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Challenge 4

Keep project leaders' managers engaged and co-operative

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Challenge 5

Deliver training and support at the times they are required (and not before!)

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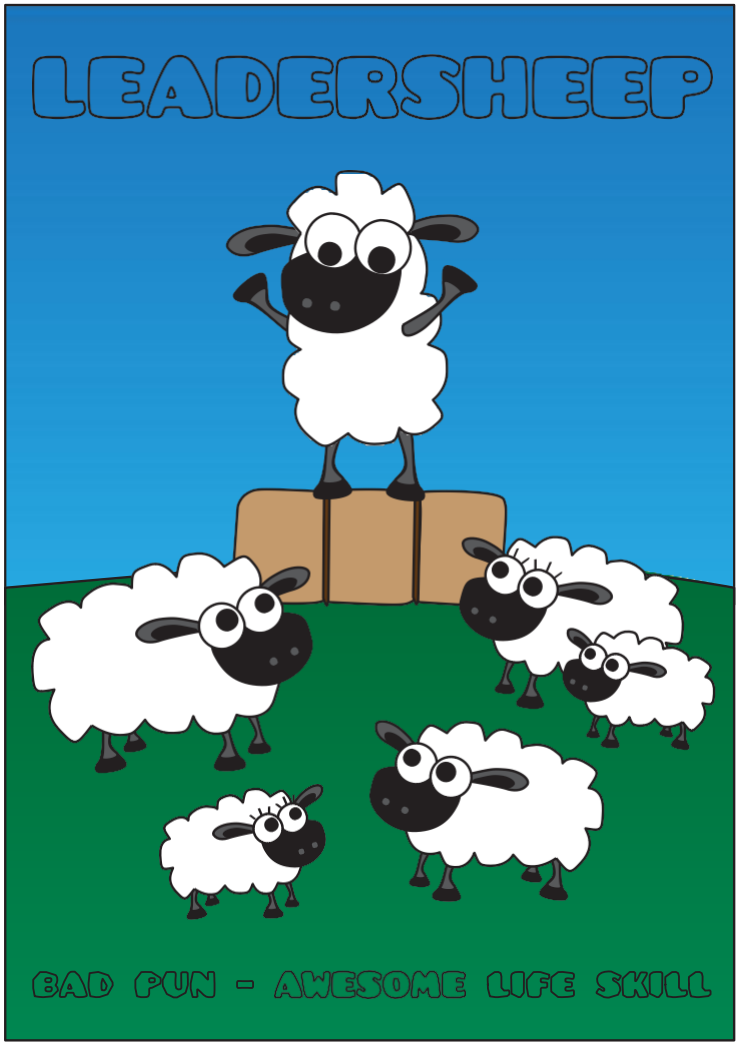

Challenge 6

Effective marketing to students, so the student teams are large enough to deliver all that's required

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- Passionate project leaders with a base level of competence
- Student teams (8-10)
- Relevant and timely training for both students and staff
- Strong collaboration between CSE and PODS
- Strategically selected community organisations
- Real but not impossible projects

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Evaluation

Project Leader Survey	Rating out of 5
How worthwhile was your involvement in the Program?	4.6
To what extent has the program allowed you to develop your skills in influencing others and leading teams?	4
To what extent has the program allowed you to make a contribution to the community?	4.5
To what extent has the program assisted you in developing your career prospects?	3.8
To what extent has the program contributed to your confidence in applying for leadership roles at UOW?	3.9

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Any questions?