

update



November 2008



Special Thank You

The management of SIMS wishes to take this opportunity to thank a number of organisation who over the last few months have kindly donated essential equipment to further advance our Institute.

We wish to thank Corporate Express and Pelican Artline for their generous support in supplying a lectern, presentation stand and laboratory furniture. This equipment will be used within our teaching facilities and lecture theatre for the provision of both curriculum based and community education.

We would also like to thank the Earthwatch / Brother partnership for supply us with a much needed multi-function print centre. We can now throw away the old bubble jet that Paul brought from home!

SIMS continues to develop into a world class research facility, but does rely greatly on the support of the general public. The assistance provided by Corporate Express, Pelican Artline and the Earthwatch/ Brother partnership allows the Institute to concentrate our funding on supporting the projects of its scientists and students.

National Science Week is celebrated at SIMS

The 2008 National Science Week saw SIMS open our doors to over 200 students on the last Friday in August. The students who were from schools located from Chatswood to Mosman and were in years 3 through to 8. While here they rotated through various displays and lectures.

The day was a huge success and could not have been possible without the assistance of the Post Graduate students and Scientists from Macquarie University, University of New South Wales and the University of Technology Sydney, who gave their time to provide displays and information on their research. Some of the areas covered included research on humpback whales, cuttlefish, sharks, seals, water salinity, algae and octopus. As with most of our events involving children, the Manly Oceanworld touch tank was a major draw card and the students had the opportunity to get up close to a number of marine invertebrates and other organisms. The day was enjoyed by all who attended and hopefully quite a few of the students went away full of inspiration. Who knows, maybe we have sown the seeds for our future marine researchers!

Mr Simon France, the National Coordinator of Science Week, made a surprise visit from Canberra to view some of the Science Week activities. Mr France indicated that he was very impressed with the level of engagement the children had with our volunteers and hopes that the activities will be available again next year.



Land's Edge, the outdoor education

provider at Chowder Bay helped to coordinate the initiative and we hope that this will become an annual collaborative event which will attract young students from the greater Sydney region.

As with all of our events, this would not have been the success that it was without the assistance offered by all of our volunteers. The management of SIMS is extremely grateful for their continued support and enthusiasm.



FutureMakers Wanted

When the Institute was launched the opportunity arose for a limited number of people to make a substantial contribution to the start up of SIMS. We refer to these generous few as FutureMakers and in return for their generous donation of \$5000 they are to be recognised as lifelong Patrons of the Institute.

Futuremakers will be honoured in a special function at HMAS Penguin in December of this year and we will have an honour board erected at SIMS from that time.

Should you wish to become a Futuremaker please contact Tori Pollard, who will provide you with all the information you require, but be quick as the opportunity closes at the end of November.



Social Dinner for our Supporters

In late July we hosted our first dinner for our FutureMakers and Patrons, the dinner with the theme of "Christmas in July" was attended by approximately 50 people. As always we invited some of our Scientists and Post Graduate students along to meet with our supporters from the community and to inform everybody of some of the research that is currently taking place. Yet again our volunteers were invaluable with assisting to set up the event and help out with all of the delicious food, which including a number of roasted meats and vegetables and of course finished off with plum pudding and custard. Although the weather was not the best on the night with cooler temperatures and rain squalls, all of the guests were kept entertained with live music provided by Jess Pollard, and kept warm with a roaring open fire or at least ducted heating and the video of a roaring fire!

Frank Talbot, Chair of the SIMS Board of Directors, introduced the keynote speaker for the evening, Ms Kim McKay AM, Co-founder, of Clean Up Australia and then Clean Up the World who has had an enormous impact on the way the way people now treat the physical environment. Kim spoke of the power of the individual to make a real change in the way the environment is treated and the impact that everyone's contribution can make to the state of the world as a whole. Kim donated a series of her True Green Books to the Institute.

From feedback given by those that attended, we believe that the evening was a huge success and a great way of bringing together our Patrons and Futuremakers, all of whom have contributed in a significant financial way to the future of the Institute.

If you are interested in finding out more information on our FutureMaker and Patron community support initiative, please give Tori Pollard a call, contact details are below.

Community Presentation Series Continues

Following our first public lecture evening held in May this year, we received numerous requests for these to become a regular activity at SIMS. To follow up on the success of our May lecture we invited Dr Charlie Huveneers to give a lecture in September. Charlie is our resident shark expert at SIMS and his presentation "Deadly Encounters" outlined some of the research that is carried out on sharks around Sydney and the rest of Australia.

Charlie did his best to answer questions from the audience on sharks around Sydney and as you could imagine many people were very interested in what threat these great hunters represent to all of us that love the water. Many of those that attended the lecture left with a greater respect for these amazing and beautiful creatures and with the knowledge that you are more likely to be injured by a toilet than being attacked by a shark!



We do plan to continue our Community Presentation series well into 2009 and beyond as they are already proving to be immensely popular with Charlie's presentation being booked out a week in advance.

Contact Us

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We choose to use Adrite Digital Colour Printing for our printing and signage.

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Mini Open Day

If you are interested in finding out what is happening at SIMS, we do open our doors for a few hours on the first Friday of every month. This gives our supporters an opportunity to visit the institute and talk to one of our researchers about the projects that are taking place and have a look at the work going on within our research aquarium.

As the October open day fell within the school holidays, we decided we should focus a little on the kids. So with the aid of our volunteers and Manly Oceanworld we provided a few different activities including microscope displays and a touch tank. At the end of the activities we finished off the morning with a sausage sizzle and chocolate sea urchins (a special creation of Tori's). For details on the next open day check out the Upcoming Events section below.

Upcoming Events

Wed 12th November, 6:30pm

Community Presentation

Underwater photo presentation of marine life around Sydney with renowned photographer Jayne Jenkins with commentary from Macquarie Uni marine biologist Mat Kertez. Cost is \$10 per head includes drinks & supper

Sat 15th November, 8 & 10 am

Guided Snorkel

Discover Chowder Bay and view in real life the creatures introduced at the photographic presentation. Cost starts at \$35 per person dependant on gear requirements.

Friday 5th December, 10:00am

Mini Open Day

Come along and find out what is happening at SIMS. Spend a couple of hours with one of our scientists as they tell you about some of the projects that are currently underway at the Institute, followed by a tour of the research aquarium. This is a free activity and a light morning tea is provided.

Bookings are essential for all events and can be made by contacting Tori Pollard