

### Dear Students,

Congratulations on finishing semester 01 for 2007. This is the final eNewsletter for the 2007 EWB Challenge. We hope that your experience with the challenge has inspired you to think about sustainable development and how you can apply those principals to your career and everyday life. As most of your projects have wrapped up this issue will focus on giving you ideas on how to stay involved with EWB and development work after the challenge. We wish you luck in your future studies.

Best wishes,

**Jenny**

EWB Challenge Organising Committee

### A Brief Overview of EWB's Activities

EWB focuses on three main areas; Programs, Education and Awareness.

**Programs** includes all of the development projects that are being undertaken by the organisation. The EWB website, [www.ewb.org.au](http://www.ewb.org.au), contains information on the organisation, the projects that are currently running and the volunteer placements that are being offered. As a student it is not always possible to undertake a long term volunteer position due to study commitments. However there are numerous local initiative programs that do not require as much commitment.

The **Education** program is about educating EWB chapter members and the broader community and includes programs such as the EWB Challenge, High School Outreach programs and professional development workshops. The education programs offer a way for you to learn more about development and a chance to pass on the knowledge that you gain to others.

The current **Awareness** campaigns are Climate Control, Equal Australia, Fair Trade, and Make Poverty History. The awareness program involves making the broader community aware of the issues surrounding one of the campaigns.

### EWB Member Profile: Upeksha Caldera, CFR Project leader

Upeksha Caldera joined the QUT chapter of Engineers Without Borders Australia in the first year of her Bachelor of Telecommunications Engineering degree. When she first heard about EWB she thought that the projects sounded exciting and seemed to make a real difference to peoples lives. She decided to join EWB to do some volunteer work, experience something new and make some new friends.

Upeksha immediately took on the role of Connectivity for Refugees (CFR) project leader as she said it looked like a fun and rewarding project. She has held this position for over a year now. The CFR project aims to set refugees up with computers and the Internet, and teach them how to use it so they can improve their education, gain employment and keep in touch with family. During this time Upeksha has worked with the UQ chapter to obtain donated computers, repair these and donate them to refugees homes.

Now that some refugees have been set up with computers, Upeksha and the CFR team are looking to recruit more volunteers to tutor refugees in basic computer and internet skills. Upeksha currently tutors one lady for 2 hours each week after classes, and is warmly welcomed each time. "To help a person with no knowledge of computers whatsoever, and only basic English language skills, own a personal computer and become confident enough to use it for their needs is a tremendously satisfying feeling. At the end of the day you do feel like you have made a difference in a person's life." Says Upeksha.

Upeksha is just one of many EWB members that joined as a first year engineer. She is proof that even if you lack some technical experience you can still get involved and make a real difference.



Upeksha Caldera member of the QUT EWB chapter



Program Partner



Supporters



## How to become a member of EWB and how to get involved

By working on the EWB Challenge you will have become conscious of some of the problems that are facing developing communities around the world. If you are concerned about these problems are want to know what you can do to help, becoming a member of EWB is a good place to start. Below is a list of ways that you can get involved with EWB.

### 1) Attend a chapter meeting

There are currently chapters all across Australia. Have a look at the list below to find out if there is one at your university. Chapter meeting are held regularly and are a way to meet like minded people and find out what is going on in your local area in terms of projects and awareness campaigns and how you can help. If there isn't a chapter at your university you could always consider starting one yourself.

### 2) Become an EWB member

Student membership for EWB is \$10 (or \$5 after the 31 August). To join simply go to the EWB Website [www.ewb.org.au](http://www.ewb.org.au) and click on the "Becoming a Member" link.

### 5) Learn about development

Learning about development is an important way to boost your own understanding and comprehension of the issues involved with development. There are numerous ways that you can learn including attending seminars, reading literature, attending EWB and other similar organisations events and by simply talking to people who are involved with development.

### 3) Volunteer

EWB relies on volunteers to continue to run its activities. EWB are always looking for enthusiastic people to volunteer for projects and to help with the organisation of events, fundraising and awareness campaigns. Contact your local chapter or have a look at the website to see how you can volunteer.

### 4) Suggest a project

If you have an idea for a project that is not currently being run by EWB you can always suggest it to us and use EWB as a launching point for your idea providing that it aligns with our values.

### 6) Suggest an EWB project or thesis topic for your studies

As students you will most likely undertake a research project as part of your degree. If you have any ideas for a project that would involve investigating aspects of development, either with a social or technology focus, it may be possible to work in conjunction with EWB on the project. Please feel free to discuss any ideas that you may have with us. (Contact details for chapters and national staff members can be found on the EWB website)

## EWB Australia Chapters

<b>ACT:</b>	ACT	<b>South Australia:</b>	South Australia
<b>New South Wales:</b>	Newcastle NSW University of Sydney University of Wollongong UNSW UTS	<b>Victoria:</b>	Melbourne University Monash University RMIT Swinburne University Victoria
<b>Queensland:</b>	Central Queensland Griffith University Northern Queensland Queensland QUT University of Queensland	<b>Western Australia:</b>	Western Australia
		<b>Northern Territory:</b>	Alice Springs Darwin
		<b>Tasmania:</b>	Tasmania

The contact details for each of these chapters can be found on at [www.ewb.org.au/chapter/](http://www.ewb.org.au/chapter/) along with links to chapter homepages.