

# broaden your life

By Scott Finneran



Above: the SIFE team in front of the Melbourne Skyline

In approximately one month the SIFE UNE team will once again present their efforts at the 2005 SIFE National Competition. For many of the team however it will be their last. SIFE UNE began two and a half years ago by a core group of passionate individuals who have been actively involved in this international organisation of students in free enterprise since the beginning. Once second semester finishes this year SIFE UNE will be losing half of its members! Invaluable expertise and experience will both be lost in this transition on the eve of the New Year and so the search has begun for students who are equally passionate about making a difference in our community.

The Graduate Aware Project was the original project developed by SIFE UNE back in 2003. It aims to better equip UNE students for the workforce by increasing their awareness of employment opportunities, especially in the New England region, by introducing them to local employers at BBQs and Career Expos. Another aim is to educate students about the

importance of relevant industry experience, and so we are looking for work experience opportunities to offer students in cooperation with the Work Ready program. At the end of last year our Project Leader, Burton Yuen, returned to Sydney and the position was filled by Commerce/Economics student, Andrew Begg. Students who participate in the Graduate Aware Project at present are drawn from commerce, economics, accounting, law and arts. Currently the Graduate Aware Project has been operating in the Faculty of Economics, Business and Law, but we will soon be looking to expand to other faculties and will be in need of students from Arts and the Sciences, in particular, who would like to be a part of the project.

Our other currently operational project is Armidale Markets Online. A website has been set up for stallholders to display their products and increase their market, which effectively results in improving their businesses. The team organises and run seminars aimed at teaching the stallholders how to make the

most of the opportunities provided by the Internet and how to ensure they can cope with their expanding business. The project has increased in popularity and community interest by more than 100% in the last 12 months. The students involved in this project consist mainly of those studying commerce (marketing in particular) and information technology, but students of any discipline can be involved. The next stage of the project involves stallholders selling their products online, so there will be great opportunities for e-commerce students to use their knowledge to assist local businesses.

Seed of Growth is SIFE UNE's newest venture that will aim to help country businesses involved in the agribusiness sector cooperate with each other to make business more economical for all. This program will provide worthwhile work experience opportunities for students in agriculture based degrees. The project will also require information technology students who are interested in setting up and maintaining a web site to benefit the rural businesses by providing

information and a means of communication.

SIFE UNE itself has wide opportunities for students to use your skills and knowledge. We need students who are interested in keeping accounts, creating an annual report, creating Powerpoint presentations, advertising, recruitment, website development, e-commerce, law... basically everything! Apart from giving you invaluable experience that your future employer will be very impressed with, benefits to being a part of SIFE UNE include attending the National Competition each year (free of charge!), earning LOTS of points for the New England Award (up to 300 points in some cases!), having a tonne of fun while doing something worthwhile for the community, and most importantly... making some pretty amazing friends.

If you want to help us change the world, get in touch on the SIFE website ([www.une.edu.au/sife](http://www.une.edu.au/sife)) or talk to our Recruitment Officer, Scott Finneran, for more details on 6773 5117.



Above: the SIFE team in an airbus on the way to Melbourne.