

Sife, be in it...

Internationally Recognised: SIFE @ UNE
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Students In Free Enterprise

SIFE is an international organisation of universities, the central element of SIFE is that students should use the knowledge they are gaining at university to teach others something that will benefit them.

Tertiary students are given an opportunity to make a difference in their community whilst developing leadership, teamwork and communication skills by learning, practicing and teaching what they have learnt at university. This will enable others to participate more fully in the nation's economy and its social life.

Students develop projects to be introduced into their communities. Meeting a set criteria, the students have an opportunity to show case their projects on a national stage, in front of 12 judges.

SIFE Australia has many major sponsors and the CEO's and executives of these organisations devote their time and efforts in judging projects developed by the students.

This year Curtin University from Western Australia took on other national winning SIFE teams. Making history, they completed against the worlds best, and have been the first university to snatch the World Cup from the American teams.

SIFE UNE

SIFE UNE has currently developed two projects and a third underway. From a 3 person team there are currently 11 very active members. Having attended two national competitions, the team has come back with the following awards:

2003 – Best Rookie Team 2003: Ernst & Young League; 2003 – Most Supportive Vice-Chancellor Award; 2004 – 2nd Runners Up: HJ Heinz Co League; 2004 – Most Supportive Vice-Chancellor; and 2004 – Most Outstanding Academic Mentor.

SIFE members are also awarded as a SIFE scholar upon completion of 50 hours of work for SIFE projects. The SIFE program has points rewarded in the New England Award, which is one of only two student groups that is acknowledged in the New England award.

The SIFE UNE Business Advisory Board consists of well known and established members of the UNE and New England community. These are selected people who the SIFE team are able to ask for advice on matter concerning their projects.

Festival of Sharing

Festival of Sharing is the UNE's fundraiser for Salvation Army and

Armidale Refuge Christmas Appeal. The faculty of Economics Business and Law are putting on a lecturer slave auction, EBL Idol (Talent Quest) and SIFE UNE will be hosting a BBQ to assist in raising money for this appeal. The faculty lecturers will be sold off by Andrew Starr (Armitage & Buckley). In the spirit of Halloween, students are encouraged to dress up for the occasion; prizes will be awarded for best fancy dress, best silly dress and best cultural dress. It will be held in LT4 29th Oct (Friday) between 5.30 and 8.00pm. A family and friends occasion: Everyone is welcome!



Project One: Graduate Aware

This project aims to achieve 'regional connectivity' by providing opportunities for regional firms to meet potential employees through a formal presentations followed by a social BBQ. Graduates are also prepared through the organising and promotion of employees' seminars, workshops and a work-experience program. This program aims to keep quality UNE students within the New England region, by doing so allows the local regions economy to further flourish.

Local and regional accounting firms have been invited to give a presentation to the students, discussing the graduate positions, and cadetships that were on offer to them, and the recruitment procedures which students will be going through. Following the presentation, firms host a social BBQ where students are able to approach potential employers where the power barriers were removed and students are able to have contact with employers on a social level.

The next BBQ is scheduled for October 26th, where Forsyths Chartered Accountants will be giving a presentation and social BBQ. The Graduate Aware team has been working with the

Counselling and Careers office to promote workshops which empower students with the knowledge of resume writing, portfolio building, interview techniques, etc to make an impression with employers.

Work-experience has been arranged with the Finance, Marketing and Public Affairs, and the Human Resources department at UNE. Students have the opportunity to spend time within these departments to further their knowledge of what is expected in the real world. These positions are still currently open and anyone interested should send an e-mail of interest to the SIFE office.

Project Two: Armidale Markets Online

Armidale Markets Online is our most recent project and has been in development for almost a year. The aim is to create a website that promotes and potentially sells products offered by stall holders from the Armidale Markets.

In 2003, market research was undertaken by personally approaching each stall in Armidale Mall. This was also an opportunity to promote SIFE UNE to the regional community. The project was well received, with 33 of the 70 stall-holders expressing an interest in the project.

Members from SIFE UNE are involved in educating stall-holders by conducting seminars in three major areas: 1. Marketing strategies, 2. Information Technology, & 3. Accounting and finance. These seminars encourage the stall holders to continue their learning and be enthusiastic to continue with this already successful project. Follow-up seminars were held during September which aided the stall-holders in developing and applying their business knowledge; further seminars will be arranged in the near future to further educate the stall holders, seminars are held on a regular basis during the monthly Sunday markets.

After developing the website and unleashing it to the wider community, stage II offers online selling and stage III sees to include regional producers such as the rapidly expanding New England wine industry.

More SIFE UNE:

SIFE is open to all students across all degrees, currently it is held in EBL. Students from across all UNE are invited to join this initiative and bring forth their ideas and community projects. For more information on SIFE, the projects or to join the SIFE UNE team, go to: www.une.edu.au/sife or e-mail: sife@une.edu.au SIFE UNE office is located in room 203, (near the tutorial room 1-4) Call SIFE UNE on 6773 5117 for information of joining or what SIFE UNE can do for you.