

PPC cuts cost for Wollongong University membership cards

With laws banning compulsory student union fees from July 1 this year, the Wollongong's UniCentre is encouraging staff and students to take up voluntary membership and enjoy a raft of discounts and benefits provided by UniCentre.

To help cost effectively manage this task a "member end benefit" rebate card system has been introduced and two PPC's Zebra 330i plastic card printers were purchased to handle the enormous task of providing staff and students and their families with a membership card.

Located just an hour's drive south of Australia's largest city, Sydney, the University of Wollongong is a University of international standing with an enviable record of achievement in teaching and research.

Twice named Australia's University of the Year in 1999-2000 for its outstanding research and development partnerships and in 2000-2001 for preparing its students for the e-world - Wollongong has also been ranked the nation's top university for educational experience and graduate outcomes for the last five years.

Wollongong UniCentre is the community centre of the University servicing some 22,000 students and staff offering services in food, entertainment, UniBar, child care, conferences and functions, student development and retail/bookshop/post office, banking, travel and health.

According to IT Project Officer Joel Roland, the UniCentre's role is to complement academic life with activities and facilities that develop the personal and social side of University life.

"The UniCentre's activities and facilities are instrumental in bringing the diverse University population together, to ensure that the years spent at University result in more than just a degree. Long term friendships, useful skills and shared experiences are also gained," said



Roland.

"It also provides social amenities to assist members of the University community in their daily life on campus and to establish friendships through informal association outside the classroom".

Roland stated that the UniCentre is a non-profit organisation receiving its funding from member and life-member subscription and income generated from its trading operations.

"The UniCentre uses these funds to build new facilities, subsidise services for the benefit and welfare of its members, and provide recreation, artistic, cultural and developmental events for the University and the wider community," said Roland.

"We put a great deal of thought into the introduction of a membership card system and eventually opted for two PPC's Zebra P330i plastic card printers".

Roland comments that because of the large volume of cards to be processed it was more economical to have the generic information on the membership cards pre-printed.

"We use the Zebra P330i plastic card printer to finish off the personalization printing including photo ID, name, student ID number and encode the membership data on the magnetic strip on the back of

the card," he said.

"A great feature of the Zebra P330i is that it can print using half panel ymcko ribbon.

"Effectively this means that we save an enormous amount of time, printer ribbons and money by printing the photo and personalized information on the left hand side of the pre-printed card.

"Presently we have the two printers hard wired to two dedicated computers at two separate points in the university.

"We are currently working with PPC to have the printers networked so as to increase flexibility and efficiency.

"Without these membership cards it would be almost impossible to manage the membership program so the fact that PPC is able to provide us with and support the Zebra P330i printers is a tremendous help in running an efficient service for the students and staff", said Roland.

University Student and Staff Photo ID membership cards using half panel YMCKO ribbon

