

MEDIA RELEASE

08 August 2018

Showcasing ground-breaking research made in the 'Gong

National Science Week at the [ARC Centre of Excellence for Electromaterials Science](#) (ACES) is set to excite, when we throw open the doors to our headquarters at the University of Wollongong's Intelligent Polymer Research Institute (IPRI).

City of Wollongong Lord Mayor Councillor Gordon Bradbery AM will launch the ACES National Science Week on Monday 13 August when he is presented with the Keys to the Labs – printed in 3D, as part of a tour of the IPRI facility to learn about the ground-breaking research being conducted in the region at the Innovation Campus.

The Illawarra community is also invited to visit our world-class facilities at the IPRI Open Day on Thursday 16 August. Visitors can speak with local researchers about their cutting-edge technologies including: human hair-size graphene fibre electrodes to provide recordings from brain cells; materials that can electrically stimulate brain cells to potentially reverse schizophrenia; and the amazing properties of bioinks to assist in wound healing, the regrowing of ears, and treating diabetics.

The Centre's 3D BioPrinting techniques will also be on display, which have created opportunities to repair damaged cartilage to prevent osteoarthritis and corneal damage, and develop prosthetic ears to treat the congenital deformity microtia.

ACES Director Prof Gordon Wallace said the IPRI Open Day is an important way for the local community to understand the pioneering research happening right on their doorstep.

"The IPRI Open Day is the perfect opportunity to showcase the hard work taking place right here in the 'Gong that will have an impact locally, nationally and internationally," Gordon said.

"Every day our scientists are making strides in technologies that are shaping the next generation of smart materials for health and energy solutions to improve people's lives.

"Most exciting is the fact this research can directly translate into commercial enterprises, creating job opportunities for our next generation of scientists, engineers and entrepreneurs – if you're considering a job in this field, come and check out our labs and see what the future could hold!"

The IPRI Open Day will be held on Thursday 16 August, with 30 minute tours operating between 9am and 4pm. The 2018 Bill Wheeler Community Symposium will also be held on Thursday 16 August at the AIIM Facility at 5pm, which is free and open to the public to attend.

For more information or to register, visit the EventBrite pages for the [IPRI Open Day](#) and/or [Bill Wheeler Symposium](#).

Media opportunity:

Lord Mayor Gordon Bradbery will launch National Science Week activities at ACES on Monday 13 August at 11am and receive the 'Keys to the Labs'.

The IPRI Open Day will run between 9am and 4pm on Thursday 16 August.

The Bill Wheeler Symposium will be held at 5pm on Thursday 16 August.

Please contact ACES Communication and Media Coordinator Lauren Hood at lhood@uow.edu.au or on 4221 5306 to arrange an interview with Prof Gordon Wallace or to attend the Open Day.