

2017 UTS Green Hero nominees

- **Dr. Dena Fam** – winner 1st place. Dena is an absolute force of nature! She passionately involves students and staff in living lab projects around campus such as organics waste, urine diversion, reuse, and others. She links her students into real-world settings with industry partners so students get a genuine experience of designing for sustainability.
- **Rebecca Pagnucco** – winner 2nd place tie position. Rebecca is a Masters student in science exploring a new type of oil boom made from recycled human hair waste. She is also a Peer Mentor for UTS undergraduate students and volunteers for a number of worthy conservation organisations.
- **Gillian Leahy** – winner 2nd place tie position. Gillian was the founding plot holder at Whites Creek Community Garden which now has over 45 members employing sustainable gardening methods and community education to encourage community vegetable growing.
- **Jing Zhao** – winner 3rd place. Jing facilitated the move by the Graduate Research School (GRS) from paper files to full digital, massively reducing our paper use in the process. Before 2016 we kept paper files on all graduate research students, now all our files are digital.
- **Emily Quinn Smyth** is a high achieving science student passionate about research who is also deaf. Through her own experience Emily identified a lack of scientific vocabulary in Auslan, and wrote a report '*Falling on Deaf Ears: Effective Communication of Science and the Current Gaps in Auslan in the Scientific World*' which addresses this barrier for deaf students passionate about science.
- **Naomi Paull** is a student studying green wall foliage systems for indoor and outdoor environments. Her current work has her travelling around Sydney to places with spikes in air pollution, working out how to use green walls for pollutant removal.
- **Christian Goopy** is this year's Environmental Officer at the UTS Student's Association and works tirelessly on environmental causes including fossil fuel divestment. He was a founder of 'Students Support Aboriginal Communities', helped establish a Friends of the Earth group in Sydney, and is campaigning on electricity efficiency standards for public housing.
- **Nick Berriman** led a student team at the Hatchery to develop a prototype for an online game to encourage better recycling. The game is designed to engage students and staff in a fun and educative way, and motivate them to improve recycling.
- **Keith Fung, Kevin Quach and Tony Ly** are three staff who took Walk to Walk Day to a new level - walking from Fairfield to UTS! They started at 3.30 am and walked for 7 hours 8 minutes, 34.3km, 39,945 steps each!

- **Tran Nguyen and Gala Ishenko** are staff who maintain the plants on level 12 of the Tower building with great passion and good cheer. They are an inspiration to their colleagues and work mates.
- **David Lloyd-Jones** works in HR and collected the coffee pods from the Nespresso machine and carried them himself to his local florist for recycling. His individual personal contribution helped the entire office recycle our coffee pods.
- **Peter Spencer** also works in HR. He did some research and found out when Nespresso started offering a free recycling service for businesses. He liaised with Seb Crawford, and working with the team at Central Services they introduced the recycling boxes for UTS units to have our own recycling of the pods.
- **Bay Reeson** is a quiet chipper. She always brings her own cup and subtly reminds us that there are other options to disposable cups. She has inspired me to use my own reusable cup more often. Just being who she is makes people around her want to try and Bay makes it look easy.
- **Rachel Shephard** is spreading the word on littering. She leads the way on social media showing how she collects rubbish, and encourages others to do the same. See her on Instagram and youtube [Earthytones](#).