



WELCOME to WOLLONGONG COMMUNITY ACTION PROJECT

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Funded by IMB Community Foundation

Presented by Virginie Schmelitschek

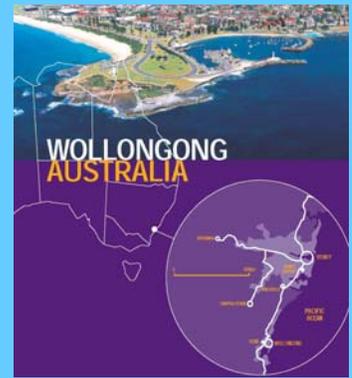
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Where is Wollongong?

80 km south of
Sydney in the
Illawarra region.

It is Australia's
10th largest city.



University of Wollongong
(UOW) has a total of 22,120
students with approx.

4000 international students

from 70 different countries
and regions



INTRODUCTION

- Community Action Project
- The Welcome to Wollongong (W2W) Community Working Group
- Purpose of Paper



BACKGROUND

- The international experience: Rhetoric and Reality
 - Discrimination
 - Racism
 - Physical Danger
 - Psychological Risk



STUDENT'S QUOTE

"I didn't think that I was going to face lots of prejudice they never accept you,non Australian, if you want to be a part of the community more tough. hard to get acceptance not for any other reason except thatI am not Australian."



STUDENT'S QUOTE

"I expected Wollongong to be safe but actually I was robbed two times by teenagers they used a knife and asked me for money I report to the security office but I don't think it worked."



THE W2W PROJECT

- International Students and Host Communities
- Aim of W2W project
- Committee and cohesive community working group
- Strategies:
 - Civic reception
 - Mini festival
 - Community website
- Rationale for strategies



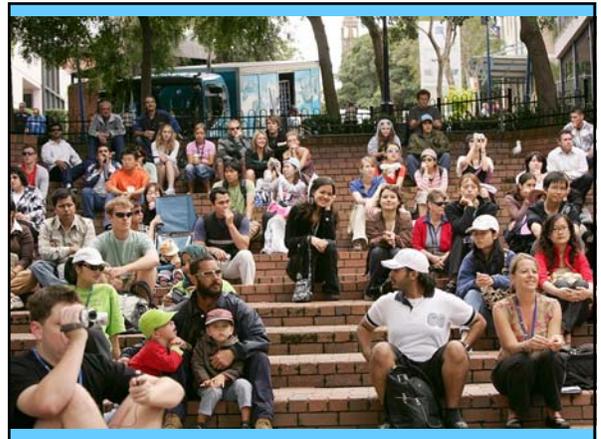
DESCRIPTION OF EVENTS

- Civic reception



- Mini Festival





WELCOME 2 WOLLONGONG
website:

- w2w.uow.edu.au




METHODS FOR EVALUATION

- **Focus groups and interviews**
 - with 30 international students prior to and after the W2W festival
 - with domestic students and community representatives
- **Surveys on the day**
 - One was for community residents and the other for international students



METHODS FOR EVALUATION CONTINUED

- **A video of the festival**
- **An evaluation meeting**
- **A Planning day**
- **An evaluation report**



EVALUATION

- **Strengths**
 - Development of community working group
 - Survey: 60 out of 69 international students

"The festival is for welcoming international students, make me feel respected"

"I have come here for one year, last year we don't have this activity, I think it is good to make the newcomer get to know the area here, make them feel comfortable, yeah it is good, also to know that the council here is very concerned about our international students".

"Excellent, the first but we wish not to be the last".



LIMITATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS FOR NEXT YEAR

- More information about the significance of the civic reception and of the significance of the official party
- Connections need strengthening
- More involvement local business/shops with the festival.
- An education project about issues associated with global student mobility and international students
- more rigorous networking with Business Chamber, to obtain sponsorship



CONCLUSIONS

- International students core business of university
- Wellness paradigm
- Contribution of international students
- Agency of students

