The University of Western Sydney has collaborated with the Longneck Lagoon and Brewongle Environmental Education Centres to develop engaging academic enrichment programs for school students. By tapping into university expertise and facilities and collaborating in program design and delivery, the Centres enhance their suite of offerings and knowledge. UWS engages with schools while focusing on the environment, improving science teaching and attracting bright science-minded students to undertake further studies to protect the environment.

Programs include:

**Longneck Lagoon partnership – Bandicoots, Bugs and Bush**

This two-day enrichment program at the UWS Hawkesbury campus is run with the Longneck Lagoon Environmental Education Centre. It is based around conservation and management of the Cumberland Plain. Stage 5 science students are given a scenario to explore, and learn fieldwork and analysis techniques to come to conclusions about the scenario.

**Brewongle partnership – River Ecology**

An enrichment program called ‘Checking the Pulse of the Hawkesbury’ for Stage 6 science school students was piloted in 2009, and will be run once or twice each term in 2010.

For more information contact Longneck Lagoon at longneck-e.school@det.nsw.edu.au or Brewongle at brewongle-e.school@det.nsw.edu.au or email SchoolsEngagement@uws.edu.au

Science teachers ‘Checking the pulse of the Hawkesbury’