



## MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 7 February 2022

### Green Connect to open new op shop and education hub at UOW

Award-winning social enterprise [Green Connect](#) is extending its impact in the Illawarra, opening a new op shop at the University of Wollongong (UOW) later this month.

As well as selling quality second-hand goods, the UOW op shop will be an education hub and space to share ideas on recycling and sustainable living.

“We’re really excited to be connecting with the UOW community in this new space and we can’t wait to share ideas on how we can create a more sustainable future together,” Green Connect General Manager Kylie Flament said.

UOW Pulse Chief Executive Alf Maccioni said the new op shop is a partnership between Green Connect and UOW Pulse.

“UOW Pulse is excited to partner with Green Connect and can’t wait to bring this exciting new service to students,” Mr Maccioni said.

Green Connect creates jobs and employment pathways for young people and former refugees in work that helps the planet and the community.

Last financial year it employed 137 people and diverted 157 tonnes of waste from landfill through its farm, op shop, zero waste services, and staffing solutions work.

Green Connect’s op shop in Unanderra has more than 47 different waste streams to reduce waste going to landfill in an industry that is often swamped by unusable donations.

The new op shop at UOW will sell good-quality, pre-loved clothing and household items, offering UOW staff and students an ethical and more sustainable way to shop on campus.

“Op shopping is great for people, the planet and your wallet – there is no downside,” Ms Flament said.

“This space will be more than just an op shop, we also want it to be a safe place for students and staff to drop in and have a chat whenever they need to.

“We’d love to hear from the UOW community about what they want to see in the shop and how they want it to feel. People can come and have a chat to us in the shop or reach out by phone, email or social media.”

While Green Connect is not currently seeking donations, the social enterprise is on the hunt for volunteers to work in the new op shop and would like any interested staff or students to get in touch.

“If you’re interested in volunteering, have a passion for recycling and a good listening ear, please contact us through the Green Connect website,” Ms Flament said.

The new shop will be open on Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 3:30pm, from Monday 21 February. It will be located in Building 11, next to the pharmacy.

To register your interest in volunteering please apply through [the Green Connect website](#).

## FOR MEDIA ENQUIRIES CONTACT

**Kate Mayhew**

Communications and Marketing Adviser

m: 0475 388 887

[kate.mayhew@communityresources.org.au](mailto:kate.mayhew@communityresources.org.au)



Green Connect is a social enterprise based in Wollongong, NSW. We create jobs and employment pathways for young people and former refugees in work that helps the planet and the community. We run a farm and an op shop, provide zero waste services at events, and staffing solutions to businesses and councils.

[www.green-connect.com.au](http://www.green-connect.com.au)