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## Welcome to the Winter issue of Charles Sturt Research communiqué.

Every day, I'm reminded how much we can achieve when our people, our ideas and our purpose come together. The results speak for themselves, and this winter issue's highlights, shared here for our Charles Sturt community, are proof of the difference we're making for our regions and beyond.

At Charles Sturt, our roots are firmly in the regions we serve, and everything we do is driven by purpose – meeting local needs while creating impact that reaches far beyond. Our research is powered by the breadth and diversity of talent across the university, and it's that collective strength that makes our work so significant.

We're proud to be recognised for our values-led research. In the 2025 Times Higher Education Impact Rankings, Charles Sturt ranked in the top one per cent globally for Climate Action, in the top four per cent for Gender Equality and in the top six per cent for Reduced Inequalities. These exceptional results reflect the dedication of our researchers across all faculties and institutes to deliver knowledge that truly matters.

Our research momentum continues to grow. As of June 2025, Charles Sturt has secured \$21 million in research income. We've submitted 211 grant applications valued at \$69 million, with an additional \$141 million still under consideration, including \$28 million currently in the contracting process. This is a remarkable achievement and a testament to the energy and commitment of our research community.

A standout example of our leadership in educational research is **Professor Amy MacDonald from the School of Education**, who has been awarded a prestigious ARC Future Fellowship to transform how early mathematics is assessed in Australian classrooms.

We celebrate the international achievements of **Distinguished Professor Sharynne McLeod**, who was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the University of Patras at the ICPLA Conference in Greece – a fitting acknowledgement of her global impact in speech and language therapy. Professor McLeod also received a Certificate of Recognition for Outstanding Contributions in International Achievement from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA).

We are seeing growing momentum in higher degree by research (HDR) engagement with industry. Students have secured valuable placements with organisations including Lockheed Martin, CropLife, Evernode Labs and Western Murray Land Improvement Group. These internships not only deepen candidates' understanding of industry contexts but also expand their networks and career pathways, reinforcing Charles Sturt's commitment to research that is practical, collaborative and future-focused.

The university's commitment to sustainable agriculture and cutting-edge research was highlighted during a recent tour of the Wagga Wagga campus by the Secretary of the federal Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Mr Adam Fennessy PSM. The visit included inspections of the Rhizolysimeter – one of the largest root research facilities in the Southern Hemisphere – along with demonstrations of

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autonomous farming, methane testing, artificial intelligence (AI) vision systems and off-grid renewable technologies, showcasing Charles Sturt's role in driving innovation for a sustainable future. We had engaging and strategic discussions on advancing agricultural innovation and strengthening partnerships, reaffirming the university's commitment in research with tangible, real-world impacts, with the Vice-Chancellor leading the way.

Among multiple other engagements, I would also like to highlight Hort Innovation CEO Brett Fifield and General Manager Anthony Kachenko's visit to Wagga Wagga campus to explore collaborations aimed at boosting productivity, sustainability and workforce development in Australia's horticulture sector. We are looking forward to taking the discussion forward towards strategic partnerships to support growers and strengthen regional prosperity.

During a recent visit to Murdoch University, I reconnected with global agricultural genomics leader Professor Rajeev Varshney and Professor Peter Eastwood, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation), to discuss opportunities in agriculture, food, water, health and regional innovation.

This communiqué is a snapshot of what we've achieved together this quarter. And honestly – it's inspiring. It shows what's possible when we work side by side, across disciplines, institutes, faculties and locations, united by a shared vision. Yes, we have challenges ahead, but I have no doubt we can meet them – and exceed them – working as one team with one purpose. Together, we can be a force for our regions, and for the world.

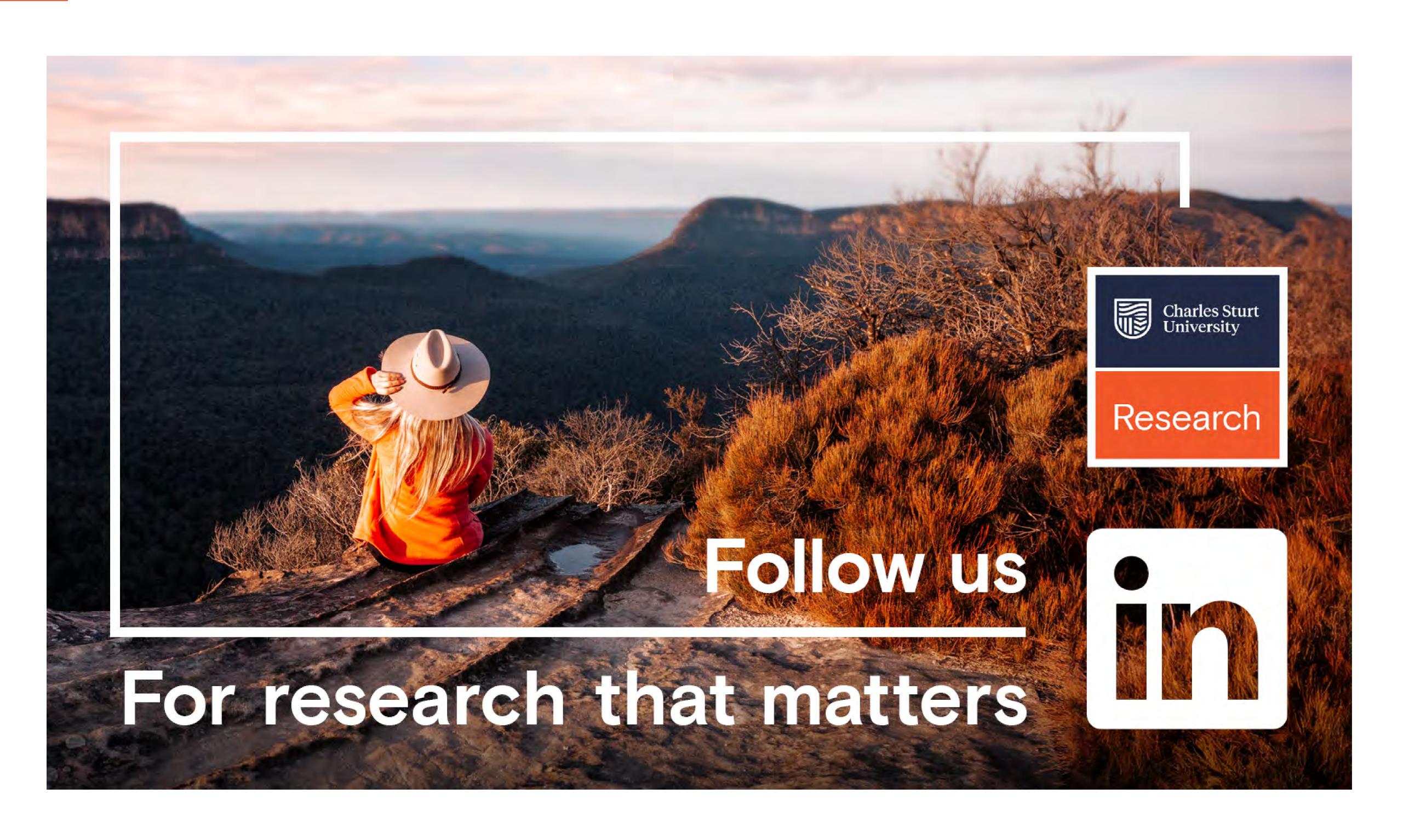
Please keep sharing your work and impact stories and reach out if you have an innovative idea you'd like to explore. I'm excited for what's ahead, and I know the best is yet to come. Let's continue to lead with impact – and shape a future defined by insight, equity and Yindyamarra.

We hope you enjoy this issue.

Professor Neena Mitter
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

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Charles Sturt Research now has a dedicated LinkedIn page. Follow us to stay up to date with the latest research and initiatives that deliver regional solutions with a global reach and impact.

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## Charles Sturt continues to be a global leader in climate action, gender equality and sustainability

Charles Sturt continues to deliver strong outcomes in the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings, reflecting our commitment to sustainability and all its facets in our university strategy.

THE's Impact Rankings are the only global university rankings that measure progress towards the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals. They evaluate our university programs and initiatives, including research, teaching and learning, partnerships and engagement, and facilities and operations.

Charles Sturt achieved impressive results within individual SDGs, including ranking:

- in the top 1 per cent for SDG 13: Climate Action
- in the top 4 per cent for SDG 5: Gender Equality
- in the top 6 per cent for SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities
- in the top 7 per cent for SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
- in the top 9 per cent for SDG 15: Life on Land.

These results are particularly impressive given increasing competition and participation of global universities in the THE Impact Rankings.











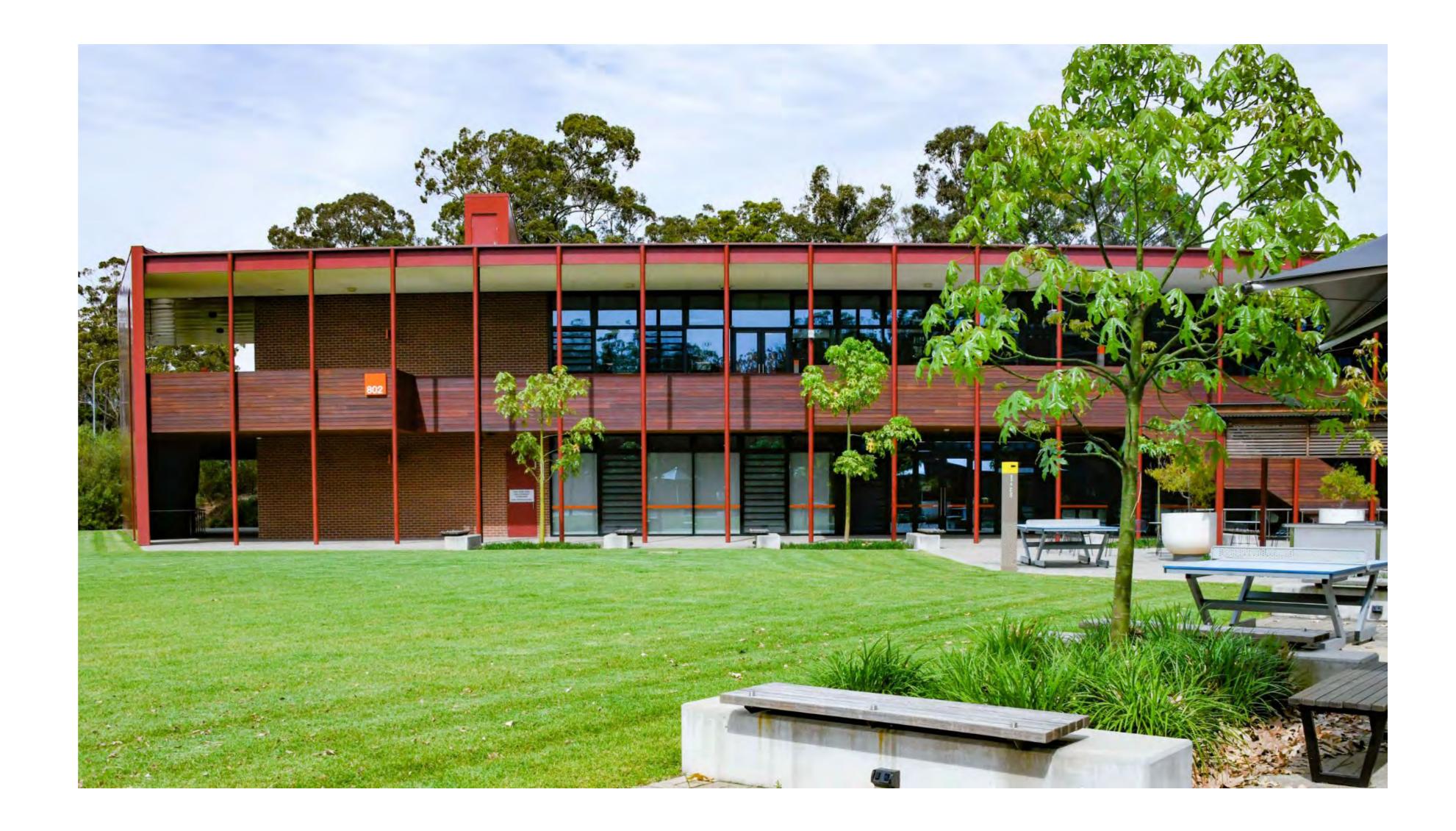
Times Higher Education Impact Ranking 2025

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#### The Green Thread

The Green Thread is Charles Sturt University's new biannual sustainability newsletter — a space to connect, inspire and showcase the incredible work happening across our communities to create a more sustainable future. In this first edition, The Green Thread highlight the people, projects, and partnerships driving positive environmental and social change, weaving together stories of innovation, action, and impact across the university. Join us as we celebrate progress and explore new ways to tread lightly, think boldly, and lead sustainably.

Read the newsletter.



## Nominations now open: 2025 Vice-Chancellor's Research Excellence Awards

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Nominations are now open for the 2025 Vice-Chancellor's Research Excellence Awards.

These awards celebrate exceptional research achievements across our university community, recognising excellence in the following categories:

- 1. Excellence as an Early Career Researcher
- 2. First Nations Researcher of the Year
- 3. Higher Degree by Research Supervisor of the Year
- 4. Higher Degree by Research Thesis/Creative Work of the Year
- 5. Research Excellence through Partnership
- 6. Research Team of the Year
- 7. Researcher of the Year

Full details on eligibility, nomination forms and award prizes are available on the RED Gateway.

## Nominations close Sunday 24 August 2025.

### Nominate now.

We encourage all staff and students to consider nominating a colleague or supervisor whose work exemplifies research excellence at Charles Sturt.



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## Upcoming Provocations Public Lectures

The Provocations Public Lecture series celebrates Charles Sturt research. The lectures aim to challenge orthodoxy through new thinking but will also revive policy ideas and political thought from the past for one more encore.

## Recordings

From rising rates of chronic disease to the often-overlooked risks of our daily work environments, new research is revealing the hidden toll our jobs may be taking on both our bodies and minds.

Listen to this thought-provoking Provocations Public Lecture with Distinguished Professor Jing Sun, a global leader in biostatistics and expert in big medical data, chronic disease, and mental health.

In this lecture, Professor Sun shares groundbreaking insights from major population-based studies in Australia and China, shedding light on how occupational exposure to stress, chemicals, noise, and other hazards is shaping health outcomes worldwide.

Listen to lecture



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#### Speaker:

Distinguished Professor Geoffrey Gurr

Date:

20 August 2025

Time:

6-7 pm

Location:

Online

Cost: free

Tickets: Register here



Speaker:

Professor Jane Quinn

Date:

**TBA** 

Time:

**TBA** 

Location:

Online

Cost: free

Tickets: Tickets will be made available closer to the event date.



Speaker:

Professor Zahid Islam

Date:

25 March 2026

Time:

12.30 pm – 1.30 pm

Location:

Online

Cost: free

Tickets: Tickets will be made available closer to the event date.



Speaker:

Professor Julian Grant

Date:

30 September 2026

Time:

12.30 pm – 1.30 pm

Location:

Online

Cost: free

Tickets: Tickets will be made available closer to the event date.

## Provocations blog

Provocations blog is a series of blog posts written by prominent thinkers that seek to address the grand challenges confronting regional Australia and the world. It is a multidisciplinary academic blog run by Charles Sturt University. Provocations will challenge orthodoxy through new thinking but will also revive policy ideas and political thought from the past for one more encore.

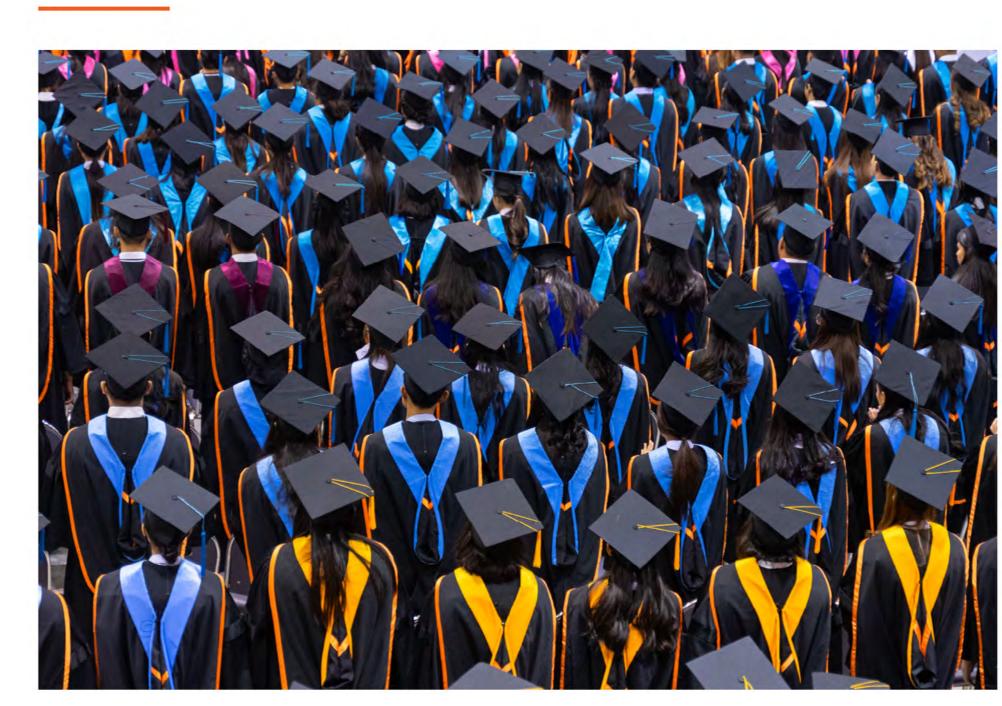
Is my food killing me? A food scientist's journey through fact, fiction, and the future of nutrition

BY CHRIS BLANCHARD | 23 JUNE 2025



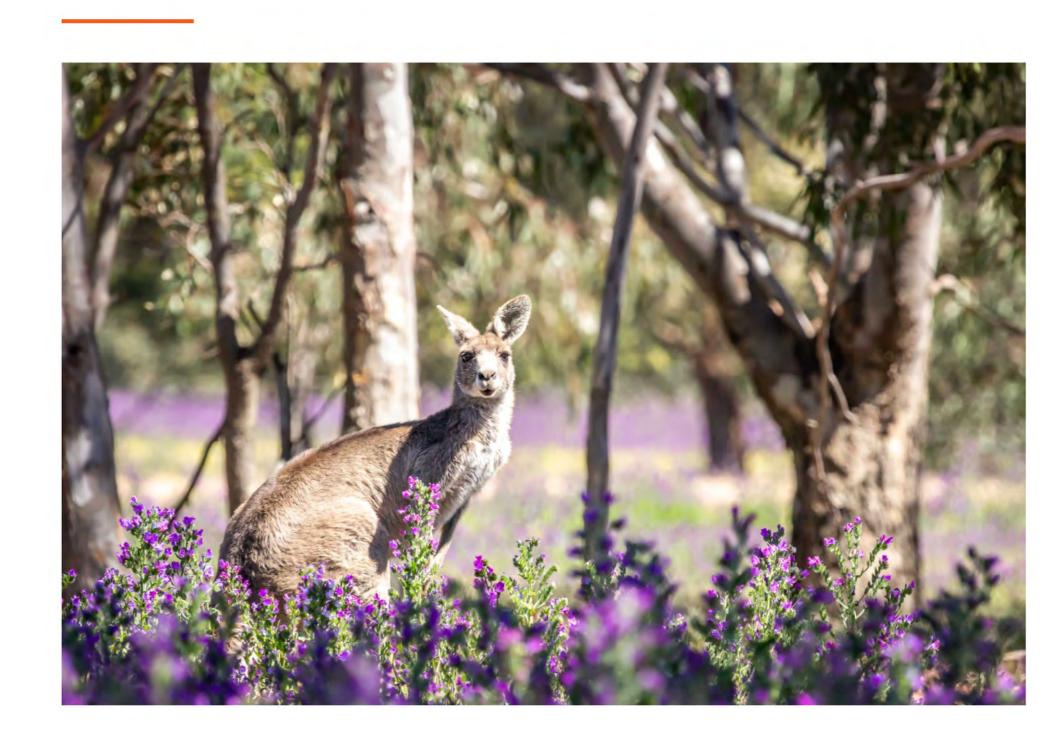
Equity within the Academy: Rethinking the 'why' of higher education

BY SARAH O'SHEA | 12 MARCH 2025



# Adapting to change: Invasive plants take up the challenge

BY LESLIE WESTON | 10 FEBRUARY 2025



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Professor Lee
Baumgartner,
Executive Director Gulbali Institute

#### From the Director – Q2 2025

The Gulbali Institute continues to deliver research that matters, research that improves lives, sustains landscapes, and connects Australia to global knowledge networks.

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We're proud to share that our research pipeline has now exceeded \$200 million in submitted and prospective projects. This milestone reflects the extraordinary ambition, talent, and tenacity of our researchers and partners. From developing drought-resilient viticulture in southern Australia to advancing food security and aquatic biodiversity in the Indo-Pacific, Gulbali is delivering innovation and impact.

Our impact is resonating globally. Recent highlights include:

- showcasing sustainable fisheries to national leaders in Cambodia,
- supporting UN food safety policy through expert contributions in Rome,
- collaborating on grapevine disease research in Mexico and wine innovation in Germany,
- building partnerships with Indonesia's national planning agency and the Australian-African Universities Network in Rwanda,
- delivering livestock and One Health training across South and Southeast Asia, and
- · leading conservation biology dialogues in Cairns and Cape Barren Island.

Back home, we've seen incredible progress across Charles Sturt campuses. From the new PC2 greenhouse and emissions monitoring systems at

the Wagga Farm to ecological surveys with First Nations partners, our infrastructure and field science are expanding to match our vision.

We've also welcomed new leadership in science communication and operations, launched new research culture sessions, and proudly supported students and graduates securing prestigious awards and scholarships, including placements at Oxford and Japan's Synchrotron School.

Gulbali now contributes the majority of Charles Sturt's research income and outputs, and our HDR cohort has grown sevenfold since the Institute's inception. That growth brings responsibility and opportunity. As we finalise our three-year review, we remain focused on building a research culture that is impactful, inclusive, and resilient.

Thank you to our collaborators, funders, communities and colleagues for helping us advance research that truly makes a difference.

Professor Lee Baumgartner
Executive Director, Gulbali Institute

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## \$7.94 million awarded to boost viticulture and horticulture drought resilience in the face of climate change

Winemakers, apple and cherry producers in central western and southern NSW and Tasmania will be better prepared for future droughts after a funding grant of \$7.94 million was awarded to Charles Sturt University for a new research project.

Charles Sturt's <u>Gulbali Institute for Agriculture</u>, <u>Water and Environment</u> received the grant to strengthen viticulture and horticulture resilience through the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries' <u>Future Drought Fund</u>. The university and other project partners such as the University of Tasmania will also invest a combined \$385,000. This, added to more than \$8.2 million of in-kind contributions from the project consortia brings the total project value to more than \$16.6 million.

The project, titled Adapting Temperate Viticulture and Horticulture to Seasonal Drought and Climate Volatility, aims to address the issue of drought risk in perennial cropping systems that have high reliance on rainfall and limited irrigation security.

The project team will design and test new agronomic practices to build economic and social drought resilience in Australia's cooler viticulture and horticultural regions.

Project leads at the Charles Sturt Gulbali Institute Senior Research Fellow <u>Dr Jason Smith</u> and Professor of Oenology <u>Leigh Schmidtke</u> said the research had the potential to provide long-needed relief to viticulture and horticulture farmers that have been at the whim of climate volatility.

The overall aim of the project is to address the issue of drought risk in perennial cropping systems that have high reliance on rainfall and limited irrigation security," Dr Smith said.

We will focus on practices that conserve and optimise the rainfall derived soil water for plant growth and fruit production and improve the delivery and scheduling of supplementary irrigation.

Dr Schmidtke said the project will be undertaken in collaboration with a range of tertiary and industry partners.

"Charles Sturt will work with the NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, the University of Tasmania through the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture, and industry partners to establish research trials in various winegrape, apple and cherry producing regions in Orange NSW and southern NSW," Professor Smith said.

"Additional producers and organisations will also provide support through the project advisory panel."

Dr Smith said a key element of the research trials was the establishment of partnerships with commercial farms to test practices to increase yield during and after drought.

"The aim is to enhance root system performance, and canopy and floor management strategies that increase water-use efficiency, alleviate drought stress and improve resilience.

"The team will also examine methods for improving the delivery and scheduling of limited supplementary irrigation.

Farm systems modelling will quantify economic, environmental and agrifood production under varying intensities of drought and extreme weather events, and then scale findings to applicable zones across Australia.

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To achieve the project's overall objective of building drought resilience in Australia's cooler viticulture and horticultural regions, it will address vulnerability to declining rainfall, alongside rising water demand in systems with high rainfall dependence and limited irrigation.

Additional projected outcomes of the research include:

- improved understanding of sustainable agricultural practices under climate stress
- · validated models for water use, carbon storage, and greenhouse gas reduction
- data-driven insights into fruit quality and plant function under water deficit
- tailored strategies for different crops (cherries, winegrapes, apples)
- social science insights into behavioural change in rural enterprises.

This project is jointly funded through the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund, Charles Sturt University, the University of Tasmania other project partners.



Photo: left to right: Dr Ketema Zeleke, Dr Xinyi Zhang, Dr Jason Smith, Prof Leigh Schmidtke and Dr Joanne Ashnest.

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Mr Stephen Fletcher Gulbali Institute

## New RNA technology supports safer, chemical-free crop protection

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Researchers have taken a major step forward in sustainable agriculture with the development of new software that supports chemical-free crop protection. The innovation addresses critical global challenges such as chemical resistance, lack of specificity, harmful residues, and the withdrawal of certain chemical pesticides.

The software package, dsRNAmax, is designed to create double-stranded RNA (dsRNA) molecules that target specific and pathogen species, while avoiding beneficial insects and other non-target organisms.

Developed by Mr Stephen Fletcher and validated by Dr Chris Brosnan and his team at the Centre for Horticultural Science (Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation, The University of Queensland), the technology was co-created in partnership with the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Queensland Nematology team. It was developed as part of the ARC Hub for Sustainable Crop Protection, led by Charles Sturt University's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor Neena Mitter, who also serves as Director of the Hub.

Now a Research Fellow in Bioinformatics and RNA Biology at Charles Sturt's Gulbali Institute, Mr Fletcher said the intuitive software allows researchers to precisely design dsRNA that switches off essential genes in target organisms, such as viruses, insects, fungi, and nematodes, without genetic modification of host plants.

"The software allows us to design custom dsRNA for a specific target, matching gene sequences across hundreds of species while avoiding off-target impacts on beneficial insects," Mr Fletcher said.

RNA interference (RNAi) works by introducing dsRNA molecules that disrupt gene expression essential for the survival of harmful organisms. These biopesticides are significantly less toxic than traditional chemicals, offering a more environmentally friendly, sustainable, and socially acceptable pest control solution.

Professor Mitter, a global leader in agricultural RNA research, said the software forms a vital part of the transition to pesticide-free crop protection.

"This tool helps bridge the gap between discovery and real-world application. Importantly, it allows us to reduce off-target effects, which strengthens the social licence for adopting innovative biological solutions," Professor Mitter said.

"The world needs technology like this to harmonise and regulate the path toward safer, sustainable, pesticide-free agriculture."

The <u>research</u> was published in NAR Genomics & Bioinformatics.

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Professor Shokoofeh
Shamsi
School of Agricultural,
Environmental and
Veterinary Sciences
Faculty of Science
and Health
Gulbali Institute

## Charles Sturt scientist contributes to UN expert panel on foodborne parasites

A leading Charles Sturt University parasitology and food safety expert has contributed to an expert panel in Rome to review and update scientific advice on foodborne parasites globally.

Parasitology Professor <u>Shokoofeh Shamsi</u> in the Charles Sturt <u>School of Agricultural, Environmental and Veterinary Sciences</u> was invited to attend the United Nations (UN) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) at its headquarters in Rome, Italy, in late May to review and update scientific advice on foodborne parasites.

"Foodborne parasites are responsible for around 30 per cent of foodborne illnesses globally and the FAO is taking proactive steps to address foodborne parasites," Professor Shamsi said.

"The meeting brought together eight global experts to examine the current burden of parasitic disease, evaluate detection methods and propose practical prevention and control strategies," she said.

"This consultation seeks to strengthen global food safety by offering evidence-based strategies for parasite control, particularly in low- and middle-income countries.

"We focussed on vulnerable populations and global equity in food safety solutions, with the goal to support countries in developing robust food control systems that protect consumers from foodborne parasitic infections, especially those populations most at risk."

Professor Shamsi noted that Australians are also vulnerable to sickness caused by parasites in food.

"There are more than 5 million cases of food poisoning in Australia each year,

both through businesses and at home.

"This is a huge number for a developed country such as Australia which only has a population of about 27 million, and can be prevented by storing, handling and serving food safely."

Professor Shamsi said the FAO collaborative global consultation with international experts in food safety and parasitology is a vital step in making sure international food safety standards reflect the latest science.

The expert panel's findings will inform updates to the <u>Codex Alimentarius</u> (or 'Food Code'), the internationally recognised food standards framework, which supports safer global food systems and helps countries implement practical solutions that reduce illness and improve public confidence in food systems.



Professor Shokoofeh Shamsi at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) at its headquarters in Rome, Italy, and with international colleagues on the expert panel.

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Associate Professor
Richard Culas
School of Agricultural,
Environmental and
Veterinary Sciences
Faculty of Science
and Health
Gulbali Institute

#### Research shows cost effective fertiliser alternative for farmers

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Research by a Charles Sturt University academic explores various inputs on NSW farms to establish the economic benefits of the use of organic matter in agriculture.

Associate Professor in Agribusiness and Gulbali member Associate Professor Richard Culas conducted the study for the Soil Cooperative Research Centre.

"Organic fertilisers are increasingly being used in cropping systems to improve soil health and crop yields in Australia. However, their impact is complex and depends on a variety of factors, in particular their economic feasibility to use and any risk involved," Professor Culas said.

The research, titled 'Assessing economic feasibility and benefits of adopting high-grade organic fertilisers recovered from waste streams,' identified potential organic fertilisers that farmers can use and assessed their impacts on crop yields, soil health and associated co-benefits.

Fertiliser assessments were conducted on farms with three different soil types at Holbrook (Riverina NSW) and Tamworth (NW Slopes NSW), then farmers' net incomes were estimated, with and without carbon values.

"To estimate their impact, Agriculture Production System Simulator (APSIM) modelling was used.

"APSIM simulates crop growth, soil water movement, nutrient cycling, and soil organic carbon dynamics."

Trial and simulator results showed that organic fertilisers, when combined with some commonly used inorganic fertilisers, could be used instead of using nitrogen mineral fertilisers in growing crops; these organic treatments sustained productivity while improving soil health.

"The study shows organic fertiliser use increase the sustainability and profitability of Australian agriculture by reducing the cost of inorganic fertiliser use, producing more food with less environmental impact," Professor Culas said.

"The framework and tools developed from this project can help farmers and industry to assess the multiple financial and environmental benefits that the use of organic fertilisers can bring."

Read more.

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Professor Michael Gulbali Institute

## Blue-sky technologies to control weeds

Herbicide resistance is driving farming businesses to seek innovative weed control technologies that do not rely on herbicides.

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Professor Michael Walsh, with the Gulbali Institute, says there has been a distinct increase in research, development, and commercialisation efforts to bring growers novel technologies that target weeds in broadacre cropping systems.

"The move to reduced tillage systems has essentially removed cultivation and burning as weed control options for growers, resulting in a reliance on herbicides," Professor Walsh said.

"With the development of automated weed detection technologies, there are new opportunities to cost-effectively use physical weed control tools to target weeds in crops and fallows."

While on a six-month Fulbright scholarship at Kansas State University and Texas A&M University, Professor Walsh investigated several new technologies that could be realistic options for Australian broadacre farmers.

"There are some very promising results from the evaluations of novel techniques such as electric weeders and directed energy using blue light and mid-wave infrared radiation," Professor Walsh said.

"Other opportunities for targeted control include reproductive interference of weeds using gametocides and harnessing the power of allelopathy from crop plants for suppressing weeds and inhibiting nitrification."

Read more.



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## Tensions linger in Barmah Forest

Standing on the banks of Barmah Lake, you might spot spoonbills, pelicans and egrets bathing at the water's edge.

It would be just a glimpse of the 270 animal species and 500 native plants that inhabit Barmah National Park - a landscape that has begun to thrive since the controversial decision to remove its population of wild horses.

The park is situated on Yorta Yorta country, spanning the floodplains of the Murray River in northern Victoria. It is part of the largest river red gum forest in the world and home to internationally recognised wetlands.

The native vegetation has started to regenerate since the horses were removed, much to the delight of local ecologists.

However, community tensions remain as locals bear the scars of an emotional fight to protect the iconic landscape.

Gulbali ecologist Professor David Watson said lingering tensions over the brumby debate had serious impacts.

He said his researchers removed university identification before going into the park.

"They are vilified, name-called, stuff happens to their vehicles if they stay overnight at the pub — it leaves a bad taste in your mouth," Professor Watson said.

"I get where a lot of the brumby advocates come from — they love horses, and I love horses too.

"However, as the bush bounces back, everyone will get to see what a wonderful place this is, and that horses belong in a paddock and not in a protected area."

### Read full story on ABC News.



David Watson is a vocal advocate for removing feral horses in national parks. (ABC Rural: Annie Brown)

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## The King, the Prime Minister and a fishway

A fisheries sustainability project led by fish ecologists in the Gulbali Institute has attracted royal attention during the annual National Ploughing Ceremony held in Cambodia in June.

The FishTech Cambodia team, led by senior fisheries researcher Dr John Conallin, showcased their work to a high-level Cambodian delegation comprising the King of Cambodia, His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni, Prime Minister HE Hun Manet, Senate President and Former Prime Minister HE Hun Sen, and the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries HE Dith Tina.

The team designed and constructed a small fish ladder model as an educational tool, using the same technology as model railways, to demonstrate the complex science of fish migration and fishways to non-technical audiences at key events, including the National Ploughing Ceremony.

The FishTech project demonstrates how Cambodia is conserving key fish species and improving the resilience of river ecosystems, particularly for the communities most dependent on them for food and livelihoods.

The Mekong River Basin, including Cambodia, faces complex challenges as it balances the needs of sustainable development with the health of its vital fisheries and ecosystems.

Expanding irrigation and hydropower projects offer economic benefits but often disrupt fish migration, alter water flow and impact biodiversity.

With millions of people (and ecosystems) depending on the Mekong for food security and livelihoods, addressing these issues is critical.

Read more on LinkedIn.



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Dr Joanne Millar Gulbali Institute

## Social research training for fisheries scientists in Indonesia

Fisheries scientists from the Indonesian Research and Innovation Agency were introduced to the world of social research at a training course held in Jakarta earlier this year.

Gulbali social researcher Dr Joanne Millar and former Charles Sturt academic Dr Amy Fallon ran the training course over five days with support from the <a href="Crawford Fund.">Crawford Fund.</a>

"The course enabled participants to understand why social research is important for fish conservation programs, how to design and implement qualitative research, how to analyse data and present the results to a variety of audiences," said Dr Millar, Senior Research Fellow in Environment and Livelihoods with the Gulbali Institute.

"Scientists working in agriculture, forestry and fisheries often lack understanding of social dimensions and applications of their scientific work. Unfortunately, sociology subjects are not included in their undergraduate or postgraduate courses; this on-the-job training and mentoring improves the outcomes of their research and development work," she explained.

Participants practiced developing semi-structured interview guides and interviewed stakeholders at a modern fish market including male and female vendors, consumers, restaurateurs, fish processors, cleaners and transporters.

Each team then presented their findings, their reflections and ethical considerations. Themes arising across all findings were discussed to understand the role of triangulation in the validity and rigour of the research.

The trainers also showed the course participants how to select and write journal papers, how to use social research in their work programs and how to communicate effectively.

#### Read more.



Interviewing stakeholders at a modern fish market in Jakarta.

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## A 'One Health' approach to safer seafood

"Adopting a 'One Health' approach is paramount in ensuring safe seafood for all," says Professor Shokoofeh Shamsi in a newly published chapter on aquatic foodborne zoonoses.

In the Springer Nature volume Aquatic Parasitology: Ecological and Environmental Concepts and Implications of Marine and Freshwater Parasites, Professor Shamsi highlights the risks aquatic parasites pose to consumers across all demographics.

Her chapter underscores the need for greater awareness and collaboration across the seafood industry, healthcare sector, and environmental sciences, advocating for a One Health framework that acknowledges the interconnectedness of aquatic animals, humans, and their shared environment.

"By recognising the interplay between these ecosystems," she writes, "we can better understand and mitigate potential risks to global health."

Read the open access book.



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# Enhancing livestock nutrition and resilience through Napier grass management training in Bangladesh

Dr Cameron Clark from Charles Sturt University recently travelled to the Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute (BLRI) in Savar, Dhaka to deliver a targeted and evidence-driven training program. The training aimed to address a key constraint in Bangladesh's smallholder cattle production systems: the poor nutritional quality of Napier grass, which remains a staple feed for ruminants across the country.

This initiative, supported by the Crawford Fund and delivered in collaboration with Charles Sturt University, was designed to empower farmers, extension agents and researchers with practical, research-based tools for improving feedbase management. The training program was a direct outcome of an ongoing partnership between Charles Sturt and BLRI.

"Over the past year, collaborative research demonstrated that strategic adjustments in sowing density and harvest frequency could significantly improve both the crude protein and metabolisable energy levels of Napier grass," said Cameron.

"These enhancements directly translate into better livestock growth, improved milk yields, and greater resilience to climatic shocks," he said.

"Recognising the essential role that women play in livestock care, the training was also tailored to support inclusive participation and knowledge application at the household level," said Cameron.

Held over five days, the program brought together 50 participants from across Bangladesh, including farmers, early-career researchers, and livestock extension officers. Delivered bilingually in Bangla and English, the sessions provided a mix of

classroom learning, field demonstrations, and group discussion. Participants engaged directly with trial plots, observed growth variations under different management regimes, and practised techniques to assess plant quality and detect toxicities.

#### Read more.



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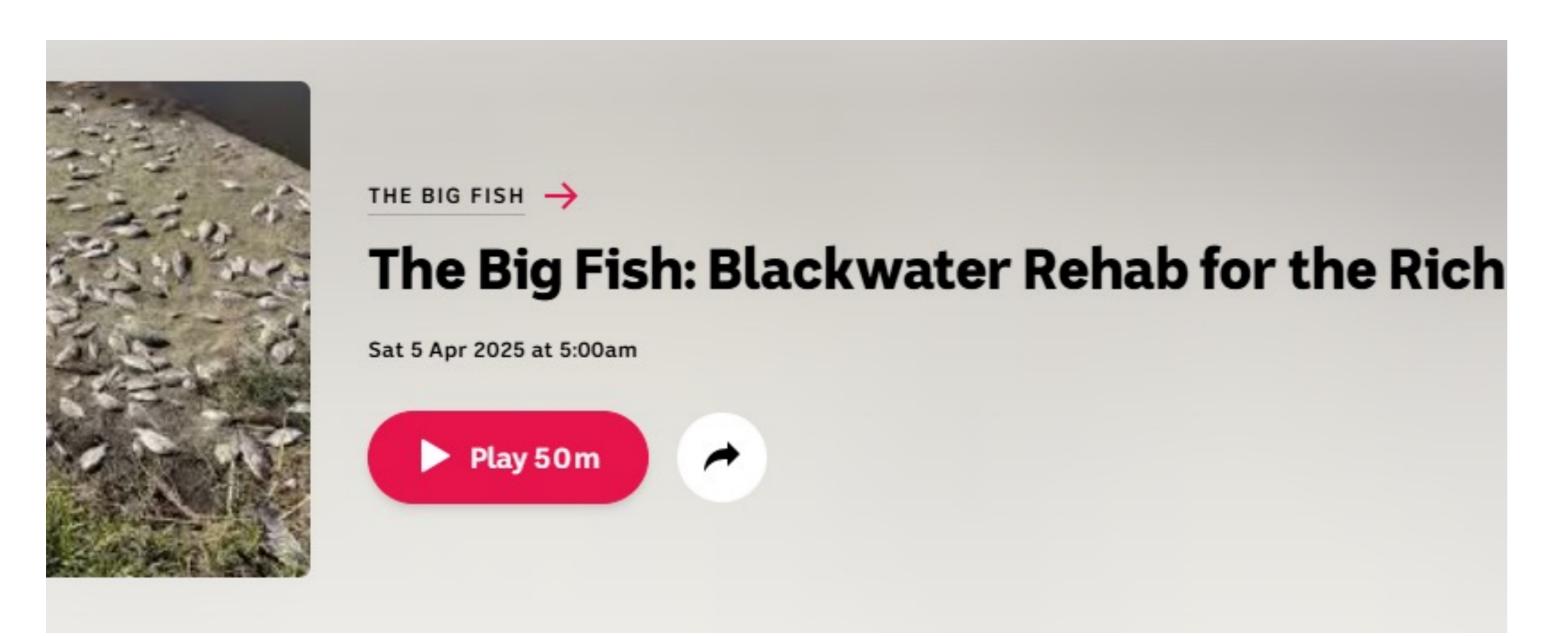
Services

Gulbali Institute - In brief

### Blackwater rehab for in North Coast rivers

Hear from Charles Sturt fisheries ecologist <u>Jess Tout-Lyon</u> speaking from Crescent Head on the NSW Mid North Coast about a blackwater event that devastated fish populations in Killick Creek after ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred devastated the region early in 2025.

<u>Listen (2:20-15:30) on The Big Fish: Blackwater Rehab for the Richmond via ABC listen.</u>



### Carpe diem: Seize the day!

Recent estimates have shown that there are 357 million carp in our waterways. This is a significant issue for our rivers and Charles Sturt is working with a range of stakeholders to try and solve the problem. To raise prominence for this issue, the Victorian government has kicked off the Mission Possible campaign with a short documentary video. Associate Professor <a href="Ivor Stuart">Ivor Stuart</a> and Gulbali adjunct Luke Pearce both landed prominent acting roles in the film, which is well worth a look for anyone interested in healthy rivers.

View the short film, <u>Carpe Diem: Seize the Day</u>, produced by the Victorian Fisheries Authority.

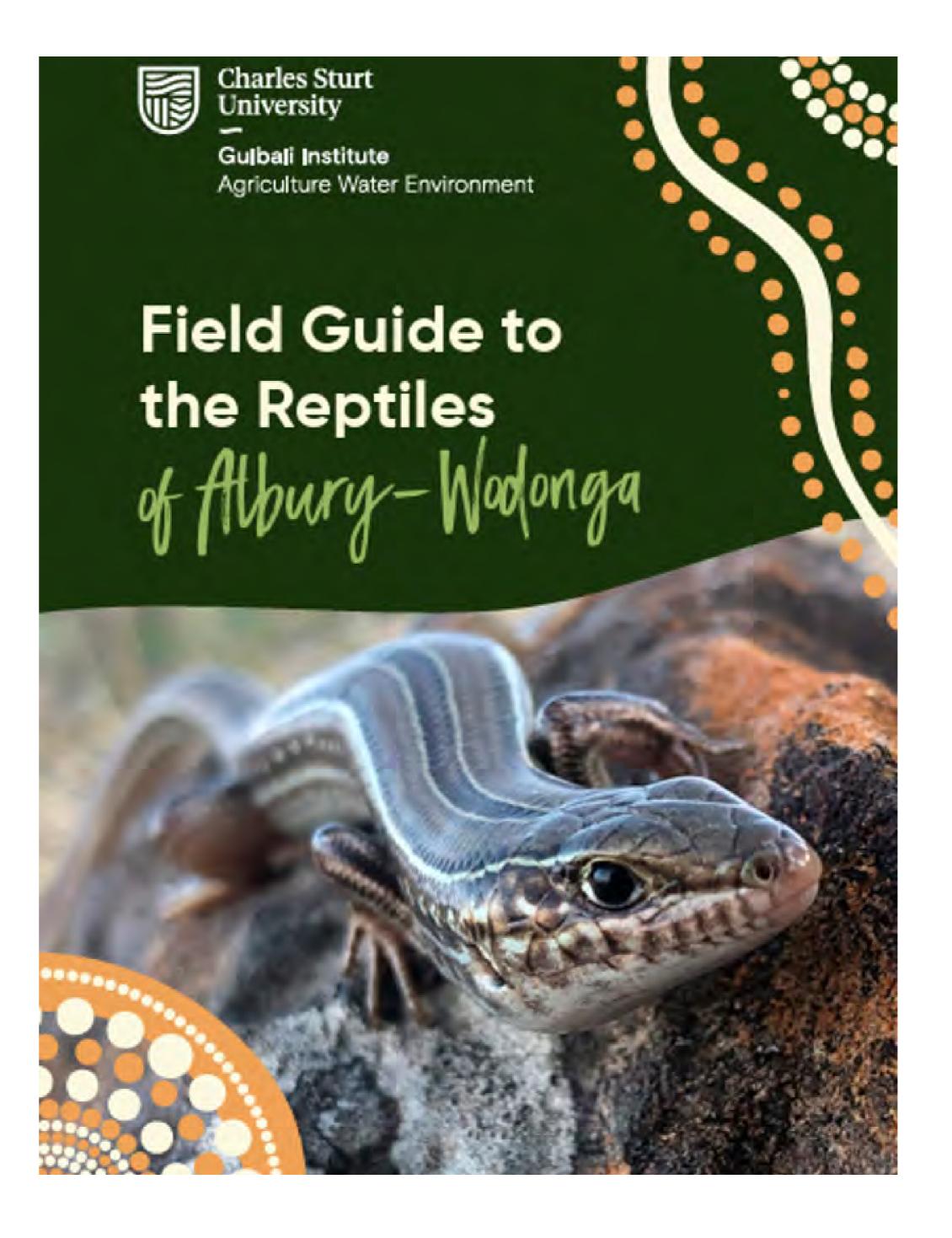


Gulbali Institute - In brief



A leading snake enthusiast and ecologist with the Gulbali Institute, Associate Professor Damian Michael, has produced a field guide to the reptiles of Albury-Wodonga. Written for a general audience and richly illustrated with Damian's dynamic photographs, the guide showcases this diverse group of wildlife living in the NSW-Victorian border region. Copies of the guide are available from the Gulbali Business Team at the Albury Campus.

Email <u>gulbali@csu.edu.au</u> to request a copy or <u>download your copy</u>.



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Gulbali Institute - In brief

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Emeritus Professor

Jim Pratley

Gulbali Institute

### Emeritus professor receives national recognition

Emeritus Professor Jim Pratley has been awarded the inaugural Food and Fibre Education Award from Primary Industries Education Foundation Australia (PIEFA) in recognition of his five-decade contribution to education, research and sector leadership. Titled the Jim Pratley Award, every two years it honours a national leader in agricultural education and a lifelong advocate for food and fibre learning. Professor Pratley received the award at the PIEFA Conference 2025, recently held in Canberra.

### Proceedings of Lower Mekong Fish Passage Conference

Fisheries experts and practitioners from across Southeast Asia and beyond attended this focused two-day conference on sustainable fisheries, water management and regional development in Siem Riep, Cambodia in February 2025. The conference, organised by the Gulbali Institute, explored advancements in fish passage technologies, the impact of hydropower on ecosystems, and approaches to gender and social inclusion in natural resource management. View the conference proceedings and presentation slides.



## Philippine delegation visits Charles Sturt Wagga Wagga campus

Gulbali Deputy Director Cameron Clark and Director of Research Partnerships and Portfolio Management, Chelsea Schlink, hosted an Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)— supported delegation at our Wagga Wagga campus. The delegation from the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development of the Department of Science and Technology visited a range of sites across the Riverina. Starting at the Narrandera koala park and NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) fisheries hatchery, the team then travelled to Wagga Wagga to inspect the National Life Science Hub, Phytotron, Rhizolysimeter, new greenhouses and the Global Digital Farm on Charles Sturt's Wagga Wagga campus. Gulbali looks forward to connecting with the delegation further and have been invited to the Philippines on a reciprocal visit in 2026.





Rural Health Research Institute - Successful grants ~



Distinguished
Professor Muhammad
J. A. Shiddiky

## Capturing elusive bionanoparticles via oscillating field induced convection

Chief Investigator: Distinguished Professor Muhammad J. A. Shiddiky

Project summary: Capturing tiny bioparticles at low concentrations within biofluids poses a major challenge for broad bioanalysis applications. The project aims to develop a novel sample preparation method that enhances bioparticle capture and isolation processes. This method will prevent unwanted biomolecules from adhering to surfaces and enable selective target capture, thus improving detection specificity and sensitivity. This will be achieved using convective fluid motion, a recently discovered phenomenon triggered by an oscillating magnetic field. The outcomes will enable efficient isolation and detection of a wide range of biomolecules in biomedical, agricultural and environmental applications, resulting in significant economic benefits for Australia.



Professor Julaine Allan

A randomised wait list control study of six sessions of online Community Reinforcement and Family Training (CRAFT) on the wellbeing of family members of people with substance dependence and mental illness

Chief Investigator: Professor Julaine Allan

Project summary: An individual's use of alcohol and other drugs can greatly impact their family and friends' physical and mental health. Only a small percentage of Australians who seek support for substance problems are family members or friends.

Community Reinforcement and Family Training (CRAFT) is an evidence-based talking therapy that works with family and friends of people struggling with substance use.

Few drug and alcohol services provide support to family members. CRAFT helps families to reduce substance use, engage in treatment and improve family wellbeing. The Rural Health Research Institute (RHRI) clinical trial delivered CRAFT to 126 people over 12 months, finding the program effective in reducing depression and improving life satisfaction and problem-focused coping skills.

Rural Health Research Institute - News and media V

## Australian-first study offers free support to families impacted by substance use

Charles Sturt University led an Australian-first study offering free virtual support to families affected by a loved one's alcohol or drug use. The Family Empowerment Program, delivered by RHRI, utilised the evidence-based CRAFT model (Community Reinforcement and Family Training) through six one-hour sessions led by trained psychologists.

Led by Professor Julaine Allan, the study aimed to improve family wellbeing through enhanced communication, planning and problem-solving strategies, particularly in rural and regional areas where services are limited.

Early findings showed improved emotional resilience and a greater sense of empowerment among participants. The research was expected to inform future health policy and the development of virtual care services.

Read more.



The Family Empowerment Program participants, experts and leaders



Professor Julaine Allan



Dr Hazel Dalton and Professor Julaine Allan submitted a response to the Productivity Commission's Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement Review (Submission #38), highlighting critical considerations for rural, regional and remote communities.



Dr Hazel Dalton

knowledge exchange portal focused on suicide prevention, followed up with some Q&A.

Their latest newsletter features that article – 'How knowledge

in rural suicide prevention at the Manna Institute Symposium in

December. Picking up on this thread, Life in Mind, a fantastic

Knowledge translation in rural suicide prevention

By Dr Hazel Dalton

Their latest newsletter features that article – 'How knowledge translation aids rural suicide prevention'.

This piece draws on my experience working in the space of rural suicide prevention (research and translation) over the last decade. Particularly, place-based collaborative approaches to community wellbeing.

I was fortunate to present on the importance of knowledge translation

Knowledge exchange is vital in suicide prevention, as it ensures that the latest research, insights and best practices are shared and implemented effectively. By bridging the gap between research and practice, we can develop more effective strategies to reduce suicide rates and improve mental health outcomes.

Portals like Life in Mind play a crucial role in the knowledge translation process by connecting the suicide prevention sector with the latest research, programs and resources. Their efforts support evidence-based practice and policy, making a significant impact on mental health across Australia.



Dr Hazel Dalton



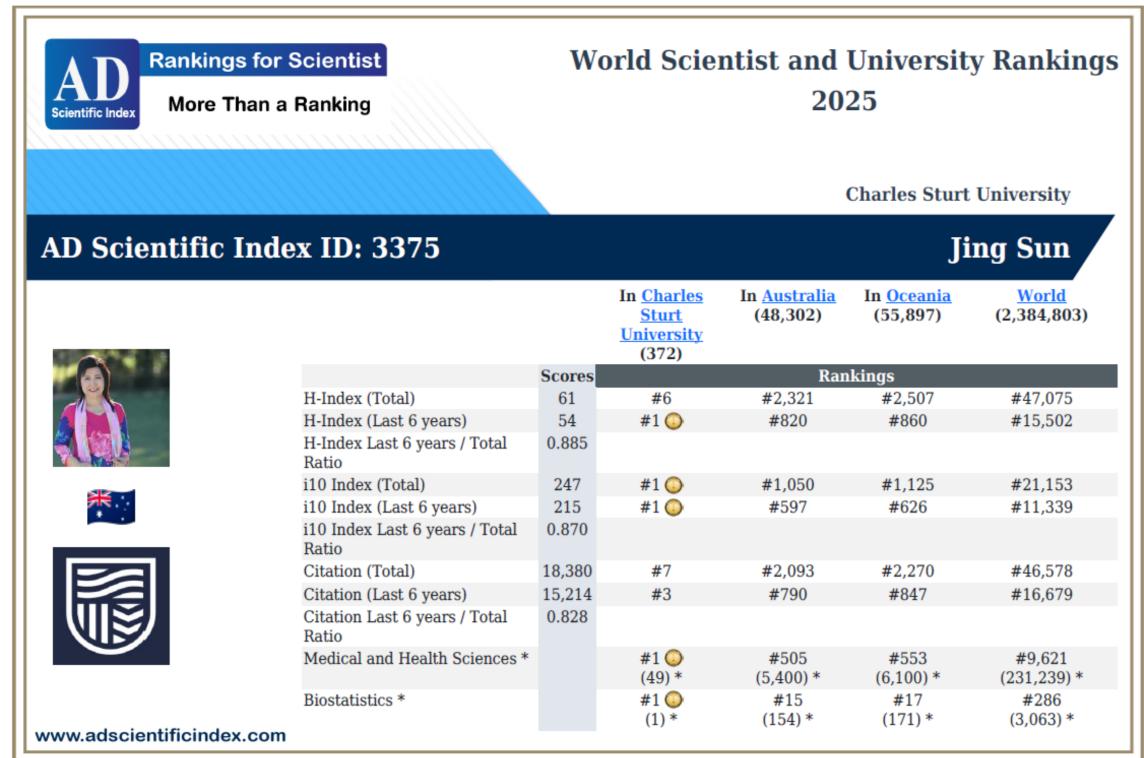


Distinguished Professor Jing Sun

## Distinguished Professor Jing Sun ranked #1 globally in biostatistics and medical science

We are delighted to share that Distinguished Professor Jing Sun has been ranked #1 in the World Scientist Ranking over the past six years in the categories of i10 index (total) and i10 index (last six years) within the fields of medical science and biostatistics.

This exceptional recognition highlights Professor Sun's outstanding contributions to research and her sustained global impact in advancing medical science and statistical innovation.



Date: 08.02.2025 \*Source and Methodology: https://www.adscientificindex.com/scientist/jing-sun/3375

## Distinguished Professor Jing Sun's research accepted in Pediatric Research

We are pleased to announce that Distinguished Professor Jing Sun's manuscript, 'Urbanisation and mental health in left-behind children: Systematic review and meta-analysis using a resilience framework,' has been accepted for publication in *Pediatric Research*.

This important study explores the effects of urbanisation on the mental health of left-behind children through a resilience-based lens. It offers valuable insights into a critical area of child development and public health, contributing to a deeper understanding of how structural and social factors shape mental wellbeing in vulnerable populations.

HDR V



Dr Hazel Dalton

### Top-cited article on rural youth health



The article 'Teen Clinic — An integrated primary healthcare model that improves access for young people in rural communities' in the Australian Journal of Rural Health was ranked among the top 10 most cited articles in the journal for 2023, based on data from Clarivate Analytics.

Read the article.

Rural Health Research Institute - Podcast V

## The Other Side of Addiction: Stories from the Family Empowerment Program

For 12 months, the Family Empowerment Program was run as a pilot by RHRI.

The program was offered across rural Australia for 12 months, with practitioners trained to provide online therapy for people supporting their loved ones struggling with substance use.

In this podcast, you'll meet the research team, along with some clinicians and participants who were part of the trial, to hear their stories, reflections and hopes for a support program like this.

Please be aware that this podcast features conversations about drug, alcohol and substance abuse. If this raises anything for you, please call Lifeline on 13 11 14.

Listen to podcast.



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Rural Health Research Institute - Visiting Fellow

## Visiting Fellow

In April 2025, RHRI was pleased to host Dr David Meredith, Head of the Agri-Food Business and Spatial Analysis Department at Teagasc – The Irish Agriculture and Food Development Authority, Dublin, Ireland.

Dr Meredith collaborates with policy and agricultural stakeholders to generate evidence for sustainable rural development, with a research focus on the social and economic forces shaping rural communities and practical solutions for farming populations.

During his visit, Dr Meredith met with RHRI researchers, Cindy Cassidy (Southern Drought Resilience Hub) and staff from the NSW Department of Primary Industries and Environment (Farmer Mental Health and Resilience teams). He also delivered a special seminar on Nurturing farmer wellbeing for the Orange Research Interest Forum, which was shared widely across Charles Sturt.

RHRI's Dr Hazel Dalton and Professor Russell Roberts (School of Business and Equally Well Australia) have previously collaborated with Dr Meredith and were delighted to explore future opportunities for joint research during his visit.



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#### Welcome to new RHRI PhD students



Dr Poonam Mudgil

### Dr Poonam Mudgil

Adjunct Senior Research Fellow (Eye & Infectious Disease)

Dr Mudgil has a PhD in molecular microbiology. She held research fellowships at the Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology and the University of New South Wales, before joining Western Sydney University, where she was an Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage scheme research fellow, collaborating with industry internationally, then a postdoctoral research officer. She joined Charles Sturt as a senior lecturer and Year 1 coordinator, teaching medicine students in the MD program. Her research aims to address major public health issues in eye and infectious diseases using research approaches in microbiology, biophysics, biochemistry and molecular biology.



Md Mamun Kabir

#### Md Mamun Kabir

Principal supervisor: Professor Anna Walduck

Md Mamun Kabir's research centres on enteric infectious diseases and malnutrition, with a particular emphasis on intestinal infections. His expertise spans molecular biology, biochemistry and immunology, with a strong interest in metagenomics. Additionally, his work focuses on developing novel diagnostic methods and biomarkers to address critical public health challenges.



Md Akeruzzaman Shaon

#### Md Akeruzzaman Shaon

Principal supervisor: Distinguished Professor Muhammad J A Shiddiky

Md Akeruzzaman Shaon is a PhD candidate specialising in biochemistry and molecular biology. He earned his Bachelor of Science in 2021 and Master of Science in 2022 from the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. Shaon has gained valuable hands-on experience as a scientific officer at the Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR), where he worked for seven months. His research interests are diverse and include cancer biochemistry and molecular biology, electrochemistry, bioinformatics, biostatistics and computational biology. Currently, he is focused on developing rapid, costeffective screening methods and devices for maternal health complications, with an emphasis on addressing the challenges of resource-limited settings.

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Artificial Intelligence and Cyber Futures Institute - Awards









## Al and Cyber Futures Institute wins 2025 top national award – 2025 Australian Cyber Awards

AICF has been recognised as the top Australian cyber research institution in 2025. AICF won the Research Institution of the Year award at the third annual Australian Cyber Awards 2025, presented by Cyberdaily.au in Sydney on Tuesday 29 April.

The Australian Cyber Awards provide national recognition for professionals' contributions to the advancement of the cyber industry, and AICF is incredibly proud to be recognised for the collaborative work underway with various industry partners.

AICF was specifically celebrated on the night for its impact beyond research, developing real-world cybersecurity tools that benefit both industry and communities.

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Artificial Intelligence and Cyber Futures Institute - Research news >

## AICF & AgriPark support record-breaking AUSSEF delegation

AICF and Charles Sturt AgriPark are proud to have supported the next generation of scientific innovators by sponsoring four students from the Australian Science and Engineering Fair (AUSSEF) to attend the 2025 Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) the world's largest pre-college science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) competition.

This year's AUSSEF delegation delivered a record-breaking performance, with 10 students from Australia and New Zealand bringing home six Grand Awards from a field of 1,650 of the world's top young scientists. This marks a major milestone, with Australia securing its firstever 1st Place Grand Award.

AICF's support reflects our ongoing commitment to nurturing talent and empowering youth to pursue careers in STEM - particularly in Al, cybersecurity and ethical innovation. Congratulations to the entire AUSSEF team! We're proud to play a role in uplifting young researchers who are already pushing boundaries and shaping the future of STEM.

## Aussie kids take on the world and win

10 talented teens are "over the moon" after cleaning up at the Tim Wilson from Hornsby's tural High School student of Saudia Arabia, whose gov-International Science and En- Barker College won the Cathy Zhang and Wellington ernment heavily sponsors the

since Australia started sending matta's Redeemer Baptist said Australia's team was larg-Australia's underdog squad of kids to compete in the US in School graduate Anubhav Am- er than any other non-Ameri-

gineering Fair in Columbus, \$10,000 first-place prize in the Ohio, defeating cashed-up Robotics and Intelligent Ma- Girls' College (NZ) student Isa- event and sends a huge media belle Aduna each came third in entourage with its competitors. Saudi students to take home chines category for his plush their categories to win \$1800. 25,000 in prize money. toy designed to help children Finalists from the Australian fall asleep, while New Zea- fail rounded out the list with title from the "pyramid of priz-Science and Engineering Fair lander Jesse Rumball-Smith her equal fourth for her shark- es" handed out to the top 25 per claimed six 'Grand Prizes' for won the Behavioural and So- skin-inspired scheme to reduce cent of the competition's 1650 their unique science projects cial Sciences award with his heavy vehicle emissions.

including - for the first time safer driving app. North Parra- Co-ordinator Stuart Garth





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Artificial Intelligence and Cyber Futures Institute - Research news  $\,\,\,\,\,\,\,\,\,\,\,\,\,\,\,$ 

#### AICF featured in national and international media

#### France 24 English – World Quantum Day

The United Nations is celebrating 2025 as the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology. At AICF, we're proud to be part of Australia's leadership in quantum innovation. During World Quantum Day, our own Physics and Machine Learning Lead Dr Ivan Maksymov was invited to speak live on France 24 English about Quantum AI. Their channel reaches over 560 million viewers worldwide.

Ivan spoke to the growth of AI and how Quantum AI systems can be more humanlike. With quantum as the future, Ivan explained how AICF is advancing research through the use of quantum computing and neural networks, research that will progress medical discovery, drug innovation, secure communications and more.

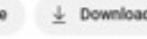


Quantum Computing: Revolution or cybersecurity threat? • FRANCE 24 English









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Debbie Clatworthy



Gulbali 🗸

Institute

Dr Monica Short School of Social Work and Arts Faculty of Arts and Education



Dalang Dkhar



**Timothy White** 



Katrina Gersbach



Dr Emma Rush
School of Social Work
and Arts
Faculty of Arts and
Education

#### Research sharing the lived experience of online PhDs with publications or creative works

New research led by PhD candidates Andrew Prevett (Charles Sturt alumni and Flinders University), Katrina Gersbach (Charles Sturt), Debbie Clatworthy (Charles Sturt), Dalang Dkhar (Charles Sturt) and Timothy White (Charles Sturt), and co-authored with two supervisors, Dr Emma Rush and Dr Monica Short from the School of Social Work and Arts (SSWA), has been published. Their article, 'In the thick of it: A candid look at the lived experience of online PhDs with publications or creative works,' provides valuable insights into the strengths and challenges of these unique academic pathways. For those interested in knowing more about this research, please email <a href="mailto:Dr Monica Short">Dr Monica Short</a>.

#### Reference:

Prevett, A., Gersbach, K., Clatworthy, D., Dkhar, D., White, T., Short, M & Rush, E. (2025). In the thick of it: a candid look at the lived experience of online PhDs with publications or creative works, <u>Australian Educational Researcher, online</u>.

#### **Abstract:**

This article presents a cooperative inquiry into the lived experience of pursuing a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree with publications or creative works. Drawing on the insights of five online PhD students and their two supervisors in an Australian online program, the research objective is to present perspectives contemporaneous with the online doctoral journey and address the research question: What are the strengths and challenges in undertaking a PhD with publication or creative works, and how do these differ according to personal backgrounds and academic disciplines? The research uncovers: first, the importance of passion, motivation, emotional aspects, and connections supporting these types of doctoral journeys; second, that navigating the formidable pressures and celebrating the rewards of publishing and creating is part of the process; and third, the integral partnership between supervisors and students in an online environment is essential in creating outputs. These themes were typical for the five student co-inquirers, but how they manifested differed relative to each individual's personal and professional backgrounds. This research expands current conversations about the emotional, psychological, and structural dimensions, adding nuance to the existing literature. It provides others considering enrolling, currently studying, or who are new to supervising these types of online PhDs with valuable insights that can benefit the future cohort of PhD candidates, particularly as universities address recent trends of declining enrollments in doctoral programs.

#### Interested in knowing more about these types of PhDs?

Please look out for the next Faculty of Arts and Education and Office of Graduate Studies Communities of Practice workshop being organised by Associate Professor Donna Bridges and Dr Monica Short: PhD by publication, prior publication and creative works workshop: Publishing pathways and avoiding potholes.

Date: 9 September 2025

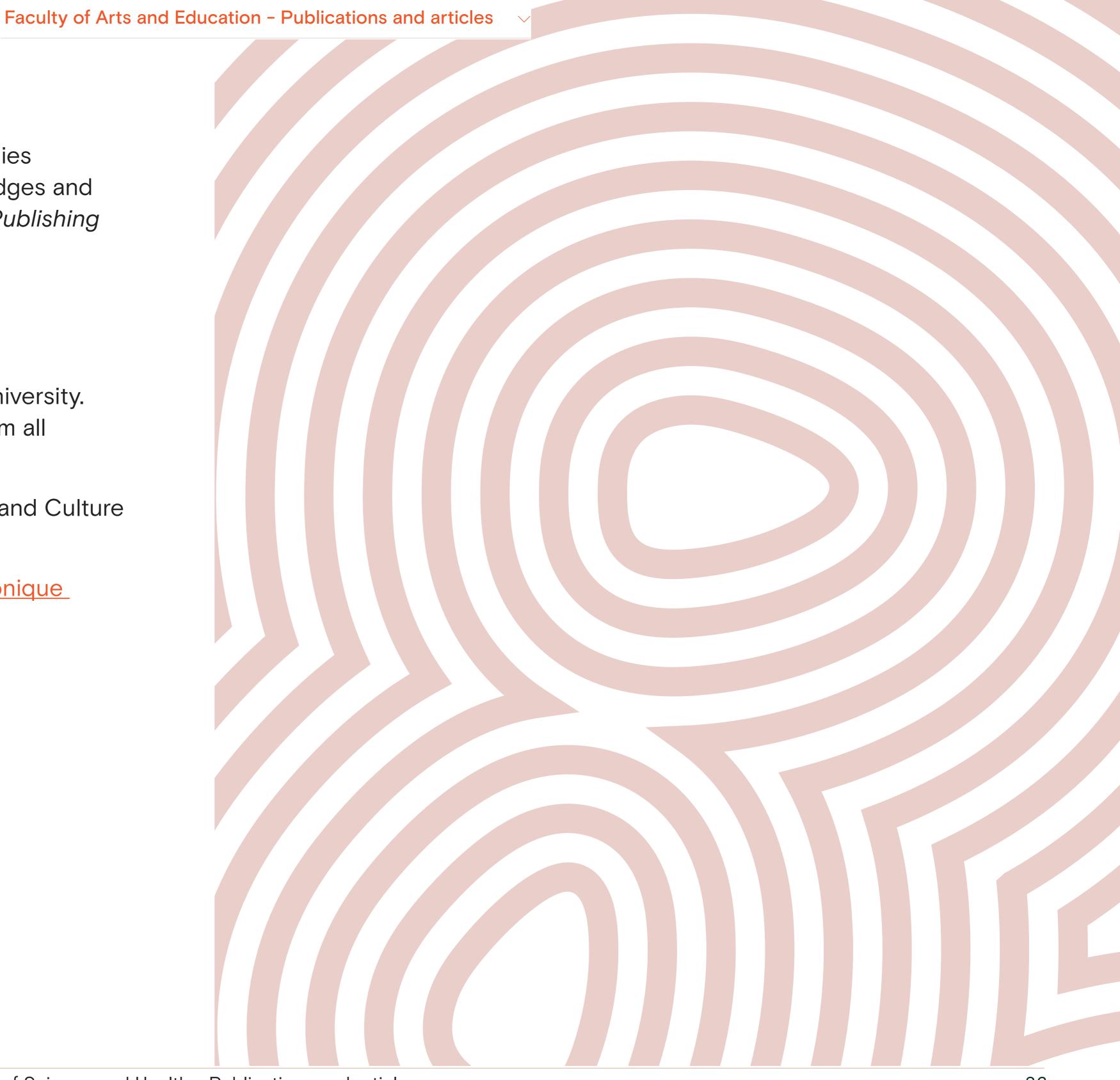
Time: 11am to 4.30pm

This workshop is open to all interested colleagues and students from all parts of the university. It will also be held as part of Social Science Week and, yes, it is open to colleagues from all disciplines.

Venue: Hybrid event, face-to-face in Canberra at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture and online.

Contacts: <u>Associate Professor Donna Bridges</u> (SSWA); <u>Dr Monica Short</u> (SSWA); <u>Dr Monique</u> **Shephard** (Office of Graduate Research)

Learn more about the 2024 Research Cafe workshops and presentations.



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Faculty of Science and Health - Publications and articles ~

#### **Publications**

Ruth Pape, is a PhD candidate, is excited to share the fifth and final PhD publication through the Q1 *Radiography* journal in collaboration with her supervisory team. This study aimed to establish populational female thoracic (rib cage) sizes and quantify female body habitus categories using a combination of two key professional knowledge frameworks; computed tomography (CT) images and Bayesian Network (BN) artificial intelligence (AI) modelling.

This is a novel scientific paper of a larger mixed-methods study involving quantitative examination of body habitus implications that will be embedded in Ruth's PhD thesis by publication.

Ruth's fourth PhD publication (qualitative study) through the Q1 *Radiography* journal, in collaboration with her supervisory team, explores the top-performing Australian radiographers' mammography best positioning techniques for patients with various body habitus and their perspective on optimised breast tissue inclusion.

Read article.

Ruth's third PhD publication (final experiment) through the Q1 *Radiography* journal, in collaboration with her supervisory team and external collaborators, explores the impact of the female thoracic size, breast size and image receptor (IR) angle on the volume of missing breast tissue (MBT) in mammographic imaging.

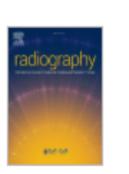
Read article.

#### Read article.



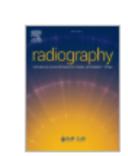
Radiography
Volume 31, Issue 5, August 2025, 103020

R. Pape a 🖰 🖾 , G. Xie b, X. Zheng a, A. Carstens ad, C. West e, C. Cowling f



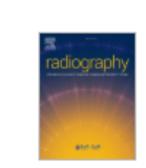
ELSEVIER

Radiography
Volume 31, Issue 3, May 2025, 102945





Radiography
Volume 31, Issue 3, May 2025, 102936



Development of populational female thorax sizes and body habitus categories using computed tomography (CT) images

A qualitative study of mammography best practice positioning for female body habitus and breast tissue inclusion in Australia

R. Pape <sup>a</sup>  $\stackrel{\triangle}{\sim}$   $\stackrel{\triangle}{\sim}$  C. West <sup>b</sup>, X. Zheng <sup>a</sup>, A. Carstens <sup>c d</sup>, C. Cowling <sup>e</sup>

Exploring the impact of the female thoracic size, breast size and image receptor angles on the volume of missing breast tissue in mammographic imaging

R. Pape <sup>a</sup>  $\stackrel{\triangle}{\sim}$  X. Zheng <sup>a</sup>, C. Cowling <sup>b</sup>, C. West <sup>c</sup>, A. Carstens <sup>d e</sup>, M. Kostidis <sup>f</sup>, H. Bowmast <sup>g</sup>

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Professor Manohar Pawar

School of Social Work and Arts, Faculty of Arts and Education Gulbali Institute Children's Voices Centre

# Special issue The Second World Summit for Social Development, 2025: Addressing the Gaps and Accelerating Progress

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Institute

After 30 years, the United Nations will organise the Second World Summit for Social Development in November 2025 to reaffirm its commitment to values and principles and social development goals. Three important goals of poverty eradication, full employment and decent work and social integration, as part of the 10 commitments, were agreed and declared by a majority of governments in the first World Summit for Social Development, held in 1995, known as the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development.

These goals were translated and actioned into 15 years (2000 to 2015) of Millennium Development Goals with partial success. To continue this pursuit, these goals were further expanded into the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be achieved in another 15-year target period, 2016–2030. Now, the world has only about five years to achieve these goals.

Significant efforts and progress made over decades has helped to reduce poverty and improve health, education and income levels. But unfortunately, the progress made so far has been hampered and or halted due to multiple crises. The COVID-19 pandemic and its impact; slow climate change action; and disasters, avoidable wars and conflicts, geo-political tensions, increasing cost of living, technological changes, and recent trade wars have altogether posed a new threat to quality of life and caused greater inequalities within and between countries.

To respond to regressive developments in recent years, the Second Summit for Social Development aims to identify and address the gaps in achieving the goals and accelerate progress. To contribute to these deliberations, Professor Manohar Pawar from the Charles Sturt School of Social Work and Arts has put together a *special issue of the International Journal of Community and Social Development* (https://journals.sagepub.com/toc/coda/7/2) by inviting leading scholars in their respective fields to provide analyses and recommendations for action. The special issue identifies major gaps relating to *social development*, global poverty, universal social protection, full employment and decent work, social integration, climate change action, digital divide, reforming the global financial system, financing gaps and options, and the SDGs.

In addition, the issue includes four regional perspectives – <u>Latin American</u>, <u>African</u>, <u>Asian</u> and <u>Nordic countries</u> – developed by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development as well as the <u>World Bank's view on social protection</u>. It also includes reviews of the UN <u>World Social Report 2025</u> and the UN <u>World Economic Situation and Prospects 2025</u>.

HDR V

Faculty of Business, Justice and Behavioural Sciences - Publications and articles  $\sim$ 

Beyond reaffirming commitment to social development values and goals, the special issue calls for the Second World Summit for Social Development to develop actionable policies and strategies and commit adequate resources to achieve:

- universal social protection, health and education to eradicate poverty
- full employment and decent work
- social integration, solidarity and resilience
- reduced inequalities and digital divide
- climate change action and just transition
- reduced defence spending
- · adequate finance.

To promote social development ideas, research and action, the <u>articles in the special issue</u> are open access and free to download as part of the journal's commitment to public good.

Professor Pawar calls for the Second World Summit to recognise and declare a World Social Development Day to raise greater awareness of social development values and goals and to mobilise resources to achieve the goals towards creating a united world in which everyone can live peacefully and prosper together.

Read the publication.





Faculty V

Research

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Faculty of Business, Justice and Behavioural Sciences - Publications and articles



Associate Professor Alain Neher School of Business Faculty of Business, Justice and Behavioural Sciences



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Associate Professors Alain Neher and Alfred Wong from Charles Sturt's School of Business, along with their international research team on Responsible and Sustainable Business, have co-authored a timely article for the *International* Journal of Community and Social Development. Commissioned for a special issue ahead of the Second World Summit for Social Development (Doha, Nov 2025), the article explores global financing gaps in official development assistance, debt servicing and socially responsible investment.

The team - featuring collaborators from Charles Sturt, Mahidol University (Thailand) and the University of Ghana - worked closely with the journal's Chief Editor Professor Manohar Pawar (Charles Sturt). They argue that just 0.5 per cent of global gross domestic product (GDP) could close the development financing gap, and call for inclusive, fair and culturally sensitive approaches to social development.

Read the full article.



**Associate Professor** Alfred Wong School of Business Faculty of Business, Justice and Behavioural Sciences

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Faculty of Business, Justice and Behavioural Sciences - Publications and articles ~



Associate Professor
Cliff Lewis
The Gender Network
(Gender, Feminist and
Queer Research and
Practice)
Faculty of Business,
Justice and
Behavioural Sciences

Discrimination and psychological wellbeing among LGBTQ+ Australians: The roles of belonging and place of residence

Gulbali 🗸

Institute

LGBTQ+ people continue to report poorer psychological health compared to cisgender heterosexual people. This is exacerbated in rural communities where conservative mindsets inform expectations of heteronormativity and contribute to discrimination.

A sense of belonging to the broader community can function as a protective factor, alleviating the impact of discrimination on psychological wellbeing. However, this relationship has not been examined in relation to place of residence (rural versus metropolitan).

This study investigated differences in discrimination, belonging to the broader community and psychological wellbeing among LGBTQ+ adults based on their place of residence. It examined whether belonging moderated the relationship between discrimination and psychological wellbeing and whether this moderating effect was conditional on place of residence. A sample of 340 Australian LGBTQ+ adults aged 18 to 83 years (M=39.11, SD=14.10) completed the Everyday Discrimination Scale, Sense of Belonging Scale, and Psychological Wellbeing Scale online.

Rural LGBTQ+ people reported a lower sense of belonging and psychological wellbeing and higher rates of discrimination compared to their metropolitan peers. Sense of belonging moderated the association between discrimination and psychological wellbeing, independently of place of residence. This suggests that belonging to the broader community was an important protective factor regardless of where the individual lived.

Read the article.

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Faculty of Business, Justice and Behavioural Sciences - Publications and articles



#### From thesis to book

By Samantha Jones Australian Graduate School of Policing and Security Faculty of Business, Justice and Behavioural Sciences

Research

Over the past four years, I have been working on developing a life cycle profile of terrorist organisations that could be used by industry. Supervised by Dr Kristy Campion and Dr Allan Douglas, the supervisory team provided ongoing support and expertise in this lofty endeavour, even in the face of adversity when others told me it couldn't be achieved (challenge accepted). The supervisory team were exceptional, and I am incredibly lucky to have them as supervisors and mentors. I believe this has made a significant impact on my overall positive experience being a doctoral student. The doctoral journey is filled with highs, lows and a complete immersion in literature. As a doctoral student, I read extensively on the research process, and one aspect that resonated with me was the concept of impostor syndrome. From the point of being accepted as a doctoral candidate, I questioned why they would say "yes". The more I read, the more I wrote, and the more I realised how much I didn't know which seemed to fuel the belief that a mistake had been made when they accepted me.

So, I continued reading and writing until there was one instance where I stopped questioning myself, and that was when I received feedback in my third year. There was a point where I realised I knew what I was saying, why I was saying it and its impact. I found that the hardest part of this journey was the last six months, as this was when everything started coming together quickly and there was a high volume of outcomes from the data analysis that did have an overwhelming impact in terms of what had been identified. This overwhelming period quickly passed as I knew that the thesis was coming to its final point. 2025 culminated in the successful development of a life cycle profile of terrorist organisations and was submitted for examination. During this time, Rutledge Publishing showed interest in the research being turned into a book and subsequently sent a proposal out for review. The feedback identified that the research would be a valuable contribution to the field and was subsequently recommended to be turned into a book by Professor John Horgan who is a leading scholar in the field of terrorism and will be editing the book. In one year, I will have my first book published. Having my research being recognised to such a degree

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that a book contract has emerged from it was not something I had ever anticipated happening. But I am incredibly grateful that it is, and for the opportunity.

The book focuses on the life cycle of terrorist organisations, contributing to the understanding of terrorist movements. It challenges existing conceptions of terrorism by drawing attention to the societal issues that give rise to terrorist organisations and illustrates their life cycle, from their preformation to their formation, evolution, disintegration and disbandment. Previous studies attempting to profile organisations or individuals have been said to exist within disciplinary silos, overlooking cross-disciplinary or interdisciplinary explanations. A preliminary terrorist organisation life cycle profile was developed by fusing concepts from psychology, sociology, criminology, geography and ideology with qualitative and quantitative data, effectively removing the silo effect. The selected case studies are transnational, transhistorical, cross-cultural and cross-ideological, contributing to a more holistic understanding of terrorist organisations.

This book investigates a range of extreme right-wing, left-wing, Salafi jihadist and separatist terrorist organisations to obtain a nuanced picture of their similarities and differences. Based on a mixed-methods approach, eight terrorist organisations were qualitatively analysed in terms of their ideologies, motivations, propaganda use, resource mobilisation, radicalisation and recruitment, resilience, and political and social developments and quantitatively analysed in terms of their timeframes, targets, weapons and locations. This was followed by a fusion of interdisciplinary data to

identify patterns, trends, similarities and differences. The book explains that there is an identification of key stages in the organisation life cycle (preformation, formation, evolution, disintegration and disbandment) as well as a sequence of events that take place during the life cycle of a terrorist organisation that coincide with internal organisational changes and external societal and political disruptions.

Each doctoral candidate will go through many highs and lows; however, this is ultimately an experience that has the capacity to push you beyond what you thought you were capable of and open doors that you didn't know existed. You need only determination and sometimes a pep talk to remind you that you have what it takes.

Faculty V

Research

Faculty of Business, Justice and Behavioural Sciences - Publications and articles  $\sim$ 



Professor Mark Nolan
Centre for Law and
Justice
Faculty of Business,
Justice and
Behavioural Sciences

# Celebrating contribution to new book

We warmly congratulate Professor Mark Nolan on his contribution to the newly released book, *Sexual Assault Trials: Challenges and Innovations* (Lexis Nexis), which was launched on 24 June 2025 at the County Court of Victoria.

Gulbali 🗸

Institute

Co-authored with Professor Jane Goodman-Delahunty, Professor Nolan's chapter, 'The quality of autobiographical memories of sexual assault' (pp. 45–66), reflected his deep commitment to advancing legal scholarship and interdisciplinary research in criminal law, psychology and justice reform.

The launch event featured prominent speakers, including Chief Judge Amanda Chambers, Deputy Chief Judge Meryl Sexton, Felicity Hampel, and Jacqui and Greg Byrne.

#### **About Professor Mark Nolan**

Professor Nolan, from Charles Sturt's Centre for Law and Justice, is an interdisciplinary scholar with expertise in law and social psychology. His teaching and research span criminal law, human rights, law and psychology, and military discipline law. He has held leadership roles at Charles Sturt and the Australian National University, including HDR Director and Associate Dean (Education).



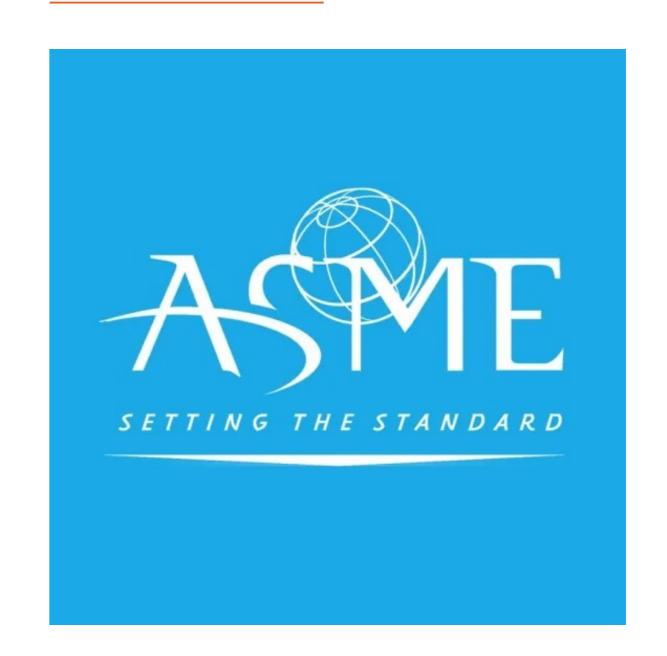
Professor Timothy
Anderson
School of Computing,
Mathematics and
Engineering
Faculty of Business,
Justice and
Behavioural Sciences

### Shedding light on Nepal's solar potential

Despite its location in the global sunbelt, Nepal's solar energy resources remain underexplored. To address this, Dr Sunil Prasad Lohani and Professor Timothy Anderson (Director, Charles Sturt Engineering) developed a new model to estimate hourly direct and diffuse solar irradiance, tailored explicitly to Nepal's conditions.

Their findings have been published in the ASME Journal of Solar Energy Engineering.

#### Read the article.



AICF >

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Dr Mahsheed Ansari Centre for Islamic Studies and Civilisation Faculty of Arts and Education

#### CISAC academic explores Qur'anic Mercy on ABC's Soul Search

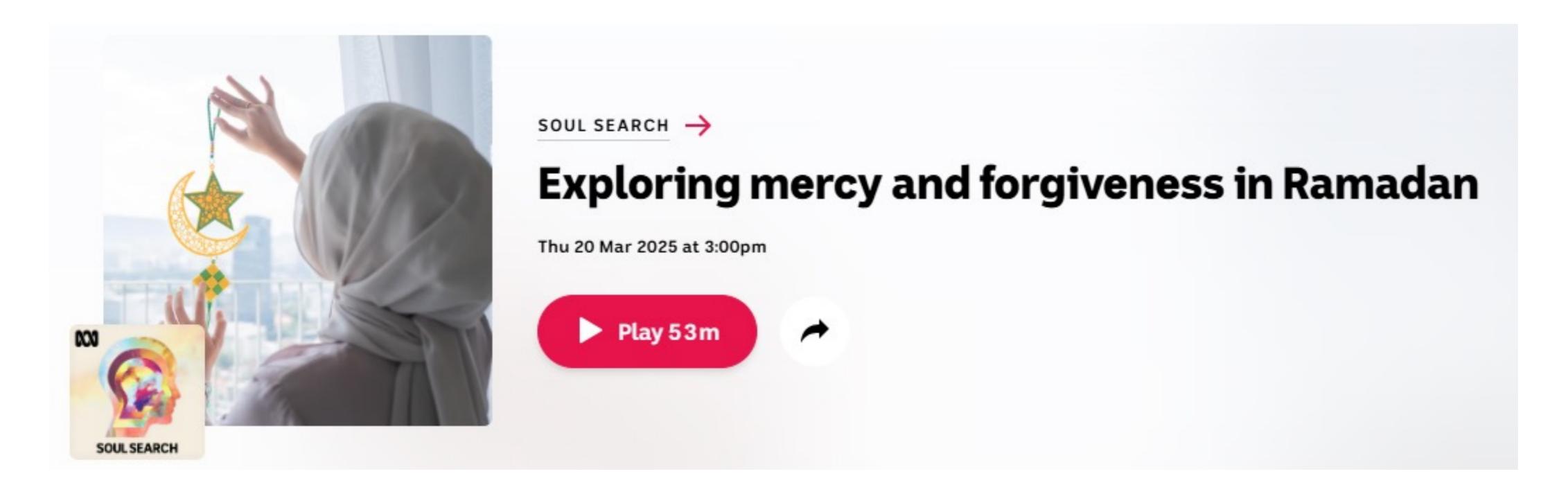
Dr Mahsheed Ansari, Senior Lecturer and Higher Degrees Coordinator at the Centre for Islamic Studies and Civilisation (CISAC), was recently featured on ABC Radio National's Soul Search program with host Dr Meredith Lake. In the special Ramadan episode, 'Exploring mercy and forgiveness in Ramadan,' Dr Ansari reflects on the spiritual and communal significance of mercy during the Islamic sacred month. Her reflections, drawn from both scholarly and personal perspectives, explore how the Qur'anic concept of mercy underpins the ethos of fasting and the broader ethical framework of Islam.

The broadcast was accompanied by a widely read ABC online feature titled 'In Ramadan, Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset - But it's also about mercy, forgiveness, and sharing food,' which drew from Dr Ansari's interview and her

recent article, 'Scriptural reasoning: Understanding mercy in the Qur'an'. Her contribution offered insight into the theological depth of divine mercy (ra ma) as a core Qur'anic principle, and its lived expression in contemporary Muslim practices, including communal Iftar gatherings.

Dr Ansari's involvement in this national media platform reflects Charles Sturt's growing voice in public scholarship and demonstrates how academic research in Islamic studies contributes meaningfully to public discourse on faith, ethics and interreligious understanding.

Listen to the episode on Soul Search.



HDR 🗸

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Associate Professor
Sam Bowker
Creative Practice
Research Circle /
School of Social Work
and Arts
Faculty of Arts and
Education

# Goha and the flea: Shadow concerts for the Chau Chak Wing Museum

Gulbali 🗸

Institute

As part of the Shams el-Nessem Egyptian Cultural Festival at the Chau Chak Wing Museum in the University of Sydney, Dr Sam Bowker was commissioned by Dr Melanie Pitkin to develop a new shadow puppet concert based on the medieval Egyptian practice of khayal al-zill (theatre of the imagination) – 'Goha and the flea'.

Performances were held at the Chau Chak Wing Museum at the University of Sydney for the Sham el-Nesseem festival on 27 April and for Arts National Orange on 26 June 2025. A subsequent research seminar was held online for the Creative Practice Research Circle on Monday 5 May 2025, prompting the development of a conference panel for the Art Association of Australia and New Zealand (AAANZ) in early December 2025. As part of project development and participatory research, two 'preview review' performances for community members were held in Wagga at the Curious Rabbit and a private venue in Canberra.

This collaborative shadow puppet performance was described by the coordinators as "a major highlight of the festival" with "incredibly beautiful singing!" by coloratura soprano Melinda Bowker. Puppets were co-developed by Timothy Crutchett and featured lyrics co-written in Arabic and English by Imad Mansour, Maz Mazen and Peter Hough. Dr Sam Bowker was the puppeteer in the traditional role of 'muqadeem'. As the Green Beetle Company research and performance collective, we have been reinvited to perform again in Sydney, and we are also guaranteed to perform in Wagga and Leeton later this year, courtesy of Eastern Riverina Arts and the Leeton Museum and Art Gallery (Western Riverina Arts).

Associate Professor Sam Bowker has also recently written exhibition essays for Tracey Jones at CBD Gallery in Sydney (*Cultural Baggage*), as well as a 'review in absentia' for Joel Markham (former Charles Sturt sessional lecturer in photography) of his exhibition *Carnival of Souls* at the Curious Rabbit in Wagga Wagga and a foreword for Natalie Fisher's new book *Chok*, regarding Uzbekistan's architectural ceramic heritage in needlepoint.





Professor Philip Hider School of Information and Communication Studies Faculty of Arts and Education

### Libraries Research Group meets with Wagga City librarians

The Libraries Research Group (LRG) invited Christine Bolton, the manager and staff from Wagga Wagga City Library to its meeting on 1 May, which was held on Charles Sturt's Wagga Wagga campus as well as online for those members who were not present in Wagga. Christine and her colleagues provided an overview of the latest developments in the library's services and discussed various possibilities for further research collaboration with the group. Highlights of the meeting included a guided tour of one of the librarians' Agile Library vans and an opportunity to pet one of the library's robotic cats.

The LRG comprises approximately 30 members, including 21 permanent Charles Sturt staff, who research a wide range of topics related to all types of libraries. Members hail from the Schools of Information and Communication Studies; Social Work and Arts; Indigenous Australian Studies; Theology; and Agricultural, Environmental and Veterinary Sciences. Five of its members are currently working on four different interdisciplinary projects funded by the Australian Research Council.







A Wagga Wagga City Agile Library

Faculty of Arts and Education - Research news >

#### New poetry collection mixes oil and water

Dr Connor Weightman from the Faculty of Arts and Education recently launched his first collection of poetry, titled *Five Hundred Swimming Pools*, through Rabbit Poetry.

The book was officially launched at Crystal Palace & Courtyard in Carlton North on a rainy autumn evening in the company of editor/publisher Professor Jessica Wilkinson (RMIT University) and fellow poet Eva Birch. A Q&A session and readings took place, and the launch was well attended.

The poems in *Five Hundred Swimming Pools* were sourced from the creative component of the PhD Connor completed at Charles Sturt University (which was supervised by Dr Lachlan Brown and Dr Suzie Gibson). The poetry collection attempts to interrogate what it means to live in a modern 'petroculture' and its attendant problems, while also reckoning with the challenge of creatively writing about crude oil consumption, which occurs on a massive scale yet remains seemingly invisible. The collection's title is a nod to Ed Ruscha's landmark pop-photography book *Twentysix Gasoline Stations* (1963) and refers to a rough sum of Australia's weekly oil expenditure.



HDR V

HDR V

### Remembering the Sabbath

In this busy time of year, as we in Charles Sturt juggle various competing academic and administrative responsibilities, a new book, *Sabbath Gospel: A New Narrative of Time, Rest, and the Work of the Church* (IVP, 2O25), co-authored by Practical Theology lecturer and research fellow at the Centre for Religion, Ethics and Society (CRES) Dr Amy Erickson, offers us an important perspective on time, rest and work and on the traditional concept of Sabbath and how a robust theology of Sabbath offers a challenging countercultural alternative to the seemingly ever expanding busyness of modern life.

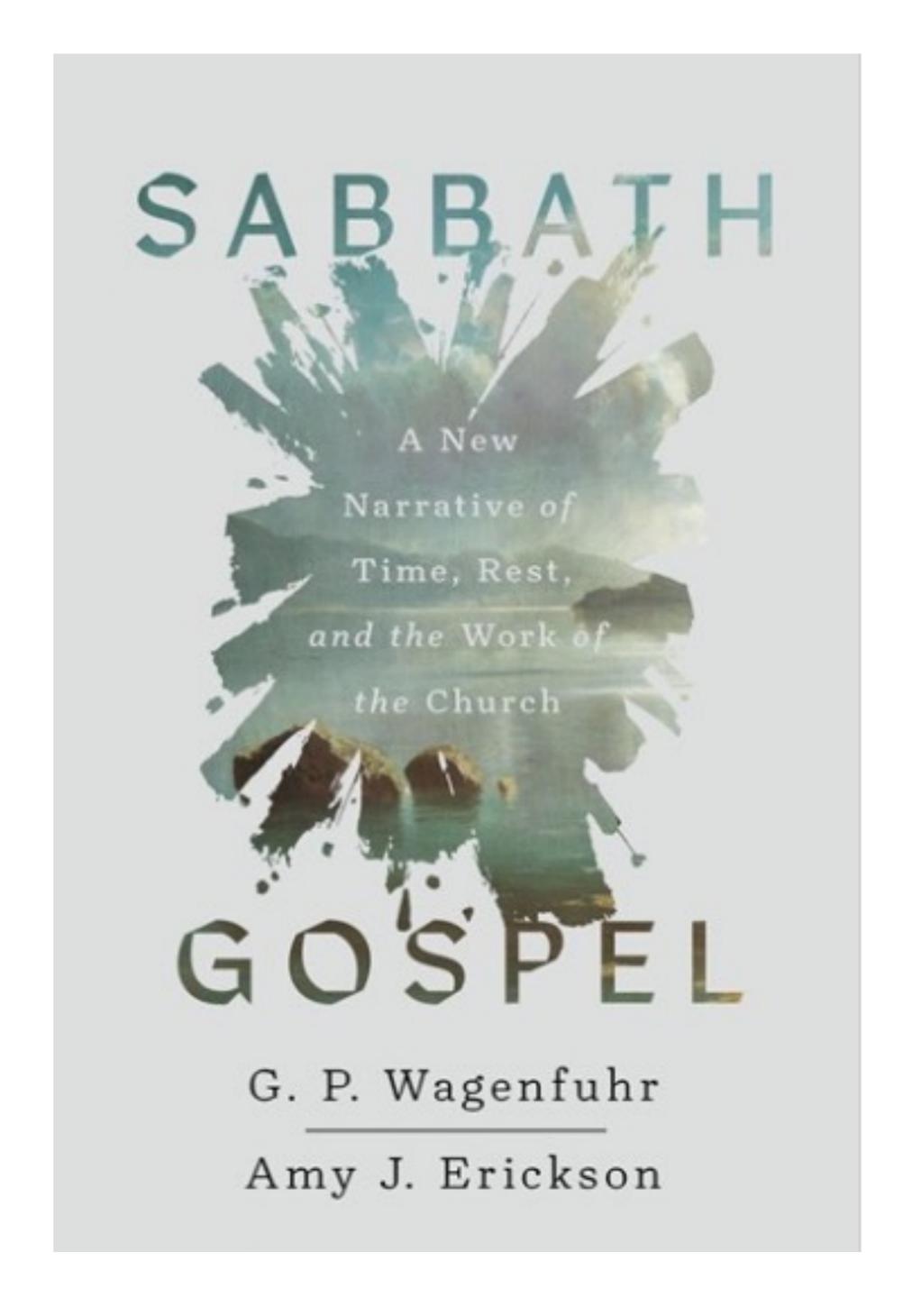
Writing with American colleague G. P. Wagenfuhr, Erickson noted:

"The world's relentless push for 'more and better' reflects a value system that is individualistic and economically exploitative, leaving Christians and the church itself exhausted. Amid this weariness, Sabbath emerges as not merely a day of rest, but a powerful, countercultural invitation to push back."

As publisher, IVP noted:

"In Sabbath Gospel, G. P. Wagenfuhr and Amy J. Erickson invite us to consider Sabbath as much more than a cessation from work. Sabbath is a grand exodus from tiring economic regimes and the empty promise of self-actualization. By expanding our vision of Sabbath beyond the Creation story, we vacate the idol of the world and take our place in the household of God, the church, where Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath. In this robust biblical theology, scholars, theologians, and pastors find a fresh approach to Sabbath that moves us beyond empty practices and renews our language about the gospel."

More information on this timely and exciting publication.



RHRI 🗸

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Professor Geoff Currie AM

### Global recognition for Professor Geoff Currie AM

In the recently released ScholarGPS research rankings of 12.5 million researchers globally, Professor Geoff Currie AM from the School of Dentistry and Medical Science was ranked third among the nine Charles Sturt ranked researchers in the discipline of physics and nuclear science.

Professor Currie ranked in the top 0.09 per cent overall, the top 0.07 per cent in medicine, the top 0.05 per cent in radiology, and the top 0.03 per cent in artificial intelligence.

Professor Currie was selected to represent the membership of the Australasian College of Physical Scientists and Engineers in Medicine (ACPSEM) on the International Advisory Committee for the World Congress on Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering (incorporating EPSM/ABEC 2025, ICMP 2025 and AOCMP 2025), organised by the International Union for Physical and Engineering Sciences in Medicine (IUPESM), ACPSEM, Engineers Australia, the International Organisation for Medical Physics (IOMP) and International Federation for Medical and Biomedical Engineering (IFMBE), to be held in Adelaide later in 2025. He also had five abstracts accepted for the World Congress.



Mr George John School of Dentistry and Medical Sciences Faculty of Science and Health

### National appointment to the Diabetes Australia Research Steering Committee

Congratulations to Mr George John, Head of the Discipline of Medical Science and Senior Lecturer in Pharmacy Practice, on his appointment to the Diabetes Australia Research Steering Committee for a three-year term beginning February 2025.

This prestigious national committee is responsible for reviewing research applications under the Diabetes Community Priorities and Project Grants schemes. In 2026, over \$2 million will be awarded to research projects addressing the real-world needs of people living with diabetes, with a focus on reducing the burden on individuals, the healthcare system and society.

Mr John's appointment reflects his academic and clinical expertise in community health and translational research, and highlights Charles Sturt University's growing role in shaping national health research and policy.

Learn more.

Faculty of Science and Health - Research news >



Dr Kristy Robson
Three Rivers
Department of Rural
Health
Faculty of Science
and Health



Associate Professor
Melissa Nott
Three Rivers
Department of Rural
Health
Faculty of Science
and Health

# Supporting rural ageing through innovation: The Wellness 2 Age program

Gulbali 🗸

Institute

Australia's ageing population is growing rapidly, with rural communities facing particular challenges due to workforce shortages, social isolation and limited access to preventative health programs. In response, researchers at Three Rivers Department of Rural Health have developed and trialled an innovative solution, the Wellness 2 Age program, a structured, evidence-informed program designed to support older people to live independently, stay socially connected, and maintain cognitive and physical wellbeing.

Led by Dr Kristy Robson and Associate Professor Melissa Nott, the Wellness 2 Age program was developed in direct response to the needs of older adults in regional New South Wales who expressed a desire to remain active and independent in their own homes. Piloted through the Community Engagement and Wellness Centre in Albury, the program integrates movement, brain health and social connection into a 10-week group-based format. Participant feedback from the pilot phase was overwhelmingly positive, with many noting improvements in mobility, memory, mood and overall confidence.

Following initial success, the team secured funding from the HCF Foundation to expand the program to community settings in 2024. The implementation trial tested different delivery models across three rural health services: a public outpatient clinic, a private allied health practice and an aged care organisation. In each setting, the program was adapted to suit available workforces, including a model in which aged care staff delivered sessions with virtual support from allied health professionals.

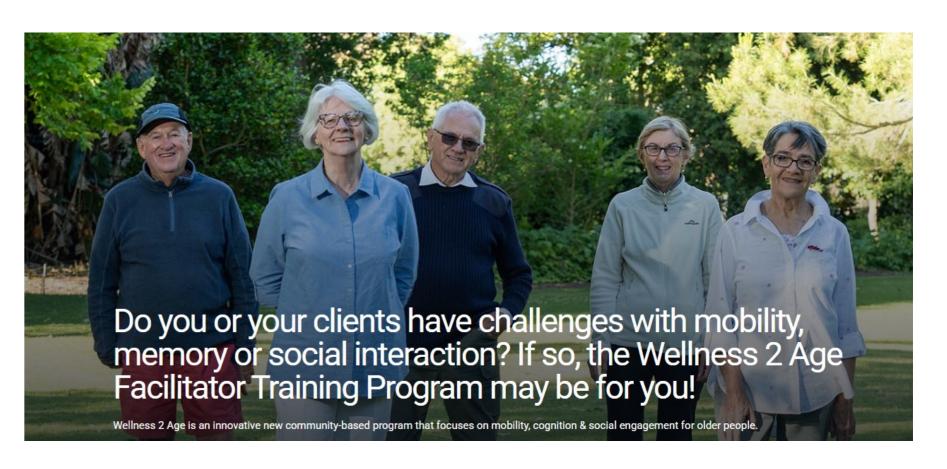
Recent evaluations of the results have been compelling. Participants across all sites reported measurable improvements in everyday function and wellbeing. Facilitators also praised the program's flexible design and accessible online training. Notably, the program proved to be both acceptable and feasible within diverse service contexts, including those with limited access to on-site allied health staff.

One participant reflected, "I haven't had to think about myself so much since doing the program. Now I enjoy getting out, visiting people, something I hadn't done in a long time". For many, the program offered more than health benefits; it reignited social engagement and restored a sense of purpose.

Wellness 2 Age exemplifies how local innovation can address national challenges. It aligns closely with aged care reforms and calls for more proactive, person-centred models of care. The program's success demonstrates that healthy ageing doesn't require a one-size-fits-all solution, but rather adaptable models that respond to community needs and workforce realities.

With growing interest from health and aged care organisations, the research team is now seeking funding to support the next phase of development, exploring commercialisation pathways to make Wellness 2 Age more widely accessible. This includes identifying scalable models and partnership opportunities to extend the program's reach across rural and regional communities, ensuring older Australians, regardless of postcode, can access opportunities to stay well, connected and independent as they age.

#### More information.





Dr Isabel Paton School of Allied Health, Exercise and Sports Sciences Faculty of Science and Health

### Innovative cross-faculty research elevates interprofessional education

Charles Sturt University faculties and schools are partnering in innovative research to develop health student interprofessional collaborative practice (IPC) capability through interprofessional education (IPE).

Researchers from the School of Allied Health, Exercise and Sports Science – Dr Isabel Paton, Pamela Webb and Bronwyn Connelly; the School of Nursing Paramedicine and Healthcare Sciences – Dr Annabel Matheson; the School of Rural Medicine – Associate Professor Francis Genonimo; and the School of Psychology – Dr James Collison are working together to elevate Charles Sturt as a centre of excellence for IPE.

Several projects are underway, including mapping, curriculum development and a scoping review to inform the development of a Charles Sturt Framework for IPE. This research is highly progressive, as it considers IPE in the context of contemporary considerations in higher education, such as GenAl, digital health technologies and cultural safety. This work builds on research undertaken by Dr Isabel Paton, Senior Physiotherapy Academic and Associate Head of School, who explored the development of collaborative practice capability among allied health students.

As a result of this research, Dr Paton has presented at the All Together Better Health Conferences in New Zealand and at the University of Oxford in the UK, and at the Nordic Interprofessional Network of Europe in Copenhagen in late 2024. Dr Paton was then invited to the Karolinska Institute and Soderskhuset Hospital in Sweden to further discussions around IPE and developing health student IPC capability with researchers and academics.

Dr Paton has also recently presented several professional development sessions for Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health (SARRAH) around the notion of IPC and the development of IPC capability.

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#### Digital Irrigated Agriculture Workforce Futures

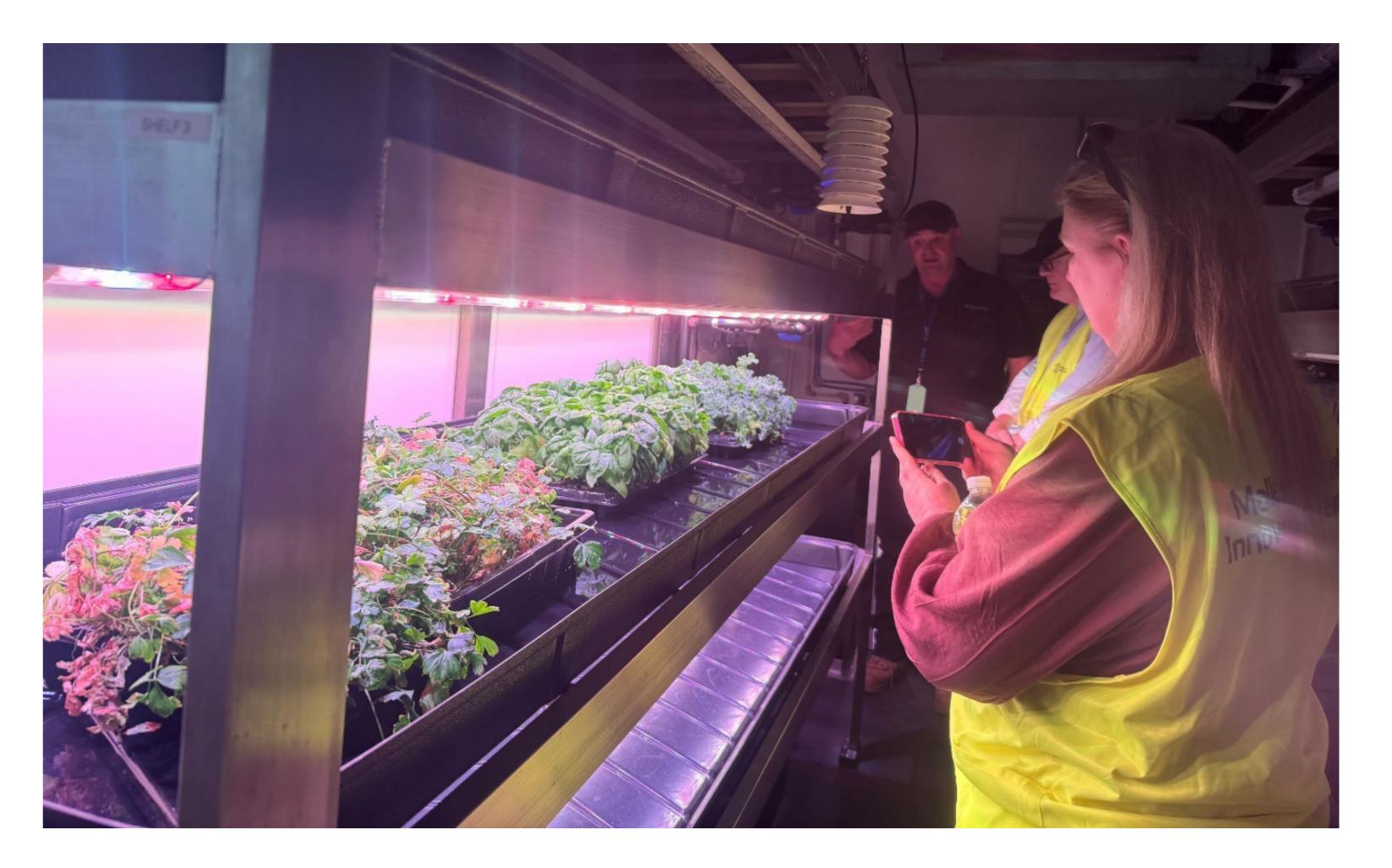
Working with the One Basin Cooperative Research Centre (CRC), the Digital Irrigated Agriculture Workforce Futures project has commenced. It includes working with industry partner SuniTAFE, located in Mildura, Victoria.

The project focuses on developing an enhanced understanding of the educational digital literacy needs of individuals within the digital irrigation ecosystem and creating educational frameworks to meet these learning needs through best-practice delivery models. This will equip the future workforce to utilise digital tools effectively. This includes the ability to respond to changing needs for technology use rapidly. The project also aims to understand the social cost-benefit analysis of agricultural education in relation to digital literacy. Whilst the project focuses on digital irrigation technologies, funded by the One Basin CRC, it is anticipated that the implications and knowledge gained from the project will have a broader impact across the agricultural workforce. This project runs in parallel with two other initiatives that aim to enhance the use and value of digital irrigation across the Murray-Darling Basin.

These other projects focus on:

- the role of advisory services
- the technology components and user interface.

Dr Pauline Rogers has recently been appointed to the project for Charles Sturt and is located at the Mallee Regional Innovation Centre, co-located at SuniTAFE. Other Charles Sturt and SuniTAFE members involved in the project are Professor Leigh Schmidtke from the Gulbali Institute, Associate Professor Lena Danaia from the School of Education, Rui Bi from the School of Business, Jon Medway from the Global Digital Farm and David Cleary from SuniTAFE.



Institute

Yindyamarra V

Nguluway

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Dr Vivian Isaac School of Allied Health, Exercise and Sports Sciences Faculty of Science and Health

# Measuring psychological capacity in ageing: International study secures \$1.22 million grant

Researchers from Charles Sturt University, Flinders University and the University of Adelaide, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), will embark on a momentous multi-centre, international project to develop a scale to measure psychological capacity in older adults.

Population ageing is a major global public health and sociodemographic concern, as an increase in longevity does not always go with good health. There is a paradigm shift towards ageing and aged care services that are positive, inclusive and empowering, building on people's capacity and resources.

In 2015, the WHO released a public health framework for healthy ageing, built around the concept of the intrinsic capacities and functional abilities of older people, rather than their deficits. Psychological capacity is a key domain of intrinsic capacity, but there is no established definition nor a comprehensive and valid scale to measure psychological capacity.

The project, From Deficit to Capacity in Healthy Ageing: Development and Validation of a Measure of Psychological Capacity in Older People, has been awarded a 2.5-year grant of \$1.22 million by Velux Stiftung, Switzerland.

Dr Vivian Isaac, Senior Lecturer Interdisciplinary Health, School of Allied Health, Exercise and Sports Sciences, Charles Sturt University, will lead the project with co-investigators Dr Candice Oster, Senior Research Fellow, and Associate Professor Jyoti Khadka from the Caring Futures Institute, Flinders University and Dr Sonia Hines, Senior Research Fellow, Synthesis Science Division, JBI, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, The University of Adelaide, South Australia. This study will address the critical research gap in the field, specifically the lack of a standardised, capacity-based definition and a comprehensive, valid measurement of psychological capacity in ageing. The study will make a significant contribution to the global monitoring systems of healthy ageing.

Faculty of Business, Justice and Behavioural Sciences - Research news V

# Buzzing with purpose: UN World Bee Day celebrations at Charles Sturt

Charles Sturt University celebrated UN World Bee Day with hands-on events across campuses in Bathurst, Wagga Wagga and Albury-Wodonga. Led by the Bathurst Campus Environmental Working Group, the event highlighted the vital role of pollinators in food systems and what we can all do to support them – from bee-friendly gardening to the famous *Waggle Dance*.

Read more.



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Dr Jamie Ferrill
Australian Graduate
School of Policing
and Security
Faculty of Business,
Justice and
Behavioural Sciences

#### Dr Jamie Ferrill elected to the Association for Borderlands Studies Executive

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In March 2025, Dr Jamie Ferrill was elected as the new Vice President of the Association for Borderlands Studies (ABS). The ABS is a leading international scholarly association dedicated to fostering research, teaching, and understanding of borders and borderlands worldwide. This prestigious appointment, decided by a vote open to all ABS members, offers substantial opportunities for Charles Sturt to enhance its visibility and impact within the field of global border studies.

This election marks the beginning of a key three-year leadership trajectory for Jamie. She will become the President-Elect in 2026 and will then assume the Presidency of the ABS in 2027, promising a sustained period of impactful leadership for this important organisation.

As VP, Jamie's vision encompasses initiatives aimed at empowering emerging scholars, promoting greater inclusivity within the association and enhancing global collaborations, including the establishment of mentorship programs and the development of innovative strategies for membership growth. Jamie brings a blend of practical and academic expertise to this role. Before her academic career, nearly a decade of experience in frontline and managerial positions with the Canada Border Services Agency provided direct insights into the operational realities of border management. This experience, combined with interdisciplinary academic training in criminal justice and homeland security and her PhD research, enables a comprehensive approach to border studies. Her research extends beyond traditional territorial models, focusing on critical areas such as economic and environmental security, mobility and cross-border cooperation, enriching the global understanding of border complexities.

Jamie's commitment to advancing scholarly discourse and fostering international collaboration was recently showcased at the 2025 ABS Conference in Seattle, where she presented research in four panels and co-hosted an emerging scholars' networking event and a practitioners' workshop.

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César Álvarez
Velasquez
Australian Graduate
School of Policing
and Security
Faculty of Business,
Justice and
Behavioural Sciences

#### Charles Sturt University researcher quoted in The Wall Street Journal's global feature on cocaine trade

Charles Sturt University's research made global headlines in *The Wall Street Journal*'s in-depth feature, 'The potent powder and "narco-subs" driving cocaine's global surge' (2 May 2025). The article explores the dramatic expansion of the international cocaine trade, including the use of semi-submersible 'narco-submarines' by criminal networks.

The feature includes expert insights from César Álvarez, a Charles Sturt academic, highlighting the university's leadership in transnational crime and drug policy research. His commentary sheds light on the evolving nature of organised crime, the challenges for global law enforcement, and the implications for Australian and international security.

This recognition underscores Charles Sturt's growing impact on global policy discussions and its commitment to engaging with media on complex, real-world issues.

Read the article:

The Wall Street Journal

ProQuest access for Charles Sturt staff/students

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Associate Professor Valerie Ingham, Australian Graduate School of Policing and Security Faculty of Business, Justice and Behavioural Sciences



Dr Lucia Wuersch, School of Business Faculty of Business, Justice and Behavioural Sciences

# Resilient villages – Final report

The newly published Resilient Villages Action Research Project Final Report (Howard et al., 2025) involved researchers from the University of Sydney and Associate Professor Valerie Ingham and Dr Lucia Wuersch from Charles Sturt University.

Gulbali 🗸

Institute

The research project was conducted over three years to evaluate the Resilient Villages pilot project to support disaster-prone communities in the Blue Mountains. It was a federal-funded project, won by Mountains Community Resource Network, aimed at creating long-term, community-led initiatives for disaster resilience, rather than establishing new programs that communities could not sustain post funding.

The research team collaborated closely with the Resilient Villages team, comprising local community development workers, to support their planning and strategy for each participating village. The goal was to develop Resilient Action Plans. Engaging in various local events, such as the Megalong Valley Expos and Makers Markets, in multiple villages resulted in trustworthy connections, serving as a foundation for potential future projects.

The research found that an integrated trauma-informed approach, coupled with community development and coordination with emergency management agencies, is essential for disaster resilience. The shift from traditional top-down strategies to more flexible, locally informed practices could influence frameworks, such as the NSW State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989, and guide local councils in their disaster preparedness and response initiatives.

The research was presented at the 9th Regulating for Decent Work Conference, organised by the International Labour Office, from 2-4 July 2025 in Geneva, Switzerland.



#### References

Howard, A., Ingham, V., Massola, C., Rawsthorne, M., Santos, A., & Wuersch, L. (2025). Resilient villages action research project - final report. On behalf of Mountains Community Resources Network. <a href="https://researchoutput.csu.edu.au/">https://researchoutput.csu.edu.au/</a> ws/portalfiles/portal/605831651/RESILIENT\_ VILLAGES\_REPORT\_LOW\_RES.pdf

Wuersch, L., & Ingham, V. (2025). Resilience action plans for safe workplaces in disasterprone communities: A case study in the Blue Mountains, Australia. In The 9th Conference of the Regulating for Decent Work Network: Strengthening labour institutions and worker voice to deliver decent employment, Geneva, Switzerland, 2-4 July. <a href="https://researchoutput.csu.">https://researchoutput.csu.</a> edu.au/en/publications/resilience-action-plansfor-safe-workplaces-in-disaster-prone-com







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Faculty of Business, Justice and Behavioural Sciences - Research news

#### Advancing global Al research: Associate Professor Xiaodi Huang

Associate Professor Xiaodi Huang from the School of Computing, Mathematics and Engineering continues to build his reputation as a leading researcher in artificial intelligence (AI) through high-impact publications and global academic engagement.

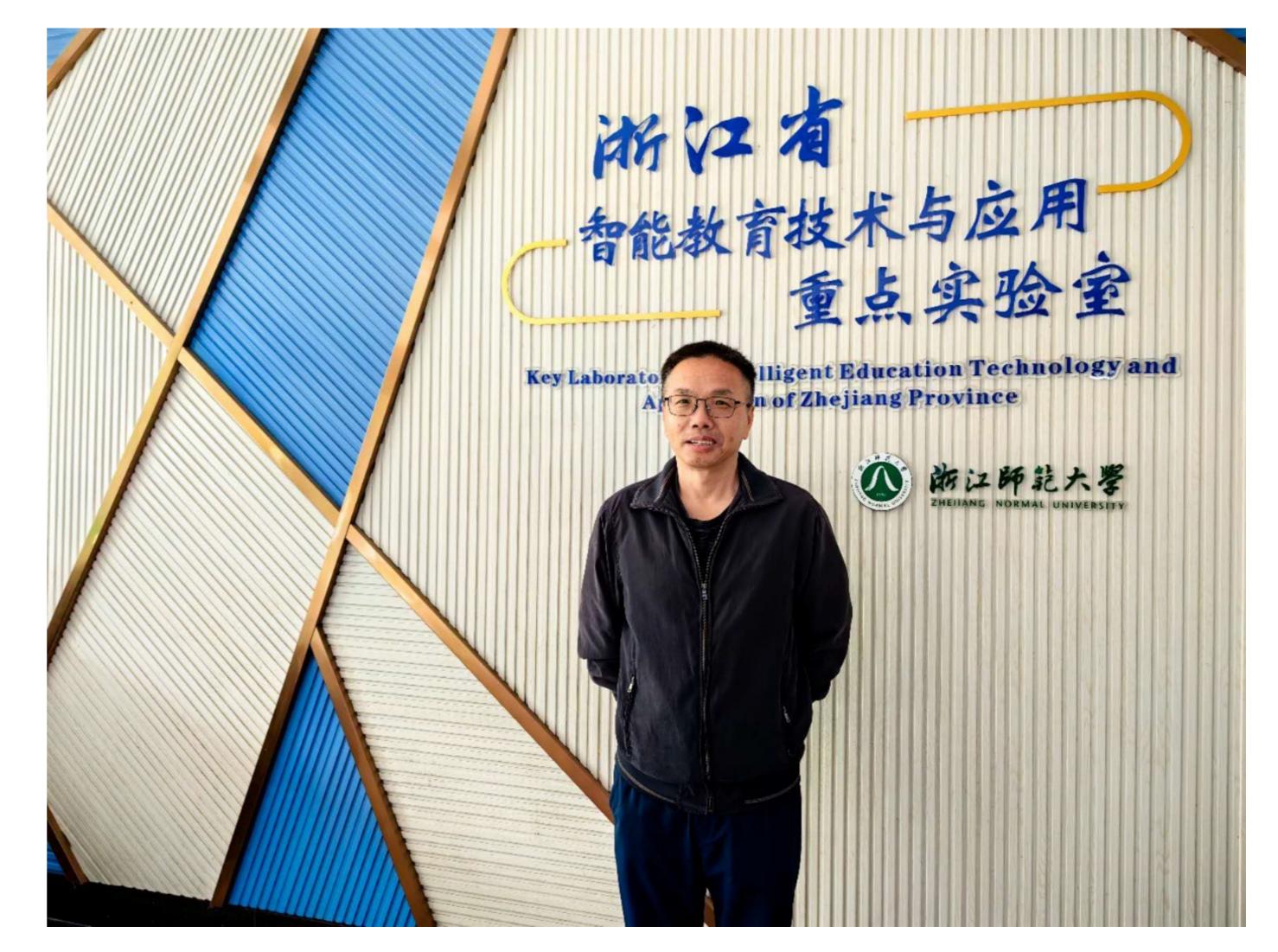
Between December 2024 and March 2025, Associate Professor Huang co-authored several papers in prestigious journals, including:

- IEEE Transactions on Knowledge and Data Engineering (IF 8.9)
- IEEE Transactions on Cybernetics (IF 9.4)
- IEEE Transactions on Affective Computing (IF 9.6).

He also presented at top-tier conferences such as the International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI 2025, CORE A\*), which accepted only 19.3 per cent of over 5,400 submissions, and the European Conference on Artificial Intelligence (ECAI, CORE A).

In December 2024, Associate Professor Huang was invited to deliver keynote speeches at two international conferences and present invited talks at four universities. These events enabled him to share research insights, mentor early-career AI scholars and foster global collaborations.

His recent work explores knowledge engineering, graph neural networks and multimodal sentiment analysis, with applications across healthcare, agriculture and education, demonstrating how Charles Sturt's AI research is making a real-world impact.



Associate Professor Xiaodi Huang, from the School of Computing, Mathematics and Engineering, Faculty of Business, Justice and Behavioural Sciences

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# Cybersecurity and farmers – new website helps farmers to 'shut the gate on cyber intruders'

A Charles Sturt-led initiative is helping Australian farmers protect their businesses from cyber threats. In collaboration with three other universities, researchers developed the *Farmers' Guide to Cybersecurity* – a free, practical, web-based resource specifically designed for the agriculture sector.

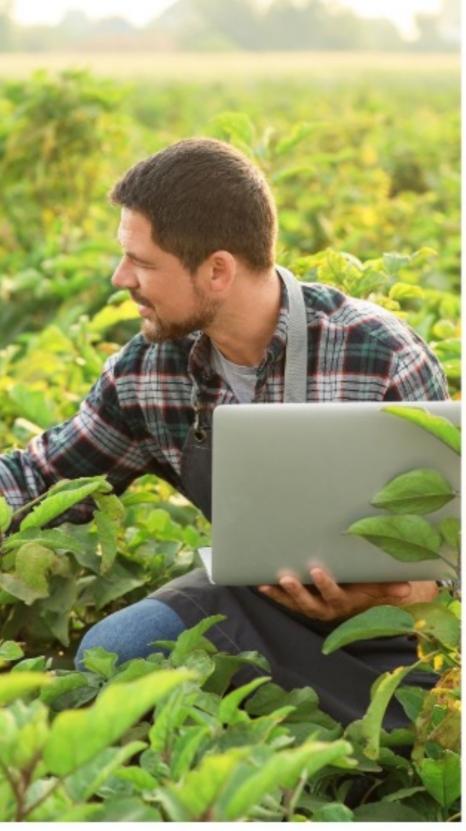
The guide includes training modules, fact sheets, videos and additional resources to help producers understand risks and enhance their cyber resilience.

The initiative is coordinated by Professor Mark Morrison (Professor of Economics, Charles Sturt School of Business). It is part of the larger Securing Critical Agriculture Technology and Emerging Solutions (SCATES) program, led by Professor Rafiqul Islam.

Funded by the Cyber Security Cooperative Research Centre (CRC), the project is supported by the Australian Government and a consortium of national partners, including CSIRO, the AFP, Australian Signals Directorate and state governments.

Read more and access the guide.







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HDR V



Dr Miao Li
School of Computing,
Mathematics and
Engineering
Faculty of Business,
Justice and
Behavioural Sciences

# Building industry connections at Charles Sturt Engineering By Dr Miao Li

At Charles Sturt Engineering, we believe that fostering authentic industry connections is crucial to preparing our students for meaningful and impactful careers. Recently, I had the privilege of inviting Hilda Lee, an accomplished engineering leader with over 15 years of international experience, to speak to our students at the Bathurst campus. This event, held on 26 May 2025, marked an inspiring and memorable morning that broadened students' perspectives on what it means to be an engineer today.

Currently a senior project manager at AtkinsRéalis, Hilda's career journey has taken her across Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore and the UK. Her work spans client, consulting and contracting roles, including high-profile appointments at McKinsey & Company and Balfour Beatty. With academic credentials from Imperial College London and an MBA from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hilda exemplifies the global engineer – technically skilled, deeply reflective and driven by purpose.

Hilda's presentation took place in our Engineering building in Bathurst and was attended by students across the first and second year levels. From the outset, it was clear that Hilda brought a wealth of knowledge, practical insight and infectious enthusiasm for engineering. During her talk, Hilda highlighted several major infrastructure projects she has worked on, including the Hong Kong high-speed rail station and the current HumeLink project – a 500kV transmission line connecting Wagga Wagga, Bannaby and Maragle. She also spoke about emerging innovations in the sector, such as the integration of artificial intelligence in construction processes. Students were fascinated by the scale and complexity of these projects and appreciated Hilda's ability to explain them through the lens of real-world problem solving and stakeholder engagement.

What struck a particularly deep chord with many attendees was Hilda's reflection on engineering as an intersection of science and the humanities. This theme came alive when she shared her volunteer experiences in Cambodia, where she helped build schools for local children. Her message was clear: engineering is not just about structures and systems – it's about people, communities and improving lives. Her work in Cambodia, as well as her involvement in heritage restoration and design empowerment initiatives, demonstrated how engineering can be a profound force for good.

To enhance student learning, I embedded a short reflective questionnaire into our Brightspace site following the session. Students were asked two questions: "What did you learn from Hilda Lee's talk?" and "What was the highlight of her presentation?" The responses were thoughtful and encouraging.

One student wrote, "I really understand how far engineering can take you around the world and the opportunities that can come along with it". Another reflected, "Civil engineering offers a vast array of opportunities across the world that can all be very unique". Several students commented on the importance of volunteering and the value of engaging with diverse projects beyond the classroom. One remark that stood out was "The idea that civil engineering is at the intersection of science and humanities, directly applying science to improve lives, was inspiring". Others found meaning in the smaller but deeply impactful projects Hilda described: "How impactful and important some smaller engineering projects are, like the school in Cambodia and the French restoration project". Another noted, "Get involved with various projects, even if it's for volunteering, it brings different perspectives and opens up more opportunities".

Another exciting outcome of the visit was an unexpected connection that emerged. It turns out that one of our current students, who is progressing as a cadet engineer at Transgrid, will soon be working together with Hilda on

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the HumeLink project. This moment beautifully encapsulates the purpose of integrating industry engagement into our learning environment: to create genuine opportunities, foster professional relationships, and bridge the gap between academia and industry.

Hilda's visit was more than just a guest lecture - it was a powerful example of how engineering education can be enriched through dialogue with practising professionals. It also reaffirmed our commitment to exposing students to diverse role models and career pathways. By seeing someone like Hilda – who blends technical excellence with humanitarian passion – our students gain a broader, richer understanding of their future potential as engineers. At Charles Sturt Engineering, we are proud to cultivate a culture of connection, curiosity and community. Guest speakers like Hilda Lee don't just share knowledge they ignite ambition, expand worldviews and remind students that engineering is not just a career but a lifelong journey of learning and service.

Charles Sturt Engineering offers students hands-on project-based learning. Working on authentic engineering projects and helping solve real problems, the learning experience offers collaboration between students and industry partners. From research and design to prototyping, testing and implementation, students experience the full project life cycle.





Dr James Wickham School of Dentistry and Medical Sciences Faculty of Science and Health

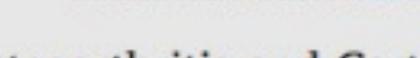
#### 2025 Publication of the Year Award

Dr James Wickham and his fellow co-authors have received recognition from the Osteoarthritis Research Society International by being awarded the Publication of the Year Award in their prestigious journal *Osteoarthritis and Cartilage Open*. This journal publishes the latest clinical research on osteoarthritis from around the world, and its publication on the results of a Phase I/II allogeneic knee osteoarthritis randomised controlled trial was chosen as the best.





Contents lists available at ScienceDirect



Osteoarthritis and Cartilage Open





Safety and efficacy of an allogeneic adipose-derived mesenchymal stem cell preparation in the treatment of knee osteoarthritis: A Phase I/IIa randomised controlled trial



Julien Freitag a, b, c, Matthew Chamberlain b, James Wickham d, Kiran Shah c, Flavia Cicuttini c, f, Yuanyuan Wang c, Ann Solterbeck s, on behalf of Melbourne Stem Cell Centre Research Group b, Magellan Stem Cells Group c

- "School of Rural Medicine, Charles Start University, Orange, NSW, 2800, Asserolia
- \* Melbourne Stern Cell Centre Research, Box Hill, VIC, 3128, Australia
- Magellan Stern Cells, 9A Sugar Gum Court, Braeside, VIC, 3295, Australia
- <sup>d</sup> School of Dereistry & Medical Sciences, Charles Start University, Orange, NSW, 2800, Australia
- "School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Monach University, Melbourne, VIC, 3004, Australia
- Department of Rheamstology, Alfred Hospital, Melbourne, VIC, 3004, Australia
- 8 Statistical Revelotions Pty Ltd. Ocean Grove, VIC, 3226, Australia



Professor Amy
MacDonald
School of Education
Faculty of Arts and
Education

# Professor Amy MacDonald awarded prestigious ARC Future Fellowship

Charles Sturt University's Professor Amy MacDonald has been awarded a highly competitive Australian Research Council (ARC) Future Fellowship, securing \$1,264,129 for a ground-breaking project that aims to transform the way early mathematics is assessed in Australian classrooms.

The project, *Meaningful Assessment in Early Mathematics*, will develop a suite of drawing-based mathematical tasks for young children, aligned with the Australian Curriculum: Mathematics. These tasks will be supported by analysis tools and professional resources to help early years teachers elicit and assess a broad range of mathematical concepts in students from Foundation to Year 2.

By adopting a collaborative, design-based research methodology, the study seeks to create an innovative, evidence-based approach to early mathematics assessment. The outcomes are expected to provide new insights into children's mathematical experiences and understanding and to support the integration of meaningful, drawing-based assessment into everyday classroom practice.

Professor MacDonald's success highlights Charles Sturt's growing leadership in educational research and commitment to advancing impactful, real-world teaching practices.



Dr Leo S.F. Lin
School of Policing
Studies
Faculty of Business,
Justice and
Behavioural Sciences

Dr Leo Lin wins Best Oral Presentation at International Conference on Risk and Financial Management

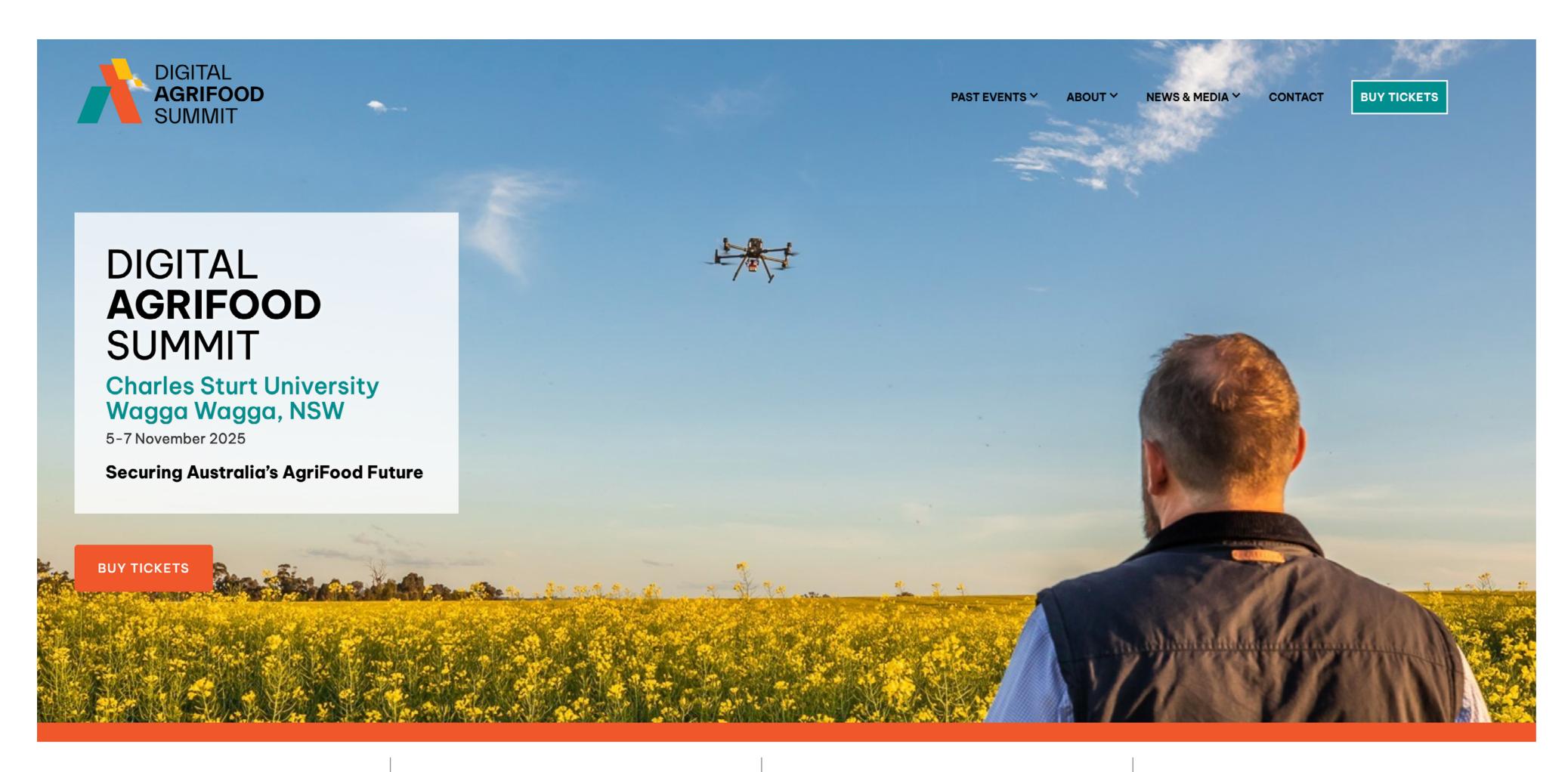
Congratulations to <u>Dr Leo Lin</u> (<u>School of Policing Studies</u>) on receiving the Best Oral Presentation Award at the <u>1st International Online Conference on Risk and Financial Management</u>.

Dr Lin's paper, 'Leveraging federated learning for enhancing anti-fraud systems in fintech: Opportunities and challenges,' explores how federated learning can transform anti-fraud systems and reduce risk both domestically and globally. His interdisciplinary research offers promising insights with real-world industry impact.



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# Save the date: Digital Agrifood Summit 2025 returns to Wagga Wagga

AgriPark is excited to announce that the Digital Agrifood Summit 2025 (DAS25) will take place on 5-7 November 2025 at Charles Sturt University's Wagga Wagga campus.

Now in its fourth year, DAS25 is your gateway to cutting-edge developments in agri-tech, bringing together leaders in education, research, innovation and industry. The two-day summit will feature handson demonstrations, exclusive research insights and showcases of breakthrough technologies across the agricultural value chain.

Whether you're looking to connect, collaborate or take your next big idea to market, DAS25 is where it all comes together.

We're proud to partner with the NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development to deliver this dynamic event.

Register your interest.

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Vice-Chancellor Professor Renée Leon welcomes guests at the Innovate at Charles Sturt Showcase event



Participants and panellists at the Innovate at Charles Sturt Showcase event

#### Innovate at Charles Sturt Showcase event

The Innovate at Charles Sturt Showcase event was held on 11 June 2025 at the Charles Sturt Riverina Playhouse in Wagga Wagga. The event brought together participants from the First Nations Innovator's Program and the StartUp Year Program. Program participants presented a range of innovative ventures including culturally grounded consultancy services, wellness products using native bush medicine, drone technology for land management, Al-powered recycling solutions, youth leadership initiatives, biodiversity education and agricultural workforce training programs.

The evening commenced with a Smoking Ceremony and was attended by the Vice-Chancellor and senior university leaders. The showcase demonstrated the outcomes of weeks of mentoring, practical skills development and strong community engagement. It highlighted how traditional knowledge and modern entrepreneurial practice were combined to create businesses with real social, cultural and environmental impact.

The event reinforced Charles Sturt University's position as a leader in supporting regional innovation and First Nations enterprise. By celebrating these ventures, the university strengthened connections with community stakeholders and showcased the tangible results of its programs aimed at developing resilient, socially conscious entrepreneurs. The showcase provided a valuable opportunity to demonstrate how innovation can address community challenges and build a stronger, more inclusive regional future.

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# Intercollegiate Meat Judging Conference

The Australian Intercollegiate Meat Judging (ICMJ) National Conference returned to Charles Sturt University's Wagga Wagga campus from 8–12 July, bringing together university students and young professionals from across Australia and overseas. The annual event aims to inspire and develop the next generation of leaders for the global red meat industry – building skills, expanding networks and learning from industry experts.

AgriPark was proud to sponsor the Charles Sturt student team, and it was inspiring to see so many future industry leaders actively engaged throughout the week.

As part of the program, AgriPark hosted a tour of the intensive livestock facilities at the university farm. Students were given a behind-the-scenes look at recent upgrades and cutting-edge technologies in action – offering valuable insights into the role of innovation in sustainable production, animal welfare and productivity.

Hands-on experiences like these help bridge the gap between theory and practice, ensuring students graduate job-ready and equipped to drive the future of agriculture.



Students attending the Intensive Livestock Facility tour during the ICMJ conference

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### AgriPark staff workshop strengthens values, strategy and innovation

The AgriPark team came together on 11-12 June 2025 for a dynamic two-day staff workshop focused on strengthening team culture, strategy and innovation.

Day one centred on values and culture, with a session led by Katie Powell and Holly Weal, Division of People and Culture (DPC) to help define how the AgriPark team aspires to work together and be known across the university. The afternoon included a guided tour of AgriPark's facilities, providing staff with a closer look at current capabilities and growth opportunities.

Day two shifted the focus to strategy and innovation. Nick Pagett delivered an update on AgriPark's journey so far and outlined future directions. Staff also had the opportunity to engage with Vice-Chancellor Professor Renée Leon and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Neena Mitter during an informal drop-in session.

Workshops throughout the day explored themes of commercialisation, project development and event planning, including an introduction to the new innovation notification form. These sessions helped link day-to-day work with broader strategic goals and encouraged staff to think creatively about AgriPark's future impact.

The workshop concluded with an interactive team activity and a lively brainstorming session, where each member pitched a fresh idea for AgriPark and identified one key area for improvement.

Overall, the workshop reinforced team alignment, fostered a culture of collaborative innovation, and reaffirmed AgriPark's shared commitment to growth and impact.



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Steven Wainewright Director, Farming Operations AgriPark

# University Farm update

We are pleased to welcome Steven Wainewright as Director, Farming Operations within the AgriPark team. Steve brings extensive experience managing complex agricultural enterprises and is already forging strong connections across the university. We look forward to the positive impact his leadership will bring to farm operations.

Recent developments on the farm include the arrival of a new unmanned barrow and a C-Lock GreenFeed methane sensor. These tools will support the automation of farm tasks and enable the collection of vital data on livestock methane emissions, advancing research and contributing to more sustainable production practices.

Additionally, the Ashmont Farm road is being resurfaced to improve access and ensure safer, more efficient vehicle and equipment movement, particularly during adverse weather conditions.

We extend our sincere thanks to all the teams supporting the transition of the farm into a centralised operating model. Your ongoing contributions are greatly valued.



The new unmanned barrow and a C-Lock GreenFeed methan sensor

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Yindyamarra

## Exploring reconciliation beyond politics: Professor Stan Grant's recent lectures and work

Distinguished Professor Stan Grant Jnr recently delivered the <u>Federation University Annual Reconciliation Lecture</u>, offering a thought-provoking exploration of the meaning of reconciliation and truth telling. In his address, he challenged conventional understandings of these modern ideals, encouraging audiences to look beyond the "prison of history" itself. Drawing on the words of Franz Kafka, who wrote of a "cage in search of a bird," Professor Grant reflected on how modern conceptions of identity and historicity can become limiting.

He positioned truth telling within a Hegelian framework – pursuing freedom through the dialectic of history – and critiqued the way linear narratives of progress and justice often overlook the lived suffering of individuals. The full lecture is available via Federation University.

In addition to the lecture, Professor Grant delivered talks for Reconciliation Week at institutions including St Kevin's School in Melbourne, BUPA Health Insurance and Energy Australia. Across these events, he continued his effort to reframe reconciliation, moving beyond politics toward a more philosophical and theological conception of truth and freedom.

Professor Grant also recently concluded a whirlwind tour of Australia to promote his book *Murriyang*, a finalist in the Australian Book Industry Awards. He spoke at events in Margaret River, Perth, the Mornington Peninsula and Auckland (where he delivered the opening night address alongside internationally renowned authors) and at the Sydney Writers Festival.

Professor Grant was the Chair at the AIATSIS Annual Conference in Darwin and spoke at the Yuwa Conference in Kalgoorlie. He is currently writing his next book, scheduled for publication in 2026, though details remain under wraps. Professor Grant also contributes a regular column to *The Saturday Paper*.



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## The 2025 Yindyamarra Fireside Oration delivered by Scott Stephens

The 2025 Yindyamarra Fireside Oration was held on Wednesday 9 July at the Place of Meeting, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture Charles Sturt University Canberra campus.

Guests gathered at 5:00pm for a 5:15pm start, with the oration concluding at 6:00pm, followed by a reception at the Chambers Pavilion. The event was held outdoors around the fire pit, with attendees braving the winter chill to be part of this special occasion. For those unable to attend in person, the oration was also available via live stream.

This year's orator was Scott Stephens, the ABC's Religion & Ethics online editor and co-host of The Minefield on ABC Radio National. A renowned writer and thinker, Scott has published extensively on moral philosophy, literature and democratic theory. He is the author (with Waleed Aly) of *Uncivil Wars:* How Contempt is Corroding Democracy and the editor of Justice and Hope: Essays, Lectures and Other Writings by Raimond Gaita.

In his thought-provoking address titled On the beauty of decency, Scott reflected on the increasing "indecency" of our public life - from coarseness in debate and politics to moral vanity disguised as seriousness. He contrasted this with a more profound understanding of morality, inspired by thinkers like Simone Weil, Iris Murdoch, Martin Buber and Albert Camus - one that begins not with ego or politics, but with the reality and dignity of the other.

He explored the quiet power of decency - not as a minimal obligation, but as a moral act that can uplift others while remaining humble and invisible. In Scott's words, decency "trains our vision, chastens our speech, and tempers our conduct," offering a way to reclaim what Camus called "the language of humanity".

The oration offered a timely and moving meditation on how we might resist cynicism and contempt - and instead recover a politics, a society and a self shaped by care, humility and human connection.

Watch the Yindyamarra Fireside Oration.





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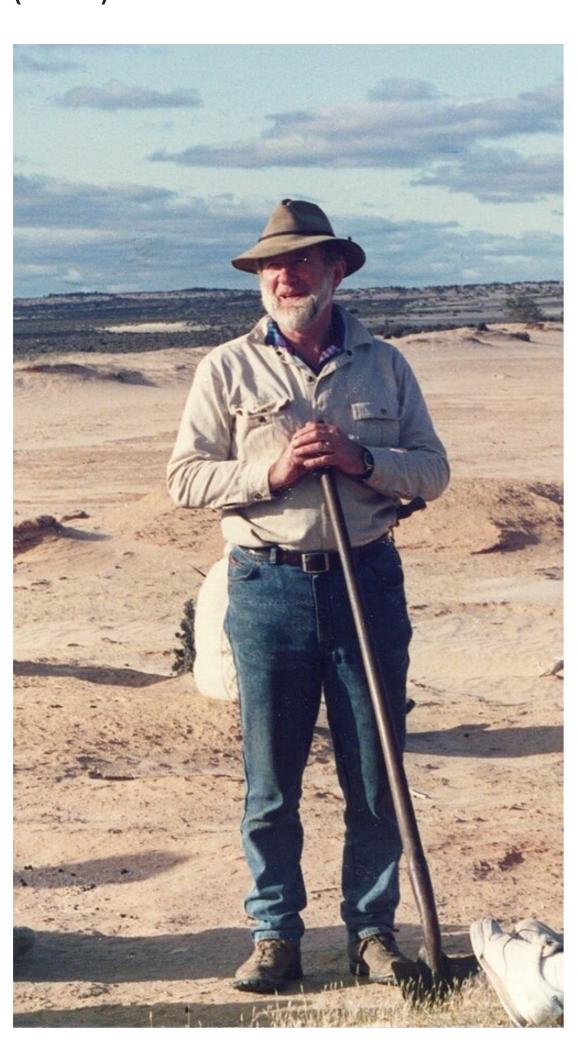
Yindyamarra in action



Professor Peter Sherlock

## Yindyamarra in action: Meeting Jim Bowler

In May 2025, Associate Director Professor Peter Sherlock had the privilege of meeting Jim Bowler at his home in Melbourne. Jim, now in his 90s, is renowned for his role in rewriting the history of this ancient land through his encounter with the remains of two humans during his work as a geologist - 'Mungo Lady' (1968) and 'Mungo Man' (1974).



When carbon dating showed that Mungo Man lived around 40,000 years ago, there was a reimagining of Australia's past and a new acknowledgment by Australia's leaders and citizens of the extraordinary longevity of the continent's First Peoples.

I well remember as a primary school child in the late 1970s the new emphasis on the long presence of First Peoples in this land, and further discoveries that pushed the timeline back further still during high school in the 1980s. It took me a while longer to learn to listen to the wisdom of the stories passed on by Elders on their own terms, rather than pushed into the chronologies so beloved of European histories.

Over the past year, Jim has participated in a program of events to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the revelation of Mungo Man. This culminated in a gathering at the Mildura Powerhouse by the Murray River called Meeting the Dreaming. Supported by Jim's family and friends, Burning House Media has produced a powerful video highlighting the gathering which you can watch <u>here</u>.

Jim spoke with me about his regret that, 50 years ago, he was on country without permission, and was part of a program that removed human remains. During Meeting the Dreaming, however, Aboriginal Elders spoke generously of how Mungo Man had changed the national conversation, and perhaps even called Jim to meet him. These reflections, and the knowledge that seeking wisdom can upend everything we think we know about ourselves, featured in our conversation as I asked Jim, what comes next?

He spoke with me of the potential for First Peoples and recent arrivals to find common ground through a deeper understanding of where we belong. This requires acknowledging the terrible things that have happened since 1788, but also seeing our common ground as humans, separated from each other for 10s of thousands of years and now reunited (if not reconciled). His passion for dialogue is a powerful example of Yindyamarra in action - respectful, deep listening that creates a space for all people to connect to Country, to recognise the truths of spiritual and scientific ways of seeing the cosmos, and to act with compassion towards each other and our environment now and evermore.

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Professor Stan Grant Jnr

## Exploring faith and reconciliation: Stan Grant on ABC's Compass

Institute

Watch the must-see episode of Compass from the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) featuring Professor Stan Grant Jnr and Indira Naidoo discussing Professor Grant's faith, Indigenous spirituality, his response to the Voice referendum and the pivotal relationship with his father, a Wiradjuri Elder.

Watch the episode.







Publications and articles



Professor Dominic
O'Sullivan
Yindyamarra Nguluway
Faculty of Arts and
Education
School of Social Work
and Arts

#### 'Are our voices too loud for this House?'

Professor Dominic O'Sullivan's article, 'Are our voices too loud for this House?,' was published in e-Tangata, reflecting on the suspension of three MPs following a haka performed in New Zealand's Parliament.

In response to MP Hana-Rawhiti Maipi-Clarke's powerful question – "Are our voices too loud for this House?" – Professor O'Sullivan explores the complexity of the event, arguing that racism was undoubtedly a factor. His piece calls for a review of how parliament functions, the rightful place of tikanga Māori within its walls, and the need to move from adversarial politics to more deliberative and inclusive approaches to decision-making.

Read the article.

## Haka in the House: What will Te Pāti Māori's protest mean for tikanga in parliament?

Time is apparently running out for the three Te Pāti Māori MPs whose haka in parliament during the Treaty Principles Bill debate last year attracted <a href="https://example.com/huge\_nattention">huge\_nattention</a>.

Parliament's Privileges Committee has <u>summoned the MPs to appear</u> on Wednesday (April 23). But given their previous resistance to fronting up, it seems unlikely they will.

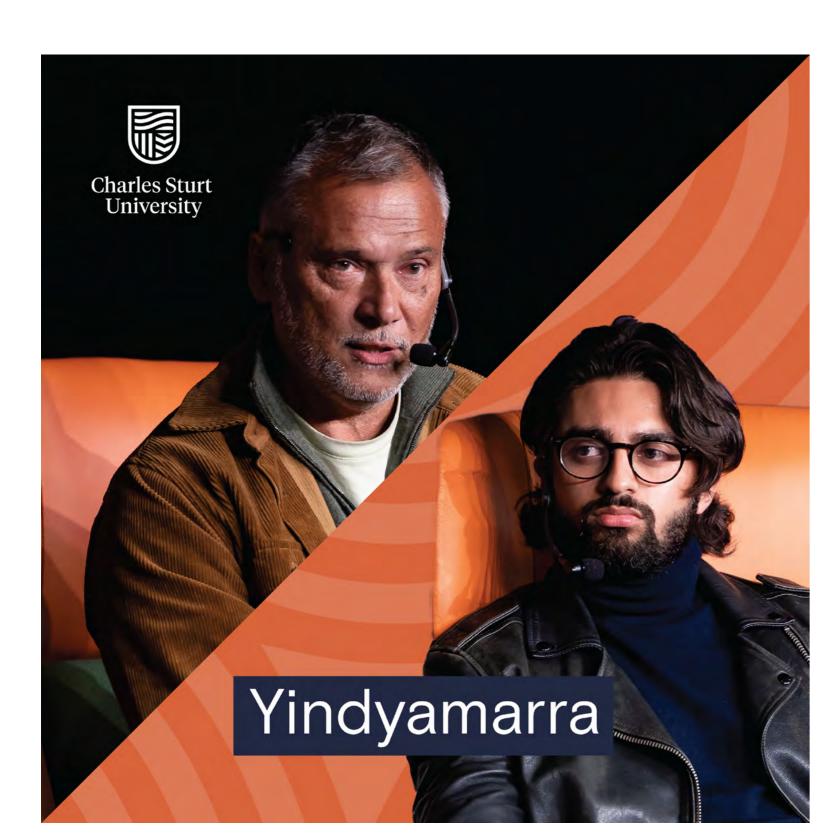
The committee is investigating whether the haka broke parliament's rules. The MPs say they don't think they'll get a fair hearing because the committee won't allow legal representation or evidence from an expert in <u>tikanga</u> Maori.

#### Read more.

This article was first published in The Conversation on 22 April 2025.



## Yindyamarra podcast



Join Professor Stan Grant Jnr and Jack Jacobs as they explore the Wiradjuri philosophy of Yindyamarra and how it might guide us through the challenges facing nation-building and democracy in Australia and around the world.

## #21 Politics as a vocation with Andrew Hastie MP

Join Stan and Jack as they speak with Andrew Hastie MP, Federal Liberal Member for Canning and Shadow Minister for Home Affairs, about his vocation for politics, how his experiences in Afghanistan and in Parliament have shaped his Burkean outlook, and what a renewed form of Australian political thought might look like, explored from their mutually respectful yet differing perspectives.

Listen to podcast.

# #20 What would a higher form of reconciliation look like?

Join Stan and Jack as they reflect on Stan's Federation University Annual Reconciliation Lecture. How well do words like treaty, reconciliation, sovereignty, and decolonisation still serve us? Or need we find a different way of speaking about reconciliation? What would that sound like and where would we begin?

Listen to podcast.

# #19 the election: Is there a future for Australian conservatism?

Join Stan and Jack as they reflect on the 2025 Australian federal election results, what they mean for the future of Australian social democracy and conservatism, and what makes Australian traditions truly unique.

Listen to podcast.

## #18 C. S. Lewis's magic: A walk around Magdalen College

Join Stan and Jack as they take a walking tour around Magdalen College, reflecting on the life and thought of C. S. Lewis at Oxford, the role of magic and enchantment in our lives, and as they take a (windy) stop to watch some deer go about their way of life!

Listen to podcast.

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#### Children's Voices Centre

A new Charles Sturt research centre began in January 2025. The Children's Voices Centre (CVC) is a beacon of innovation and inclusivity, empowering ALL children to communicate, collaborate and create a better future for themselves and the world. CVC research focuses on:

- children, families and communities
- workforce and policy.

CVC amplifies children's voices and champions children's communication, learning, health and development. CVC conducts world-leading, transformative interdisciplinary research with global reach emphasising inclusivity, diversity, social justice, equity, capacity building and innovation.

CVC research focuses on the following themes:

- children's voices
- children's health
- children's activities
- early childhood education and workforce needs
- multilingual children's speech
- children with speech, language and communication needs.
- We welcome conversations about new areas of research focus.

#### CVC collaborates with:

- people: children, families, communities, practitioners and professionals
- disciplines: education (early childhood, primary and inclusive education), allied health (speechlanguage pathology, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, psychology, social work, paramedicine dentistry etc.), nursing, communications, media, data science and more
- organisations: government departments; universities; and international and national organisations, including the World Health Organization and the United Nations
- settings: homes, early childhood education and care centres, schools, health and disability services, community settings, businesses, civic settings and leisure and recreation settings.

The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child guide the work of CVC to ensure children's voices are heard by those responsible for building an inclusive world for everyone.

In 2025, CVC is working with the World Health Organization to undertake research about children's perspectives of health and access to healthcare services. Everyone from Charles Sturt University who undertakes research with children, for children and about children is invited to register to be affiliated with the CVC. Charles Sturt staff, HDR students and Charles Sturt adjuncts are welcome.



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#### Children's voices at the forefront of research and action

To support and action CVC's mission of creating opportunities for all children to express their perspectives, share their knowledges and be listened to with respect, the centre has been working on expanding its multidisciplinary reach.

Over 65 Charles Sturt staff and higher degree by research students have already registered as affiliates, representing the disciplines of speech pathology, early childhood primary and secondary education, social work, psychology, occupational therapy, communication, early intervention, nursing, physiotherapy, and First Nations studies.

Many of these affiliates have begun collaborating on a qualitative study to inform World Health Organization approaches to improving children's access to and experiences of health systems globally.

Research Fellow Dr Kate Freire is leading a team completing a scoping review of literature concerning children's voices in health research. Distinguished Professor Sharynne McLeod, Associate Professor Tamara Cumming and Dr Carolyn Gregoric are leading a series of sub-projects using arts-based methods to seek the experiences and perspectives of children (aged birth to 18), especially those experiencing disability.

Read about the study.

## Sharing global insights: Keynote on multilingualism in Greece

June was a busy month, with Centre Director Distinguished Professor Sharynne McLeod presenting a keynote address at the International Society of Monolingual and Bilingual Speech (ISMBS) conference in Chania, Greece (16-19 June 2025). Professor McLeod's address Multilingual minds are unlocking global knowledge highlighted the critical role of multilingual researchers, professionals and translators who provide English-language access to global knowledge about speech, language and communication.



Distinguished Professor Sharynne McLeod presenting her keynote address

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#### The Treehouse

Meanwhile, on Charles Sturt's Bathurst campus, the CVC team established The Treehouse - a base for transformative interdisciplinary research with, for and about children. Staff are busily transforming the building into a beacon for global visitors.



Senior Administration Officer Lorraine Bennett and Associate Professor Tamara Cumming starting the nesting

#### CVC welcomes international scholars and celebrates PhD success

CVC has already hosted two international PhD students - from the UK and Norway and has seen one of its own PhD students, Kate Margetson, graduate with the University Medal! With visiting scholars from the US and Norway expected in the second half of the year the team are looking forward to exciting new connections and progressing its transformative agenda.



Distinguished Professor Sharynne McLeod, Dr Kate Margetson and Vice-Chancellor Professor Renée Leon

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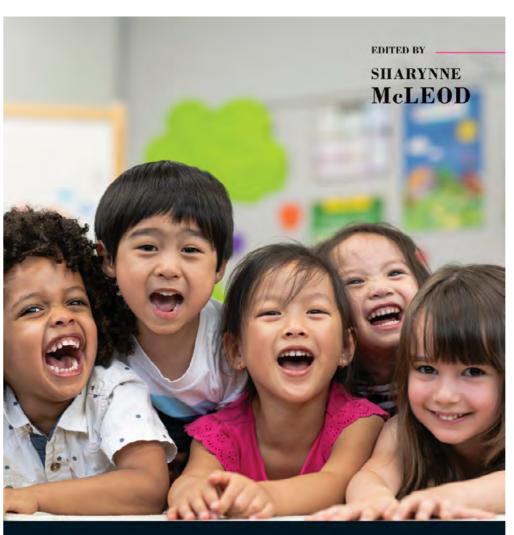
## Transforming global understanding of speech development: The Oxford Handbook launch

The Oxford Handbook of Speech Development in Languages of the World edited by Charles Sturt University Distinguished Professor Sharynne McLeod presents a transformative approach to overcome traditional English- and Western-centric biases by respecting and acknowledging longstanding traditions of research, theories and knowledge from a wide range of countries and cultures - including knowledge not previously translated into English. Languages spoken by First Nations people and traditionally marginalised groups are given equivalent status to majority languages, and the language maps, resources and pronunciation guides have been created using a rights-based, social justice approach, acknowledging the impact of colonisation.

This remarkable book was written by 173 authors from across the globe. It contains 1,008 pages and 80 chapters covering 49 languages and 27 dialects with companion audio recordings of children and adults. A Charles Sturt YouTube playlist presents a free summary of each chapter in English and the target language.

The Handbook was launched at the International Clinical Phonetics and Linguistics Association (ICPLA) Conference in Patras, Greece on Thursday 26 June 2025. The Charles Sturt authors in the book are Professor Sharynne McLeod, Dr Helen L. Blake, Dr Suzanne C. Hopf, Associate Professor Sarah Verdon, Dr Kate Margetson and Holly McAlister. Charles Sturt Adjunct staff authors are Associate Professor Kate Crowe, Dr Van H. Tran and Associate Professor Ben Pham.

This volume presents a paradigm shift in the world's knowledge about children's speech development. Each chapter follows the same structure, facilitating comparison across languages and dialects. Researchers and students can identify relationships between common and unique elements of children's speech to develop new theories and enhance understanding. Crucially, the curated data in the chapters can be used by communication specialists to collaborate with families and communities in order to support children's home language maintenance and speech development.









<u>Learn more.</u>

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**Awards** 



Professor Sharynne 1cLeod (centre with nward) celebrating with Professor Lynn Williams 'ASHA Past President) (left), Kathryn McKinley Speech Pathology Australia, President) and colleagues from across the world

Distinguished Professor Sharynne McLeod has been awarded a Certificate of Recognition for Outstanding Contributions in International Achievement from The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA).

Professor McLeod received the prestigious award for "distinguished achievements and significant contributions in the area of communication disorders, revealing great international impact from their work".

Congratulations to Professor McLeod on this richly deserved international recognition!

Read more.



#### Honorary Doctorate for Distinguished Professor McLeod

Distinguished Professor Sharynne McLeod was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the University of Patras during the International Clinical Phonetics and Linguistics Association (ICPLA) Conference in Greece. The honour recognises her outstanding contributions to the field of speech and language therapy on a global scale.

**Higher Education Equity Research Unit** 

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Dr Maree Martinussen Postdoctoral Research Fellow in **Educational Equity** 



Distinguished **Professor Sarah** O'Shea

## What trauma-informed practice can learn from EDI in higher education

As universities grapple with how best to support increasingly diverse student cohorts, trauma-informed practice is gaining traction as a way to foster more inclusive learning environments. Greater trauma awareness could lead to more inclusive pedagogy, better support and safer learning environments for student cohorts that universities often identify as equity priorities. But as with any emerging framework, its effectiveness depends on how it is applied.

Gulbali 🗸

Institute

One of the projects being led by Dr Maree Martinussen within HEERU is the ways that equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) can inform the development of trauma-informed practice within higher education institutions. This work is being informed by a sectorwide survey designed to establish existing understanding of trauma informed practice within higher education settings and how this can underpin equity-led practices in the sector. You can either read more about this work or take our survey here: thinkspace.csu.edu. au/traumaawarenesshe/

Read more.



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Distinguished **Professor Sarah** O'Shea

## Inclusivity across university teaching and learning practices

Charles Sturt University Distinguished Professor Sarah O'Shea is involved in a national project funded by the Australian Centre for Student Equity and Success (ACSES) looking at inclusive teaching practices. The \$230,000 large grant is a collaboration between the Australian National University, the University of Melbourne, Charles Sturt University, the University of Tasmania and Southern Cross University. The project is exploring how academic educators view the challenges and opportunities of creating inclusive curricula and equitable teaching at scale. While much is known about equity students, less is known about educators' readiness and approaches to inclusive teaching. Using a mixed-methods, interdisciplinary and national approach, the study will gather insights from educators, equity practitioners, academic developers and senior leaders. Case studies and national roundtables will inform recommendations for institutional change, professional development and practical teaching strategies, strengthening the evidence base on how to support equity in higher education teaching and learning. If you are interested in participating, the first round of consultations and feedback is now open.

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Dr Maree Martinussen
Postdoctoral
Research Fellow in
Educational Equity



Distinguished Professor Sarah O'Shea

## New Special Issue led by HEERU researchers

HEERU researchers Dr Maree Martinussen and Professor Sarah O'Shea will lead a Special Issue in leading higher education journal Studies in Higher Education (Q1) entitled Trauma and Higher Education: Critical Perspectives on an Emerging Equity Agenda. This issue explores how trauma is theorised, defined and enacted within higher education, with attention to its role in shaping equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) strategies. It critically examines institutional responses, pedagogical tensions and intersectional experiences of trauma across staff and students, particularly in contexts of austerity and social instability.



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## Researcher development: Grow your research skills in 2025

The Researcher Development team provides training, mentoring and writing opportunities, along with access to tools and workshops to help you manage and analyse your data.

Our researcher development programs are designed as structured, long-term learning opportunities to build essential research skills. In 2025, we are offering programs in:

- R-programming skills
- foundation grant writing
- mentoring and career development.

Explore our programs: Researcher development programs

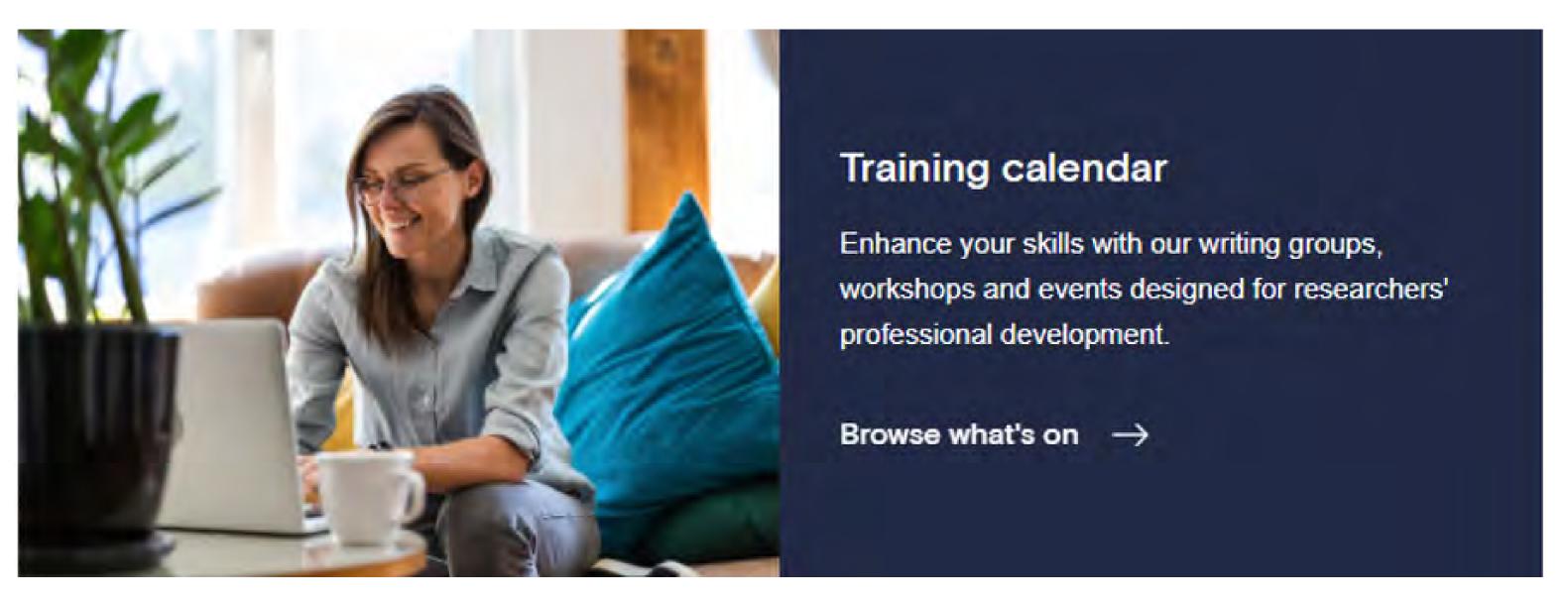
For more information, email: <a href="mailto:researchsupport@csu.edu.au">researchsupport@csu.edu.au</a>

#### Workshops and resources: Enhance your research skills

Our workshops are short, focused and interactive, designed to develop practical skills and provide solutions to research challenges. They include:

- regular sessions like Research & Write and Research Bootcamp, offering dedicated time to advance research goals
- one-off sessions such as Using CRO to Enhance Your Research, providing targeted skill development.

Explore and register via our training calendar



#### Resources and recordings

Missed a session? Many of our workshops are recorded and available for viewing afterward. If you couldn't attend or want to revisit a session, visit the Resources and recordings webpage.

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#### Masterclass series

Following the success of last year's pilot masterclass series, Seeing like a researcher, we are excited to continue these lunchtime sessions in 2025, now complemented by a new series, Let's talk research.

These masterclasses are designed to enhance research culture, inspiring experienced academics looking to re-energise their research programs and next-generation researchers seeking learning and career advice.

#### Seeing like a researcher

This masterclass series taps into the experience, skills and wisdom of research leaders, leveraging the talent within our university. Each session provides a platform for research experts to share insights, strategies and professional skills under the themes of 'research innovation' and 'professional development,' helping academics and research students strengthen their research capabilities.

#### Let's talk research

This new series highlights Charles Sturt's leading researchers, offering emerging and experienced researchers, as well as HDR candidates, the opportunity to showcase their work. Sessions will feature cutting-edge research, recent publications and significant findings, fostering a collaborative research environment and sparking new ideas.

Both series aim to inspire, inform and connect researchers, strengthening our research community and driving excellence across disciplines.

#### **Masterclass themes**

The masterclass series includes sessions on research innovation themes and professional skills for research:

• Research innovation sessions encompass advanced pathbreaking tools of analysis and are designed to showcase new discoveries in research and update Charles Sturt researchers on new ways of doing research.

• Professional skills sessions provide advice on research challenges, such as working with First Nations communities, building long-term partnerships nationally and internationally, and delivering high-impact research.

#### When

The masterclass series starts in May 2025. Sessions run on alternative fortnights in a onehour mid-week lunchtime slot.

#### Recordings

Masterclasses are recorded for those who can't attend. You can view the sessions on the Engagement and impact webpage.

More information: Masterclass series

Enquiries: <a href="mailto:researchsupport@csu.edu.au">researchsupport@csu.edu.au</a>



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## Quantitative Consulting Unit

The Quantitative Consulting Unit (QCU) is a research support unit within the Office of Research Services.

QCU is a consultation service that provides high-level, quantitative statistical advice and support, including recommendations on the design and analysis of research projects. It also undertakes complex statistical analyses to meet the needs of researchers, staff, HDR candidates and students.

Access QCU staff's knowledge, skills and experience to develop submissions to internal and external funding bodies to support statistical analyses of research data.

Benefits for researchers:

- Develop submissions to internal and external funding bodies to support statistical analyses of research data.
- Access training, support and learning resources to improve researcher capability in using, interpreting and applying statistical analysis and technologies.
- Create, use and enhance datasets for research data aggregation, analysis and visualisation.

#### More information.

For enquiries, contact: <a href="mailto:gcu@csu.edu.au.">gcu@csu.edu.au.</a>

## Spatial Data Analysis Network

The Spatial Data Analysis Network (SPAN) is a research support unit within the Office of Research Services.

SPAN staff can source, prepare and customise spatial datasets, including mapping, image production and processing to optimise their scope, reliability and synthesis.

#### Delivering high quality services

Access SPAN staff's knowledge, skills and experience to support research projects, grant-funded projects and research dissemination.

Researchers can liaise with SPAN staff for technical consultation support and advice, including the preparation and customisation of spatial datasets, programming and the development of location-based surveys, research application tools and unique scripts in relation to diverse research problems for:

- geographic information systems (GIS)
- remote sensing and image analysis
- spatial statistics and spatial analysis
- simulation and modelling
- spatial and analytical software

- scientific instrumentation and other hardware
- location-based survey planning and questionnaire design.

Researchers can also access spatial technologies, including field and computing equipment, hardware, software and systems for the creation, use, interpretation and application of spatial statistics to improve research productivity.

#### More information.

For enquiries, contact: <a href="mailto:span@csu.edu.au.">span@csu.edu.au.</a>

Research Services

## Editing service

Writing a journal paper takes a lot of time and effort. Wouldn't it be great if you could have your paper professionally edited before it is submitted for publication?

Well, you can!

Charles Sturt offers a free editing service for academic staff to improve the quality of research publications, including papers, books and book chapters.

Checks include spelling, grammar, punctuation, citations and references, consistency in word use, tenses, heading levels, and the formatting of tables and figures, etc. These won't guarantee that your research will be published, but they can smooth the publishing process and sometimes make the difference between a submission being accepted or rejected.

To access the research editing service, please complete the online form (it takes less than two minutes).

For more information, click the link below or contact Research Editor Mark Filmer directly.

Find out more or apply.



## Implementation of the new Costing and Pricing Tool

The Costing and Pricing Tool (CPT) is a new budgeting tool for researchers to accurately cost research project budgets with improved accuracy and confidence over the life of a research project.

The CPT is embedded in the online Research Proposal Request (RPR) Form in Research Master. It enables:

- researchers and grant administrators to fully cost both direct and indirect costs of a research project budget
- increased efficiency to capture and approve budget variations
- automated system integration and database updates.

The CPT replaces the Budget Approval Form (BAF).

The CPT was launched university-wide in early March 2025. To support the rollout of the CPT, the Grant Development Team developed a comprehensive suite of help guides and demonstration videos, and have hosted a series of online workshops and drop-in sessions.

For more information on the CPT, contact the Grant Development Team: <a href="mailto:research-preaward@csu.edu.au">research-preaward@csu.edu.au</a>



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## Research Integrity Unit (RIU) update

The Research Integrity Committees oversee key risk areas like human research, animal ethics, biosafety, radiation safety, and national security. The RIU ensures our research meets ethical standards and complies with the Australian Code for Responsible Conduct of Research, 2018.

#### Our new complaints management procedure

Effective 15 May 2025, the new Research Integrity Complaints Management Procedure replaces the former Research Misconduct Procedure. It outlines how Charles Sturt University handles complaints about research conduct and applies to anyone involved in research at the university, including staff, students, visitors, consultants, contractors and partner organisation members.

#### Research reporting obligations

Meeting human research ethics reporting obligations is crucial. In Q1 2025, there were eight instances of non-compliance, and 10 in Q2 2025. These obligations include requesting research ethics extensions and submitting final reports and annual reports. Researchers' continued non-compliance will be referred to the Academic Integrity Unit or Division of People and Culture.

These non-compliance instances highlight the risks of appointing student or adjunct researchers as chief investigators on human research ethics applications. Therefore, we are moving toward only university staff members to be listed as chief investigators to manage associated risks more effectively.

#### Upcoming changes to ethical conduct guidelines

From 1 October 2025, the revised National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research will take effect. The updates include minor changes to Section 4 and other sections for clarity and accuracy. The updated 2025 National Statement is available on the NHMRC Website, with a summary of amendments coming soon.

#### When in doubt, find out...

For any questions about research integrity or ethics, contact us via phone or email at researchintegrity@csu.edu.au or reach out to one of our experienced Research Integrity Advisors.

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## Research Integrity Advisor Network

The Research Integrity Advisor Network (RIAN) is a representative group of experienced staff researchers. They have a special interest in promoting research integrity across the university. The Research Integrity Advisors (RIA) are accomplished researchers with real-world experience in navigating the complexities of the research endeavour. Their independence of the research portfolio makes them the perfect option for peer-to-peer learning.

The RIAN plays a key role in driving the research culture of the university. They interpret the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research, 2018 (the Code) as well as university policies and procedures, to provide advice to university staff and students about the responsible conduct of research. An RIA can provide advice to any person who is concerned about the conduct of research.

#### When to contact the RIAN?

When in doubt, find out. It is always prudent to ask before acting and be guided by an RIA. The research integrity advisors can also help you determine whether to report a concern to the Research Integrity Unit for further investigation.

The RIAN is your first point of contact for concerns relating to the responsible conduct of research at Charles Sturt University. The network members can provide you with an objective evaluation of your concern in perspective to the university policies and procedures. The RIA will guide you through the options available.

Conversations you have with the RIA are generally confidential. If you do not wish to disclose specifics or divulge identities, you can choose to seek general advice.

## Meet our Research Integrity Advisors



Professor Catherine Allan



Dr lan Skinner

- iskinner@csu.edu.au
- View my research
   ✓



Dr Kate Freire

- kfreire@csu.edu.au



Cliff Lewis

- ☐ View my research

#### More information about our RIAs and their research.

## Join the Research Integrity Advisor Network

- Passionate about research integrity?
- Want to network with experienced researchers?
- Eager to enhance your skills in research integrity?
- Aspire to make a meaningful impact?

Join us and help foster a culture of excellence in research integrity.

For more information about how you can join, email researchintegrity@csu.edu.au and learn about the benefits of joining the network.

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## New NHMRC guide: Supporting a positive research culture

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) has released the Good Institutional Practice Guide (the Guide) - a practical resource to help foster high-quality research environments.

The Guide features:

- core values and actionable strategies for building a positive research culture
- self-reflection tools for leaders to assess and plan implementation
- real-world case studies from institutions leading cultural change

Designed for researchers, students, and staff across all research areas, the Guide supports flexible and tailored adoption.

Download the Guide and learn more.



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## Industry internships: HDR candidates reaping the benefits

Charles Sturt encourages our HDR candidates to engage with industry and research end-users during their candidature through internships: short-term collaborations aimed at tackling specific industry challenges. The industry partners can be small or medium enterprises, large corporations, government, or community organisations or not-forprofits (NFPs) and the projects are concomitant with, but not part of the candidate's doctoral research.

This year we have seen strong growth in interest in internships from our HDR candidates, who recognise how these opportunities help them to apply their research skills in realworld settings, build professional connections, explore career opportunities and gain valuable skills.

Miltone Kimori is currently undertaking an internship with Western Murray Land Improvement Group (WMLIG), an industry partner with the One Basin CRC. His internship explores how NFP organisations and local institutions can support rural resilience through community wealth building programs. Miltone has found the internship is giving him valuable insights into how NFPs are structured and operate in rural communities, planning and strategy around decision-making and resource allocation, and collaborative approaches to protecting natural resources.

Several other HDR candidates have been successful in securing paid internships through APR.Intern, the highly competitive national program. Tim Green (Gulbali Institute) recently completed a three-month internship with CropLife. His project started as research translation - converting research papers into more digestible forms for policy and public - and ended up with him creating literature reviews and factsheets on several topics. "I saw it as an opportunity to expand my network in Canberra and to dip a toe into policy advising," Tim said. "I made some excellent contacts that I will definitely use in the future... getting paid was also a massive benefit."

Sarah Condran, (School of Computing, Mathematics and Engineering) has secured a four-month paid internship with Lockheed Martin, who work closely with the Australian Defence Force and the innovation community to fast-track new technologies that support our national security. Sarah said, "we are very happy about the news and impressed with APR.Intern, who made the whole process a breeze." The project is entitled LLM-Guided Information Fusion and it explores how large language models (LLM) and agentic AI can be used to automatically analyse and combine information from different sources. The goal of the internship is to develop an LLM-based framework that can reason through data and make sense of it by connecting various data sources in a meaningful way.

Fellow HDR candidate Moshan Sheeraz (AICF) recently commenced an internship with Evernode Labs. His project is an innovative intersection of blockchain, governance and Al, focusing on how decentralised Al frameworks can enhance automated online dispute resolution.

To find out more about internships and how you can apply for an existing one or get help to develop a new one through APR.Intern, visit the website or email HDR-Support@csu. <u>edu.au</u>.



From left to right: Leigh Fletcher (WMLIG), Miltone Kimori, Dr Felicity Small (Miltone's supervisor), Roger Knight (WMLIG) and Karen Lyons (WMLIG)



Tim Green

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## Join the conversation: The what, how and why of industry internships for HDR candidates.

Industry internships are rapidly becoming a cornerstone of impactful, real-world research. This engaging Community of Practice session invites HDR supervisors, candidates, and academic staff to explore the evolving landscape of industry PhDs.

We'll hear from candidates who've completed internships and gain insights from Mark Ovens of APR.Intern, who works closely with industry partners to facilitate these valuable experiences. Together, we'll unpack:

- what industry internships are
- how they work
- what they offer HDR candidates
- why they matter for research relevance and career readiness

Whether you're an experienced supervisor or simply curious, this session offers a chance to reflect on best practices, hear first-hand experiences, and connect with colleagues navigating similar paths.

Let's come together to shape the future of applied research and support our candidates in building diverse, impactful careers.

Date: Thursday, 28 August

Time: 1:00-2:00 pm

Location: Microsoft Teams (Register HERE)

Presenter: Ian Skinner

Don't miss this opportunity to be part of the conversation!



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## GREAT online modules: Supporting HDR candidates at every stage

The Graduate Research Enhancement and Academic Training (GREAT) online program – a self-paced resource designed to support higher degree by research (HDR) candidates throughout their research journey, was launched in January this year.

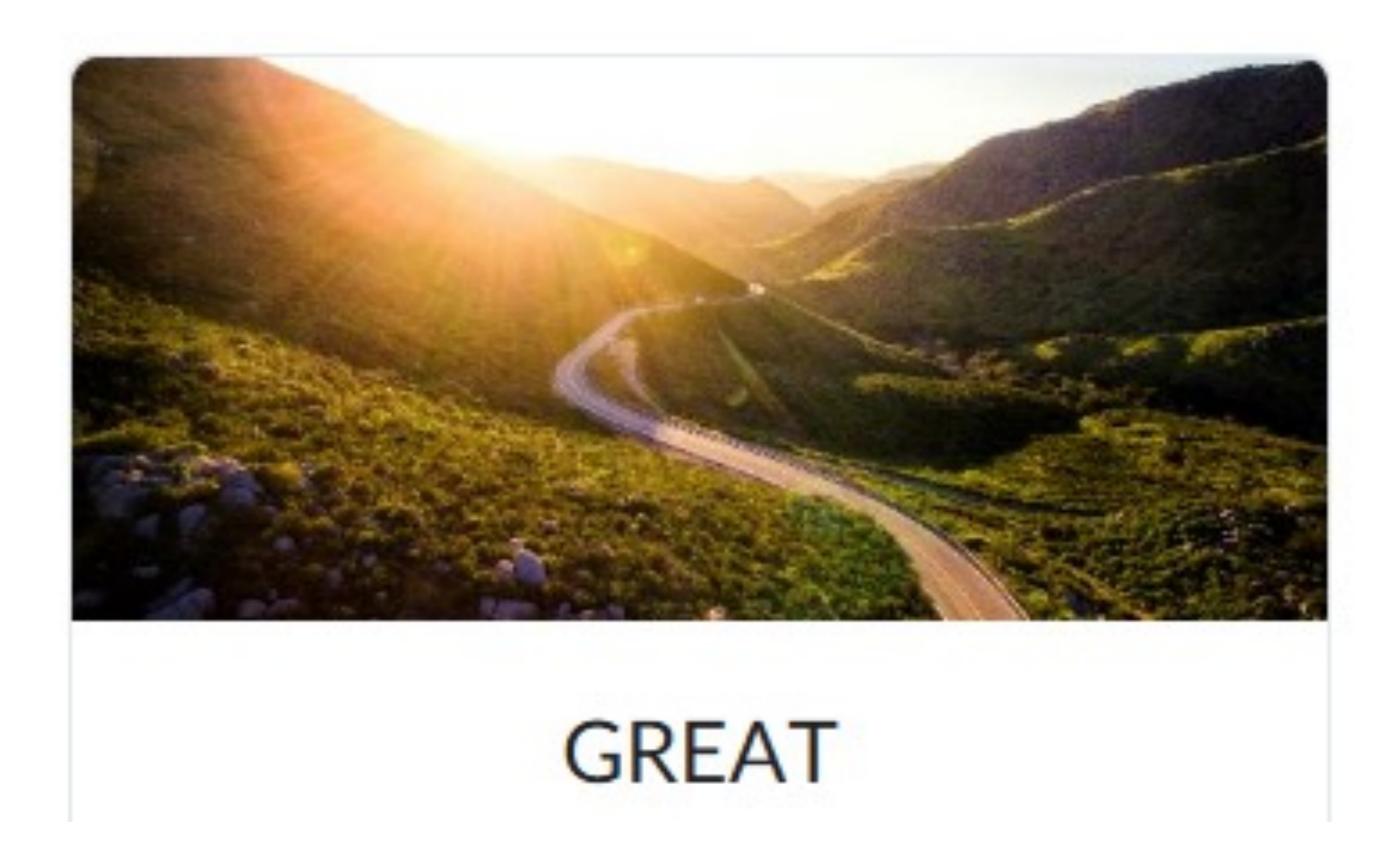
This self-paced program comprises eight standalone modules, each of which is targeted at key stages of the HDR research journey:

- Navigating your research journey: Understand milestones, policies and challenges throughout your HDR candidature.
- Being a responsible researcher: Learn about research ethics, academic integrity, intellectual property and practical steps for preparing ethics applications.
- Working with your supervisor: Build effective relationships, set realistic expectations and navigate feedback and challenges.
- Reviewing the literature: Master strategies for finding, evaluating and critically appraising literature for your review.
- Writing your thesis: Get step-by-step guidance on thesis structure, drafting chapters and preparing for submission.
- Communicating your research: Explore publishing options, understand copyright and share your findings with wider audiences.
- Planning your career: Identify career pathways, network with professionals and prepare compelling résumés and interview strategies.
- Wellbeing and balanced researcher: Develop resilience, balance commitments and promote personal and professional wellbeing throughout your journey.

All HDR candidates have been enrolled into the program and will be encouraged to revisit this resource throughout their candidature. The design of the program allows candidates to 'dip in and out' as desired and there are downloadable resources available as well as additional readings, all designed to support progression and academic success.

Access the GREAT program <a href="here">here</a> and simply search for 'GREAT Module'.

For questions or support, contact: <a href="mailto:HDR-Support@csu.edu.au">HDR-Support@csu.edu.au</a>.



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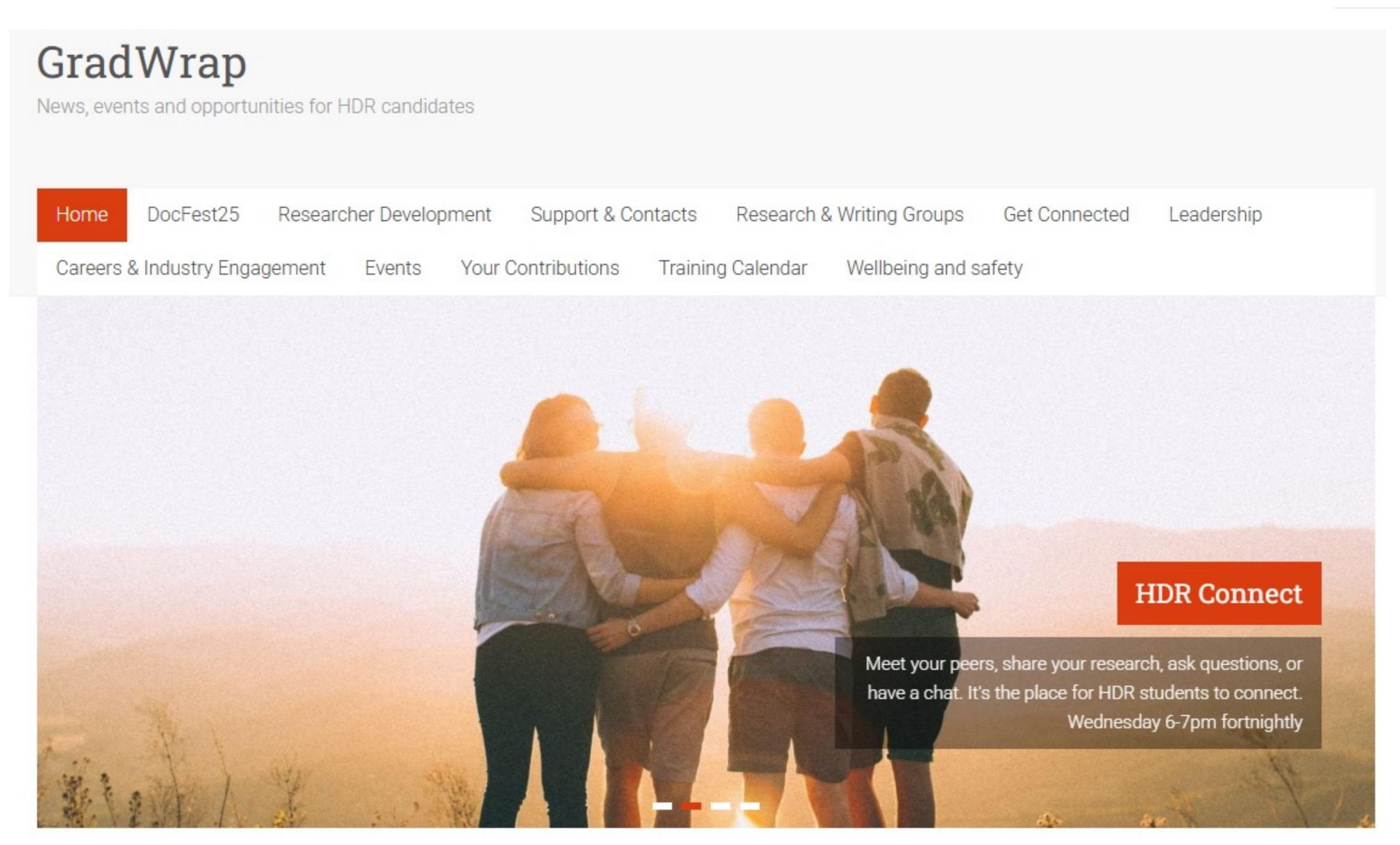
## Stay connected with GradWrap - Your HDR blog

GradWrap is a dedicated blog for higher degree by research (HDR) candidates, designed to keep you informed, supported and connected throughout your research journey.

Discover the latest news, events and opportunities, including updates on conferences, like DocFest25, professional development resources, scholarships, training programs and more. You'll also find regular features highlighting candidate achievements, calls for abstracts and ways to engage with peers and industry professionals.

GradWrap is your go-to hub for staying engaged and making the most of your HDR experience.

Check it out.



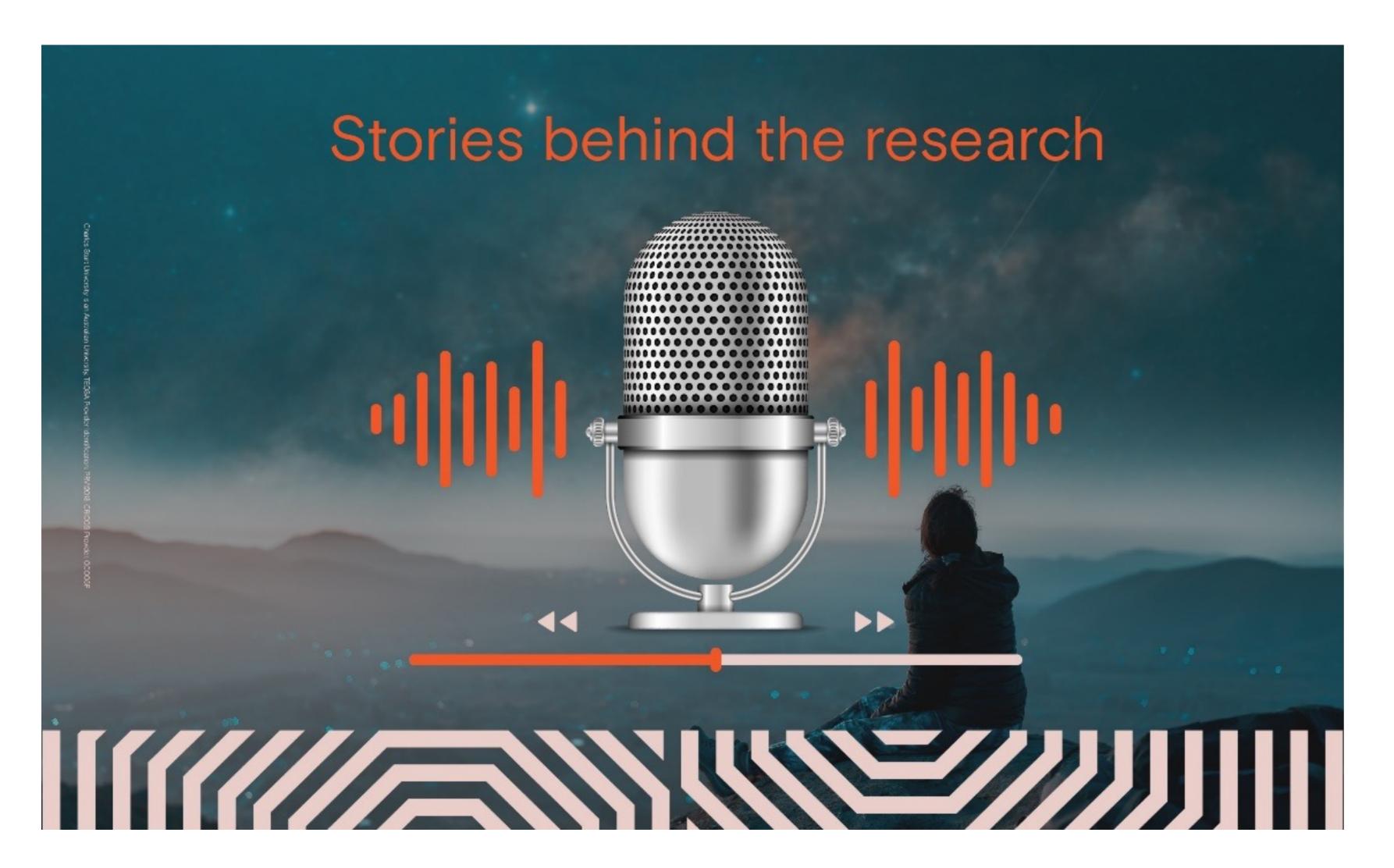
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#### Stories Behind the Research

Dawn Tukuniu from the Researcher Development team and Liam O'Connell collaborate to produce the *Stories Behind the Research* radio show and podcast. Each show, which is broadcast on 2MCE, Charles Sturt's community radio station and published as a podcast, features Charles Sturt graduate research students who discuss their research, the approaches they use to collect data, the emerging key findings and how their work is changing the world. Don't miss out on these fascinating research discussions – tune in to *Stories Behind the Research*.



## Episode #17 with Michael Elwan

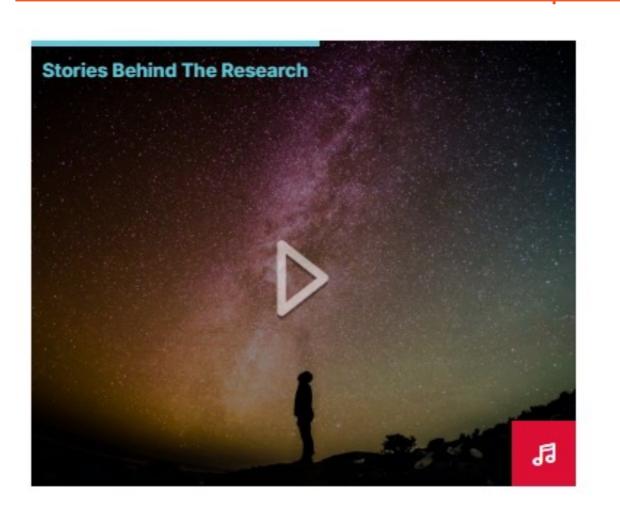
In this powerful episode, Michael Elwan discusses his research, Lived Experience Leadership in Mental Health, where he opens up about how personal tragedy led him to become a passionate advocate for mental health reform.

With a deep sense of purpose, he has channelled his lived experience into academic research and professional leadership, working to create lasting change in the mental health space. Join us as we delve into his research, the importance of lived experience in leadership, and the personal insights that continue to shape his journey.

Trigger Warning: Suicide.

This episode contains references to suicide, which some listeners may find distressing. If you or someone you know needs support, please reach out to Lifeline Australia: 13 11 14

Listen now to hear Michael's inspiring story and thought-provoking research.



Michael Elwan

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