

Thrive



30th Anniversary Edition

RECOGNISE THIS GRADUATING COHORT?

Name our cover models

RESEARCH BREAKTHROUGH

Reducing medical radiation

THRIVING IN INDUSTRY

Women lead the charge

YOU CAN ASK THAT!

The man behind some of
Australia's best television

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**Charles Sturt
University**

CSU Alumni Magazine

With special thanks to all those who contributed to this edition.

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Front cover image: Wagga Wagga Campus Graduation, 5th April 1991

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Welcome. Greetings to all our Alumni.

Welcome to the latest edition of Thrive, Charles Sturt University's magazine for alumni and friends, where we share celebrate your achievements and highlight the fantastic work happening at your University.

In this edition we commemorate and reflect on the past 30 years, our achievements and the people who helped shape and continue to shape our University.

2019 has been a historic year for the University with the release of the 2022 University Strategy resulting in a new brand for Charles Sturt. The branding, which is part of the greater strategy, has been designed to position us for growth in the highly competitive higher education market. The launch of the new brand saw a lot of reminiscing and passionate conversation from our Alumni, so thank you for your input.

The new strategy also revealed the plan for our Port Macquarie Campus to become the largest international teaching and learning centre in regional NSW, with a funding announcement of over \$60M.

In other exciting news Charles Sturt has partnered with Western Sydney in the development of a Joint Program in Medicine which will establish a medical school based in Orange. The first student cohort for an undergraduate medical degree is set to commence in 2021.

In alumni news, we continue to focus on our Alumnigive program, allowing alumni to give back to the University in a myriad of ways; from professional development sessions, to occasional addresses at Graduation, to mentoring of current students. We have been overwhelmed by how much you want to give back to help future graduates of the University. We have had over 500 alumni sign up this year. For further information on the Alumnigive program head to alumni.csu.edu.au/alumnigive/your-time-and-expertise.

Wishing you a safe holiday season and a New Year full of excitement and happiness. Enjoy the latest edition of Thrive – there are some amazing stories featured. If you have an interesting story, please reach out at alumni@csu.edu.au.

Sheridan Ingold
Alumni Relations Coordinator

Meet our team



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Director of
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Associate Director –
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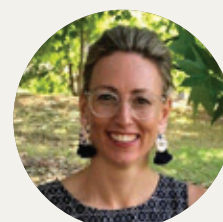
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Celebrating 30 years

A note from Vice-Chancellor Professor Andrew Vann

As we celebrate 30 years of Charles Sturt, I have been reflecting on how our University first came to be from its early days as experimental farms and teacher colleges.

From reading our history, it is clear that the people of our cities had a strong desire for a full university of their own. This is because cities know that it is important to have education and research carried out on the ground in regional areas. They also know it is very hard to get people to come back from the big cities, so you are much better to educate people locally.

Given the roots of the University, there has always been a strong focus on higher education that is grounded in practicality. My predecessor, Ian Goulter, described Charles Sturt as a university with dirt under its fingernails.

This pays off for us, for our communities and for our students. The national data has just shown that we have now had the best full-time employment outcomes for four straight years – and we were 2nd for the two years before that.

This is because of the way the academics at Charles Sturt approach their job. Even though they are often at the forefront of their disciplines, they are strongly linked to the professions they serve and think just as hard about how to produce graduates that will make a difference to their industries and to the world. It is of course also a tribute to our graduates who are the ones who

actually get the jobs, engage in their careers and deliver through their work.

Charles Sturt is full of people working hard to make our communities and our regions a better place.

That's what makes being the Vice-Chancellor of Charles Sturt such a wonderful privilege. We have a university full of really passionate and well-motivated people who work every day to contribute to the Public Good.

When I first came here, I described Charles Sturt as a university with a soul and I think that does really fit.

We also adopted the Wiradjuri phrase 'yindyamarra winhanghana' – the wisdom of respectfully knowing how to live well in a world worth living in.

I am very proud of this University, its staff and its students. I'm proud of our student outcomes, of what our graduates go on to contribute, of our contributions in research and I'm proud of our leadership in issues like the environment where we were Australia's first university to be federally certified as carbon neutral. I'm also proud of the work we have done in gender equity – achieving the Athena SWAN Bronze Award and WGEA Employer of Choice and in the inclusion space in relation to LGBTIQ students and staff.

We do genuinely world-leading work here at Charles Sturt. Because we are based in regional Australia, this doesn't always get recognised and celebrated as much as it should.

So please, take a moment to acknowledge the first 30 years of Charles Sturt University and let's look forward to many decades and centuries more.

30 years of people and stories

This year marks 30 years of Charles Sturt University and it's certainly given everyone pause to reflect.

CSU Advancement has been busy hosting a series of informal gatherings across our campuses to bring together both former and present staff to celebrate the milestone and take a stroll down memory lane. Sarah Ansell, Director, Advancement said, "As we celebrate 30 years, it's appropriate that we also celebrate the people who made the university what it is today. Charles Sturt University is built on the spirit of generosity, and it is rich with individuals who have given selflessly and tirelessly of their time, effort and expertise."

Encouraging everyone to share their stories and 'dob in their colleagues', the anniversary events helped the CSU Advancement Office to build a fuller, more colourful picture truly reflective of the University, its community and its people.

There is no better time to pause and say, 'we see you', 'well done', 'thank you', 'glad to have shared this journey with you', and 'you made this ride a whole lot of fun'.

Sarah Ansell

Countless stories have come to light throughout the year, with many individuals and groups named for their contribution. Here is just a snippet of some of the people who have made our University great:

Vice-Chancellor (1989–2001), Professor Cliff Blake remembered as the man who "built this University with bricks and mortar and the staff around it" and led the University from its earliest days with a clear vision, a firm but fair approach and the common touch.

Chancellor (1989–2002), Professor David Asimus the Foundation Chancellor, often considered the source of the University's dedication to the people of inland Australia.

The many supportive **School secretaries** who kept their departments running like clockwork.

Ian Hume, a long-serving groundskeeper and Charles Sturt University's first official snake catcher, who volunteered for the title.

Dr Rachel Richardson, whose gender transition received unconditional support when she came out to 200 colleagues.



Geoff and Julie Clulow caught up with Lorraine Covington and Kirstie Grady at a 30 year celebration on Bathurst Campus.

The Single Bottle Working Men Wine Club started some 30 years ago by staff in Albury and are still going strong.

Eminent academics such as **Theo Barker** and **Frank Ponton** who are honoured with namesake lecture series and theatres.

Inspiring lecturer **Associate Professor Elaine Dietsch** who hid in grasslands to avoid patrols while working in the Congo to improve midwifery services for the women there.

Tireless industry champions like **Associate Professor Maree Bernoth**, whose research and advocacy contributed to the establishment of the current Royal Commission into Aged Care.

Head of Campus (Bathurst), Bob Meyenn who was well-known for his crazy socks and initiating personal training sessions with the School of Human Movement and training on campus to run two London marathons and one Boston marathon

Big hearted Executive Assistant **Julie Clulow** who once helped a grandmother sneak her dog into a crowded ceremony so she could see her granddaughter graduate.

Associate Professor Faye McMillan, a proud Wiradjuri woman, student in the inaugural pharmacy cohort in 1997 and multi Charles Sturt University qualification earner, who went on to become Director of Djirruwang Program at CSU and the 2019 NSW Aboriginal Woman of the Year.



Ian Hume (right) reminisces about his time as groundskeeper at Charles Sturt University's Albury/Wodonga Campus..

Vice-Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Ian Goulter (2001-2011), who didn't hesitate to roll up his sleeves and help push the broken-down car of the daughter of a staff member when the SOS call came through en route to his hotel.

Our many **supportive local communities** like Bathurst who once came together to bring warmer clothes and blankets for the 2000 Olympic Ceremony guests staying on campus.

The loyal families such as the McAllisters and the Smalls who proudly send representatives from multiple generations to CSU to study and have members on staff.

Visionary **Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor David Battersby**, who worked hard to foster strong ties between CSU and local communities.

Devoted lecturer **Cathy Maginnis** who brought her infant baby in papoose to lectures (and fostered such a strong bond that he returned to study 18 years later!)

Lecturer Ray Petts a genuine 'First Fleeter' [starting staff member in 1972] who went on to serve 33 years at CSU.

Professor Sharynne McLeod, who was named the leading Speech Pathology researcher in the world in 2019.

Turns out, you can ask that

What do programs such as *Gruen*, *Enough Rope*, *Hard Quiz*, *Hungry Beast*, *Sammy J's Playground Politics*, *Luke Warm Sex* and ground-breaking series *You Can't Ask That* all have in common?

The answer is Jon Casimir. Jon has created and commissioned some of Australia's best television programs. He's also written four books, been a presenter on ABC Local Radio and has most recently overseen the TV show and podcast, *Andrew Denton's Interview*.

Back in Bathurst to talk to current Communications students, we chatted with Jon about his not-so-linear career.

Thrive: Why did you want to become a journalist?

Jon: I wanted to write. And I wanted someone to pay me to write, so journalism felt like a way forward. Like most journalists, I also wanted to somehow make the world a little better. And there are many ways to do that in journalism.

I have not been a hardline political or investigative journalist, but I'd like to think I've done some things that have made good contributions, that had the potential for positive effect. *Gruen* has made people talk more about the weapons that advertising points at us. *You Can't Ask That* breaks down stereotypes and stigma.

Tell us about your career path since leaving uni.

I began writing for music magazines in my first year at Bathurst. I had 250 publications while I was at uni, which is largely how I funded my degree. My aim was to get a Sydney Morning Herald cadetship. I didn't get in at my first attempt, possibly because I had purple hair at the first interview and was platinum blond at the second.

I got in six months later, with more sensible hair. I started in September of 1987 and was there for 17 years, during which time I was a critic, a section editor, a feature writer, and the first internet columnist in Australia. I ran the smh.com.au site in the early days, growing it from fledgling beginnings into a daily news site.

I wrote a couple of books about the Net in the 1990s, and one about the difficult start to life that my daughter had. In 2002, Andrew Denton approached me to work on *Enough Rope*. I took a sabbatical from the Herald to do it, came back for a few months, then quit to work in TV. Andrew and I went on to co-create *Gruen*. I was the showrunner for the first seven years, and worked on a bunch of other shows at Zapruder's/CJZ, some successful, some not.

Then I took a job as Head of Entertainment at the ABC, which was a huge task. One year I had direct oversight of 35 series. Lots of great things happened there. One was that I co-created *You Can't Ask That* with Kirk Docker and Aaron Smith. It's a program I'm super proud of.



After three years of working at the ABC it was time for a break. Then Andrew called and said, "Do you want to come back and make just one show at a time?" We made two series of *Interview* for Channel 7. We recently axed our own show, a strange pleasure in an industry where it's usually someone else who decides when your number is up.

Are there things you're doing now that, at the beginning, you never dreamed you would do?

All of it. I didn't think I'd ever work in TV. But I've never been one to dream. I've always tried to stay in the present. And though we tend to believe that careers are linear, I really don't think they are. Most people I've worked with did not end up in a straight line from where they started. My career makes sense to me but might not make sense to others.

The thing is, the core skills of journalism are applicable to all media. Basically, you want to communicate something of value to an audience in a way that will make them consider it. To do that, you can use the simplest and most direct forms of traditional journalism. Or you could make a panel show like *Gruen*, full of comedy. Or you could make a game show, or a social experiment show, if that's what'll get your message across. I've based the second half of my career on the belief that a show which hits the entertainment button can also smuggle in plenty to think about.

The thing is, the core skills of journalism are applicable to all media. Basically, you want to **communicate something of value** to an audience in a way that will make them consider it.

Jon Casimir

What's the best piece of advice you ever received?

One of my favourite *Enough Rope* guests was Lee Stringer. He was a New York graphic designer who succumbed to crack after a traumatic incident and spent 16 years homeless, an invisible observer of the rest of us. He eventually rescued himself and channelled his wisdom into writing.

We asked a fairly obvious question at the back end of that interview, which was, "Having been through what you have, if you could speak to the 12-year-old you, what would you say to that kid?" There was a brilliant pause – I love a long pause in a TV interview – and he said, "Keep going."

Katie pays it forward

Katie Lin was the first in her family to study at university.

Growing up in Leeton, the daughter of a public servant and a small business owner, Katie was inspired by the prospect of being her best self through education.

"I knew study could unlock opportunities and provide for my family in the future."

After completing her Bachelor of Business (Accounting/Law) at Charles Sturt in Wagga Wagga in 1997, Katie landed a graduate position at a chartered accounting firm in Sydney. Moving through a couple of mid-tier firms, Katie took on a position with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC). In less than a decade, she had been invited to become a Partner.

For Katie, this is a career dream come true.

"Growing up in the country, I learned that hard work leads to results through my extended sporting pursuits. Those 4.30am starts to swim with my coach showed me at an early age what you can achieve with dedication and commitment. I have applied that same motivation to my career."

"When I first joined PwC, I knew straight away I wanted to work towards becoming a Partner. To be invited to become a Partner in Australia's leading global accounting firm was a privilege."

"I genuinely love what I do day in day out, that's what gets me out of bed in the morning."



Katie says that while her motivators have evolved over time, she has always focused on the people that surround her.

"I draw a lot of motivation from leading my staff. Seeing them prosper personally and professionally is one of the most rewarding things I get to witness. Equally, advising clients and helping them solve their important problems and/or seeing them reach their business goals gives us all a real sense of purpose."

Education is an important part of creating a more productive and smarter nation.

I really hope we inspire others of our generation to start something similar, to pay forward the good fortune we have had in our careers.

Katie Lin

"My family life gives me balance. Seeing the exciting things the world offers through the eyes of my children is delightful. I sometimes think I learn more from them than they do from me."

Mindful of her success and wishing to find a way to pay it forward, Katie and her husband Sidney decided to invest in a scholarship to help others completing their tertiary education.

"We were driving out of Leeton in early 2018 and started questioning the differences we had observed over the past 16 years we have been spending time visiting the Riverina.

"Drought has long lasting effects. We asked what we could do to change people's lives. Both of us have benefitted through tertiary education and the idea evolved from there. I was so proud to select the recipients and to know that I have contributed to their start in life.

"Education is an important part of creating a more productive and smarter nation. I really hope we inspire others of our generation to start something similar, to pay forward the good fortune we have had in our careers."

If you're interested in following in Katie's footsteps and being part of the Charles Sturt Alumngive Program...

There are many ways you can contribute to the education of others through time, expertise and donations.

Read more here at
alumni.csu.edu.au/alumngive

Alumni return to campus to give back to current students

In August this year the Wagga Wagga Campus hosted it's second Alumni/ Student Mentoring evening. The evening aimed to step students through the transition from study into the workforce, alleviating any uncertainty they may be feeling and demonstrating that all Alumni have felt the same as they do now.

The event saw 17 alumni return to The Convention Centre on campus. Students and alumni networked and chatted before sitting down to a panel style Q&A session with alumni.

The Alumni/ Student Mentoring evening is one of many opportunities alumni are able to participate in the University's Alumngive program.

A recent Alumni Barometer Survey showed 35% of our alumni want to 'give back'; but give back in meaningful ways such as mentoring students, sharing your expertise, volunteering or financially supporting the university.

The Alumngive program provides an opportunity for you to nominate the ways in which you would consider supporting students and the University.

Expressing an interest in an area of support does not commit you to any activity but, rather, ensures you are on the list to be contacted as and when opportunities arise.

Below are a few examples of how you can give back.

- Career advice/ mentoring (including student mentoring evening)
- Speak at graduation
- Share your story for us to share with current students and peers.

For further information and to register your preference visit alumni.csu.edu.au/alumngive/your-time-and-expertise

WOMEN

Thriving in their industries

Jenni puts mental health on the agenda

Bachelor of Arts

Bachelor of Social Work

Master of Social Work – Advanced Practice

Charles Sturt University alumna Jenni Campbell is passionate about putting rural mental health issues on the state and national agenda.

I wanted to be a pharmacist. Unfortunately, I was terrible at science! I realised what I loved about working in a pharmacy was talking to and connecting with people. I was always interested in resilience, overcoming adversity and the conditions that help people thrive, but also how society and other systems can contribute to people who are struggling. I spotted Social Work on the course list, did some research and jumped straight in after Year 12.

Jenni lives in Wagga Wagga with her young family and now runs her own consultancy following a range of career highlights.

My first job in mental health had me hooked. I started working in the psycho social rehabilitation services as a support worker during my first year of uni. It was such a great opportunity to get a jump on my experience. I was managing this service before I finished my studies.

In 2012, I was appointed by the NSW Minister for Mental Health to the newly formed NSW



Mental Health Commission as a member of the Advisory Council and was later appointed as Chair of the Council. In 2017, I started my own consultancy and served as a member of the Mental Health Information Strategy Standing Committee of the Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council. I am also on the Board of Perinatal Anxiety and Depression Australia.

In my consultancy, I focus on mental health reform and policy development with most of my time dedicated to a national project with the Australian Government Department of Health. I love that I can pursue the projects I am really passionate about.

Zoe fights for a fairer future

Bachelor of Arts (Public Relations & Organisational Communication)

When Zoe Lamont graduated from her communication degree with Charles Sturt University, she decided to take some time for herself and travel. This decision set her on a path to help others by fighting for financial equality.

"I bought a one way ticket to London. But while partying overseas was fun, after a few months I decided to join a volunteer organisation.

"Working as a humanitarian volunteer was an opportunity to not only travel and explore the world, but also to fully immerse myself in other cultures. The experience changed my life forever."

Zoe's travels sparked a passion for social justice, social enterprise, women's rights and financial equality. Returning to Australia, she created a not-for-profit called the 10thousandgirl Campaign designed to build financial engagement in young Australian women while also raising money to deliver microfinance loans to women in developing countries.

"A grassroots swell of support emerged. Our 10thousandgirl life planning and financial literacy workshops were soon getting national mainstream media attention and winning awards. Volunteers popped up all over the country. We ran 10thousandgirl life and financial wellbeing programs in more than 80 metro, regional and remote towns across Australia."

When the campaign reached its goal to deliver information to 10,000 women, it was time to wrap up the project. Zoe was in the middle of the sabbatical that followed when she took a call asking if she wanted to start a superannuation fund for women.

Zoe joined forces with Christina Hobbs and Alex Andrews to create Verve Super – Australia's first ethical super fund for women, by women.

For Zoe, helping to establish Verve was an important first step to righting what she sees as a national system that results in financial inequality for women.



"From the very first day that a graduate begins work, the average woman will be paid \$5000 less than a man. On top of this, the reality is that women undertake most of the nation's unpaid caring work. The result is Australian women today retiring with 47% less super than men and single women over 55 are the fastest growing group of people experiencing homelessness.

"The system is broken and this needs to change. But in many ways the superannuation gap between men and women is the result of the lifetime of inequalities that women face.

"At Verve, we want to shine a spotlight on the myriad inequalities that can lead to the super gap. We aim to support our members with financial coaching and advocacy."

To learn more about how Zoe and the Verve team are bridging the super gap, visit vervesuper.com.au

Forensic humanitarian in action

Graduate Certificate in Management

Self-declared forensic humanitarian and Charles Sturt postgraduate student Dr Jodie Ward is changing lives. Jodie's passion is helping the families of missing persons, and in 2018 she was recognised as one of the Australian Financial Review's 100 Women of Influence for her dedication to championing the introduction of a national DNA program to resolve Australia's unidentified and missing persons cold cases.

"The most rewarding part of being a forensic DNA specialist is using DNA technology to identify unknown and missing persons. It provides much-needed answers for their families.

"For the past decade, I have also been a forensic biology lecturer and an adjunct associate professor. These academic positions allow me to educate, inspire and mentor the next generation of forensic scientists. I also lead and supervise research in the exploration of emerging DNA technologies. These are designed to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the DNA identification of compromised human remains and mass disaster victims."

Jodie is Team Leader at New South Wales Health Pathology's specialist DNA laboratory. She is also one of Science and Technology Australia's Superstars of STEM.

"I'm passionate about being a Superstar of STEM. I have embraced the opportunity to share my love for science with the public, be a role model for young women and girls and advocate for gender equity in the forensic sciences."

Jodie is also determined to influence decision-makers and engage stakeholders to support a DNA-led identification approach.

"My next career goal is to establish and lead a National Centre for Forensic Human Identification. This will be a dedicated facility for the forensic examination and identification of contemporary and historical human remains."



I'm passionate about being a Superstar of STEM. I have embraced the opportunity to share my love for science with the public, be a role model for young women and girls, and advocate for gender equity in the forensic sciences.

Dr Jodie Ward

You can watch Jodie in action delivering her TEDx talk '**Putting a name and face to Australia's unidentified bones**'.

You can also find her on:

LinkedIn [linkedin.com/in/drjodiward](https://www.linkedin.com/in/drjodiward)

Twitter @DrJodieWard



Small but growing: Tara's tech marketing niche

Bachelor of Business (Marketing)

Dubai, Munich, San Francisco, Melbourne. For the past 15 years, Tara Salmon has traversed the globe helping to-market growth-oriented tech innovation companies.

Armed with a Bachelor of Business (Marketing), Tara got in on the ground level as digital marketing began to emerge. Straight after graduation she joined a small, promising Aussie tech company called Aconex, which provides a construction and engineering platform to help clients manage complex projects.

"Initially, my role with the company was as a generalist marketer but as the company grew, we added more marketers and that gave us the chance to specialise. It was 2006, and I remember thinking 'this online marketing thing has legs', so that's where I headed."

Tara would eventually head a team of 12 digital marketers, a role which saw her conquer challenges abroad. "I did a couple of stints in Dubai and Munich and spent seven years in San Francisco. It's the centre of all things tech and

I like being in **small but growing companies**. I think this is where marketers can have a big impact.

Tara Salmon

innovation. And as marketing has become a really tech-focused, data-driven discipline, it was an amazing place to work."

Tara's San Fran adventure ended when she was asked by the CEO of Aconex to take on the role of his chief of staff, but as fate would have it, the successful Aussie tech company was acquired by Oracle for \$1.6 billion soon after. "It was a pretty amazing journey, given I started with the company when we only had about 25 people."

In January 2019, Tara joined MessageMedia – a mobile messaging solution helping businesses better connect with customers – as their chief marketing officer. "MessageMedia is another Australian-founded tech company that is experiencing growth and expanding globally.

"I like being in small but growing companies. I think this is where marketers can have a big impact."

Celebrating 20 years in China



Professor Andy Vann (Vice Chancellor, Charles Sturt University) and Professor JIAO Xin'an (President, Yangzhou University).

For the past 20 years, Charles Sturt University has partnered with four Chinese universities to deliver business education to more than 9000 Chinese students.

In June, Vice-Chancellor Professor Andrew Vann travelled to China with other Charles Sturt dignitaries to celebrate the milestone with students and staff from Jilin University of Finance and Economics, Tianjin University of Commerce, Yangzhou University and Yunnan University of Finance and Economics.

Executive Dean, Faculty of Business, Justice and Behavioural Sciences, Professor Tracey Green, said the Joint Cooperation Program was designed to bring an international perspective to Chinese business students without them having to leave China. "We basically teach the final year of a four-year degree face-to-face, giving students a dual award – one from their home university and an Australian qualification from Charles Sturt.

"Given the size of the population, the jobs market is incredibly competitive in China, so having an international qualification gives these students an edge in terms of their careers. It's a point of distinction. It's not only about having an Australian qualification. It's also about developing an understanding of international business – to have currency in the way things are done in other parts of the world, particularly in Western business."

To mark the 20th anniversary, graduates of the program and teaching staff were presented with



Celebration smiles from 2019 graduating students (Yunan University of Finance and Economics).

The Joint Cooperation Program has been **acclaimed as a shining example of a partnership** model with an Australian university by the Ministry, so we are all pretty proud about that

Tracey Green

a commemorative plaque at a celebration dinner held at the Jinghua Metropark Hotel in Yangzhou. “We had a two-day seminar to discuss educational opportunities and advancement in education as well as the lessons learned over the 20 years of the partnership, which was attended by the Party Secretary for Education and several other prominent dignitaries.

“We also had Alumni attend the graduation ceremonies held at each partner university. There are some very prominent Alumni now working in really good jobs and it’s fascinating to be able to talk to them and see where their lives have taken them post study at Charles Sturt.

“When we spoke to the Alumni, they are still really proud of their CSU degree from Australia. They felt it was a big advantage to them in the job market and felt it had given them an external view of

things that they wouldn’t have had they not done the extra year of study. It was important for us to celebrate their successes and to ensure they feel a part of the CSU Alumni.”

Tracey said the University is constantly working on ways to improve the offering in China. “The Joint Cooperation Program has been acclaimed as a shining example of a partnership model with an Australian university by the Ministry, so we are all pretty proud about that.

“A team from the Faculty conducts an annual Academic Management meeting and recently went back to China to look at the needs of our partners and to see how we can diversify our core offerings to ensure we stay ahead of the curve. We know we need to be at the forefront of trying to see what future learning needs look like and how these link to future work opportunities for the students.”

Celebrating 20 years in China Our Alumni

XINXU CHEN (JOHNNY)

Home university: Tianjin University of Commerce
Graduated: 2016

"I am interested in financial management and knew the joint program could provide me with a global view, which would be helpful with my career development. An Australian qualification also proves you have a second language, which can open up career opportunities.

"I now work at Tianjin University of Commerce on the joint program. It is my job to prepare daily course materials, including subject outlines, assignments and exams. The joint program is perhaps harder than other programs, but it is worth it. The process of the study is teaching you how to fish rather than giving you the fish, which means you will gain more after graduation."

HALLEY HOWE

Home university: Yangzhou University **Graduated:** 2013

"Nowadays, more and more Chinese are going abroad for further study. I think we all share the same objective, to broaden our horizons through education. I chose the CSU joint program because I can get two qualifications, which differentiates me from my counterparts who have just one, all while studying in China. It also enables me to have broader views of what managing and doing business is really like.

"After graduation, I went to work in a hotel group. I had hoped to apply what I have learned in the workplace but that turned out not to be the case. I now work in an educational institution in Shenzhen and it is here that I have come to apply what I've learned, especially when I'm confronted with challenges or setbacks, I can search for new solutions drawing on my studies."



Executive Dean, Faculty of Business, Justice and Behavioural Sciences, Professor Tracey Green with alumna Lydia.

KONG YIHUA (LYDIA)

Home university: Yunnan University of Finance and Economics **Graduated:** 2015

"The joint program was attractive to me because I could access outstanding foreign education without having to go abroad. The professors at CSU were professional and friendly and we had many opportunities to learn from them to enjoy colourful group discussions.

"I am now a teacher in Yunnan University of Finance and Economics. It was my dream to be a teacher since I was a child and I believe the experience in the joint program made me sure this is what I really love to do. I cherished the happy time I spent with my fellow students at CSU and hope that one day we can come to beautiful Australia."



Liu Zelong (Chandler).

LIU ZELONG (CHANDLER)

Home university: Yangzhou University **Graduated:** 2009

CHANDLER REALISES HIS DREAM

When Liu Zelong – or Chandler as he likes to be called – sat the entrance exam to attend university in China, he talked with his father about where he should study. “It was a big decision. There are several factors that influenced me then. I was very good at English back in high school, so I wanted an option where I could use my English in the future rather than just forget everything. And, in China, we are in a high growth economy and I knew there would be a good chance for me in future if I had some business knowledge and skills.”

Chandler chose to study business at nearby Yangzhou University which has a joint study program with Charles Sturt. “The course is taught bilingually, with English textbooks and examinations in English. It was a very immersive environment where I could continually learn English and the teachers were very professional. They influenced my life so much and taught me how to be a good person.

“I learned many skills and techniques that benefitted me a lot in later life.”

After graduation in 2009, Chandler started down the path to become an engineer but a couple of near-misses at work left him wondering what to do next. He decided to apply for an international MBA program. “I got an interview, a pure English interview, which meant I could show them my English ability. I also got a scholarship and I really think my dual qualifications and English competence helped.

“After that, I worked for Corning, now Dow Chemical, as a marketing manager but felt I was a small piece of a bigger machine without much power to decide what to do.”

Chandler began working part-time in education and was soon working full-time for TaiQi Education Group helping students to map their future. He subsequently started his own company to help students find the International MBA program in Shanghai to suit their needs. “I’m super busy. But I’m doing something that I’m good at and I can also make a difference and help people.

“Education is not the total solution, but it’s a very important part of the whole. And if you lack it, there will be much smaller chance for you to better your own way out. I feel like I’m kind of delivering my dream right now. I have my own company and am helping students pursue their dreams. I think for a person working in education, fulfilling your students’ dream helps you realise your own.”

CSU NEWS



Dr Xiaoming Zheng.

REDUCING MEDICAL RADIATION, INCREASING HOPE

Almost as soon as X-rays were introduced in 1895, work began to find a way of reducing this medical miracle treatment's deadly downside – radiation exposure. It was a puzzle that could not be solved, until recently when Charles Sturt University scientist Xiaoming Zheng made a breakthrough.

Senior lecturer in medical radiation science, Dr Zheng has patented a formula to guide the dose of radiation used in X-ray computed tomography (otherwise known as a CT scan). This effectively means patients will receive a drastically reduced radiation dose than current imaging delivers.

As a result of this ground-breaking work, Dr Zheng and his four Taiwanese colleagues were awarded the 2018 Radiologic Technology Distinguished Author Award in honour of Jean I Widger by the American Society of Radiologic Technologists.

Dr Zheng has spent the past five years researching how to reduce a patient's exposure to medical radiation without compromising scan quality and started to see effect when he looked at things in a very different way. "I began looking at the problem from a philosophical and mathematical point of view. To me it was an optimisation problem.

"The mathematical equation I developed was completely different from any other. It sets parameters for radiologists to use in determining

the optimal dose of radiation. We developed each patient's personalised exposure prescription and found no difference in image quality between diagnostic images obtained using our method and those obtained using standard protocols [with higher radiation doses]. It shows that radiation doses can be drastically reduced from current levels. In turn, it will drastically reduce the cancer risk for patients who undergo X-ray imaging."

It is hard for Dr Zheng to contain his excitement about this breakthrough. "The exciting thing is this formula means there will be a dramatic reduction in radiation exposure for children."

"It's not a case of today you have exposure and tomorrow you have cancer. It may take a while to develop. For children, their lifespan is long, so the chance of them developing cancer is higher."

"And I can now reduce that."

HAMISH HOSTS ICONIC Q&A

Charles Sturt alumnus Hamish Macdonald has a reputation as one of the hardest working newsmen in the business. That reputation is sure to continue with Hamish announced as the new host of ABC's current affairs panel program Q&A, taking over from Tony Jones. As well as hosting Q&A, Hamish will be a regular member of RN Breakfast and will report for Foreign Correspondent.

ABC News Director, Gaven Morris describes Hamish as one of the brightest talents in Australian journalism. "Hosting Q&A requires a special set of skills. It needs someone who is articulate and also a great listener, well connected, interested in everything and fully across news and current events at home and abroad."

"Hamish can do all of that — and also brings his own brand of warmth and energy that audiences love."

INAUGURAL DEAN OF RURAL MEDICINE APPOINTED

Dr Lesley Forster has been announced as the inaugural Dean of Rural Medicine for Charles Sturt University's School of Rural Medicine.

The Joint Program in Medicine, run in partnership with Western Sydney University, will welcome its first cohort of students at Charles Sturt in Orange in February 2021.



Hamish Macdonald.

Dr Forster joins Charles Sturt from the University of New South Wales (UNSW) where she held the position of Associate Dean (Rural Health) and Head of the Rural Clinical School, which taught more than 250 medical students per year across all disciplines.

Dr Forster has extensive experience in regional and rural medicine and a strong focus on Indigenous medical education, serving as Convener of the Special Entry to Medicine Program for Indigenous students at UNSW.

Charles Sturt Vice-Chancellor Professor Andrew Vann said Dr Forster's appointment confirms the University's commitment to building a vibrant and successful medical school that delivers better health outcomes for regional and rural Australia.

INVESTMENT OFFERS BOOST TO PORT MACQUARIE

CSU Strategic Adviser, Regional Development, Fiona Nash presented an update on the University's development and engagement strategy at the Port Macquarie Chamber of Commerce business network forum earlier this year.

Ms Nash said the expansion of Charles Sturt in Port Macquarie, including new science and digital labs,

teaching spaces and a business innovation hub, was supported by a \$15 million NSW Government grant, announced in March 2019, on top of the University's \$46 million upgrade commitment.

"This is an exciting time for Charles Sturt and the Mid North Coast region, with the development of the campus here offering collaborative opportunities for businesses in Port Macquarie and across the Mid North Coast."

Student enrolments at the University in Port Macquarie are expected to treble, including 400 international student places, making it the largest international teaching and learning centre in regional NSW.

ENDANGERED FROG FINDS A FRIEND AT CHARLES STURT

A frog found in wetlands at Charles Sturt University's Albury-Wodonga Campus has recently been recognised as a nationally endangered species.

Discovered in the late 1950s, the Sloane's froglet fell into a figurative black hole for almost 50 years until their plight was brought to the attention of Charles Sturt's Dr Alexandra Knight in 2008. Upon learning that no one had heard the Sloane's froglets calling or recorded their sound for almost two decades, Dr Knight was compelled to leave her job at the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage and start a PhD at Charles Sturt to focus on the embattled froglet.

With very little known about the animal, Dr Knight set out to learn more about them, spending many months out in swamps looking for the froglet. She discovered an important population on the Albury-Wodonga campus and numbers throughout Albury, Thurgoona and the Murray River in Corowa.

Now she spends much of her time talking about this endangered amphibian, certain that public awareness teamed with education is crucial for its continued survival.

STUDENT ENGINEERS PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Charles Sturt student engineers have taken out the Engineers Without Borders (EWB) People's Choice Award for their project exhibited at the World Engineering Convention 2019 held in Melbourne in November.

The students' 'SODIS System' is an innovative solar water disinfection system which aims to provide a safe and reliable source of drinking water for use in Timor-Leste and elsewhere. The modular design isn't reliant on mains electricity, can be adjusted to the direction of the sun, and can be used in remote areas and those affected by natural disasters.

Foundation Professor of the Charles Sturt Engineering program Euan Lindsay said the program is creating entrepreneurial engineers who can articulate human-centred designs to a wide range of audiences. "This award is a very strong recognition of what we do, and the hard work these student engineers have put into their studies and practice this year."

PR STUDENTS WIN THE PITCH

Three final-year Bachelor of Communication (Public Relations) students from Charles Sturt University won first place at the first Public Relations Institute of Australia (PRIA) national student public relations competition.

'Pitch This!' is designed to develop public relations students into professional practitioners.

Presenting to a panel of industry expert judges in the 'Pitch This!' competition, held at the University of Western Sydney's Parramatta Campus in October, team members Georgia Toovey, Hattie Ryan and Chelsea O'Sullivan impressed the judges with their communication campaign aimed at eliminating hand injuries on the AMCOR factory floor through a greater awareness of the impact of not wearing safety gloves.

The trio competed against their peers from around Australia and have won an internship with esteemed public relations company Edelman Australia, and had the chance to present their campaign at the PRIA National Conference in November.

And the winners are...

2016 Stella Prize

- Charlotte Ann Wood

2019 Young Guns of Wine Finalist

- Shaun Vincent Crinion
- Jayden Colin Ong
- Simon Christopher Killeen
- Vanessa Louise Altmann
- Benjamin Paterson Ranken

Australian Commercial Radio Awards Top Talk Presenter 2018

- Sarah Elizabeth Boorer

Australian Financial Review 100 Women of Influence 2019

- Suzanne Elizabeth Miller
- Michelle Leonard
- Louise Judith Evans
- Charlotte Ann Wood
- Anika Genevieve Fleur Molesworth
- Kylie Ann Walker

Australian Defence Industry Awards

- Rebecca Louise Jensen

InStyle 10 remarkable women

- Anika Genevieve Fleur Molesworth

LGBTI inclusion awards

- Nicholas Robert Steepe

Marianne Gaul (AM) Award

- Elyce Margaret Green

Member (AM) of the Order of Australia

- Simon John Duffy

National Photographic Portrait Prize 2019 Finalist

- Aletheia Casey

NSW Aboriginal of the Year 2019

- Faye Beverley McMillan

The Land Sydney Royal Showgirl

- Stephanie Margaret Clancy

Women's Agenda Leadership Awards 2019 finalist

- Faye Beverley McMillan

World Teachers Day citations

- Clare Louise Chapman

Big hARTed graduates



Bettina Richter knows art is a vehicle for change.

A Charles Sturt Theatre/Media graduate, Bettina is Media & Communications Manager at Big hART, Australia's leading campaigning arts organisation.

Founded by Scott Rankin in 1992, Big hART has worked with more than 50 communities in regional, remote and urban Australia to make art, build community, drive change and expose injustice through powerful campaigns.

"We tell the invisible stories. Our work exists to restore justice and disadvantage through innovative transformational projects using film, theatre, documentary, events, music, podcasts, apps, digital media, augmented and virtual reality to tell powerful

stories. It's our role to ensure that the voice of the powerless influences decision makers."

Bettina said that over the years, Big hART has driven change in homelessness, addiction, slavery at sea, domestic violence, inequality and intergenerational injustice faced by Indigenous Australians. "No issue is too big. But it's not about quick wins. Often, it's years and years of working on a project.

"We work with a community for the long-term. Like the eight year campaign for copyright justice for Albert Namatjira's family which saw copyright handed back to the family in 2017. I only came to work at Big hART at the back end of the project, running the media campaign. I'd worked as a publicist for many years, with some pretty amazing authors, but this is probably the proudest project I've ever worked on in my career."

Bettina believes there is a clear nexus between the work of Big hART and the ethos of Charles Sturt's Theatre/Media course.

"I think it's very much about seeing arts as a vehicle for social change. At CSU it was always about creating new work but also looking at how it was going to influence or change a community or have a message. It's not just about going to the theatre and having a great night out. It's actually about creating something that's going to stay with someone and influence or inspire or shock or challenge.

"The Theatre/Media course was always about participatory community engagement, which is very much at the heart of Big hART's work.

"And the course is really practical. People aren't afraid to roll up their sleeves and get dirty.



Above: Trevor Jamieson performs Namitjira. Photography – Brett Boardman.

Left: Charles Sturt Theatre/Media Alumni – Amy Morcom, Rachel Small, Lucy Harrison, Bettina Richter and Angela Prior.

Often you've got to do all sorts of things as part of your work in the arts, and that's something CSU taught us. To be able to cross over into other roles, be practical, and physical and creative. It's also about big vision thinking as well, which is something that Bill Blaikie and Jerry Boland, inspired in their students.

"The TM [Theatre/Media] community is amazing. There's a strong TM network that begins in the course and continues to this day. There are real peer-to-peer benefits, like recommending people for work. I guess you feel that if they are a TM, you know they're going to be good."

Bettina believes the Big hART ethos of humility is something all practitioners can learn from. "In any community, our mission is to do no harm. We are very much aware that it's easy to go in and hurt a community or steamroll over them. We only go into a community when we're invited. It's not what you often think from an arts company. You think you'd go in there with guns blazing, doing a tap dance, but it's actually about sitting down and listening to what a community needs, listening to what they want. It's quite a humble kind of role in many ways."

You can read more about the work of Big hART at bighart.org

Current Big hART staff who are Charles Sturt alumni:

Angela Prior (graduated 2003)
WA & TAS State Manager

Rachel Small (graduated 2009)
Project O Producer, based in north west Tasmania

Lucy Harrison (graduated 2013)
Partnerships Manager & Executive Asst to CEO, based in Sydney

Bettina Richter (graduated 1998)
Media & Communications Manager, based in Pambula NSW

Theatre Media Alumni who've worked with Big hART:

Cecily Hardy – Producer

Elsbeth Blunt – Producer

Amy Morcom – Producer

Mike Finch – Assistant Director

Becks Blake – Associate Producer

Sienna Dillon – Community Producer

Social justice the driver for Nicholas

Nicholas Steepe is always on the go, with one very clear guiding force in his life.

“What drives me professionally and personally is social justice – advocating for those who don’t have an equitable standing and ensuring that everyone is respected and accepted as an individual.”

As Charles Sturt’s Project Manager, Equity and Diversity, Nicholas works to create an environment that enhances diversity, and it’s a job he absolutely loves. “I get to make a difference in what I do and what I do makes a difference.

“I am responsible for the development, management and completion of equity and diversity initiatives. I love working here because of the positive impact the University has on the communities where its campuses are located. The values of Charles Sturt are also aligned with my own: impactful, inspiring, insightful and inclusive.”

Nicholas was the first in his immediate family to complete Year 12 and admits to taking the long way around to tertiary education.

“With the support of my Society and Culture teacher, I enrolled in a co-enrolment course with TAFE and Charles Sturt University in Dubbo. I completed a Certificate IV in Community Services and then a Diploma of Community Services before completing the last two years of the Bachelor of Social Work at Charles Sturt.”

Nicholas went on to complete a Graduate Certificate in Project Management before moving on to his Master of Social Work (Advanced Practice) at Charles Sturt in 2018. He is now on the Executive Dean’s list for excellence in study and will graduate in December 2019.

While juggling work with study, Nicholas also sits as Scholar Manager on the management committee of The Pinnacle Foundation – a national charity that provides scholarships and mentorships to disadvantaged and/or marginalised LGBTIQ+ people. Nicholas received support from the Pinnacle Foundation in 2015, and volunteers as a way to give back.

He also started Central West Rainbow Alliance, a community organisation responsible for the Central West Pride March and LGBTIQ+ inclusion in regional NSW.

Nicholas is heavily involved in Charles Sturt’s LGBTIQ+ Ally Network and has contributed to initiatives such as the sponsorship of the Wagga Wagga Mardi Gras and events for Wear It Purple, International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, Biphobia and Intersexism (IDAHOBIT) and Transgender Awareness Week.

Earlier this year, Nicholas’ significant impact on LGBTI inclusion within Charles Sturt and in the wider community was recognised when he was named the 2019 Out Role Model at the Australian LGBTI Inclusion Awards.



Nicholas Steepe.

"Words can't explain how ecstatic and honoured I felt to be nominated, let alone win the award. I'm proud of who I am, and I'm so thankful to be involved with organisations like Charles Sturt University and the Pinnacle Foundation that celebrate and validate my whole identity."

Nicholas believes that everyone can make a difference.

"Creating a world worth living in takes a very long time and we all play a part in making it happen."

"We have to recognise the inequalities in the world and try to address them. And what we do as individuals, within our communities, in our personal and professional lives, makes a difference. We can all make a positive difference in this world, no matter how big or small. We just need to seize every moment that is offered, use the wealth of experience and knowledge around us, and pay it forward."

Creating a world worth living in takes a very long time and **we all play a part in making it happen.**

Nicholas Steepe

Farica's powerful life moment

Crossing the graduation stage thousands of miles from her home in Canada was an honour Farica Prince was not prepared to miss.

Farica had worked in policing years before she began her studies. More than a qualification in a field she loves, the Bachelor of Policing was a huge part of her personal growth in what was a very difficult time in her life.

"I am a first-generation university graduate. I began my studies after 15 years in policing and it was a huge part of my post traumatic growth. My daughter Violet was ill for a long time and passed away. School helped me during my grieving process by providing an opportunity to learn, grow and develop new skills."

Despite some initial trepidation around her ability to study, Farica soon formed strong connections with fellow students and staff that helped her enjoy and excel in her studies.

"Learning online has always been a struggle for me but my studies with CSU allowed me the opportunity to overcome that. I was connected closely with my course coordinator Brian Daly who helped me navigate the structure of CSU and the online environment, and I also made lifelong connections. I am still in touch with many of my classmates and we occasionally solicit input from each other on different topics."

Farica is the Inspector in charge of the Administrative Support Division with the Blood Tribe Police Service – a fully autonomous police agency of more than 60 employees (both sworn and civilian) with jurisdiction covering 180,000 hectares of land in Southern Alberta and proud home to over 10,000 members of Canada's largest Indigenous community, The Blood Tribe.

Day-to-day, she is responsible for everything outside of front-line policing. Despite spending a lot of her time at the desk, Farica loves her job.

"Much of my work is as a visionary and strategist, driving change initiatives. I have spent 14 of my 18 years in Indigenous policing and have a very diverse lens that allows me to enhance discussions at all levels. I tend to focus on ensuring we are not leaving anyone behind while making decisions."

Farica said her time at Charles Sturt has made a big impact on her career and her life. "My critical thinking skills have improved drastically. I have learned how to do proper research and my ability to articulate myself in writing has led me to accomplishments that otherwise may not have been attainable."

"Graduating university was not something I ever envisioned for myself and it was a difficult road for me. But that's why my trip to Australia for graduation was so important. It was more than a vacation. I overcame adversity and made it to the end. Graduating at Charles Sturt was a meaningful and emotional celebration of my accomplishment."



Winning with human capital



Master of Business Leadership graduate James Frederic loves working with people.

One of his more recent ventures, started just months into his study at Charles Sturt, is testament to that fact: a 'human technology firm' challenging the idea of the traditional business consultancy with a distinctly people-centric approach.

This approach was recognised in April 2019, when James' business OakGen received a Bronze Stevie for Most Innovative Startup of the Year. "At OakGen we build, design, develop and deliver business programs for family businesses so that you as a business owner have more time with your family and spend less time worrying about your business."

James believes the first step to business success is to focus less on digital technology and more on people. "In business today, we rely on technology for everything we do, from processing financial transactions to marketing, to keeping track of everything that's going on in your business. They're great tools, but they're not the be all and end all.

"If you look at some of the big corporations and how they're dealing with their customers now, their satisfaction ratings are typically slipping. That's because a lot of doing business is about the interactions between people, not just what you can measure.

"We've coined a term 'human technology' which is really just about listening to customers and understanding what is going on for them. We work from the standpoint that treating people like people is good for business.

"And it's working. A lot of business consultants, coaches and mentors take three, six, 12 months to get people to a position where they're getting results. We've been able to get businesses to their original goals within three or four appointments."

Outside his work, James is helping make this a world worth living in by becoming a human rights advocate in areas such as domestic violence and family law issues.

"As a survivor of domestic violence myself, I learned that there's more support still needed in the broader community, so my partner and I created a social support network for men in Brisbane. It's very much in need, because men often don't like facing and talking about the issues affecting them."

BUSHFIRE SCHOLARSHIP

Fund to help students in need

Charles Sturt University is calling on members of the University's community and the public to donate to a new scholarship fund which will help students impacted by the bushfires with their studies in 2020.

The newly created Charles Sturt Bushfire Scholarship is open to the University's commencing and continuing students, with each scholarship worth up to \$5000.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Andrew Vann said the University will fund six scholarships, worth \$30,000 in total, to alleviate some of the financial pressure on students during tough times. "Recent bushfires are causing devastation and destruction to many regions in which our students live and work.

Some of our students have been displaced – some of them have lost everything. This can greatly affect whether they can continue or pursue further education next year.

At Charles Sturt University, we want every student to succeed in their pursuit of education and meet their education goals.

We have introduced six Charles Sturt Bushfire Scholarships, and we will match every external dollar donated to the scholarship fund to create even more scholarships.

The bushfire scholarship appeal comes after the University opened its doors to more than 250 firefighters in Port Macquarie. During the firefighters' stay, local businesses and members of the community donated supplies and volunteered at the University's campus to help feed and support the firefighters.

The fires in the Mid North Coast region resulted in the closure of the campus in Port Macquarie for two days in early November to ensure student and staff safety.

Professor Vann said he was pleased the University could support the firefighters who battled blazes in the Mid North Coast and throughout NSW, and it was the community spirit witnessed during the bushfires that inspired the idea for the Charles Sturt Bushfire Scholarship.

It was remarkable to see the University, our students and the local community rally together to support the firefighters, and now we want to extend that community spirit to help our students who have been affected by the bushfires.

I encourage the University's staff and students and anyone in a position to make a donation to make a contribution, no matter how small, to the Bushfire Scholarship fund. Each donation will make a significant difference to the lives of those students impacted by the bushfires.

To donate, visit

csu.edu.au/office/advancement/giving-to-csu/active-funds/bushfire-appeal

A family tradition for Tricia



Many of our Alumni have strong ties to Charles Sturt University. Some have met a spouse at uni. Some have followed in the footsteps of their parents.

For Tricia Allan, the connection runs deep.

"My parents Jennie and Raymond met and married in 1980, when they were both studying at Goulburn Teacher's College, before it became CSU.

"At 19, Mum brought newborn me along to all their lectures, and one year later did the same with my little sister. They both graduated in 1983 and have only recently retired from teaching. I have a photo of the them in their graduation gowns, each holding a baby."

Tricia commenced studies at Charles Sturt straight out of high school. "I first studied criminology on the Bathurst Campus but then moved to the NSW Police Academy where I received a scholarship, a small study allowance and a job at the end of my training.

"I thrived there and was so proud to join the Police Force. I was delighted to get pictures with Mum and Dad at my Police Attestation Parade in May 2001 in the same spot their grad photo was taken."

Tricia continued her studies as a probationary constable and achieved good marks. She also met her husband James who was studying the same course. But the strains of distance education and

Each period of study has been genuinely useful in my career,
so no study was actually lost, which I love.

Tricia Allen

the stress of the job took their toll and Tricia found herself submitting assignments at the last minute. She made the painful decision to leave her studies and a job she loved.

The following year, Tricia enrolled for a third time at Charles Sturt in a Bachelor of Education. Despite her best efforts, she couldn't fight the burnout and she took a break from study altogether.

It wasn't until after she'd had two children and fostered five others that she felt inspired to study again.

"It was 2009 and I was feeling a little down about never having actually finished any study and feeling like 'just a mum'. My hubby and a Department of Community Services out of home care caseworker urged me to go back to uni and study what had always been my real passion, child welfare and forensic psychology.

"I thought since I already spend long hours up all night with babies, why not use that time to study psychology via distance and see what happens?"

Tricia received her letter of acceptance the day she found out she was pregnant with her third child.

"I thought of quitting again, but my mum and husband encouraged me to stay focused. Thanks to their strong support and help from my mother-in-law also, I studied and thrived, learning by distance from the isolated town of Lightning Ridge – with a newborn, a toddler and a

kindergartener. I also supported my hubby to earn his Bachelor of Policing (Investigations) in 2011, so it was a busy time!

"I absolutely loved psychology and when I graduated in December 2016, I was so ecstatic to have finally finished some study."

Tricia and James and their three daughters now live in Bathurst where he is a Detective Sergeant for Bathurst Police and she is a Unit Leader at Bathurst Community Corrections. She also started Finesse Leadership Academy in 2018, which runs workshops for teenage girls covering topics like self-esteem, workplace and job interview preparation, personal development, resilience, and emotional intelligence.

"Each period of study has been genuinely useful in my career, so no study was actually lost, which I love."

Tricia believes her family's connection with Charles Sturt will only deepen.

"Our eldest daughter is now 14 and wants to study either paramedics, psychology or medicine through CSU. Our 11-year-old wants to study at CSU and eventually become a zookeeper at Dubbo zoo – she has already drafted her job application – while our youngest hopes to study at CSU and become a lawyer.

"While we encourage our girls to explore all universities, they are all determined it must be Charles Sturt!"

Emerging leaders

Australia's wine industry

There's a new vintage of leaders set to take Australia's grape and wine industry into the future.

Each year Wine Australia prepares emerging leaders for the challenges facing the sector in the hope that they'll bring innovative change to the table. Titled Future Leaders of 2019, the professional and personal development program runs over six months.

We talked to three of this year's crop – Keira O'Brien, Nadja Wallington and Dylan McMahon – who all studied at Charles Sturt University.

NADJA WALLINGTON

Nadja headed to uni straight from high school to study a Bachelor of Applied Science (Wine Science)/Bachelor of Applied Science (Viticulture). She was also a trainee winemaker at Charles Sturt's commercial winery. The combination of theory and practice proved a valuable foundation for her professional life.

"My time at Charles Sturt gave me the platform for my career. Being a trainee was great. It gave me all the practical skills I needed to be a working winemaker."

Now working at Philip Shaw Wines in Orange, Nadja hopes to make her mark on the industry. She is dedicated to promoting sustainability and wants

to help this emerging wine region find its voice. "I want to contribute to this industry because I come from the land. I also have a huge sense of responsibility to do the right thing and farm the land in a way that assures it will be here to benefit many generations to come. It will be increasingly necessary to think creatively about what it means to be sustainable, as a business and as a sector."

KEIRA O'BRIEN

For Keira O'Brien, being involved in the wine industry was more of a hobby than a career. Established in commercial property, she had a "side hustle" of teaching wine education to consumers.

"I got to a crossroads in my life and realised I wasn't enjoying what I was doing in my work. I had a bit of an idea that I wanted to be a winemaker and had got to know a few well-known Aussie winemakers through my teaching. I thought 'their job looks pretty cool'. So off I went to do a vintage."

Keira had found her calling. While working part-time in a range of roles in the industry, she decided to begin her Bachelor of Wine Science with Charles Sturt. Now in the fourth year of her degree, she is also a technical winemaker at Tasmanian Vintners.

Of particular interest to Keira is the problem of smoke taint from bushfires impacting wine and how the industry can build capabilities for



Nadja Wallington.

viticulture through education, workplace training and support.

“If there’s smoke around at the time the grapes are ripening, then smoke in the atmosphere can get under the skin of a grape berry, because it’s respiring – breathing. Those smoke particles get down to sugars. When I ferment it and that sugar gets digested and transformed into alcohol, what’s left behind is the smoky taste. That’s got the potential to have a huge negative economic impact.

“It’s an area of wine science that is not yet very well understood. But there’s acknowledgement within the industry that it’s going to continue to be a feature of Australian winemaking, and a lot of research is beginning.”

DYLAN MCMAHON

Winemaking is in Dylan McMahon’s blood. Seville Estate was established by his grandfather in the early 1970s, and now Dylan’s at the helm as general manager and winemaker. Growing up he was always involved in some way with the vintage and the winery.

“I never considered going into the industry as a full-time job. I actually got into electronic engineering,

but I deferred for a year to travel. I did a few full-time stints at Seville to fund my travels. That’s when it set in. I thought it was a lot of fun, quite dynamic and you get to use your hands. It’s art and science combined. So, I dumped engineering and studied oenology with Charles Sturt.”

Dylan points to sustainable viticulture as the major challenge moving forward.

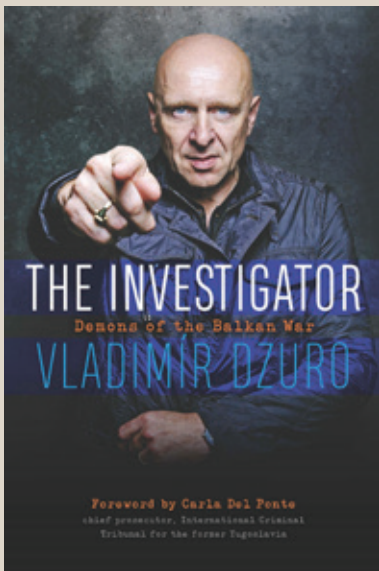
“We’ve got some massive hurdles that we need to quickly overcome if we’re going to survive for a long period of time. Climate change is a significant factor in where we grow and what we grow. Root stock selection and varietal selection are also major hurdles for producers.

“For all the information we have, winemakers still find the process a matter of trial and error.

“There are a lot of challenges around that. At the same time, it also presents us with exciting opportunities. We’re thinking long and hard about where we’re growing grapes and what sites are best suited to particular varieties.

“This gives us an opportunity to rethink our viticulture – what we’re doing and why we’re doing it. We can come at it in a smarter, more sustainable way.”

ALUMNI AUTHORS

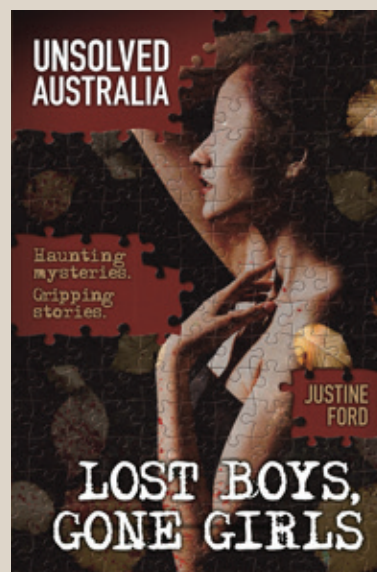


The Investigator, Demons of the Balkan War

Vladimír Dzuro

Master of Arts (Investigations Management) (2011)

The war that broke out in the former Yugoslavia at the end of the twentieth century unleashed unspeakable acts of violence committed against defenseless civilians, including a grisly mass murder at an Ovcara pig farm in 1991. Vladimír Dzuro, a criminal detective from Prague, was one of the investigators charged with discovering what happened on that horrific night. Drawn from his daily notes, Dzuro's story is devastating – a time of brutal torture, random killings, and the disappearance of innocent people.



Unsolved Australia: Lost Boys, Gone Girls

Justine Ford

Bachelor of Arts Communication (Journalism/ Organisation Communication) (1993)

Australia is 'the lucky country'. But not for everyone. Unsolved Australia: Lost Boys, Gone Girls tells 13 stories of people whose luck ran out in the most mysterious of circumstances.

Key players are interviewed, evidence laid out and suspects assessed. Never-before-published information is revealed. Can you help crack the case and solve these mysteries? Hold tight as Unsolved Australia: Lost Boys, Gone Girls takes you on a chilling yet inspiring true crime rollercoaster ride... where the final destination is hope.



The House

Helen Pitt

Bachelor of Arts Communication (Journalism) (1985)

Winner of the 2018 Walkley Book Award

The best-loved building in Australia nearly didn't get off the drawing board. When it did, the lives of everyone involved in its construction were utterly changed: some for the better, many for the worse.

Helen Pitt tells the stories of the people behind the magnificent white sails of the Sydney Opera House. From the famous conductor and state premier who conceived the project; to the two architects whose lives were so tragically intertwined; to the workers and engineers; to the people of Sydney, who were alternately beguiled and horrified as the drama unfolded over two decades.

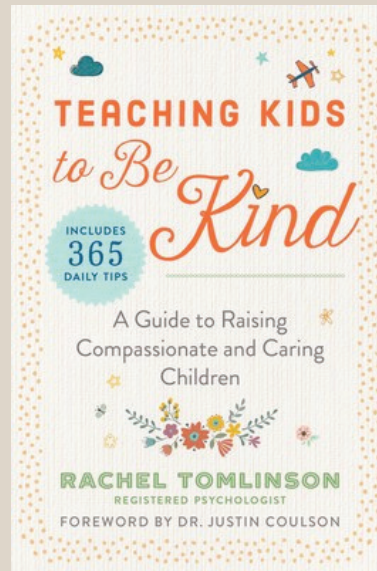
Cherish - A book about us

Shaela Mauger

Bachelor of Arts (Graphic Design) (2009)

Cherish – A Book About Us is a beautiful hardcover keepsake journal that guides you to handwrite your story and the special relationship you have with your loved one. It is divided into 'My story' and 'Our Story' and gets you to turn back the clock and recount everything from your favourite childhood memory to your wishes for the future.

In a world where handwriting is almost a thing of the past, this journal is made even more special by the power of your handwritten word. Created in memory of Shaela's father, Greg.



Teaching Kids to Be Kind

Rachel Tomlinson

Bachelor of Health Science
(Complementary Medicine) (2008)

In Teaching Kids to Be Kind, Rachel Tomlinson draws from her professional experiences as a registered psychologist to provide 365 inspiring strategies to help children and families practice kindness every day of the year.

An essential tool for parents, Teaching Kids to Be Kind will help children develop empathy, regulate their emotions, and improve their general well-being as well as support families in strengthening their overall relationships

A Hacker, I Am

Craig Ford

Master of Information Systems Security (2019)
Master of Management
(Information Technology) (2016)

This book has been created to help everyone, not just technical folk, understand cybersecurity and the associated risks, some new technologies and what we need to do to be prepared for them. As well as his opinion on cyber-related topics, Craig also pokes a bit of fun at his industry at times. This is a book that you don't need to read from front to back – simply pick the chapter that interests you and start there.

LOST ALUMNI

Can you help us reconnect with some of our lost alumni?

If you know any of these people, ask them to email alumni@csu.edu to stay in touch!

Aaron Gordon Thomas Taylor

Aaron Paul Gorrie

Agata Plewa

Alexander Louis George Hjorth

Alexandra Maree Swan

Alicia Maree Davis

Amanda Ann Selmes

Amanda Margaret Gay

Amy Patricia Iris McLean

Andrea Belci

Andrew Martin Kelly

Anna Elizabeth Beex

Annabelle Susan McFetridge

Anthony Liolio

April Louise Winter

Ashlee Louise Jones

Atilla Ergi

Belinda Lee Jones

Ben David Collins

Beverley Louise Littlehales

Boyong Hou

Brian Neville Sullivan

Brigid Anne Rhynehart

Buntry Khau

Callan Sean Siosal Eccleston

Calum Ian Anderson

Calvin Smith

Carlie Rose Severs

Carly Elizabeth Hammat

Cassandra Jayne Diggelman

Chad Darrell Duffey

Chad David Cavuoto

Chanpisey Kith

Cherie Donna Shuttleworth

Cherie-Lee Hussien

Chontel Patricia Gibson

Christian Dale Shaw

Christine Merlino

Christopher Arpard Brockman

Christopher Paul O'Regan

Clementine Anne Patterson

Craig Anthony Orde

Daniel Aldam

Daniel David

Daniel W Sledge

Danielle Draper

Danielle Kara Thurgar Watters

Danny Ross Foster

David James Hennessy

Daya Smith

Dayle Leigh Bird

Deane Coleman

Debbie Louise Cerda-Pavia

Dilanka Wasana Fernando Wannaka Waththa Waduge

Dugald Erick Kendall Parsons

Ehsan Mohamed Hamdy

Eliane Ouk

Elizabeth Ann Livingstone Wilson

Emil Joshua Mittag

Emma McGlinn

Eric Sabarre Fabular

Eryn Louise Werry

Eva Rose Chick

Feng Xuejiao

Fiona Elizabeth Bell-Whittaker

Fiona MacDonald

Florian Edgar Breitenbach

Gabriel Elabbas Beach

Gabrielle Katherine Menzies

Garry Lawrence Boyd

Gavin Mark Kinsella

George Kunjunjukutty John

Gitanjali Lakhan

Glenn Richard Dumbrell

Guangzhao Xin

Hamish Andrew Inall

Hannah Elizabeth Barber

Hao Wu

Haoran Cao

Hasna Gourani

Hayley Louise Smith

Heather Maree Cunningham

Houssam Hanna Gbantous

Ian David Kegg

Ian Robert Douglas

Iman Zayed

Isabel Anne Paton

Isabel Ellen Callaghan Horton

Jacqueline Elisabeth Cole

Jaimi Michelle Starr

Jaimi-lee D'aquino

Jamie Charles Pisani

Jamie-Leigh Mary Poole

Jarrold James Bendeich

Jasmin Craufurd-Hill

Jasmin Marian Dykstra

Jason Arthur

Jason Paul Dickinson

Jenice Emma Stastny

Jenna-Lea Peel

Jennifer Anne Mooney

Jennifer Elizabeth Westerbrink

Jennifer Robyn Barnes

Jessica Maree McKenzie

Jessica Thompson
Jianguo Yang
Joanne Keni
Johanna Valentine Garnett
John Peter Brett
Joseph James Collins
Joseph Monaco
Joseph Salvo Fenech
Josephine Anne Johnson
Josh Gregory Davidson-McLaren
Judith Jan Lukin-Amundsen
Julia Ann Lucke
Julie Margaret Hudson
Julie-Anne Louise McGovern
Juliette Francis
Junfei Jin
Karen Heenan
Karina Maree Bellamy
Karl Aetius Philip de Lautier
Karla Louise Micallef
Kathryn Graham
Katrina Ann Johnston
Katy Anne Humm
Kelli Anne Beer
Kelly Frances Flahavin
Kerrin McLevie
Kim Margaret Steere
Kimberly Margaret Gray
Kokab Assem
Kristen Bell
Krystal Simone Buckingham
Krystyna Marie Smith
Kurt Fabian Woods
Kyrill George Brent
Laura Dickinson
Laura Rose Vogel
Leanne Francis Windle
Leanne Patricia Malone
Lei Zhang
Lenara Mukaieva
Ling Li
Liu Wing Hong
Luke Marks
Lynnette Ruth Field
Madeleine Kristy Tyson
Madlen Jane Corey
Margaret Ruth Hargrave
Marissa Lucinda Tofler
Mark Brendan Way
Mark James Amey
Maryanne Taouk
Matthew Scott Mannes
Megan Leigh Hughes

Megan Patricia Jean Prout
Melanie Louise Brown
Melisa Giovino
Melissa Kimberley Devitt
Michael John Hollingsworth
Michael John Phillips
Michael John Stenner
Michael Vidler
Michelle Anne Butters
Ming Yao
Mohammad Jalal Uddin
Mohammad Mohammad
Murie Ahamed Hassan
Naomi Rose Dean
Natalie Ann Molloy
Nicole Hennessy
Nicole Renee Mayhew
Obert Ndondodzai
Ozkan Denis
Pablo Cristobal Jimenez Lobeira
Patrick David Aaron Devaney
Patrick Nugent
Paul Anthony Deane
Paul Kieran Hackett
Petrina Louise Pompey
Philippa May Vile
Phillip Anthony Cant
Phillip Daniel Elmasri
Phorsacphear Tun
Prabhjot Kaur Kamboj
Qi Sun
Rachell Field
Rebecca Jayne Gum
Robert Myers
Rodney Douglas Eadie
Rohnil Chand
Rong Bao
Ronny Chaheen
Roslyn Lavinia Frauenfelder
Ross James York
Russell John Avery
Samantha April Van Berlo
Samantha Marie Richards
Samuel Kenneth Pemberton Phillips
Sandra Elizabeth Bahrum
Sarah Jayne Andrews
Scott Andrew Kuhlmann
Scott Clive Pursehouse
Scott Joseph Murray
Sean Andrew Lethlean
Shaakira B Khan
Shafic Hanna Jarrous
Shane David Markham

Sharon Leslie Post
Shauni Jane Tenteye
Sheena Karim
Sisi Huang
Sonya Helen McDonald
Sreyleak Sann
Stephan Wayne Hitchins
Stephanie Elizabeth Downing
Stephanie Elizabeth Perrot
Stephanie Jessica Tuyau
Stephen Rodney Ahern
Steven Mark Renn
Suhas Chandrakant Rane
Summer Treseder
Suong Thao Ly Ho Nguyen
Suska Bella Denham
Tadd Benjamin Rhys Tolhurst
Tadeusz Ozog
Taghrid Choukair
Tamara Joy Anne Klan
Taylor Dawn Crozier
Terry Maxine Fahy
Thanh Ngoc Nguyen
Thomas Gerald Coventry
Timothy Peter Keady
TJ Lee
Tori Murray
Trent Edward Mitchell
Troy Burns
Vanak Khan
Vanessa Elizabeth Crichton
Warren Craig Bernhardt
Wenhan Tang
William Maslin
Xin Li
Youradin Seng
Zhengyue Xu
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