



Charles Sturt
University

Thrive

Charles Sturt University
Alumni Magazine Autumn 2022



Charles Sturt's new VC

Meet Professor Renée Leon, who joins the university at an important time of transition

Alumni authors

Six must-reads from our alumni authors

Alumni Fun Run

Our alumni get active for a worthy cause

Contents

Welcome	3
Professor Renée Leon appointed Charles Sturt University Vice-Chancellor	4
Primary schools to politics and the lessons learned along the way	6
Charles Sturt trio working together to lead the way	8
Liam's good chemistry with Charles Sturt	11
A difference to the rural health workforce	12
Making little Tanya proud: a not so normal career	13
Discovering many paths to success	14
Alumni Fun Run	16
Contributing to a community for real change	19
Alumni authors	20
Improving food security in Cambodia	22
Using design thinking to shape new classroom learning	23
Honestly changing the system	24
Campus news	26
Awarding Growth: recognition for Chris' motivation and hard work	28
Charles Sturt University flies the flag for inclusion	30
More than a cleaning company that thrives despite a global pandemic	32
Events - Join us at Vivid!	33
Where are they now?	34
Help impact the future of health in the rural	35
St Martin's College 30th Anniversary	36
Alumnigive	38
2022 Alumni Awards	39
Lost alumni	40

Charles Sturt University Alumni Magazine

With special thanks to all those who contributed to this Autumn 2022 edition.

Contact us

Charles Sturt University Alumni
Locked Bag 588, Wagga Wagga
NSW 2678, Australia
Email: alumni@csu.edu.au

Charles Sturt University - TEQSA Provider Identification:
PRV12018 (Australian University). CRICOS Provider: 00005F.

© Charles Sturt University, 2022.

Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of Thrive, Charles Sturt University's magazine for alumni and friends.

Here's hoping you have had a good start to 2022 and are back to doing the things you love and still enjoying some of the good things that have come out of COVID. I know many of you now have much more flexible working arrangements and whole sections of our community are benefiting from changes such as online prescriptions and virtual appointments.

In this edition we celebrate our alumni (p8) and meet three Charles Sturt alumni working together to help shape one of the world's leading professional services companies and drive change for their clients and communities. Read the inspiring story of Damien, an alumnus, who wrote his first novel in prison and has since built a career as an archivist, illustrator, freelance writer and podcaster, all while advocating for incarcerated people (p25).

Our 2021 Alumni Fun Run was a highlight of last year with 204 participants raising over \$6,000 for the Regional Impact Scholarship Fund. Head to page 16 and read about the fantastic way our community came together online.

In other exciting news so far this year Charles Sturt University has celebrated International Women's Day and Wagga Wagga Mardi Gras and received a citation for our gender equality as well as numerous other achievements. We have also welcomed students back on campus, which is fantastic, so 2022 is shaping up to be a great year for the university.

We are currently holding our catch-up graduation ceremonies for our students, with COVID cancelling our ceremonies last year. The first graduation ceremony of the year took place in Port Macquarie, and it was an exciting event for our graduating students, their supporters and loved ones.

We are so excited to be planning our annual Vivid Cruise on Friday 17 June. It will be a wonderful night of celebrating our alumni and making new contacts. Keep a lookout for more events coming this year in our updated events calendar on our website: alumni.csu.edu.au/news-and-events

Thank you to all those who donated to our flood appeal, we were blown away by your generosity. Your donations will make a huge difference to students who have lost everything in the recent floods in Northern New South Wales. While we always welcome your donations there are many ways to use your talents to support the next generation of alumni. Our Alumni Give program is always looking for new volunteers. Find out more on page 38.

We hope you enjoy this edition of Thrive – as always, we celebrate some amazing alumni. If you have a story to share, please reach out at alumni@csu.edu.au.

Sarah Ansell

Director of Advancement

Meet our team



Sarah Ansell

Director –
Advancement



Stacey Fish

Development Officer



Ali Hill

Alumni Relations



Craig Johnson

Manager Advancement
Services



Naomi Ricketts

Alumni Relations

Cover story

Professor Renée Leon appointed Charles Sturt University Vice-Chancellor

Professor Renée Leon is bringing her expertise in leadership and change to Charles Sturt University at an important time of transition.

In 2021 Professor Renée Leon PSM commenced her role as Charles Sturt University's fifth Vice-Chancellor. Professor Leon has extensive experience in Commonwealth and State public administration, covering policy, program management and service delivery. She has been the Secretary of two Commonwealth Departments – the Department of Human Services and the Department of Employment – and has served as the CEO of the ACT Department of Justice and Community Safety.

Professor Leon was awarded a Public Service Medal in 2013 for outstanding service to public administration and law in leadership roles in the Australian Capital Territory and the Commonwealth.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws from the Australian National University and a Master of Laws from the University of Cambridge, where she was selected as the Menzies Foundation Law Scholar in 1995. She is also a Fellow of the Institute of Public Administration Australia, an Adjunct Professor at the University of Canberra and a member of Chief Executive Women Australia.

Professor Leon's expertise in leadership and change management underpinned the establishment of the Department of Employment as a high-performing organisation and the transformation of services and culture in the Department of Human Services. We are delighted that she now brings this expertise to Charles Sturt University to lead us through what is shaping up to be an exciting period of change and growth.

Professor Leon said she is honoured to lead Australia's leading regional university at a time when the regions are playing an increasingly visible and important national role.

"Regional universities contribute hugely to regional development and sustainability, and it is exciting to join Charles Sturt University at a time when regional Australia is growing and evolving," she said.

"I'm looking forward to working with an academic team who is committed to the development of the university to meet the challenges ahead."

Professor Leon believes that universities make enduring contributions to the public good, both by deepening our knowledge and by developing the wisdom and skills of our next generation. She is greatly energised by the opportunity to further these goals, aiming to lift the impact and excellence of Charles Sturt's research and to ensure our students are successful in their studies and beyond.

This vision emphasises her belief that university is about more than a degree – it's a life-long relationship, a place to make connections and an incubator for ongoing opportunity and support.

For this reason, Professor Leon understands the power of our alumni body and the importance of remaining connected and encourages everyone to do so.

"Our alumni are our greatest asset, and this is apparent on a daily basis. I'm particularly delighted to see the variety of ways in which our alumni engage with and support the university through the Alumni Give program and encourage others to consider joining. It is a wonderful way of remaining connected while sharing your expertise. I'm looking forward to working with and forming relationships with more of our alumni."

If you would like to know more about our Alumni Give program, visit alumni.csu.edu.au/alumni-give



Professor Leon (pictured) is based at the university's Bathurst campus and commenced her new role in September 2021.



Primary schools to politics and the lessons learned along the way

From humble beginnings growing up in regional Victoria to holding some of the highest positions in the country, the Hon Shane L. Stone AC QC has had a long and distinguished career in education, law, politics and disaster recovery and preparedness.

Following a tap on the shoulder from the Prime Minister, Shane's latest role is heading up the National Recovery and Resilience Agency, and he credits his time at Charles Sturt University with helping to develop skills he's used across his public, private and philanthropic endeavours.

THRIVE: Would you mind sharing your recollections of your studies at Charles Sturt University, or Rivcoll as it was then?

SHANE: As part of its transition from Wagga Teachers' College to a CAE (College of Advanced Education), they had recruited a heap of American lecturers, mainly from California. I was upgrading my teaching certificate to a Diploma of Teaching and was being exposed to these great minds. It was challenging, insightful and at the cutting edge of new education practice.

THRIVE: Are there skills you picked up during these studies that proved helpful in your later career?

SHANE: My primary teaching skills and especially the ability to speak plain language were useful in my subsequent roles as a barrister and elected official, including the Northern Territory Chief Minister. These were further complemented when I completed a double major at ANU in sociology (with single units in politics, contemporary Chinese studies and anthropology), where I learned to understand why people think and react the way they do.

When I retired from the Northern Territory Parliament, I continued to take all these early learnings and career lessons to various roles sitting on boards across three continents, before being brought out of retirement by Prime Minister Morrison to head up disaster response and planning in Australia.

THRIVE: What led you from teaching to law and then onto politics?

SHANE: I was committed to education and had commenced a Graduate Diploma in Educational Administration in Adelaide and was still single and young. The Whitlam Government freed up tertiary education and I was able to go to Law School at ANU. It would never have been available to me otherwise. It's often said the progression from law to politics is a natural one.

THRIVE: What would you say have been the biggest challenges of your career and what are the biggest sources of pride for you looking back?

SHANE: The greatest challenges in parliamentary life are keeping your feet on the ground and not getting caught up in the hubris of the position you occupy and the power you hold.

In terms of pride in government – I introduced the first anti-discrimination legislation in the Territory. I led not only the NT's engagement in the Pacific, but also Australia's. I was the first Minister for Asian Relations and Trade and facilitated a number of major infrastructure projects, including the Alice to Darwin rail link.

THRIVE: You are involved in a range of philanthropic work, including as National Chairman of the The Duke of Edinburgh's Award and President of the Order of Australia Association. Why is philanthropic work important to you?

SHANE: Philanthropy is the glue that holds the community together – this is why volunteers are so important. Having had a very fulfilling public and political career, I always felt that there is a mutual obligation to give back. My part in organisations like Duke of Edinburgh's Awards, the ACFTF which created the ABC Children's Channel, the Order of Australia Association, numerous ethnic community clubs where I have served as patron, have all been an important part of giving back.

I've always been driven by the fact I came from very modest means. I had grown up on a housing commission estate at Wodonga. I went to a state high school, worked second and third jobs to get ahead and had the good fortune of a mother and father who provided a loving family environment and an outstanding example, as both were serving mayors. They too came from equally poor, modest backgrounds.

“We should never underestimate the importance of post-secondary education advancing a community and providing opportunities so that young Australians don't have to move away from their homes into the big cities to get a tertiary education.”

Shane L. Stone AC QC

THRIVE: Few people live a public life without controversy, and you have no doubt faced your fair share of difficult-to-navigate situations. What are the factors that kept you going when facing tough negotiations or public derision?

SHANE: The most telling lesson I ever learned in politics was sometimes it's more important what you don't say than what you say. I have at times said things that I regret, but such is our journey through life. I try not to repeat those mistakes.

What kept me going was that, on balance, I firmly believed I was doing more good things than things that might be questioned or seen in a poor light.

THRIVE: What are your thoughts on higher education, especially for regional people?

SHANE: The progression of Wagga Teachers' College to Charles Sturt University has been an important part of the social infrastructure of Albury-Wodonga, where I grew up, and of the Riverina, including my wife Josephine's hometown of Wagga. We should never underestimate the importance of post-secondary education advancing a community and providing opportunities so that young Australians don't have to move away from their homes into the big cities to get a tertiary education. Importantly, institutions like Charles Sturt help to build the skillset that makes for a more vibrant and resilient community.

THRIVE: What's your advice for fellow Charles Sturt graduates?

SHANE: You are only limited by your imagination as to what you can achieve in your life's journey. There's no such word as “can't”. And in Australia the sky is the limit.



Above photo courtesy of News Corp

Charles Sturt trio working together to lead the way

Three Charles Sturt alumni are helping to shape one of the world's leading professional services companies and drive change for their clients and communities.

When the former Chief Executive Officer of Accenture Australia/New Zealand, Tara Brady, credited a trio of female executives in the Australian Financial Review with helping him navigate the local marketplace and identify opportunities, he described them as “kickass women”.

What he may not have realised is that these Accenture superstars – Chief Financial Officer Samantha Randall, Chief Human Resources Officer (CHRO) Sarah Kruger and Chief of Staff Georgia Hewett – also have studying at Charles Sturt University in common.

Now with more than 50 years' combined experience at Accenture, Sarah, Samantha and Georgia share some of their respective career journey with us.

Photos: Dario Gardiman



Meet Samantha Randall

Bachelor of Business (Accounting/Computing), 1990

Samantha worked out early in life that financial independence equals freedom. This led her to secure a job at her local council in Albury-Wodonga straight out of school, where she soon tired of her boss telling her to slow down or re-work jobs she had already completed.

“About six months in, I had an epiphany. I realised that if I didn't go to uni and study, I was going to have to work for someone like that for the rest of my life. So, I did a double major in finance and computing, studying part-time at Charles Sturt and working full-time.”

From local government to pet food manufacturing, motor vehicle importing: and financial services to telecommunications, Sam moved from role to role in her early career because she'd quickly get bored.


“Nothing would ever change, so I'd move on. Then I came to Accenture and was expecting the same outcome as prior roles – staying three years and moving on. Twenty years later, I'm still here because nothing stays the same. Everything changes. I have had the opportunity to work all over the country and many other places around the world. You're always learning and being able to add value and make a difference, which is a huge motivator.”

Now with three children, Sam enjoys the flexibility in her role and blocks out her calendar until after the school run.

“From there, it's usually a hundred mile an hour day. I think the reality is that if you want to get to a senior level role, your work is all-consuming. There is time for family, but the job is a huge part of your identity.

“When I first started out, there was an environment where a number of career women would climb up the corporate ladder and pull the ladder up after them, one of the contributing reasons being that there were fewer opportunities and these were closely protected. My peer group made a pact that we weren't going to do that, instead supporting each other. Women are now more supportive of each other, and I think we recognise that we need to bring other women with us and diversify, which is a key ingredient for innovation.”



A photograph of three women in professional attire. One woman is seated on a tall stool on the left, another stands in the center, and a third is seated on a low sofa on the right. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The background features large windows with a view of greenery and a modern building.

“Be willing to go where life takes you. If someone asks you to do something, say yes before you think, ‘I can’t do that that’. If they’re asking you, they already think you can do it.”

Sarah Kruger
Bachelor of Business



Meet Georgia Hewett

Bachelor of Arts (Public Relations and Organisational Communications), 2010; Bachelor of Business, 2010

Georgia travelled overseas straight out of school and chose a business degree at a Sydney university without giving it much thought.

After a year, she realised she wanted to live out of home again and decided that a communications degree was more aligned with her interests and strengths, so moved to Bathurst to study.

"I actually got my first job because one of my professors at Charles Sturt recommended me to PR agency Burson-Marsteller, which is now BCW.

"I worked at that PR agency for three years and then went across to a big bank, which I hated. It was while working there that I got a call from Accenture asking if I would be interested in joining them. I've been here now for nine years."

Georgia worked in the corporate communications team until 12 months ago when Tara Brady approached her about becoming his Chief of Staff, supporting the leadership team and ensuring they are executing the strategy.

"It's my job to make sure everyone in the organisation is running towards the same North Star, and being offered this position is one of the highlights of my career. The CEO saw potential in me and gave me the opportunity to broaden my skills and capabilities. He backed me, and that's been really instrumental in terms of taking a step up and backing myself to do bigger things.

"Everyone thinks success is a straight line, but it's all over the shop. I think it's important to realise that you will have knockbacks and disappointments. You will have failures, but you will only be successful if you continue to persevere. Keep pushing."



Meet Sarah Kruger

Bachelor of Business, 1992

Sarah started nursing before realising she found patients frustrating.

"I figured out I wasn't going to be the sort of nurse anybody needed, so I reconsidered my options. I thought about ag but decided on business and an accounting degree in Wagga.

"While I didn't stay in accounting my entire career, it definitely laid the foundation for everything I've done since as it gave me the fundamentals of business operations."

After working in the Public Service for a few years, Sarah joined Accenture in 1997 and worked in the financial management team before moving into the consulting space across a diverse range of industries and projects. In 2019, she took on the CHRO role within Australia and New Zealand.

"Now I do everything from mapping our people (6,000 staff) to what they do, looking at talent strategies, compensation and benefits, learning and development, and culture and diversity. An average day includes a lot of meetings with different stakeholders, meeting with clients, leading people in my team and having lots of high paced conversations.

"I've always been stretched in everything I've done, so there's always learning and growing, and through it all, it's been about connection with other people.

"Some of the projects we do are hard. Clients can be tough. I'm not sure I consider myself to be a 'kickass' woman, but I think when you achieve great outcomes it matters to people. When you make an impact in the job you're doing, it feels good."

After almost 30 years in business, Sarah has this advice for those just setting out:

"Be willing to go where life takes you. If someone asks you to do something, say yes before you think, 'I can't do that that'. If they're asking you, they already think you can do it.

"Look at everything from the lens of 'what can I learn from this?' Even if that's just learning something about yourself, it's valuable. And don't forget to lean in, work really hard and have fun working with good people. The people make all the difference."

Liam's good chemistry with Charles Sturt

Liam Grantham spends his days providing science-based solutions to the issues affecting the health and performance of livestock in Australia. Not bad for someone who never studied chemistry at high school.

Growing up on a farm in Northeast Victoria and attending a small-town high school, Liam Grantham didn't have the opportunity to study chemistry because of low class numbers, so when he was accepted into a Bachelor of Agricultural Science at Charles Sturt University, he had some catching up to do.

"I struggled in the beginning, especially with first year chemistry because I just didn't have the fundamentals, but I figured out some good study habits by observing the work my peers were putting in and came on in leaps and bounds.

"I draw on the basics I learned during my degree – soil science, agronomy, animal nutrition, agribusiness – economics and, yes, chemistry – every day."

Liam is now a Territory Sales Manager at AustAsia Animal Products and travels throughout Victoria, South Australia and Southern NSW meeting the needs of producers.

"Studying at Charles Sturt really set me up for this role as it requires a large degree of scientific proficiency. We provide organic trace minerals, direct fed microbials and grain surfactants to the livestock industry to produce healthier, better performing animals, and you've got to know the chemistry behind how those products work.

"As a company, we rely heavily on providing comprehensive, peer reviewed, scientific research to our customers. Having confidence in the scientifically proven results and data behind your products builds trust and integrity with clients, which is at the forefront of everything I do. Before Charles Sturt University, I had no idea what a scientific paper even looked like."

While COVID has impacted Liam's ability to travel, he still loves the autonomy that comes with working in agriculture.

"I'm proud of the fact that I've gotten to where I am. I get to work every day in an industry I love, doing what I love.

"You're out there working on the frontlines, talking to everyone in all aspects of agriculture from head managers of large corporations to PhD nutritionists. You get a lot of autonomy and there's always lots happening in the industry.

"And at the end of the day, agriculture is a small industry. I run into people from Charles Sturt all the time and we have a laugh about what campus life was like. It's good to maintain those connections because you never know where they'll lead and having a network of people to bounce ideas off down the track is incredibly beneficial. Everyone should stay connected."

"I draw on the basics I learned during my degree – soil science, agronomy, animal nutrition, agribusiness–economics and, yes, chemistry – everyday."

Liam Grantham
Bachelor of Agricultural Science, 2017





Elyce is making a difference to the rural health workforce

After studying nursing and paramedicine with Charles Sturt University, Elyce worked as a nurse in Young, Bathurst and Broken Hill. She built her skills as a critical care nurse before heading back to Wagga Wagga to tackle her PhD and begin a new phase of her career as a lecturer at Charles Sturt.

It's a role that sees her empower the rural health workforce through education, mentorship and research. And it's a role that has enabled her to get a clear snapshot of the state of rural health in Australia.

"Most of us would be aware that the health outcomes of people in rural communities aren't as good as those of our metro counterparts. But we deserve the opportunity to have those positive outcomes!

"Without equitable access, the strength of our communities – whole towns and villages – are impacted. That's often because what happens in a small community affects everyone. It's not contained to just one person – there's the network effect."

"A lot of rural families, like mine, are farmers. They've had years of drought, bushfires and now a pandemic. That has had such an impact on mental health. People in these communities are saying that they need help. But they often have limited options to get that help.

"Though technology has enabled telehealth services to play an important role, country people often want to sit down and talk with people, face-to-face. Technological initiatives are one part of the solution. However, they're not the whole solution. Rural and remote communities should be able to choose. To have the option between telehealth and face-to-face services."

Elyce explains that there are some things that can be done immediately to ensure country people enjoy good health and wellbeing.

"Firstly, we need the health workforce to live and work in our rural communities. We must try and attract a range of health professionals to rural, regional and remote communities. Then we need to help them become part of those communities. Foster their connection with the community so they'll want to stay."

"Secondly, we need to give equal professional development opportunities to those health workers who already live in country areas. It's about supporting our current health workforce; particularly in research and education."

Charles Sturt's Master of Nursing (with specialisations) includes a new rural and remote nursing specialisation. Developed in consultation with industry, this specialisation is the only one of its kind in NSW, and one of only two in Australia. If you want to advance your career and extend the real and lasting difference you make in your community, consider the Master of Nursing at Charles Sturt University.

Or ease back into study with Charles Sturt's new graduate certificates in nursing. Complete your course part-time in just eight to ten months, and receive credit when applying for the master's.

As part of the government's Job-Ready Graduates Package, start and complete your graduate certificate in 2022 and you can save up to 82 per cent on discounted course fees if you secure a Commonwealth supported place.

Gain a postgraduate qualification in as little as six months and save up to \$9,500 on your fees.

For more information

on the Master of Nursing, visit
→ study.csu.edu.au/master-nursing

Making little Tanya proud: a not so normal career

From walking on stilts to teaching drama, presenting on radio and TV to writing books, Tanya Hennessy has tried her hand at many things, but possibly she is best known as a comedian and social media sensation. We caught up with Tanya to see how she ended up with her 'unnormal' career.

THRIVE: Being a best-selling author, radio announcer, TV presenter and cover girl is a long way from studying theatre media in Bathurst. How did theatre media prepare you for what came after?

TANYA: The course is so diverse; you do a bit of everything and that's kind of what it takes to 'make it' nowadays. You've got to be diverse, have lots of skills and be able to transfer those skills. The course taught me that. It also taught me resilience and the reality of working in such a bloody brutal industry.

THRIVE: Why did you want to study theatre media at Charles Sturt University?

TANYA: Honestly, I wanted to be day drunk in Bathurst. And also, I wasn't sure what I wanted to do. I knew I wanted to go to uni and gain experience in the industry and I had friends who went and loved it. I just wanted to tell stories and this course was like a sampler plate.

THRIVE: We read you once said you've

never had a normal person job. What's been your favourite unnormal person gig and why?

TANYA: Stilt walker cause it's wild and dangerous and it's something I literally had to teach myself the discipline of.

THRIVE: Some of your videos on Facebook, TikTok and YouTube have millions of views (not to mention are hilariously funny). When did you realise that social media would take you to a big audience?

TANYA: I know it's wild! I think I have like 750 million views in total and I still don't really know why! I just led with ambition, interest, authenticity and playfulness and then it drew an audience. It's honestly so cool, little Tanya would be so proud!

THRIVE: What kind of content do you love to produce?

TANYA: I love to make comedy, and stuff that makes people feel okay to be themselves – anything that's relatable and funny. But I've also been doing a

kids comedy series of books with so much heart and that's really incredible. Being able to create for kids is a gift.

THRIVE: Is giving back to your community important to you and if so, how do you do that?

TANYA: Yeah it really is, I think that's why I'm always happy to mentor/give help/support and hype up young artists where I can. I know how much mentorship has meant to my career, so I am so happy to help others when I have mental space.

THRIVE: What advice do you have for new graduates?

TANYA: You either have results or excuses – never both. So, choose wisely. Listen to everyone's advice and listen deeply to those whose careers you want to emulate. Be respectful of your elders and those who have been working in the Arts forever and be kind to everyone you meet. I mean everyone. Have fun, and always follow your passion overall. Work hard, play harder.



“You’ve got to be diverse, have lots of skills and be able to transfer those skills. The course taught me that.”

Tanya Hennessy
Bachelor of Arts:
Communications - Theatre/
Media, 2007

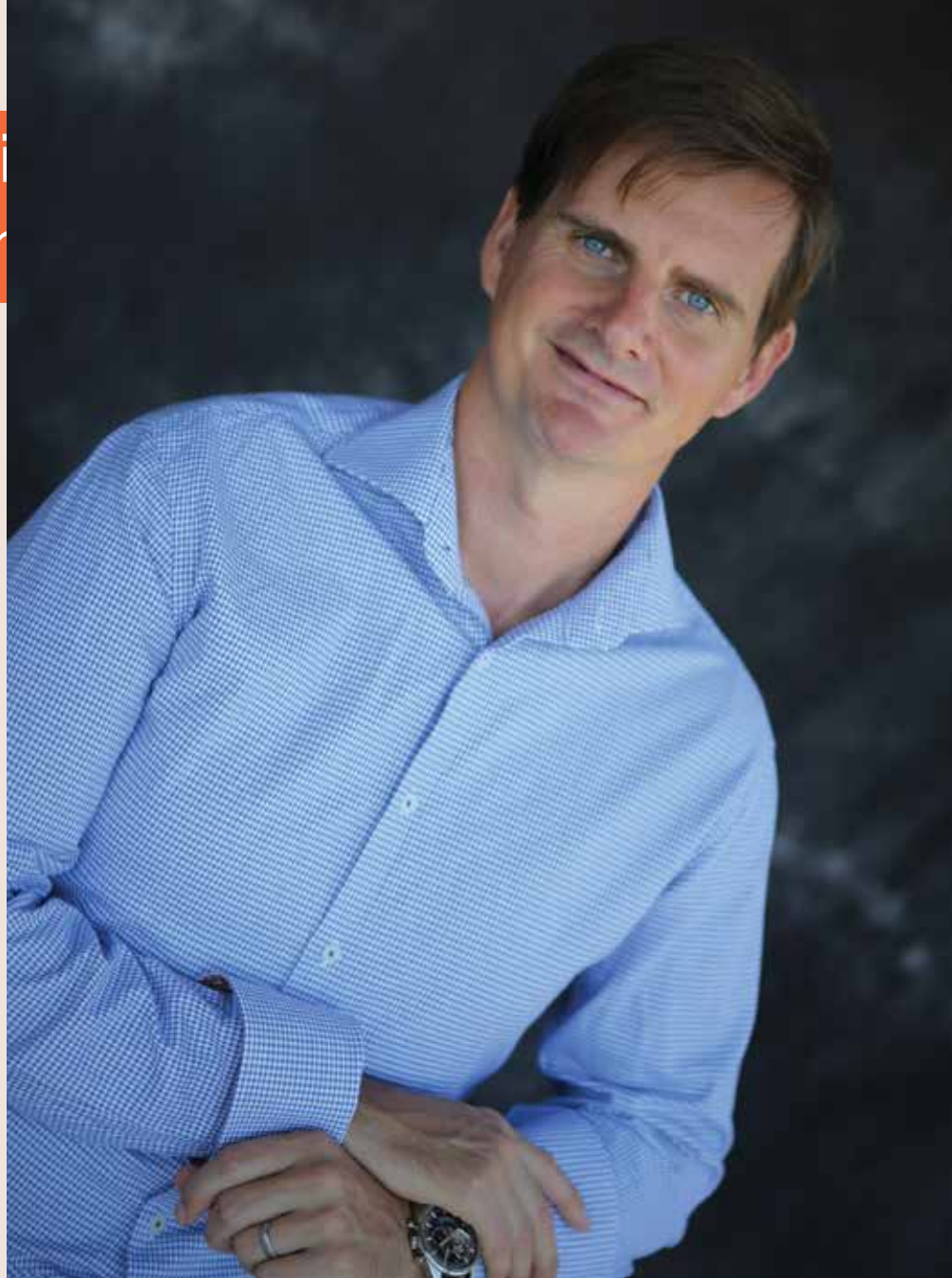
Campbell's di there are mar to success

When Campbell Norwood was a high school student in Bathurst, he'd daydream about his life ahead. Unlike many, he wasn't seeking fame and fortune. What Campbell wanted most was variety. Since those days, Campbell has studied IT and Business, worked as a financial trader and helped found a world-class diversified trading firm... and he has never lost the desire to experience new things.

THRIVE: How does a boy from Bathurst, who had never heard of Deutsche Bank and JBWere, end up working as a financial trader?

CAMPBELL: I didn't do particularly well in high school. I was bored and didn't enjoy it. I got an ordinary TER and managed to get myself a full-time job in the public service, at Centrelink. I was 18 years old and dealing with heroin addicts and single parents and aged pensioners. It was a great lesson in diversity but after three years, I had to decide if I wanted to pursue a career in the public service and move to Canberra or think about my forever career and study.

I liked computers, so enrolled at Charles Sturt in Bathurst to study IT and worked at Uncle Ben's in IT support. My boss told me, 'IT is just a tool. What you really need to understand is business', so I then switched to a double degree and I loved it. I loved numbers and excelled in finance. I started putting in the work and doing really well. I got a few scholarships along the way, including one with the Commonwealth Bank. I could have stayed in Bathurst to pursue a career with the bank, but I decided to apply for grad jobs in the city at places I'd never heard of and was on SEEK one day when an ad popped up for a trader job with Dutch-based company IMC. I did a maths test, had an interview and got the job.



THRIVE: It was only a few years before you left IMC to help found Tibra in 2006. As the new kids on the financial trading block in Sydney, you set out to challenge and beat some of the world's most successful trading firms at their own game. How did you find that experience?

CAMPBELL: Working at IMC's Sydney office really suited me because if you had a good idea, you got to act on it. Then some people broke away from one of our competitor firms. In those days our part of finance was a niche area so everybody knew each other. They asked if I would like to go and start the new business with them and I didn't have to think about it too long. I thought, 'I'm 28. If I lose all my money, I can hopefully start over again. If I'm ever going to do it, do it now.'

I borrowed money to help start the company, so in that way it was quite nerve-wrecking, but there were about

a dozen of us early on and we just threw ourselves in the deep end. What we did was quite niche, so other firms weren't too keen on a new competitor.

To begin with, I ran a trading desk and we got through 2006 and 2007 and then in 2008 the world kind of melted financially with the Global Financial Crisis (GFC). We were 18 months old when Lehman Brothers went down and the whole financial world was at risk. There was a lot of uncertainty but that was a good thing, because it meant there was a lot more trading volume in the market. So, while it was stressful, it ended up being really good for us and we kicked off as a business and expanded quickly after that.

We've had periods of great success and periods of enormous stress and at times we have all thought, 'Why on earth did we do this', but we've learned so much.

THRIVE: What have the past 15 years been like for you in running Tibra?

CAMPBELL: When we started, we didn't really know what we were doing. We barely knew what an org chart was and found ourselves going from a dozen people to 200 people in a very short period of time. We learned a lot after that initial volatility of the GFC and had to say, 'Okay, who does what here?' So, we put in the management structures and ended up with a lot of roles.

I've done just about all of them – General Manager of Europe, head of strategy, head of different trading teams. For the past year, I filled in as CEO for 12 months. When you're in a medium-sized company, the great thing is you get to fill in wherever there is a need and it's fun but it also teaches you a lot. One of the greatest lessons I've learned is that most things aren't that complex. You get thrown into things and you figure them out. I was hiring people with twice as much experience as I had but you just do it. You do it together and you have great people to share that load with.

Tibra has had its ups and downs but that fact that we're here 15 years later is a highlight for me. There's always a better iteration of your company. There's always something better you can be doing.

THRIVE: You and the other Tibra founders made the BRW Young Rich List. Was that kind of success part of the dream as a boy growing up in Bathurst?

"I think my life experience has been a big advantage and I've achieved things I never thought I would be able to achieve. It shows that there are many, many, many paths to success. Mine's been through Charles Sturt."

**Campbell Norwood
IT/Finance Double Degree**

CAMPBELL: I've always been a dreamer, and I always wanted to try exciting things. I wanted to do bigger, better, more exciting things. Being famous was never part of the picture. To put it in boring economist language, fame has no utility for me. In fact, it has negative utility.

One of my dreams at university was to not have to work full-time and I've been so lucky that now I don't have to, so I'm not going to.

THRIVE: What are you doing with that spare time?

CAMPBELL: I'm still on the Board of Tibra and we oversee the corporate governance. I am also homeschooling my twin boys in lockdown and my wife is a WIRES volunteer, so right now we have six baby possums here. I love animals and was on the board of a charity called the Elephant Family when I lived in the UK.

I'm also volunteer leader at a local fathering group and spend time mentoring at a local high school. Lockdown has been difficult on people. You hear a lot about suicide and mental health, especially with our young people, and I think the least I can do is try to do something to help with that and be there for them.

I guess you could say I'm interested in supporting the community and environmental causes. I tend to go with what interests me. Life is full of variety – I don't believe in just doing the same thing.

THRIVE: Would you say that studying at Charles Sturt University prepared you for what was to come?

CAMPBELL: I didn't really find out what to do with my life until I started university. I really loved my time at Charles Sturt and it gave me that drive. It gave me something to sink my teeth into and the feedback to see I was doing well. That was a real gift for me.

Half my workmates over the years went to the best schools and fancy universities and I have not felt, even for a second, that I've been at any sort of disadvantage being from the country. I think my life experience has been a big advantage and I've achieved things I never thought I would be able to achieve. It shows that there are many, many, many paths to success. Mine's been through CSU.

Campbell's advice for new graduates:

Get fit, eat fruit and vegetables. If you are a healthy human you'll have more energy and you'll do better in everything in your life. I have been very unfit at times, and you notice the difference!

Career-wise, stay flexible. Be open to change, look for opportunity, don't get your mind stuck on a particular role. Do a job because you love it, not because your business card is going to look good for your mates. That's not a motivation.

Employment is a privilege. You are being paid out of somebody's pocket, whether that's the taxpayer, shareholders or donors. It is a privilege to get that opportunity, so think 'Am I worth that payment today?' Viewing employment as a privilege is a great mindset to have when you show up to work each day.

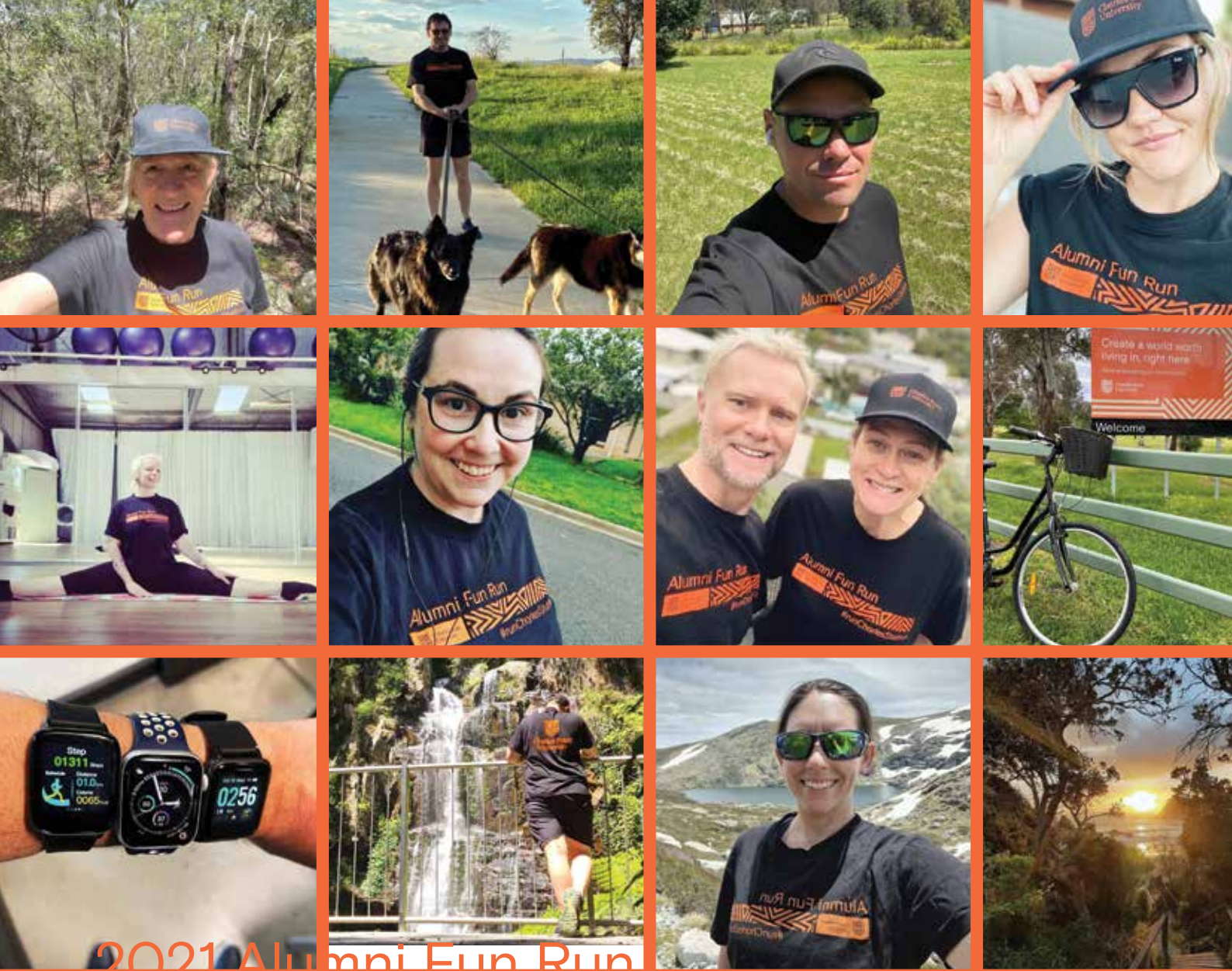
Deliver results, not beautiful work. Know what the business requires and the results you need to deliver and do it. You don't need to deliver perfect, but you do need to deliver. Also, know your business, not just your skillset. You're not an accountant or a programmer, you're a worker who has to get the job done. The skillset is just the tool.

People who succeed just do it. They are not smarter. They are not better. They may have no more advantage than anybody else. They just do it. They make it a priority and they get it done. Got a call to make? Got a report to write? Do what it takes and get it done.

Most things are not really that complex. The Elon Musks of the world, they're the ones sending rockets into space. The rest of us do stuff that's all pretty achievable. Remember, listening and using common sense and intelligence goes a long way, and ask for help when you need it.

Successful people partner with successful people, so surround yourself with them. Partner with people who have skillsets that complement your own.

Mental health is really important. Take time for relationships. Take time for your health. Look after yourself physically. Don't take yourself or anything that you do too seriously. Try not to view a career situation like a life-or-death situation. Try and find the things to be grateful for, 'I've got a house over my head. I've got food on the table. It's not that bad.'



2021 Alumni Fun Run

In December 2021 we invited our alumni community to get active and help create a brighter future by participating in our second annual Charles Sturt Alumni Fun Run.

The aim of the game was to run, walk or cycle a total of 30 kilometres during the month of December, sharing their experience along the way on social media using the hashtag #runCharlesSturt. We released some great new limited edition alumni merchandise for the event, including hats, socks and a picnic blanket – something for everyone!

Each week we held a themed challenge for our fun-runners to get involved in with prize packs to be won. Themes included 'Show us your merchandise,' 'Show us your view' and 'Show us your stats.' During the event we also launched our brand new alumni Instagram account and it was so great to see everyone sharing their smiles, sweat and stats on their stories.

A real highlight of the event was our ambassador contributions. Some of our very talented alumni from the health and fitness world volunteered their time and expertise to coach our participants throughout the event. All experts in their field, our ambassadors shared with us coaching tips and tricks on stretching, recovery, motivation, nutrition and technique to help our participants get the most out of the experience.

It was fantastic to see our community come together online to coach, encourage and support one another to reach a common goal.

All funds raised were donated to the Charles Sturt Foundation – Regional Impact Scholarship Fund, aimed at

helping students from our regions achieve their dreams of a higher education degree – whilst also helping our local communities fill the skill shortages felt in regional areas by retaining our best and brightest.

Together our participants conquered over 10,000km and raise more than \$6,000 – an incredible result that will make a very real difference to the lives of the next generation of Charles Sturt students. The funds raised has allowed us to give the recent flood victims scholarship.

We can't wait to see this event grow bigger and better for 2022!



vs **204 participants**



10,000km completed



\$6,020 raised

Meet Our Ambassadors:

Kieran O'Dwyer

Coach and owner of Bathurst Strength and Conditioning

Bachelor of Exercise Science, 2015

You would be hard pressed to find someone with more infectious enthusiasm than Kieran O'Dwyer.



Affectionately known as Coach Kizz to those he trains, Kieran is the owner/director of Bathurst Strength and Conditioning (BXSC).

Graduating from Charles Sturt University in 2015, Kieran is an inspirational leader – driven by purpose, fuelled by passion and backed by knowledge.

"I am very proud of what we have created at Bathurst Strength and Conditioning. Through this facility we have helped thousands of people change their lives for the better. We have had the privilege of coaching high-level athletes to success, from national youth champions to jersey flag NRL teams."

Looking back on his experience at Charles Sturt, Kieran remembers thoroughly enjoying the tutorials in the exercise science lab... "it was so awesome".

Recently the alumni community were able to benefit from Kieran's wealth of experience when he volunteered as an ambassador for our 2021 Alumni Fun Run. Kieran and his team gave back by sharing fitness tips and technique videos with our participants.

At BXSC Kieran has hand-picked an incredible team of skilled coaches – almost all of whom are Charles Sturt alumni or current students. Eager to share his knowledge and experience, Kieran also provides opportunities for Charles Sturt placement students, giving them a taste of what real world coaching is like.

Kieran's mission is to optimise the performance and health of everybody who walks through the BXSC doors. With eight years of coaching experience in the bank, he knows that hard work and building consistent healthy habits are the key to success.

Beyond his current gym members, Kieran has a vision to help improve the health of everyone in his local community. "Research has shown that two-thirds of Bathurst's population fail to meet the weekly guidelines for exercise. My mission is to get that under 50 per cent and to make training and physical activity the norm in Bathurst."

In fact, Kieran is passionate about improving the health of all Australians, "I want to change the entire culture of the way we view health as a nation. I think we need a greater emphasis on health and fitness within Government policy. If I were Prime Minister, I would focus on improving education around the benefits of diet and exercise at a medical level. I would limit fast food advertisement, subsidise gym memberships and give every Australian household vouchers for fresh produce and lean meat."

He has big dreams, "I want to be remembered for never stopping and always improving people's health."

Shannon Short

Exercise physiologist

Bachelor of Human Movement (Exercise Science), 2003; Graduate Diploma of Exercise Science (Rehabilitation), 2011



Shannon's career objectives were always clear to her "Attending university was always the direction I had planned for my career. I have always wanted to have my own business where we help people to exercise without limitation or to bring exercise into their lives no matter their ability."

Thirteen years into her career and the director of her very own practice BODY FX Exercise Physiology, Shannon works with her PT husband and two other alumni exercise physiologists to help the people of Bathurst get their bodies moving well!

Key to this next step in her career growth was lecturer and friend Dr Stephen Bird's recommendation to return to study and complete the Graduate Diploma of Exercise Science (Rehabilitation). Grateful for this mentorship, Shannon believes that this path was "instrumental" in starting her own business.

The biggest career challenge Shannon has faced so far was moving into business for herself full time. Wrestling and overcoming self-doubt "believing that you can support yourself financially from your business."

Shannon credits Body FX's growth to her continued community outreach, building referral networks to sustain her new business. "There are always new challenges as you grow. Particularly when you take in new team members and look to increase the number of clients coming in."

Helping Shannon to push through the tough times was her family who are very proud of her achievements. "I am thankful that they have always given the support for me to move in the direction I needed and wanted to do for my learning and career."

The most rewarding aspects of what Shannon does is helping people to move and exercise to be healthier. "I love seeing clients achieving outcomes they had been hoping to reach. We are still building a wider community and want to reach and help more people. We have added new services just recently including sports nutrition and Pilates and we can't wait to see these areas grow."

Shannon's strongest memories of her time at Charles Sturt was forming the lifelong friendships with her fellow exercise science students. Going to university games and the comradery of the university students to support each other was a real highlight. "A number of my lecturers positively impacted on my learning and I feel they also significantly shaped where I am today."

In a recent initiative to give back to the Charles Sturt community Shannon became an ambassador for the Charles Sturt 2021 Alumni Fun Run. As part of this event Shannon was able to combine two of her passions – running and her work, "I love to run! It's my thinking time and where I love to challenge myself."



Fran Buffett

**Health Safety
Environment
Adviser and Gym
Co-Founder**

*Master of Clinical
Exercise Physiology
(Rehabilitation), 2015;
Postgraduate
Certificate of Human
Nutrition, 2019*



Armed with an adventurous spirit and bright, infectious smile – there's no stopping Fran Buffett. Fran has already made a significant impact across multiple areas of the health industry, empowering people with complex health conditions to become the best versions of themselves.

Fran is now a health safety environment adviser for a leading medical technology company, and co-founder of North Sydney strength and movement gym, Performance Playground.

Graduating from Charles Sturt in 2015 with a Master of Clinical Exercise Physiology (Rehabilitation), Fran went on to complete a Postgraduate Certificate of Human Nutrition in 2019.

"I am proud of the non-obvious skills I learned from tertiary education at Charles Sturt," Fran states. Attributing this to experience to opening doors to allow for a versatile career progression.

"As a result, I have been able to cofound a successful gym, create value in a leading medical device company."

Fran is passionate about making a difference to healthcare and wants to impact the health industry in a way that is not only digestible, (no pun intended) but scientific.

"I believe evidence-based knowledge, both having it and imparting it, will be able to cut through harmful trends and online fads – if we keep at it. We all have the power to make a difference to other lives and our own lives. It starts with one person! By paving the way for otherwise, we can start a ripple effect."

Growing up on remote Norfolk Island, her childhood was a rare mix of Tahitian dancing, bamboo fighting with her brother and shooting wild chooks with homemade arrows. A lover of adventure and the great outdoors from an early age, it is no surprise Fran is a strong advocate for environmental preservation.

"We need a forced commitment by every government and nation to actively protect our environment. This will only ever positively affect humankind as well as our natural environment, so there really no excuse."

"I am proud of the non-obvious skills I learned from tertiary education at Charles Sturt... as a result, I have been able to co-found a successful gym, create value in a leading medical device company,

Veronica Brogden

PDHPE Teacher

*Bachelor of Social
Science (Physical
Education &
Recreation) 1991-1993;
Diploma of Education
Secondary (PDHPE),
1994*



"Having grown up in the Central West and with a drive to become a PDHPE teacher, Charles Sturt University gave me the chance to remain in Regional NSW and develop the skills to succeed." – Veronica Brogden.

With 26 years of teaching expertise, Veronica has had a wide range of experience teaching PDHPE in NSW independent and Catholic primary schools. Veronica has been actively involved in the sports domain all her life as a competitor, coach, manager and convenor at all levels from local to international.

A widely respected teacher, Veronica has great passion and enthusiasm for PDHPE. A current member of ACHPER NSW, Veronica is involved at a State level in presenting workshops and developing educational resources for Primary PDHPE. She thoroughly enjoys the opportunity to assist teachers in developing PDHPE programs that assist students in developing the skills to navigate their way through life.

Most recently Veronica was honoured with the 2021 Professional Teacher's Council Outstanding Professional Service Award for her contribution to the physical activity health education profession.

"Veronica's work ethic and community spirit make her a great role model for current and future generations of PDHPE educators" – ACHPER NSW.

After spending the majority of her teaching career as a physical education specialist in the independent and systemic Catholic Sectors, Veronica has now had the opportunity to move into diversity.

Veronica is currently a diversity teacher and plan manager at CathWest Innovation College in Mount Druitt, NSW.

"This role is extremely rewarding with many opportunities to support highly vulnerable students with their engagement in their learning. The wins are daily, and the results are confident young men and women moving into the workplace."

In 1991, Veronica was awarded the Charles Sturt University Bathurst Doctors for Education – Mitchell Scholarship. This had a significant impact on Veronica's study experience, "It relieved the financial pressure and gave me the chance to reside on campus for the first semester of my degree. This enabled me to transition into new friendships and the new learning environment smoothly and with success."

Thirty years later Veronica is still in the career that began with Charles Sturt and is actively giving back by working with the Advancement Office as an ambassador for the 2021 Alumni Fun Run.

When not involved in the education, Veronica enjoys being a Scout leader and most importantly, is a busy mother to her five children.

Erica is contributing to her community for real change

For Erica Smits, a proud Gamilaroi woman, making real and positive change for Aboriginal people is in her DNA. The niece of land rights activist Harry Hall, Erica has forged a career ensuring a better future for Aboriginal people and credits studies with driving her forward.

For more than a decade, Erica Smits has worked to protect the interests and aspirations of Aboriginal Australians, first in her roles at NSW Aboriginal Land Council (NSWALC) and now working for the Office of the Registrar. In 2020, her efforts landed her a finalist spot in the national Dreamtime Awards.

Leaving high school in Year 10, Erica completed a number of TAFE courses while at NSWALC before setting her sights on university study.

"I got married, had a baby and did all that sort of stuff, so when I decided to study, I went through TAFE because it wasn't so scary. I did Certificate IVs and an Advanced Diplomas and got to a point where I knew the next step was university.

"I wanted to stay in the same field of management because I know that would help me in my career working with Aboriginal organisations. I have a full-time life with work and family commitments, so I needed a flexible university. Charles Sturt came up in my Google search and I knew it would be the university to give me the flexibility I needed."

Erica credits her studies with preparing her for her current role.

"If you work for an Aboriginal community organisation, you're on the front lines helping people with their health, education, and protecting their rights. I studied to be able to make a real difference for people. I want to be able to go home and say, 'Yes, I helped. I made a contribution that is going to better my people'.

"NSW is the only state with a Land Rights Act, and I like to be able to work in this space. My family is from Walgett, which was one of the first points on Charlie Perkin's Freedom Ride. Land rights are embedded in my family's history."

Recently winning a scholarship to study her MBA in Social Impact at the University of New South Wales, Erica is keen to keep the momentum going.

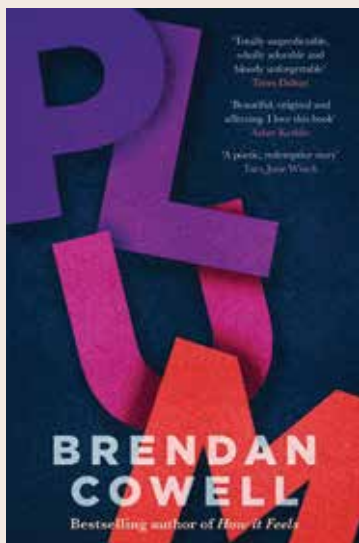
"Whatever I do, I'll always choose to help my people. I'm keen to keep my studies going. There were times when I thought study was too hard, but I had great advisers at Charles Sturt who helped me get through. My advice to anyone considering study is: You can do it. Don't get upset or overwhelmed. Find people to help you and you will get through it, too."

"I studied to be able to make a real difference for people. I want to be able to go home and say, 'Yes, I helped. I made a contribution that is going to better my people'."

Erica Smits
Bachelor of Business (Management), 2020



Alumni authors



Plum

Brendan Cowell

Bachelor of Arts, Communication – Theatre and Media (1998)

Peter 'The Plum' Lum is a 48-year-old ex-star NRL player, living with his son and girlfriend in Cronulla. He's living a pretty cruisey life until one day he suffers an epileptic fit and discovers that he has a brain disorder as a result of the thousand-odd head knocks he took on the footy field in his twenty-year-career. According to his neurologist, Plum has to make some changes – right now – or it's dementia, or even death.

Reluctantly, Plum embarks on a journey of self-care and self-discovery, which is not so easy when all you've ever known is to go full tilt at everything. On top of this, he's being haunted by dead poets, and, unable to stop crying, discovers he has a special gift for the spoken word. With spectral visits from Bukowski and Plath, the friendship of local misfits, and the prospect of new love, Plum might just save his own life.

From award-winning writer, director and actor, Brendan Cowell, *Plum* is a powerfully moving, authentic, big-hearted, angry and joyous novel of men, their inarticulate pain and what it takes for them to save themselves – from themselves.



Les aventures de Coralie la coccinelle – le voyage dans l'espace.

Céleste Kurcz

Master of International Education – School Leadership (2020)

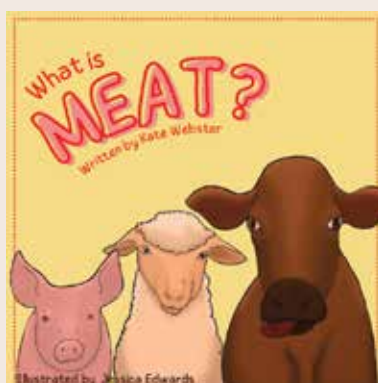
Coralie is a little ladybug with a big imagination. Most of all, she loves going on an adventure! For her first big trip, Coralie invites us to visit the solar system. She shows us planets of all sizes, teaches us about the Moon and the Sun, and introduces us to the wonders of astronomy. Along the way, she invites us to participate in educational activities and games that will interest readers, whether young or old.

Do you like adventures? Join Coralie on her first trip and discover new worlds!

Suited to ages 3–7 years.

Available for purchase on Apple, Amazon, Google, and Friesenpress.

Visit Coralie la Coccinelle or coralietheladybug.com for more details about Coralie's amazing adventures!



What is Meat?

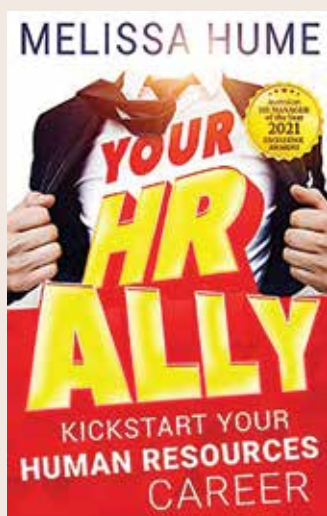
Kate Webster

Bachelor of Agricultural Science (2020)

Has your child ever asked you where meat comes from? And if so, did you know how to answer? It can be a difficult topic to explain to children but Kate Webster believes it is an important question to answer. So much so that she has written a picture book, along with illustrations from Cootamundra's Jess Edwards.

The book, which Kate hopes can be used by parents and teachers as a tool to accurately explain the meat industry, is one of four in a series that will also include books on where milk, eggs and wool come from.

Kate said she was inspired to write the books after an essay topic at university exposed her to the scary statistics of how little children know about where their food comes from. The book is available at several stockists in the Riverina and online at thelittlefarmerscommunity.com



Your HR Ally

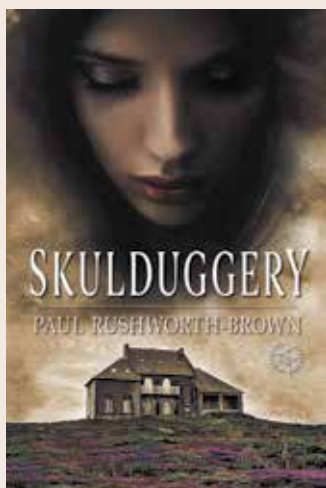
Melissa Hume

Master of Business Administration (2020)

Drama in the office? Tricky office politics? Never fear!

Your HR Ally is the guide and power player about to disrupt the industry with effective, comprehensive insights into the important pillars of HR, starting from the very beginning of the employee life cycle, from recruitment and beyond. It even addresses topics authors have traditionally avoided, such as corporate politics and internal tensions that can arise from being a HR practitioner. There's never been a HR book quite like it before.

Like any game changer, *Your HR Ally* takes on a new approach and is here to teach you how to become a proficient player in any organisation's political arena, kickstarting your HR career into success. *Your HR Ally* is specifically written for those eager to prove their worth in the first few years of their HR career, or anyone looking to understand human resources practice. Unlock your HR superpowers today!



Skulduggery

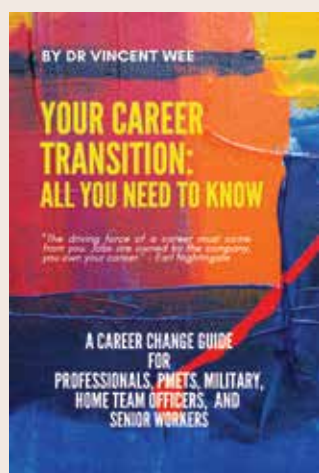
Paul Rushworth-Brown

Bachelor of Human Movement, Sport Science (2001),
Master of Sport and Physical Education (2002)

The story, set on the moors of West Yorkshire, follows wee Thomas and his family shortly after losing his father to consumption.

Times were tough in 1603 and there were shenanigans and skulduggery committed by locals and outsiders alike. Queen Bess has died and King James sits on the throne of England and Scotland.

Thomas Rushworth is now the man of the house, being the older of the two boys. He is set to marry Agnes, in an arranged marriage, but a love story develops between them. This rollicking adventure paints a descriptive picture of the characters and the landscape they fill. You are kept in suspense until the final pages, hoping good will triumph over evil.



Your Career Transition: All You Need to Know

Dr Vincent Wee

Master of Business Administration

Your Career Transition: All You Need to Know offers practical and inspirational advice about our rapid and evolving changing job market.

It gives you the tools to take matters into your own hands by assessing your needs and strengths, finding the right work fit, weighing options, case studies, and arming you with all the information you need for career success, especially for PMET, SAF, Police and older workers.

Improving food security in Cambodia

Kimsong Tek is committed to bringing about positive change to the lives and livelihoods of farmers in his home country of Cambodia and around the world, and is working to resolve escalating climate change, natural resources and food security issues.

After completing his Master of Sustainable Agriculture at Charles Sturt University's Orange campus, Kimsong Tek set about directing his skills and experience toward bringing equity, sustainability and stability to the global rice sector.

While working for a government development program, Kimsong Tek realised farming practices in his country were not sustainable and he set out to find a course of study that could give him the expertise to tackle these issues head-on.

"I was going out to the field a lot to conduct research on the practices of farmers and I started to realise that their use of pesticides and chemical fertilisers were excessive. It led to water contamination and affected farmer health.

"I started to look for a scholarship for study and discovered that there were scholarships available in Australia. Because I understood that the current practices of Cambodian farmers were not sustainable, I realised that the Master of Sustainable Agriculture at Charles Sturt was the course I had to study.

With studies encompassing agribusiness, agroecology and managing change, upon graduation Kimsong was able to secure work with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), delivering technical advice and training direct to farmers.

"My studies equipped me with a lot of knowledge and experience that brought me this position. It gave me knowledge and the ability to think critically about issues we're facing.

Kimsong also worked with a number of NGOs delivering climate change and natural resource management advice in the provinces before taking on a role working on the Wildlife Conservation Society's Sustainable Rice Platform – an initiative that aims to facilitate change within the global rice sector.

"We are currently facing the impacts of climate change. We experience a lot of droughts, floods and disease outbreaks. We also lack the land and infrastructure to produce rice. This affects our food security, which is the main challenge for a developing country like ours.

"I am proud of my work with many international NGOs and now with the Wildlife Conservation Society to improve food production, which will contribute to improving food security and the development of my country. I believe that working together, we can make life better for so many people, especially those living in remote provinces.



"My studies equipped me with a lot of knowledge and experience that brought me this position. It gave me knowledge and the ability to think critically about issues we're facing."

Kimsong Tek
Master of Sustainable Agriculture,
2013



Using design thinking to shape new classroom learning

April Phillips is genuinely excited about the future. A proud Wiradjuri-Scottish woman, April is using exciting, new technologies and digital forms of education to create a magical educational journey for Australian students.

Completing a Bachelor of Creative Arts and Design in 2018, April has since worked with organisations like Australian Parliament House, National Gallery of Australia, the National Portrait Gallery and Museum of Australian Democracy on how to reach and engage student audiences.

She was also invited by the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) to act as a 'critical friend' to shape the Visual Arts and Media Arts learning areas. In 2020, April was the Creative Learning Producer with Big hART for NEO-Learning, an education platform for teachers to access to First Nations digital arts content.

April now works as a Learning Designer with the Australian Children's Television Foundation (ACTF), tasked to amplify Australian screen stories in the classroom.

"Young people deserve fun, diverse, engaging and beautifully curated content. This needs to not only meet our curriculum but reflect the ever-changing world of the student. I am so proud to be part of the next chapter of the ACTF with an outstanding legacy and bright future of new children's screen content.

"I think it's becoming increasingly important for students to be exposed to learning from a range of perspectives. Television is such a great thing to bring into the mix because the characters, story, setting and sound lead us to the learning outcomes.

"I love that I'm using a design mindset that I learnt during study to shape new learning experiences in this new role. My knowledge of digital technology means I can make fun multi-dimensional learning resources.

"I am obsessed with emerging technologies and how digital forms of education can create a kind of magical learning journey. I get up every day feeling excited for the future we can build in the classroom and beyond."

"I love that I'm using a design mindset that I learnt during study to shape new learning experiences in this new role."

April Williams
Bachelor of Creative Arts and Design, 2018



Photo Courtesy of Australian Children's Television Foundation

Honestly changing the system

Activist. Artist. Author. Changemaker. Damien Linnane has worn many hats and achieved many things in his life. He wrote his debut novel, *Scarred*, by hand while serving a two year prison sentence. And since his release, Damien has completed a Master of Information Studies through Charles Sturt, and built a career as an archivist, illustrator, freelance writer and podcaster, all while advocating for incarcerated people.

Not everyone can say they had their career path confirmed while in prison, but Damien Linnane isn't just anyone.

Working as a combat medic in the Army Reserves for five years, Damien commenced a psychology degree only to realise halfway through he didn't want to make a career out of it. Although he completed the degree, he wasn't sure what to do next, so he consulted a careers counsellor where he completed an in-depth job aptitude test.

Two positions came up. Librarian and archivist. That was a surprise to me until I realised that I love the concept of free knowledge and helping people find reliable information.

And as fate would have it, when Damien was sent to prison for crimes described as 'vigilante action', his first job was as a library assistant.

"I already had an inkling, but prison actually confirmed that I do like working in libraries. I couldn't study online in prison, so when I got out I did information studies specialising in records and archive management.

Today, Damien is an archivist for Miromaa Aboriginal Language and Technology Centre in Newcastle where he spends his days cataloguing and digitizing rare books. When not in a library, Damien can be found working on his podcast commissioned by Newcastle Libraries, *Broken Chains*, editing the prison journal *Paper Chained*, and creating photorealistic portraits which is a skill he taught himself in prison.

"Life is 10 per cent what happens to you and 90 per cent how you react to it. A lot of opportunities have come about because I'm open about my prison experience. I wanted to have an art exhibition drawing former prisoners to try and break the stigma of the prison system. One of the people I drew was Earlonne Woods, the co-host of the podcast *Ear Hustle*. That led to me being asked by Penguin Books to illustrate their book, *This is Ear Hustle*.

"I take every opportunity to get the word out and share people's stories about the prison system because I think one of the reasons things don't change is people aren't aware what's going on in there. The word is getting out with things like *Ear Hustle*, and we're slowly humanising things but I want to do what I can to spread the word.

"I actually see prison as a very positive part of my life. Before I went in, I was working three jobs I hated and doing a degree that was going nowhere. Now I have a career I'm happy with and I am giving people a voice, and all these opportunities have come my way just by being open and honest about what happened.



"Life is 10 per cent what happens to you and 90 per cent how you react to it. A lot of opportunities have come about because I'm open about my prison experience."

Damien Linnane
Master of Information Studies, 2020



Campus news

Find out what's been happening at our campuses.



Charles Sturt alumna Anna Barwick has been named the 2022 NSW Premier's Woman of the Year and the 2022 NSW Minerals Council Regional Woman of the Year!

Anna is a proud Charles Sturt graduate, having studied pharmacy at our Orange campus, graduating in 2008.

Anna started PharmOnline to connect every household in Australia with pharmacy services and it is great to see our alumni going forward to uplift the lives and health outcomes of regional people.

NSW Premier Dom Perrottet congratulated Ms Barwick on her fantastic accomplishments.

"Ms Barwick's telehealth service has innovated how people access pharmacy services, ensuring vital care is at the fingertips of people right across the country, no matter where they live."

Minister for Women Bronnie Taylor said Ms Barwick's achievements and commitment to uplifting the lives and health outcomes of regional women showed tremendous courage, perseverance and dedication.

"This prestigious award celebrates the nobility of character, commitment to change, and the strength to succeed, all attributes held by Anna.

"Her innovation and resilience in such challenging times demonstrate her vision for change and desire to achieve something greater for regional communities. This accolade is well deserved."

Attending the 2022 NSW Women of the Year Awards, Anna said she was committed to improving the health of rural people.

"I am so humbled to receive this award and feel so proud and grateful to be recognised in this forum among women of such high calibre and esteem.

"I celebrate all the women who helped me to achieve this, and I applaud every woman in NSW for their sacrifice, hard work and endurance to succeed and make a meaningful difference to improving the lives of their loved ones and communities."

Congratulations Anna - Charles Sturt is very proud of you!



Harnessing data and artificial intelligence to benefit rice industry

Charles Sturt University is working closely with industry partner SunRice to develop a model to predict rice quality at harvest time.

The rice harvest is underway and game-changing Charles Sturt University research is being put to the test to predict grain quality and provide timely information for processing.

Charles Sturt PhD student Allister Clarke from the Gulbali Institute of Agriculture, Water and Environment, is working with leading Australian food business SunRice and the Food Agility Cooperative Research Centre.

He said the research is focusing on one of the key measures of rice quality, whole grain yield (WGY), which represents the percentage of grains that remain un-broken during the milling process.

"Rice needs to be stored, dried and milled before the WGY can be appraised," Mr Clarke said.

"That means that growers don't know the pay grade of their crop until months after harvest and that the rice can't be segregated for quality as it's delivered.

"Our model can change that by giving processors and growers' information about quality as the rice is delivered from the farm."

Mr Clarke's research uses satellite and climate data, historical rice production, harvest and milling information, along with machine learning algorithms to develop models to predict whole grain yield.

"This is the second year the model has been tested during rice harvest," Mr Clarke said.

"The aim is to be able to provide information for SunRice to be able to predict the quality of the crop to manage storage and processing to maximise returns.

"But we also want to be able to provide information to the growers about how their management and harvest decisions impact the WGY."

Mr Clarke said the research also demonstrates the benefits that can be gained in harnessing data across the value chain.



Charles Sturt launches research institute with focus on agriculture, water and environment

Charles Sturt University has launched the Gulbali Institute of Agriculture, Water and Environment highlighting a commitment to working with First Nations people in research and education, and driving benefits across Australia and globally.

The Institute will generate world-class research to optimise agricultural systems and production, improve the health of freshwater ecosystems and enhance biodiversity conservation.

Charles Sturt Vice-Chancellor Professor Renée Leon said the Gulbali Institute will help the university achieve the research goals it has set as part of the University Strategy 2030.

"The launch of the Gulbali Institute is an important milestone, building on our strengths in applied research in agriculture, water and environment," Professor Leon said.

"Impactful research is one of the cornerstones of the University's standing as Australia's leading regional university and we're focused on delivering outcomes that will foster prosperous regional communities."

Agriculture, water and environment, in addition to the fields of regional health, and cyber security and data science, has been targeted for strategic investment by the university.

The Institute's name is derived from the Wiradjuri phrase 'Gulbali ngurambang', which translates as 'to understand country', reflecting the university's intent for impactful research to build knowledge and understanding in agriculture, water and environment.

Charles Sturt University Vice-Chancellor's Chair of Australian-Indigenous Belonging Professor Stan Grant Jnr said the university and First Nations groups and individuals had worked together in naming the Institute.

"In accepting the name 'Gulbali' for this Institute, the university is showing its commitment to increasing First Nations access and participation in education and research," Professor Grant Jnr said.

Partnerships for Charles Sturt

We have launched our vision and strategy for 2030 and as part of this we will focus our efforts on integrating and aligning our partnership opportunities, ensuring benefits for our students, research, and people, while contributing to our social responsibility goals.

We have entered into a number of exciting new strategic partnerships in 2021, including IBM, Marathon Health, Axiom Connected, and Transgrid that will not only benefit the university but also positively impact our regional communities and economies, and support regional Australia's vibrancy, resilience and sustainability.

Employer of Choice for Gender Equality

Charles Sturt University has once again received a WGEA Employer of Choice for Gender Equality (EOCGE) citation. The WGEA EOCGE citation recognises an active commitment to achieving gender equality in Australian workplaces.

Being awarded with this citation is recognition of the deliberate, strategic actions we have taken to drive positive change towards gender equality as can be seen by our recent improvement to carers and parental leave arrangement as part of our commitment to gender equity and balancing work and family responsibilities.

Joint Program in Medicine

This month, Charles Sturt and Western Sydney University celebrated the official opening of the School of Rural Medicine in Orange.

This school is the result of collaboration between our university, Western Sydney University, and the Australian Government through the Joint Program in Medicine. We know that when students undertake training in a regional or rural area, like Orange or Bathurst, it means they are more likely to choose to live and work in these types of areas once they are fully qualified.

Charles Sturt is committed to strategic partnering with industry, government and our communities to focus on key areas in research and also providing excellence in teaching and graduate employment outcomes.

Graduation ceremonies

We have been looking forward to holding our graduation ceremonies for our students. The first graduation ceremony of the year took place in Port Macquarie, and it was an exciting event for our graduating students, their supporters and loved ones.



“Obviously there’s IP around some things, but at the end of the day it’s important to share that knowledge with others so the industry as a whole benefits.”

Chris Toohey
Bachelor of Science
(Agriculture)



Awarding growth: recognition for Chris' motivation and hard work

Chris Toohey has a passion for Australian agriculture and is happy to share his knowledge to ensure Australian producers be the best they can be.

Growing up on a farm near Barooga, NSW, Chris Toohey is not afraid to get his hands dirty.

Throwing himself at a landscape construction apprenticeship out of high school, Chris turned his attention to agronomy in his early 20s, completing a semester with the University of Adelaide before transferring to Charles Sturt's Wagga campus to complete his Bachelor of Science (Agriculture).

The blend of hands-on learning and theory prepared Chris well for his career as an agronomist, which blends his scientific knowledge with customer service. On top of his day-to-day role as Senior Agronomist with Elders, Albury, Chris runs extensive research and development (R&D) trials.

"We run these trials to get really good, reliable information for our clients and the wider industry so we can demonstrate how well new products and farming systems are working before we recommend them. For example, this year I've got 35 different canola varieties and we're looking at different herbicides using seven different farming systems."

Ensuring growers can tap into the findings of these trials is an important part of the job for Chris.

"Obviously there's IP around some things, but at the end of the day it's important to share that knowledge with others so the industry as a whole benefits."

Chris's work was recognised at the 2020 Syngenta Growth Awards, which profiles growers and farm advisers who are making a difference to the industry through leadership, best practice and innovation.

"I was nominated in the productivity category by my Territory Sales Manager from Syngenta, which is a global R&D company, for my work around the issue of herbicide resistance as that's a major concern in Australian cropping systems.

"I made it through as a regional finalist but I honestly never gave myself a chance of winning. It was a massive surprise and a huge honour. It's something I'll treasure forever as some of the best people in the industry have won in previous years. It's nice to be in that company."

For Chris, having this award is just another way to stay motivated as he's a big believer in always growing and always striving for something new.

"Being challenged keeps me going. For instance, I love it when a client rings me out of the blue and says, 'I've got a challenge for you' because that means I'm learning new things to be able to share that information with people.

"I don't ever want to be complacent and think, 'things are going pretty well'. You've always got to be punching for that next level."

Photo credit: Anthony Geernaert



Charles Sturt University flies the flag for inclusion

Wagga Wagga Mardi Gras and Queer Screen Mardi Gras Short Film Festival

In a beautiful display of pride, support and inclusivity Charles Sturt University was honoured to again be a major sponsor of the Wagga Wagga Mardi Gras for 2022. Over 60 Charles Sturt alumni, staff, students, friends, and family joined together to parade down Wagga's Baylis Street to celebrate our amazing rainbow community.

Reflecting Charles Sturt University's ethos and value of inclusion, it is with great joy that we engage and celebrate initiatives that aim to empower and create visibility for the LGBTIQIA+ community. Celebrating front and centre (naturally) was our very own Central West alumni queen Miss Betty Confetti, stating "The Mardi Gras provides an accepting and encouraging platform for all ages to be themselves and to show love which is so important".

In addition to the parade itself, Charles Sturt was extremely proud to sponsor and be the regional partner for the 29th Queer Screen Mardi Gras Short Film Festival at the Charles Sturt Playhouse.

Participation in these events would not have been possible without the dedication of many, including alumnus and current staff member Nicholas Steepe. As an Adviser on Equity,

Diversity, and Inclusion at Charles Sturt, Nic was instrumental in coordinating our participation in both events. From assisting in the curation of films to be screened, to speaking about the important work of the Charles Sturt Ally Network in the LGBTIQIA+ inclusion space. Nic was especially proud of organising the rainbow flag to be flown on Wagga Wagga campus for the week of Mardi Gras.

Growing up in regional Australia, Nic knows first-hand what it is like to face family, peer and societal rejection. "For me, growing up in a small town there wasn't any positive communication about the rainbow community, for a long time I was scared to express anything that might be seen as 'different' or 'gay'." The toll on Nic's mental health was significant and he wants to change this experience for future generations.

Holding a Master of Social Work (Advanced Practice with Distinction) Nic is committed and passionate about promoting inclusion and support for regional and rural LGBTIQIA+ individuals. Nic's efforts in this space have not gone unnoticed either. He was named the Young Professional of the Year in the Out for Australia LGBTIQ Role Model Awards 2018, as well as the Out Role Model at the Australian Workplace Equality Index (AWEI) 2019.

Mardi Gras Images: FStop Workshop





The Rainbow Project

Nic believes visibility is key in creating awareness, inclusion and support for the LGBTIQ+ community in regional areas. As one of the community advisors for the Tinder Big Rainbow Project, Nic is determined to bring a big, beautiful beacon of inclusion to regional NSW.

Funded by Tinder and designed with members of the LGBTIQ+ and First Nations communities, the Big Rainbow is Australia's newest 'big' landmark. Destined for regional Australia, the Big Rainbow will stand as a unifying symbol against discrimination, prejudice and stigma often experienced by LGBTIQ+ members of the community. From now until April 20, Tinder is asking for Australians to visit their website and vote for the Big Rainbow's new home. How amazing would it be if the Big Rainbow landmark was in one of our regional campus towns?

Explaining the significance of this initiative Nic says, "I think a big rainbow landmark will mean so much to the rainbow community living in regional areas. I think it is a real affirmation of being supported and loved. It will encourage people that they can be their authentic self - regardless of their postcode. Let's help Tinder find a regional home for the big rainbow for pride far and wide!"

To cast your vote for this exciting initiative, visit bigrainbowproject.com.au. Let's show our rainbow community we stand with them.

"I think a big rainbow landmark will mean so much to the rainbow community living in regional areas. I think it is a real affirmation of being supported and loved."

Nicholas Steepe
Master of Social Work (Advanced Practice with Distinction), 2019





More than a cleaning company that thrives despite a global pandemic

As a young 25-year-old, working as a sales officer for a multinational bank, Dinuka Bibile dreamt of becoming a chief executive officer, he is now on the way to fulfilling his dream.

After leaving school, Dinuka did not have ambitions to undertake further study, but he soon realised that he needed strategic decision-making skills if he was to climb the corporate ladder. He decided to undertake further study and completed a Graduate Diploma of Commerce before commencing his Master of Business Administration through the Charles Sturt Study Centre in Sydney. He graduated in 2019.

Dinuka said, “At this point in my life I was ready to unlearn what I knew and start to learn again from the beginning. I cannot thank Charles Sturt enough for giving me the opportunity to study, 15 years after completing my secondary schooling.”

In 2021, Dinuka launched his own company, Universal Cleaning Solutions in his home country Sri Lanka. The company is an authorised dealer for the Rainbow Cleaning System that has dealerships in 80 countries.

There are several people who have been influential in mentoring and supporting Dinuka in throughout his personal and working life, but his parents are his biggest inspiration.

“My father was a sales manager, and my mother was a teacher and school principal. I watched them closely and picked up the soft skills they had; from my father, his flair for sales and from my mother using her many years of education and knowledge to excel at what she is passionate about,” he said.

While Dinuka says he would have loved to have studied and lived on campus at Charles Sturt’s Bathurst campus, the study centre in Sydney was more convenient as it allowed him to continue to travel and work part-time while studying.

Overcoming challenges

Mistakes and failures are said to make us stronger and help us become the person we want to be. Prior to commencing his graduate diploma and MBA, Dinuka said he was often afraid to ask questions and seek solutions. But as he continued to learn through his studies and build his knowledge, his outlook changed, and he now asks questions and looks for solutions and ways to continually improve and grow his business.

“When I was looking to invest and start my business, many people, including my family and friends, told me I was making a big mistake. They said starting a new business in the height of the COVID pandemic, when businesses were collapsing and people were losing their jobs, was too risky,” he said.

But Dinuka dismissed their concerns and forged ahead with his business planning believing that there had never been a better time for society to start thinking about breathing clean air and living healthy. From this he developed the tagline for his business ‘More than cleaning.’

So what’s still to come?

Dinuka wants to grow his business globally and invest time in helping others shape their future.

“Although our base is Sri Lanka, taking the company global is what I want to do. I have already sketched a road map on how to get there,” Dinuka said.

Dinuka believes it is important to also spend time reflecting on your successes, but also how you have overcome the challenges faced in achieving success.

In his spare time, he can be found reading books that continue to grow his understanding and knowledge of business skills. He wants to give back to those who have helped him during his career and share his knowledge and skills to help others achieve their goals.

“I cannot thank Charles Sturt enough for giving me the opportunity to study, 15 years after completing my secondary schooling.”



Events

Our events are organised to engage alumni in a range of events and activities that instil a sense of belonging and promote lifelong relationships with the university.

1-2 JUNE 2022: Digital AgriFood Summit at Wagga Wagga.

The event provides an up-close and practical look at the digital trends and technologies transforming Australian agriculture.

FRIDAY 17 JUNE 2022: Vivid Sydney Harbour Cruise

Back by popular demand, we are delighted to invite you on our private Charles Sturt University Alumni Sydney Harbour Cruise at Sydney's Vivid Festival.

This exclusive events, packaged just for our alumni are an opportunity to reconnect with fellow alumni as well as share your study and career journey with us.

Join us as we take in all that Vivid has to offer.

For further information, contact alumni@csu.edu.au

Please continue to check our website as we continue to add events, reunions and professional developments
→ alumni.csu.edu.au/news-and-events



Where are they now?

Charles Sturt University and its predecessor institutions were built on the tenacity and dedication of some incredible staff. They have left an indelible mark on our graduates, and our communities.



Dr Peter Wilson

Positions: Senior Lecturer in the Creative Arts, Course Director of the graduate entry teaching programs. I was coordinator for all the creative arts subjects taught internally and distance at the Bathurst campus.

Campus: Bathurst and Burlington, Canada

Years at Charles Sturt University: 26

How would you describe your time at Charles Sturt University?

I really enjoyed all aspects of my work, including teaching in the creative arts, curriculum and course development, research and collaboration with schools, university colleagues and members of the teaching profession. During my time at Charles Sturt, I collaborated with professional educators and researchers in relation to the role and importance of the arts in education. My specific area of interest was in using clay in the classroom and 'claymation', stop motion video production. I also developed graduate entry courses for the university's Burlington campus in Ontario and taught in that program. I also taught in PNG, having developed specific coursework masters and doctoral programs.

Standout memory from your time at Charles Sturt?

I have many highlights. One of which was that annually, my final year students were involved in writing and producing a dramatic and musical production for school children which was a culmination of their skills learnt during their studies in the creative arts. This was performed in the local schools for school children as part of their assessment.

Similarly, collaborating with the Bathurst Regional Art Gallery and the Australian Fossil and Mineral Museum to develop learning resources to engage school students with their respective collections. Several exhibitions of children's artworks were developed at the Bathurst Regional Gallery and Bathurst Hospital through the Art Health Committee of which I was a member.

A personal highlight was being commissioned by the Alumni Association to create a bronze sculpture on the Bathurst campus for the commemoration of the Bathurst Teachers' College. This sculpture sits in the quadrangle bordered by Allen House, Cunningham House, Heffron House and the Ponton Theatre.

What have you been doing since you left?

I hold an adjunct position at Charles Sturt. I am heavily involved with making and exhibiting my ceramics nationally. I continue to write, largely in ceramic criticism, book reviews and technical articles in this field.

I represent Charles Sturt University on Bathurst Regional Council's Public Art Project Committee (PAPC), which oversees and advises on all public art projects in the Bathurst local government area. I'm also on the management committee of the Australian Fossil and Mineral Museum.



You can help impact the future of health in the rural and regional communities of Australia

“Thank you, doctor.” Those three words are being spoken right now, right across Australia. They tell a story of expert medical care, reassurance and support. Regional Australia needs more doctors to hear them and help address the healthcare crisis in the bush.

That’s why Charles Sturt University and Western Sydney University have partnered to create a new Joint Program in Medicine. It’s a five-year undergraduate entry Doctor of Medicine based in Orange, New South Wales, which started in 2021.

This comes at a time that finds many rural areas without permanent doctors, an unacceptable state and an issue that requires urgent attention.

The course will aim to train students from these regions in best practice medicine specifically for operation in isolated circumstances.

Pairing them in placement opportunities in rurally isolated regions will assist in building meaningful long-term relationships with rural communities.

The university is seeking meaningful ways to help the next generation of rural doctors by supporting them with scholarships, placement accommodation and equipment equivalent to metropolitan programs.

Councillor John Medcalf OAM, Chair of CNSWJO and Mayor of Lachlan Shire Council, said Central NSW councils are staunch supporters of growing their health workforce and they will continue to support the university’s program – because the data backs it up.

“By supporting our young people to study and become the health workforce of tomorrow, we hope they will stay working in the regions.

Ms Sarudzai (Saru) Mukonowatsauka

“Coming into medicine, I was working full-time, and I’ve got two kids at home, so the financial responsibilities have been a lot. With this scholarship, I don’t have to think about finances, and I don’t have to work as much. I can split my time between my kids and my study. I am just so grateful.”



St Martin's College 30th Anniversary

St Martin's College is one of only two independently owned residential colleges on the Charles Sturt University campus at Wagga Wagga and in 2022 it celebrates its 30th anniversary. It has been home for over one thousand residents during those years having started with just eight students when it opened its first cottage in February 1992.

One of the first residents was Crispin Dass who is now a Professor at Curtin University. Crispin came to Charles Sturt University from Fiji as a 19-year-old undergraduate student with a love of science and stayed in Wagga Wagga for seven years, graduating with a Doctor of Philosophy.

He remembers "when St Martin's opened in 1992, it was just seven farm kids and me in a cottage with Glenn Maytum (the College Chaplain) looking out for us."

"I wasn't only different culturally, I was also 'the mature guy', being a third year student when I moved into St Martin's."

"People were very friendly. I learnt a lot about the real struggles faced by Aussie farmers, becoming immersed in a community with real farm people who were teaching me the joys of cricket, football, AC/DC and Midnight Oil.

"I learnt how young people from the Riverina lived their lives. That experience has helped me professionally because it helped me engage with a diverse range of people and to talk to them about topics, they didn't expect me to know about. Spending seven years in Wagga Wagga was one of the best things I could have done."

While St Martin's started small with only eight residents, the vision was always to grow the College to include 12 cottages to house eight students each, with a community centre, a residence for the head of college and a worship space.

The vision has been achieved and was initially made possible through a bequest from Mr George Tassell, a Moulamein local. Mr Tassell left his estate to the Anglican Diocese of the Riverina and had placed no stipulations on the spending of the money.

It was at the recommendation of Glenn Maytum, then the Anglican Chaplain at the Wagga Wagga campus that the Diocese began to consider the idea of developing St Martin's College because Mr Tassell had been actively involved in ministry to young people throughout his life.

The establishment of the College became a joint venture between the Diocese of the Riverina and the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn, but no religious test has ever been applied for students to live in the community.

It has a reputation of being a warm and friendly community that is inclusive of a diverse range of people.

The current Head of College, Susan Bazzana said, "We are very excited to be celebrating 30 years of St Martin's this year."

"We are currently trying to contact as many of our alumni as possible to ensure people know they are welcome to return and to ensure they get invited to the events we have planned."

Anniversary important dates

Saturday 17 – Sunday 18 September 2022

"Back to College" Barbecue: Saturday, 12:30 – 4:30pm

Bring your family and join in our barbecue so you can show them where you lived and how the College has changed since you were here.

30th Anniversary dinner, Saturday, 7:00 – 10:30pm

Invite your partner and former cottage mates to join you in this wonderful celebration at the Wagga Wagga RSL Club.

Thanksgiving Service, Sunday, 9:30 – 10:30am

A service of thanksgiving will be held in the Fairfax Centre at St Martin's College on Sunday morning. It will be followed by morning tea.

→ **Contact:** email martiesturns30@csu.edu.au
or call 02 6933 4966.

There will be regular updates on the College website stmartins.org.au



"I learnt how young people from the Riverina lived their lives. That experience has helped me professionally because it helped me engage with a diverse range of people and to talk to them about topics, they didn't expect me to know about."

Crispin Dass, Original resident of St Martin's College

The original residents of St Martin's College in 1992 were:

Bill Backhouse (Lake Cargelligo) – First semester only

Crispin Dass (Fiji)

Andrew Hatty (Matong)

Nathan Penny (Forbes)

Coralie Taprell (Griffith)

Narelle Wilcox (Leeton)

Vicki Whately (Moulamein)

Emma Mansell replaced Bill Backhouse in the second semester



Alumni Give

Giving back – it's what we do

At Charles Sturt University we believe our alumni are our greatest achievement. Your story, insight and talent can help future graduates realise their full potential.

The Alumni Give program provides you with the opportunity to support the university and students in a way that suits you. Whether it's a guest lecture, sharing your story, speaking at events, mentoring or donating towards a scholarship, the program provides a meaningful way for you to make a real difference.

Want to give back?

Learn more → alumni.csu.edu.au/alumnigive



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

Katie Lin
Bachelor of Business
(Accounting/Law), 1997



Alumni Awards

Introducing our 2022
Distinguished Alumni Awards.
Nominate now.

Our distinguished alumni awards are designed to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our alumni. This means you! They recognise the difference you are making personally and professionally as you journey through life, and celebrate your success and the impact this has on others.

We are committed to recognising alumni who are living and breathing the Charles Sturt University ethos Yindyamarra Winhanganha, a Wiradjuri phrase that means the wisdom of respectfully knowing how to live well in a world worth living in.

If you believe you're making an impact and inspiring others through the work that you do, or know someone who is, be it as a professional or a volunteer, we want to know about it.

For more information on Alumni Awards, visit

→ alumni.csu.edu.au/current-alumni/alumni-awards

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!

Adam Benjamin Chung
Adam James Barclay
Aiden John Ridley
Ajeng Ramadya
Alan David Stephen Armstrong
Alana Hynard
Alemayehu Telaye
Wondimageghnu
Alexandra Janet Hamilton
Alexandra Jennifer Brockhurst
Leacock
Alexandra Louise Hunt
Ali Ameer Alaraji
Alice Josephine Batson
Alice Leser
Alice Perrott
Alicia Louise Turnbull
Alicia Parks
Alina Ann Rasmussen
Alison Joy Kerr
Alison Rivett
Allan John Cole
Allana Williamson
Allison Jane Bailey
Allison Stewart
Alyce Maree Baker
Alyson Fitzpatrick
Amanda Dodd
Amanda Jane Carter
Amarpreet Kaur
Amber McCurdy
Amelia Carmen Di Tommaso
Amie Piper
Amy Alison Grant
Amy Clare Segal
Amy Elizabeth McNab
Amy Grace Fry
Amy-Lee Petherbridge
An Thuy Thi Nguyen
Anastasia Louise Hain
Andrew Clive Routledge
Andrew Georgey
Andrew James Parnell
Andrew Joseph Astolfi
Andrew Smith
Angela Ann MacDonald
Angela Jane Keating
Angela Jann
Angela Lyn Timmer
Angela Patricia Bresnehan
Anita Eunice Orr
Ann Patricia Rowe
Anna Catherine Fogarty
Anna Isobel Jagoe

Anna Louise Bunworth
Anna Louise Smith
Anna Nikolovski
Annabel Jana Guthrie
Annabelle Page
Anne Frances Stratton
Anne Louise Goode
Anne Takrike
Annette Irene Coen
Annette Louise Courtney Taylor
Annette Louise Golden
Annie Rose Wilson
Ann-Marie May
Anthea Louise Hintz
Anthony James Forrest
Anthony John Southam
Anu Bista
Apinya Prasit
Apryl Bamford
Arief Budiman
Arjun Karthik A/I Nagaragen
Ashlee Louise Jones
Ashlee Marie Matthews
Ashleigh McRae
Ashleigh Susan Evans
Ashley Kate Mole
Ashley Peter Burrell
Ashton Lea Margaret Tanner
Avril Genevieve Turner
Balzinder Singh Chhabra
Bede Edward Anderson
Ben David Collins
Benjamin Allen Walker
Benjamin Chalker
Benjamin David Edward Jenkins
Benjamin David Tye
Benjamin Hunter
Benjamin Jeffrey Wood
Benjamin Kwamina Yawson
Bernard Derriman O'Brien
Bethany Annette Cale
Beverley Dawn Davidson
Bianca Ann Matthews
Bianca Mary Power
Bin Fan
Bishoy Morkos
Bobbie-Jean Bowen
Boyong Hou
Brad Joseph Connolly
Brenda Joye Suva
Brendan James Tremain
Brendon James Cant
Brian Charles McDougall

Brianna Elise Parbery
Bridget Louise Glass
Bridgette Gransden
Brigitte Elisabeth Wilkinson
Brittney Joanne Calder
Brodie Gwynfor Luke Owen
Bronwyn Anne Dowd
Bronwyn Anne McKinnon
Brooke Grace Martin
Bryan Edward Black
Cai Lewis
Caitlin Helen Simmons
Caleb John Willis
Cameron Allan Clark
Campbell Ian Hyland
Cara Leah Newbegin
Cara Peake
Carl Anthony Wilkinson
Carol Mary Cloherty
Casey Lee Chalker
Cassandra Louise Butcher
Cassie Jade Weller
Catherine Adria Scougall
Catherine Frances Crossley
Catherine Louise Barnett
Catherine Windsor Davies
Cecelia Anne Sara
Cecilia Helena Swanepoel
Chantelle Janice Kennedy-Bremer
Chantelle Sian Grundy
Charles Kwasi Ankomah
Charlotte Louise Saunders
Cheng Rui Tai
Cheryl Ann Benson
Cheryl Lea Matthews
Chew Yee Ching
Chia Wan Lin
Chong Thien How
Chris Masterson
Christian Leigh Rokahr
Christina Rea
Christine Lee Nelson
Christopher Clarke
Christopher Dowell
Christopher John Kirkpatrick
Christopher Lee Davies
Christopher Marc Evans
Claire Alexandra McMahan
Claire Anne Lafferty
Clare Leahy
Clarissa Condon
Claudia Jane Watts

Constante Calpito
Coreena Jean Martin
Corey Wheeler
Courtney Fay Gibson
Courtney Jayne Gaddes
Courtney Suzanne Payne
Craig John Murray
Craig William Carter
Craig William Kirby
Daisy Grace Armstrong
Damian Francis Jenkins
Damien Luke Howells
Dana Ann Standing
Dane Allan Mark Coughlan
Daniel Ferguson
Daniel Francisco Valiente
Daniel John Gorman
Daniel Larcombe
Daniel Moloney
Daniel Peacock
Daniel Victor Lamacchia
Daniel W Sledge
Danielle Emilie Barber
Danielle Louise Dries
Danny Hok Yin Francis Chow
Dapinder Paul Singh Nijjar
David Anthony Weekes
David Charles Peel
David Craig Dunkley
David Fowell
David Lachlan Cochran
David Malongalong
David Paul Rathbone
David Zappas
Dawood Ferdous Hyder
Dayle Leigh Bird
Debby Lee Fuller
Denise Kefallinos
Denise Nadine Wheeler
Diadema Zhinus Radmehr
Lopez
Dianne Mary Stevenson
Dimity Johanson
Dina Mikhail S Rofael
Donna Glenda Kuehnafel
Donna Louise Saddler
Donna Maria Wakefield
Dwayne Raymond Schubert
Dwayne Thomas Scott
Dylan Pettingill
Ebony Sarah Newman
Edd Mouktren
Eleanor Beatrice Pretty



Charles Sturt
University