



DocFest 2025

Graduate Research Conference Program

N.B. This program is current at time of publishing but is subject to change.

Day One - Monday 26 May

Time	Session	
12.00-12.15	Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country by HDR Student Representative, Sally Mordike Thank you and acknowledgements Housekeeping	
12.15-12.30	Changeover break	
12.30-2.30	Themed session 1: Sustainable Environments (2 concurrent rooms) This theme can include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agribusiness & agriculture • Food & water security • Animal health • Biodiversity & socio-ecological systems • Indigenous knowledges and connection to Country Presentations are 10 minutes with 5 minutes for Q&A	
	Breakout Room 1 Moderators: Maddy Ray and Champika Jayaweera	Breakout Room 2 Moderators: Md Ershadul Haque and Tina-Maree Newlan
	Teresa Cochrane - School of Indigenous Australian Studies (Gulbali) <i>Reconciliation in Action: How academia and research has helped me to reconnect with my cultural responsibilities.</i> When Caring for Country it is important for Indigenous peoples to connect to environment that they walk on, to the community they work with and most importantly to themselves. My overall research project will cover combining Indigenous Ecological Knowledge and Indigenous cultural practices into a Western Research Framework and Methods to help in my cultural responsibilities to Care for Country. My research will be conducted using Indigenous Autoethnographic reflections throughout my PhD to develop a deeper understanding of my own experience and their relations to wider society and academia, as well as collaborative reflections of my PhD Supervisors and wider collaborator team who are assisting me throughout the process. The expected outcome of these reflections is a data set that will help inform Indigenous Australians on how to combine Indigenous and Western research practices in academia, and for me to gain further understanding of self. This work is significant because it will help to get a deeper understanding of the role of cultural responsibilities and how is individualised for every Indigenous person.	Jaini Fakhruddin - School of Agricultural, Environmental and Veterinary Sciences <i>Nano Biochar-Enhanced Fertiliser: Advancing Nutrient and Water Use Efficiency for Optimal Rice Growth and Yield</i> Rice farming in Australia faces challenges, such as water scarcity and soil nutrient efficiency. While biochar has shown promise in improving soil health, nutrient retention, and water efficiency, much of the existing research has concentrated on the general benefits of biochar, leaving a gap in understanding the specific effects of molybdenum-enriched nano biochar on nutrient dynamics under different water management practices. Molybdenum plays a vital role in nitrogen assimilation, and its co-application with biochar may synergistically enhance nitrogen cycling and rice yield. Experiments will be conducted under aerobic and flooded irrigation regimes, using controlled application of molybdenum-enriched nano biochar in rice. This study aims to fill this gap by examining how nano biochar-enhanced fertilizers affect nitrogen and water use efficiency. The outcomes will benefit farmers and researchers by contributing to more resilient and sustainable rice production practices in temperate agricultural systems.
	Letro - School of Agricultural, Environmental and Veterinary Sciences	Anais Blacklock - School of Agricultural, Environmental and Veterinary Sciences

	<p><i>Human-Carnivore Interactions in Bhutan: Exploring Ecological and Social Dimensions to Enhance Coexistence.</i></p> <p>Human-carnivore conflict (HCC) poses a major global challenge and affects over 50% of Bhutan's livestock-reliant population. Endangered species like tigers (<i>Panthera tigris</i>) and dholes (<i>Cuon alpinus</i>) are central to these conflicts, influencing both conservation efforts and rural livelihoods. While Bhutan embraces community-based conservation rooted in cultural values, HCC remains a complex issue. Research to date has largely examined ecological or social factors in isolation, limiting comprehensive understanding. This study uses an interdisciplinary, multi-phase, mixed-methods approach within a social-ecological systems framework. Phase one employs species distribution models to map habitat suitability and identify conflict risk zones. Phase two explores the evolution of human-carnivore relationships within these areas, focusing on conservation practices and legislation. The final phase integrates ecological and socio-political insights to generate a holistic understanding of HCC. The findings will support evidence-based policy and promote sustainable coexistence between Bhutan's rural communities and its endangered carnivore species.</p>	<p><i>Drivers of Change: Disturbance Dynamics and Legacy Effects in Coastal Headland Vegetation of New South Wales Mid North Coast</i></p> <p>Coastal headlands in New South Wales (NSW) support diverse vegetation communities shaped by natural processes such as fire and salt exposure. However, human activities have increasingly contributed to biodiversity loss and vegetation degradation. This review investigates the range of disturbances affecting these ecosystems and the complex, community-specific dynamics involved. Legacy effects such as altered fire regimes and land-use changes have led to landscape fragmentation and woody plant encroachment. Researchers have identified unique species assemblages that are influenced by factors such as grazing and shrub cover, both positively and negatively. The interaction of these disturbances can result in alternative or unstable vegetation states. This review emphasizes the need for further research focused on understanding historical landscape changes, identifying primary disturbance drivers, and defining thresholds for ecological state shifts, specifically in NSW. Such insights are essential for developing informed, sustainable management and conservation strategies tailored to coastal headland ecosystems in NSW.</p>
	<p>Shaunna McTernan - School of Agricultural, Environmental and Veterinary Sciences (Gulbali)</p> <p><i>Salmonella in horses from stud farm to hospital: what do we know?</i></p> <p><i>Salmonella enterica</i> ss. <i>enterica</i> is a common gastrointestinal pathogen of horses responsible for considerable morbidity and mortality, with zoonotic potential. Internationally, the prevalence of <i>Salmonella</i> in hospital populations is increased (5-23%) compared to general horse populations overseas (0.8-2.0%), while data in Australia is limited. Furthermore, the predictors for <i>Salmonella</i> shedding by horses in Australian equine hospitals and Thoroughbred stud farm populations are unknown. This project assessed <i>Salmonella</i> shedding in hospitalized horses and stud farms in New South Wales and Victoria. A retrospective case-control study was conducted in five equine hospitals and a prospective longitudinal study on eleven stud farms. Faecal samples were collected according to infectious disease surveillance programs of each hospital or during routine breeding management. The prevalence of <i>Salmonella</i> shedding by hospitalised horses (65% Thoroughbreds) was 23.3% (95% confidence interval [CI]: 20.3-26.3%), compared to 0.4% (95% CI: 0.2-0.9%) in general horse populations on stud farms. Several predictors were associated with <i>Salmonella</i> shedding in hospitals: systemic illness, pyrexia, inappetence, surgical colic, general anaesthesia, prolonged hospitalisation. No predictors were identified on farms. Initial recommendations to minimize the risk that horses with systemic illness and gastrointestinal disease pose to hospital biosecurity include:</p>	<p>Sarah Baker - School of Agricultural, Environmental and Veterinary Sciences</p> <p><i>Best management practice, says who? A Case study of acid soil management in northern NSW</i></p> <p>Best practice is frequently used to describe management practices producers should adopt. Describing a practice as best implies that all other options are inferior. Often best practices are developed through scientific research, without consideration for the specific context in which producers operate. These practices are not always the most suitable option when context is considered. This research will explore best management options for addressing soil acidity in two geographically diverse regions of northern NSW, Coonabarabran and Gloucester. Semi-structured interviews with six producers in Coonabarabran shaped understanding of the context in which these producers operate and how they currently manage soils, pastures and livestock. Soil testing and pasture assessments established a baseline for current soil and pasture condition. Enabling targeted training events for upskilling producers in soil management decision-making. By understanding the context in which producers are operating, suitable best management solutions for acid soils can be developed and adopted.</p>

	segregation of horses post-operatively and active surveillance of higher 'risk' groups.	
	<p>Laura- Anne Good - School of Agricultural, Environmental and Veterinary Sciences <i>The effect of nicotinic acid supplementation on NAD+ metabolite concentration in follicular fluid and serum of aged mares: Can we reverse the age associated decline in oocyte quality?</i> Age-related fertility decline is multifactorial, with reduced oocyte quality being a major contributor. Nicotinamide Adenine Dinucleotide (NAD+) depletion has been implicated in this decline. In vivo and in vitro supplementation with NAD+ precursors has reversed these effects across species, suggesting potential benefits for mares. A non-randomised crossover study (n=13, ages 15-22 years) with a ≥2-week washout period compared daily oral supplementation of placebo, 1.5g, or 3g nicotinic acid (NA) from early oestrus. Following four days, ovulation was induced, and follicular fluid from the dominant follicle was collected 18-24 hours later via transvaginal aspiration (TVA). Blood was collected pre-treatment and at the time of TVA. Serum and follicular fluid were analysed via mass spectrometry and a linear mixed model utilised for data analysis. NA supplementation at 3g/day significantly increase ($p < 0.05$) multiple key NAD+ precursors and metabolites, without downregulations at either dose. NA supplementation upregulated follicular NAD+ biosynthesis and may enhance oocyte quality.</p>	<p>Mariam Khanam - School of Agricultural, Environmental and Veterinary Sciences (Gulbali) <i>Amelioration of saline soil by organic amendments to reduce salt stress in faba bean</i> Soil salinity is an escalating issue in Australia, adversely impacting crops including legumes. Faba bean, a widely grown legume, could be a potential fit for a degraded saline soil if managed with a sustainable soil management strategy. This research sought to determine the synergistic effect of biochar and plant growth-promoting microbes (PGPMs) to mitigate stress on faba bean grown under saline stress conditions. At the field level salinity of 4.2 dS m⁻¹, improved germination (2 times) was noticed in PGPM-treated plants, followed by 1.67 times in biochar-PGPMs-treated plants compared to the salinity control. At 21 days after emergence, biochar-PGPMs-treated plants improved shoot length (by 13%) and leaf area (by 36%) of faba bean compared to the non-amended salinity control. These findings highlight the potential of biochar-PGPM integration as a sustainable and eco-friendly method for rehabilitating saline soils and enhancing legume establishment in degraded saline soil in Australia.</p>
	<p>Milad Kazemi – School of Dentistry and Medical Science <i>Effect of Refining on Phytonutrients in Vegetable Oil: Challenges and Opportunities</i> Refining is a crucial step in vegetable oil production, removing impurities to enhance oil quality, stability and shelf life. However, this process also depletes significant levels of phytonutrients, such as tocopherols, phytosterols, and polyphenols, into refining by-products. These compounds have well-documented antioxidant, cholesterol-lowering and health-promoting properties, and their removal during refining reduces the nutritional value of the final oil. Despite advancements in refining techniques, substantial losses persist, prompting industries to reintroduce exogenous, sometimes synthetic, phytonutrients to meet market demands. This study explores strategies for recovering phytonutrients from refining by-products, focusing on recovery methods and their efficiencies reported in the literature. Valorisation of these by-products presents a sustainable approach to reduce waste, recover high-value compounds, and develop functional ingredients. By adopting circular economy principles and Sustainable Development Goals, the industry can improve sustainability, minimize economic losses, and enhance the nutritional value of its products.</p>	<p>Md Shoriful Islam- School of Agricultural, Environmental and Veterinary Sciences <i>Regenerative Potential and Emergence of Sticky Nightshade (Solanum sisymbriifolium Lam): Implications for Weed Management</i> <i>Solanum sisymbriifolium</i>, an invasive perennial weed introduced to Australia in 1920, spreads rapidly and competes with crops and pastures. While other <i>Solanum</i> species such as <i>S. elaeagnifolium</i> are known to regenerate from root fragments, limited information exists on <i>S. sisymbriifolium</i>'s regenerative ability. This study investigated seed emergence from various soil depths (0, 2.5, 5, 7.5, and 10 cm) and regeneration from root and stem fragments buried at 2.5, 5, and 10 cm. Results showed that seed emergence was highest (70%) at 2.5 cm and lowest (20%) at 10 cm. Root fragments, as small as 1 cm regenerated unless buried at 10 cm, while stem fragments regenerated only at 5 and 10 cm. Overall, regeneration declined with increasing burial depth. These findings highlight the importance of managing plant parts during tillage or any other mechanical control, as they play a key role in the weed's spread and regeneration, guiding more sustainable management strategies.</p>
	Naomi Kirkwood - School of Agricultural, Environmental and Veterinary Sciences	Summary and thank-you

	<p><i>Diagnosis and treatment of common endocrinopathies in horses.</i></p> <p>Insulin dysregulation (ID) and pituitary pars intermedia dysfunction (PPID) are common endocrinopathies in horses that cause considerable illness. Diagnosis of ID by the oral sugar test is challenging, with uncertainty regarding measurement error, including precision, repeatability and reliability and optimal conditions for the test. Assessment of measurement error and influence of fasting/feeding on the OST will be undertaken in horses. New pharmaceuticals (sodium-glucose co-transporter 2 inhibitors (SGLT2i) and cabergoline) are available to treat ID and PPID, but there is little information on the pharmacodynamics, safety and pharmacokinetics of these drugs in horses. A single dose of cabergoline or a single dose of ertugliflozin (SGLT2i) will be administered to horses, and blood collected at designated time points for pharmacokinetic analysis. These contributions will provide veterinarians with information on safety, optimisation of dosing regimens, provide advances to the management of both PPID and ID, and diagnosis of ID in horses.</p>	
	Summary and thank-you	
2.30- 2.45	Changeover Break	
2.45-4.15	<p>Keynote Address: AProf Belinda Cash- <i>Developing next generation researchers: The 'doing' and the 'becoming'.</i></p> <p>This session explores the evolving journey of becoming a researcher, from doctoral study to early career and beyond. Drawing on lived experience and academic insight, it will consider how researchers navigate shifting identities, increasing responsibilities, and the complex demands of contemporary academic life. Participants will be encouraged to reflect on their broader development beyond the thesis, exploring strategies to navigate transitions and cultivate transferable skills that support a sustainable research career.</p>	
4.15-4.30	Changeover Break	
4.30-6.30	<p>3-Minute Thesis Heat 1</p> <p>MC: Paul Shaw</p> <p>Judges: Professor Andrew Hall, A.Professor Holly Randell-Moon, Dr James Deehan</p>	
	Sophea Aing	<i>Developing new drugs to treat Helicobacter pylori infection</i>
	Dristi Datta	<i>Revealing Hidden Soil Secrets from Space</i>
	Sarah Condran	<i>Truth vs. Trend: Detecting and Tracking Misinformation</i>
	Keira Brown	<i>Where did they come from: Invisible Creatures in Aussie Marsupials</i>
	Kirstie Northfield	<i>From Grunts to Giggles: Understanding Your Teen's Mental Health</i>
	Benjamin Hourn	<i>You can't fix a broken system with red tape and band aids</i>
	Jennifer Sharpe	<i>Virtual friends: technology for social connection in space.</i>
	Judges deliberation – Finalists announced	

Day Two - Tuesday 27 May

Time	Session
12.00-1.30	Dr Michelle Jamieson <i>How to establish and maintain healthy supervisor relationships</i> Supervision relationships are one of the most important forms of support that research candidates receive. When they're strong, the trust and respect that develops between student and supervisor facilitates open dialogue and feedback, rich intellectual engagement and lasting mentoring relationships. However, when they function poorly, they can become a major source of stress for both parties and leave students feeling isolated and vulnerable. Focusing on the role that communication skills, boundaries and authority play in this space, this workshop teaches HDR candidates how to establish and maintain supervision relationships that are honest, comfortable and professionally nourishing for both parties. Drawing on the practices of mindful speech and listening (non-violent communication), we explore candidates' experiences of supervision and discuss solutions to common issues that arise.
1.30-1.45	Changeover Break
1.45-2.45	'Ask Me Anything' about HDR Dr Ian Skinner, Prof Sandra Savocchia, AProf Sam Bowker, AProf Arif Khan This a chance for you to ask questions of this great panel of Sub-Deans and supervisors. You can even submit your questions anonymously before-hand HERE .
2.45-3.00	Changeover Break
3.00-4.30	Chair yoga - join us for 10 minutes of simple seated exercises to free your body and mind. Researcher Development Workshop Andrew Mashman <i>Promoting, sharing, and connecting your research</i>

Day Three- Wednesday 28 May

Time	Session
12.00-1.00	Let's talk about Research – with HDR candidates Dr Jennifer Podesta hosts this session with HDR Candidates Ruth Pape, Goutam Roy, and Ruth Crawford who will share their research and insights about how they have navigated to the challenges as they come to the end of their HDR journey. Different Zoom link for this session
1.15-2.45	Prof Sarah O'Shea (Dean of Graduate Research) <i>My perspectives on qualitative research: sharing lessons learned</i> Conducting qualitative research presents both challenges and significant rewards. With over a decade of experience in the qualitative research paradigm and having conducted more than 1,000 in-depth narrative interviews, in this session I will share key insights gained from these experiences. The session aims to offer practical guidance on various aspects of qualitative research, including participant recruitment, data management, theoretical considerations, and doing justice to peoples' stories. The presentation will incorporate real-life examples and scenarios, fostering a space for discussion on both the potential of this approach and the challenges that researchers may encounter.
2.45-3.00	Changeover break
3.00-5.00	Themed session 2: Flourishing Communities This theme can include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social frameworks • Law, justice & security • Religious enquiry, identity & ethics • Business & economics • Indigenous self-determination Presentations are 10 minutes with 5 minutes for Q&A Moderators: Tina-Maree Newlan and Diane Cass
	Hurol Turen - School of Computing, Mathematics & Engineering <i>Monitoring and analysis of Dark Web suspicious activities to extend current cybersecurity resilience and maturity modelling</i> Cybersecurity is essential for protecting online systems, particularly against attacks targeting network traffic and sensitive data, especially on the Dark Web. The anonymity it offers, combined with vulnerabilities on the Surface Web, presents ongoing challenges. Cybercriminals exploit these platforms for malicious activities like DDoS attacks, ransomware, and fraud, often using technologies such as cryptocurrency, IoT devices (e.g., Raspberry Pi), and social media. Despite efforts by

	<p>security agencies, the evolving nature of these threats demands advanced detection techniques. This dissertation applies data science and machine learning to examine major cybersecurity risks on the Dark Web. Using a mixed methods approach, it focuses on detecting TOR-based attacks, including browser fingerprinting and DDoS, by training and testing near real-time models. The research also proposes a platform-free Cybersecurity Maturity Model to standardize detection and prevention strategies. Together, these contributions aim to enhance cyber resilience and counteract the rapidly adapting tactics of cybercriminals.</p>
	<p>Zahida Quashem - Centre for Islamic Studies & Civilisation <i>7th Century Arabian Peninsula: Analysis of the Transformational Leadership of Prophet Muhammad</i> This research analyses Prophet Muhammad's transformational leadership in the context of the 7th century Arabian Peninsula. Although his leadership has been studied from many different angles, there is a gap in focused literary engagement regarding his transformational leadership. Acknowledging that Prophet Muhammad's leadership inspired and motivated followers to achieve higher levels of performance, it is evident that through his leadership, significant societal changes were established. By analysing key events of social development in prophetic society, this study aims to augment the current understanding of transformational leadership. Accordingly, a study on the history of Prophet Muhammad's transformational leadership events can improve current understanding of both conventional and Islamic theories of transformational leadership.</p>
	<p>Nicola Pitt - School of Information & Communication Studies <i>Navigating the digital public square: Social media's influence on Councillor's decision-making in Queensland</i> This research project sought to explore how councillors in Queensland, Australia, use social media to engage with their constituents. It focused on how they communicate their decisions and the democratic effects within what Cuesta-Valiño et al. (2022) describe as the "transformed landscape of interaction between brands and consumers." The survey, conducted using a cross-sectional design, employed a random sampling strategy, and thematic analysis of the qualitative responses to elucidate themes and revealed mixed responses from councillors. While 79.25% of respondents indicated use of social media as a councillor, 59.5% indicated that viewing or participation impacted their decision-making and 28.9% noted that it had a bearing on the process. The study reveals a sharp contrast between the abundant research on corporate social media use and the limited guidance for elected municipal officials. It underscores the need for tailored guidelines to help councillors effectively navigate and leverage social media in public governance.</p>
	<p>Nushrat Azam - School of Social Work & Arts <i>Voices of Resilience: Female Characters, Identities & Community in Migrant Narratives</i> Through the analysis of Bharati Mukherjee's <i>Jasmine</i> (1999), Jhumpa Lahiri's <i>The Namesake</i> (2003), and Monica Ali's <i>Brick Lane</i> (2003), this study examines how female characters represent identity and community within migrant narratives, underscoring the importance of diverse literary representation. By comparing these texts, I explore how the characters navigate cultural displacement while forging community connections. Nazneen strives for liberation to forge family connections, while Ashima experiences alienation while torn between Indian tradition and American existence, and Jyoti embarks on a journey of self-discovery leading to empowerment. Through the fictional narratives of migrant women in diasporic literature, my research examines the ongoing conflict between self-identity and cultural norms to understand their methods of building community strength and challenging stereotypes of diasporic identity. Ultimately, the study underscores the significance of amplifying diverse women's voices in literature to enrich discussions about intersectional identities and their impact on community well-being and social change.</p>
	<p>Miltone Kimori - School of Business <i>Examining the potential of social marketing within community wealth-building programs (CWBPs) as a pathway towards transformative change in rural communities in the Murray-Darling Basin (MD)</i> Due to water scarcity, Western and Central New South Wales rural communities are facing severe decline in population and quality of life. Continued decline is anticipated as water levels in the Murray Darling Basin (MDB) are estimated to reduce by 20-30% by 2050. This research, therefore, proposes to evaluate selected Community Wealth Building Programs (CWBPs), and identify the most effective approaches to CWBPs, in combination with social behaviour change strategies, that not-for-profits (NFPs) and community groups could and do use, to enhance transformative thinking among rural communities. Through participatory engagement with key NFPs and community groups, and qualitative data techniques, the project will explore the communities' knowledge, attitudes, experiences and values for a range of scenarios involving CWBPs and social behavioural change strategies. This research will generate evidence-based strategies, which NFPs and community groups in rural MDB communities could apply to enhance their capacity and innovation for transformative change.</p>
	<p>Victoria Erskine - School of Business <i>A Conversation About Building Engagement and Trust through Communication</i> This presentation discusses how a podcast experience illuminated crucial research themes for a PhD project exploring how engagement and trust are maintained in complex stakeholder environments. In this reflection, the PhD student considers how the podcast experience complimented the Grounded Theory analysis of 32 intensive interviews. Through examining social</p>

	change movement Equally Well's Collective Impact approach to addressing physical health needs of people living with mental illness, the podcast conversation distilled research insights into actionable principles adding valuable new perspectives to the work as a communication researcher in health-focused social change. The conversation's value lies in translating complex research on multi-disciplinary communication into three accessible core practices: establishing clarity of purpose, employing active listening techniques, and capacity building strong communication cultures within organisations. Key themes include the importance of intentional communication across various stakeholder relationships, the value of human connection and how psychological safety underpins effective communication in any context.
	Mark Harrison - Centre for Customs & Excise <i>Do we need a Convention on exports?</i> International Customs Law has always focussed on Imports. Exports have been regarded as requiring less regulation. That has changed in recent years with increased focus on supply chain security. entering the supply chain. The scope of Customs work has broadened: Customs procedures have changed and become more concentrated on exports, but the law has not moved with the practice and remains import focused. Trade in illicit goods covered by UN Conventions such as drugs, cultural items, heritage goods and tobacco continues to grow. This thesis will examine whether the law on exports needs to be developed to encompass contemporary practice and, if so, what form should that development take. A new legal instrument – whether a new convention or a protocol to an existing one – if properly drafted could harmonise global practices, create closer cooperation between trading partners and potentially lead to improved compliance with the UN Conventions.
4.50-5.00	Summary and thank-you

Day Four – Thursday 29 May

Time	Session
12.00-1.15	Keynote Address- Hugh Kearns <i>The Impostor Syndrome, why successful people often feel like frauds</i> Many clever, competent, and capable individuals feel they are just one step away from being exposed as complete frauds. Despite evidence of their strong performance, they still experience a lurking fear that someone will tap them on the shoulder and say, "We need to have a chat." This session will explain why high-performing individuals often doubt their abilities and struggle to enjoy their successes. It will also explore the links between impostor feelings, perfectionism, and self-handicapping strategies such as procrastination, avoidance, and overcommitment. By the end of this session, you will understand what the latest psychological research reveals about impostor syndrome and how it operates, recognize how widespread these feelings are among highly successful people, and learn evidence-based strategies to reduce impostor feelings.
1.15-1.30	Changeover Break
1.30-2.30	Themed session: Developing Researchers This theme can include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research design, planning & management • Methods and methodology • Academic Writing • Mental health and wellbeing • Networking & team building • Communication and dissemination Presentations are 10 minutes with 5 minutes for Q&A Moderators: Jennifer Hayes and Sally Mordike
	Tina-Maree Newlan <i>Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA): Why it's worth wrapping your tongue and head around</i> There is value in exploring real world experiences of individuals when their (taken for granted) lifeworld is disrupted by a significant life event. Qualitative methodological approaches provide avenues to uncover unique and meaningful insights of those experiences but require the methodology to be thoroughly understood and applied. This presentation aims to highlight some of the key principles of Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) and the important role the researcher plays in exploring, illuminating and communicating what it means for their participants to have lived with, or through, a significant experience or life event. A well-executed IPA project offers a richness and depth of qualitative inquiry extending beyond the merely descriptive. Let's move

	beyond the tongue-twister of the name and learn why IPA is arguably an underutilised gem in the qualitative research space.
	<p>Diane Cass <i>Concepts of research impact: practical implications</i> This presentation aims to provide practical tips on how to improve research impact. The term research impact is used frequently in higher education. However, it can sometimes be misunderstood, not considered relevant, or left until the thesis is submitted before being explored. The Australian Research Council defines research impact as “the contribution that research makes to the economy, society, environment or culture...”. By following the Australian Research Council operational principles, HDR students can significantly improve their impact in these domains. This can include speaking at conferences, network meetings and podcasts, and developing collaborations. Development of researcher impact can begin from the first day of studies through topics offered at Charles Sturt, such as the Base Impact Program. The implications of improving research impact include development of researcher identity, resulting in job creation, policy development and citations.</p>
	<p>Dr John Xie <i>Statistical support services available from Quantitative Consulting Unit (QCU)</i> Dr John Xie, Statistics Support Officer at the Quantitative Consulting Unit (QCU), part of the Office of Research Services, is an accredited statistician (admitted by Statistical Society of Australia) with strong research and statistical consulting experience. Research students (e.g., Honours, Masters, and PhD candidates) and staff researchers across the university can get access to the free services of statistics support by registering a consulting project with QCU. To enhance researchers’ statistical skills, QCU also delivers various presentations/tutorials/workshops (online or face-to-face) that cover the topics such as Using R/SPSS for statistical analysis, Statistical power analysis using G*Power, learning and application of Bayesian Network (using Netica), and Item Response Theory (IRT)/Rasch model workshop (using R or Winsteps).</p>
	<p>Nicole Cranston – School of Agricultural, Environmental and Veterinary Sciences <i>Improving the Rigour of Systematic Reviews in Animal Research: A Methodological Approach</i> Systematic reviews are important for knowledge synthesis and best practice recommendations but often suffer from methodological inconsistencies in animal science. Instead of outlining the methodology in a protocol before starting the review to increase transparency, many rely on PRISMA - reporting guidelines applied after the review. As such, there is a need for improved methodological rigour when conducting systematic reviews. A review should begin with a registered protocol outlining the research question, inclusion criteria, search strategy, and robust data extraction process. Moreover, including a critical appraisal of the evidence using tools to assess heterogeneity, risk of bias, and certainty of evidence ensures the inclusion of only high-quality studies in knowledge synthesis. PRISMA can then be used to report the process transparently. By adhering to these rigorous standards, researchers can be confident in the quality of their recommendations, ultimately improving best practices and industry confidence in evidence-based decision-making.</p>
	Summary and thank you
2.30-2.40	Changeover Break
2.40-3.15	<p>E-poster Presenters and Q&A Moderators: Jennifer Hayes and Sally Mordike Judges: Emmaline Lear and Dr Ian Skinner</p>
	<p>Dr Katherine Herbert – School of Business <i>A case for using a scoping review: making sense of heterogeneous literature</i> The first step in a higher degree by research student's journey is finding a topic that not only interests them, but also has impact on the discipline and research area of choice. Literature reviews provide this space and opportunity to find the gap in the literature and where new or improved knowledge can be added. The first barrier in succeeding in a higher degree by research is in fact looking for that gap and space. Using the literature review of my own PhD thesis, I present how the scoping review assisted in overcoming the overwhelm brought on by the broad and heterogeneous nature of learning and teaching capability literature.</p>
	<p>Diane Cass – School of Social Work & Arts <i>Physical activity does not just mean going to the gym!</i> This poster aims to highlight the value to higher degree students of maintaining sufficient physical activity. Undertaking research is primarily a sedentary activity. As a result, many students can neglect their physical activity regime. It has been shown that maintaining regular physical activity improves not only our physical health, but our mental wellbeing as well. In addition, keeping active has been shown to improve a range of cognitive outcomes, such as memory. Drawing from personal experience, overall physical and cognitive outcomes from increasing my regular activity have markedly improved, including an increased drive for study. As a disabled person I have had to adapt my activities appropriately, meaning I don't go to the gym. However, I do love swimming, walking, and playing on my Wii! The implications of increasing physical activity include better health, improved mental wellbeing, and a higher likelihood of completing the research project.</p>
	Anais Blacklock - School of Agricultural, Environmental and Veterinary Sciences

	<p><i>The Role of Fire in NSW Coastal Headland Vegetation</i></p> <p>Fire has long played a crucial role in shaping the grasslands and heathlands on coastal headlands of New South Wales. These fire-adapted ecosystems rely on periodic burning to maintain their structure and biodiversity. However, shifts in fire regimes, particularly fire exclusion, may have led to significant ecological changes. In this poster, I examine how shifts in fire regimes could contribute to woody shrub encroachment, which alters community composition and potentially drives biodiversity loss. The consequences of fire suppression on species diversity and ecosystem resilience are explored through a review of the literature and preliminary spatial data. These findings highlight the need for adaptive fire management strategies to prevent the homogenisation of these dynamic landscapes and support conservation efforts. Understanding the ecological role of fire in these coastal systems is critical for maintaining their biodiversity and function in the face of changing environmental pressures.</p>
	<p>Milad Kazemi - School of Dentistry & Medical Sciences</p> <p><i>Beyond Extraction: Unlocking the Untapped Potential of Edible Oil Refining By-Products</i></p> <p>Refining is a crucial step in vegetable oil production, removing impurities to enhance oil quality, stability and shelf life. However, this process also depletes significant levels of phytonutrients, such as tocopherols, phytosterols, and polyphenols, into refining by-products. These compounds have well-documented antioxidant, cholesterol-lowering and health-promoting properties, and their removal during refining reduces the nutritional value of the final oil. Despite advancements in refining techniques, substantial losses persist, prompting industries to reintroduce exogenous, sometimes synthetic, phytonutrients to meet market demands. This study explores strategies for recovering phytonutrients from refining by-products, focusing on recovery methods and their efficiencies reported in the literature. Valorisation of these by-products presents a sustainable approach to reduce waste, recover high-value compounds, and develop functional ingredients. By adopting circular economy principles and Sustainable Development Goals, the industry can improve sustainability, minimize economic losses, and enhance the nutritional value of its products.</p>
	<p>Alexander Tynan- School of Dentistry & Medical Sciences</p> <p><i>Multi-domain schistosome vaccine</i></p> <p>Schistosomiasis impacts over 200 million people globally, with treatment limited to one drug that is facing issues like drug resistance and failure to prevent reinfection. This study aims to develop a multi-domain vaccine that targets key proteins in <i>Schistosoma mansoni</i>, enhancing immune response and efficacy. Five antigens (FABP, TPI, TSP, Calpain, and Cathepsin B) were combined into a single protein construct through epitope prediction and structural modelling. The construct is expressed in <i>E. coli</i> and yeast systems, with immunogenicity assessed in mice through antibody and cytokine profiling. Using tools like AlphaFold, the 3D structure was optimised to closely mimic native proteins, improving immune recognition potential. This multivalent approach provides a promising pathway towards sustainable schistosomiasis control.</p>
	<p>Pradeep Rai – School of Agricultural, Environmental and Veterinary Sciences</p> <p><i>Farmers' trade-offs in regenerative and modern conventional agriculture: Quantifying economic, social, and environmental preferences and choices</i></p> <p>The Industrial and Green Revolutions (1950s-1970s) have transformed agricultural production systems, significantly reducing food poverty. However, these production systems are often linked to environmental degradation globally, including in Australia. Since the first emergence in 1980s, Regenerative Agriculture (RA), has gained traction over the years as an environmentally friendly approach that avoids synthetic inputs, emphasises holistic management, and prioritises sustainability objectives. While Modern Conventional Agriculture (MCA) of today equally claims to prioritise environmental stewardship and sustainability, similar to RA in Australia. Against this backdrop, gap exists as to how RA and MCA proponents perceive and prefer the interconnected economic, social and environmental objectives. Assessing this, an online survey was launched, and a total of 86 farmers' responses were analysed using "Maximum Difference Scaling" and "Choice-based Conjoint" methods. Results indicate that RA proponents prioritise environmental and social domains more than MCA proponents. While MCA farmers prioritise economic domain more than RA farmers. The findings contribute to informed decision-making towards enhanced agricultural sustainability in Australian context.</p>
3.15-3.25	Changeover Break
3.25- 4.25	<p>Panel Discussion- <i>Exploring what it means to be in a culturally responsive research supervisory relationship</i></p> <p>Hosted by Suzanne Hopf with: From Massey University, Auckland: A/Prof Mershen Pillay From Charles Sturt University:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Azizur Rahman • Prof. Julian Grant • A/Prof. Sarah Verdon • A/Prof. Christopher Orchard • A/Prof. Cate Thomas

	Henrich and colleagues' 2010 article titled "The weirdest people in the world?" highlighted that research has historically been defined by cultural frameworks from Western, educated, industrialized, rich, and democratic societies. Fifteen years on, HDR supervisors with diverse cultural backgrounds and ontological and epistemological perspectives, will discuss how they actively apply critical consciousness, cultural humility, and intersectionality theory to ensure culturally safe practices during research supervision. These practices ensure that both the supervisee and supervisor engage in culturally responsive research supervisory relationships that provide opportunities to address the WEIRD research lens of the past. Join the panel to explore the dos and don'ts of culturally responsive research supervision and learn how to improve your own research supervisory relationship.
4.25-4.30	Changeover Break
4.30-6:30	3-Minute Thesis Heat 2 MC: Paul Shaw Judges: Professor David Watson, Professor Leigh Schmidtke, Dr Kathleen Smithers
	Trixie Kemp <i>What is the impact to patient safety if we had no health information management professionals?</i>
	Teresa Cochrane <i>Koala Dreaming: What kind of Ancestor do I want to be?</i>
	Sarah Smorhun <i>Beyond Bollards: Protecting Australian Crowded Places</i>
	Jannatul Ferdous <i>A Novel Technique for Ransomware Detection Using Image-Based Dynamic Features and Transfer Learning: Addressing Dataset Limitations</i>
	Muhammad Riaz Hasib Hossain <i>Mob-Based Cattle Weight Gain Forecasting Using ML Models</i>
	Judges deliberation – Finalists announced

Day Five – Friday 30 May

Time	Session	
12.00-2.00	Themed Session 4: Resilient People This theme includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning & curriculum development • Access & equity in education • Biomedical discovery • Health, wellbeing & human behaviours • Indigenous health & education Presentations are 10 minutes with 5 minutes for Q&A	
	Breakout Room 1 Moderators: Shaunna McTernan and Sharon Collins	Breakout Room 2 Moderators: Holly McAlister and Victoria Erskine
	Sharika Nuzhat- School of Computing, Mathematics and Engineering <i>Diarrhoeal Risk Stratification and Pathogen Detection Utilising AI-Driven Approaches</i> Diarrheal disease remains a significant public health problem in developing countries, despite various preventive efforts. Diarrhoeal deaths are now caused by multiple illnesses, not just dehydration. Overlapping clinical features complicate accurate diagnosis, and no decision support system exists to distinguish between complicated and noncomplicated cases for timely management. Furthermore, combating antimicrobial resistance requires rapid identification of diarrhoeal pathogens, but machine learning's role in clinical microbiology for early pathogen detection is underexplored. This PhD project aims to bridge existing gaps by developing predictive models using AI approaches on retrospective and prospective data from the world's largest diarrhoeal disease hospital. Validated in real time, these models will	Ann-Marie Brown- School of Nursing, Paramedicine and Healthcare Sciences <i>Enablers and barriers for high school students pursuing a career in nursing in Tasmania</i> Globally, the average age of nursing students has risen over the past five years, now reaching the late thirties. In contrast, other health courses, such as physiotherapy, continue to attract school leavers, while nursing faces a decline. Historical and contemporary portrayals of nursing in the media contribute to barriers in recruitment. Despite various socioeconomic factors unique to Tasmania that may influence career decisions, no research has explored why local school leavers do or do not choose nursing. This study seeks to identify enablers and barriers for Tasmanian school leavers considering nursing as a career. A focused ethnographic approach will be used. Semi-structured focus group interviews have been

	<p>underpin future software for differentiating critical cases. Additionally, stool culture plate image analysis after 24 hours of incubation could reduce traditional 72-hour culture time. Digital models will provide healthcare professionals and policymakers with advanced tools to assess and improve identification and management of diarrhoeal disease.</p>	<p>conducted in high schools across Tasmania's North, Northwest, and Southern regions. Early findings from this research will provide valuable insights to inform targeted strategies for engaging future nursing professionals in Tasmania. These preliminary results will be presented in this presentation.</p>
	<p>Alexander Tynan - Rural Health Research Institute <i>A novel multi-domain Schistosoma mansoni vaccine</i> Schistosomiasis impacts over 200 million people globally, with treatment limited to one drug that is facing issues like drug resistance and failure to prevent reinfection. This study aims to develop a multi-domain vaccine that targets key proteins in Schistosoma mansoni, enhancing immune response and efficacy. Five antigens (FABP, TPI, TSP, Calpain, and Cathepsin) were combined into a single protein construct through epitope prediction and structural modelling. The construct is expressed in E. coli and yeast systems, with immunogenicity assessed in mice through antibody and cytokine profiling. Using tools like AlphaFold, the 3D structure was optimised to closely mimic native proteins, improving immune recognition potential. This multivalent approach provides a promising pathway towards sustainable schistosomiasis control.</p>	<p>Shofiquil Islam - School of Information and Communication Studies <i>Caregiver perspectives on information-seeking behaviour of multicultural older adults while accessing home care services</i> As Australia's migrant populations age, there is a growing demand for home care packages (HCP) to support older adults to age at home with their family and informal caregivers. However, there is limited research explaining how migrant older adults or their caregivers seek and access information about HCP. This study offers insights into information-seeking practices relating to HCP, gathered through semi-structured in-depth interviews with caregivers of Bangladeshi and Indian older adults in Australia. Findings suggest that older adults depend entirely on caregivers for HCP information. This is due to familial structure, language barriers, present health conditions, and low engagement with online platforms. Caregivers access information through healthcare professionals, social workers, family members with prior knowledge, and Google search. The study also highlights the importance of government-provided offline information channels, which play key role in making HCP information accessible within their local communities.</p>
	<p>Kiran Sharma - School of Dentistry and Medical Science <i>New artemisinin redesigns for improving plasma solubility and cellular uptake</i> Artemisinin (ART) or its derivatives sensitise cancer cells through the endoperoxide moiety which initiates the production of reactive oxygen species, lysosomal degradation of ferritin, or regulation of system Gpx4 leading to apoptosis, ferroptosis or cuproptosis. Simple artemisinin analogues are required to be administered in higher doses with repeated administration due to low solubility and short plasma half-lives. IN this research, in order to overcome these problems and the neurotoxicity of earlier ART, amino ARTs were introduced which are found to be more stable, more potent and less toxic. A series of amino ART derivatives containing sugar moieties were developed in search of analogues having good water solubility and high biological activity against cancer and some infectious diseases.</p>	<p>Dr Yazdan Mansourian - School of Information and Communication Studies <i>How a Heideggerian Approach informs My Research on Human Information Behaviour in Serious Leisure</i> In my research I use many Heideggerian concepts to gain a phenomenological understanding of the human information behaviour in serious leisure. In this presentation, I focus on Unconcealment (Alethea) and World-Disclosure (Erschlossenheit) as two examples of this approach. Unconcealment defines truth as a process of revealing when things become visible to us. World-Disclosure means how the world becomes meaningful for us through our Being-in-the-world and how we shape our experiences. These concepts form a framework to understand how people make sense of information as an embedded element of their leisure pursuits. This perspective helps me to understand their attitudes in seeking, sharing and using information. The findings indicate that people do not passively receive information. Instead, they actively disclose information and shape knowledge through social interactions within broader contexts. Finally, I have a few suggestions for other scholars who might be interested in using this approach in their research.</p>
	<p>Sara Esmaeili - School of Dentistry and Medical Science</p>	<p>Sabrina Syed - School of Education</p>

	<p>p53 nuclear import and viral interaction The p53 protein family (p53, p63, and p73) plays a crucial role in tumour suppression by regulating key cellular processes as transcription factors. Their nuclear import, mediated by interactions between nuclear localization sequences (NLS) and the importin-α (IMPα) shuttle, is essential for proper function. This study investigates the nuclear import mechanisms of the p53 family, and explores how viral proteins from oncoviruses, particularly Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) and Human Cytomegalovirus (HCMV), interact with the p53 protein to promote oncogenesis. A multidisciplinary approach will be used, integrating structural biology with biochemical assays. Key methodologies include bacterial protein expression, SDS-PAGE, EMSA, fluorescence polarization, and X-ray crystallography to elucidate protein-IMPα interactions. Findings from this research may enhance our understanding of p53 regulation and uncover new therapeutic targets for disrupting viral interference with tumour suppression pathways</p>	<p>Intersectional (Dis)Advantages of Female HDR Students from Diverse Backgrounds in the Australian Context Higher Degree by Research (HDR) candidates, who come from diverse backgrounds, experience unique circumstances in Australian academia due to the intersection of their identities. This paper provides an understanding of their HDR journeys and explores the complexities of adapting to the academic and social landscapes in Australia. The study employed narrative inquiry for data collection and the theory of intersectionality as a theoretical lens to understand thirteen participants' positionalities. Participants' socio-cultural, geo-political and economic contexts were considered along with more conventional identities such as race, gender, culture and ethnicity. The analysis highlights the complex interplay of intersecting identities in shaping perspectives and academic experiences, and also identifies factors that may have influenced their journey. The paper argues that the diverse dimensions of participants' identities have a potential impact on their HDR journeys, influencing their expectations and creating complexities that are often challenging to overcome without effective support services.</p>
	<p>Md Ahshanul Haque - School of Computing, Mathematics and Engineering <i>Identifying the factors associated with severe and moderate malnutrition among children aged 0-23 months in rural northeastern Bangladesh</i> This study aims to identify factors associated with severe and moderate malnutrition among children aged 0-23 months in northeastern rural Bangladesh. Data were drawn from the baseline and endline surveys of a large-scale multisectoral nutrition intervention, namely the Suchana programme. The primary outcome measures included severe and moderate stunting, wasting, and underweight. A multinomial logistic regression was used to identify the associated factors. Factors associated with severe and moderate malnutrition were identified at three levels: child-related factors (age, sex, recent illness, and breastfeeding), maternal factors (age, nutritional status, antenatal care, delivery care, rest during pregnancy, hygiene, dietary diversity, and education) and household level factors (head's education, family size, type of toilet and flooring, income, involvement in aquaculture, and source of drinking water). Addressing modifiable factors through targeted interventions may help policymakers reduce the burden of childhood malnutrition in vulnerable rural regions of Bangladesh.</p>	<p>Crysta Bowe - School of Social Work and Arts <i>Explaining intergenerational child maltreatment: Theoretical perspectives</i> The concept of intergenerational child maltreatment (experiences of abuse and neglect in childhood reoccurring over generations) is frequently referred to in child protection literature, policy and practice. There is limited insight into the theories or perspectives that scholars, policymakers, and practitioners use to explain why adult survivors are more likely to parent children who are also subjected to maltreatment. This discussion compares and contrasts two sets of data; a scoping review on explanatory theories applied to intergenerational child maltreatment, and the results of a questionnaire completed by Australian practitioners working in this field. These studies find a diversity of explanatory theories and theoretical perspectives. The questionnaire reveals a strong scrutiny of systemic forces, while the literature favours relational perspectives (predominantly attachment theory) and developmental perspectives. An understanding of the explanatory theories held and applied in research and practice supports a deeper understanding of the response to intergenerational child maltreatment.</p>
	<p>Joshua Slaterry - School of Dentistry and Medical Sciences (RHRI) <i>Using CRISPR to diagnose parasitic infections at the point of care</i> The diagnosis of parasitic infections heavily relies on low-sensitivity microscopy or laboratory-based molecular techniques. Unfortunately, those living in remote communities, with limited access to healthcare,</p>	<p>Dr Kathleen Smithers- School of Education <i>Fieldwork from A-Z? Exploring shifting identities in doctoral research in Australia and Zimbabwe</i> For doctoral students, fieldwork can be laced with outdated notions of the anthropologist gathering data in a place that is not their own, which narrowly constructs the role of the 'novice' and their expectations around 'doing' research. To demonstrate the relevance of these issues</p>

	<p>are the most affected by parasitic infections in Australia. CRISPR-based diagnostics, however, are a new, highly effective technique requiring no specialised equipment or training. Two diagnostic tests are being developed for the parasitic trichomonads, <i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i>, and <i>T. tenax</i>. These will use CRISPR-associated proteins, capable of finding highly specific regions of DNA, guided by RNA sequences. These sequences are designed and synthetically produced to target the trichomonads. So far, DNA extracted from <i>T. tenax</i> has been detected in the laboratory. Further work is underway to re-package the test as a rapid antigen test (RAT)-style test strip. Additionally, the <i>T. vaginalis</i> genome is being searched for suitable DNA targets. These tests will detect trichomonads in patients at the point of care, allowing rapid diagnosis and treatment.</p>	<p>and the key ethical tensions they underpin, this presentation explores two PhD fieldwork experiences. Using fieldnotes from two researchers' lived experiences, similarities are identified between conducting fieldwork 'out there' (in Zimbabwe) and 'at home' (in Australia). These similarities highlight the dynamics associated with researcher presence and the importance of balancing complex needs during fieldwork. This presentation argues that daily in situ interactions with participants—and others—were crucial to the development of the researchers' identities and data gathering practices. Efforts to demystify fieldwork experiences are critical for understanding that 'the field' is not simply 'out there'; this presentation offers practical suggestions for students to consider.</p>
	Summary and thank you	Summary and thank you
2.00-2.15	Changeover break	
2.15-3.15	Workshop- Using Gen Ai tools for your Literature Review Presented by Lorraine Rose, Library Services	
3.15-3.30	Changeover Break	
3.30-5.30	3-Minute Thesis Heat 3 MC: Paul Shaw Judges: Professor Sandra Savocchia, A.Professor Samuel Bowker, Dr Muhammad Arif Khan	
	Zahida Quashem <i>7th Century Arabian Peninsula: Analysis of the Transformational Leadership of Prophet Muhammad</i>	
	Alexander Tynan <i>Deworming the world</i>	
	Shaunna McTernan <i>Salmonella in horses from stud farm to hospital: what do we know?</i>	
	Osman Mah <i>Spiritually Grounded, Culturally Aligned and Meaningfully Connected (SCM) Leadership Emergence Framework</i>	
	Milan Maksimovic <i>Enhancing Human-Machine Teaming through Advanced Algorithms</i>	
	Nushrat Azam <i>Reflections in the Mirror: The Impact of Othering on Self & Social Identity</i>	
	Katrina Gersbach <i>In their own words: Wellbeing in the heart of the bush</i>	
	Judges deliberation – Finalists announced	