



Charles Sturt
University

Thrive

Charles Sturt University | Alumni Magazine 2021

Life: no dress rehearsal

Sydney Orchestra CEO Emma Dunch
shares her story

Pioneering change

Meet Papua New Guinea's first female vet

Alumni authors

Six must-reads from our alumni authors

Celebrating you

Introducing our Alumni Award winners

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Charles Sturt University Alumni Magazine

With special thanks to all those who contributed to this 2021 edition.

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Welcome

Greetings to all our alumni

COVID-19 is still well and truly ruling our lives, and many of us feel anxious about the future. The alumni team want to send our thoughts to everyone affected, particularly alumni experiencing extended lockdowns.

Like many of you, our university has seen changes over the past 12 months. We believe that the key to helping us all get through and stay positive is that we remain socially connected, and we hope that our 2021 edition of Thrive can contribute to this.

In May we were fortunate enough to hold our scholarship ceremonies, which saw the presentation of more than \$1.8 million in Foundation scholarships to almost 400 students. A huge shout out to our alumni donors involved with the scholarships and ceremonies – you are truly making an impact.

We have celebrated many milestones in 2021. Riverina College of Advanced Education celebrated 50 years, Bathurst Teachers' College are in preparations for a 70-year reunion in November and 2MCE Bathurst Community Radio celebrated 45 years on air.

The university has formed some new partnerships, including the recently announced multimillion-dollar Drought Hub led by Charles Sturt, our highly successful AgriPark Forum, our work on biosecurity simulation and our Global Digital Farm. It's clear that momentum is building for our research endeavours.

The alumni team have been working with Indian alumni via Zoom, which has been a great way to connect. The association aims to connect alumni and allow them to engage with the university and each other. We are hoping to work with other groups in a similar format soon.

Our plan to implement events is forever changing. We have recently decided to postpone our Vivid Sydney cruise for 2021 but hope to bring this back next year. We are coordinating events in our regional campuses for later in the year and hope to share more details with you soon around this – stay tuned!

Now more than ever, our Alumnigive program is here to allow you to give back to the university and our current students. We have been so thankful to our alumni who have participated in the program through speaking at graduation, sitting on advisory panels and donating to our Regional Impact Fund. To learn more about the program, head to page 16. There are always many opportunities for you to participate, including mentoring, establishing scholarships for students in need and guest speaking. If you are interested in learning more about our Alumnigive program, please email alumni@csu.edu.au.

We hope you are staying connected and looking after yourselves in this unpredictable time, and hope you enjoy this edition of our magazine.

Sheridan Ingold

Alumni Relations Coordinator

Meet our team



Sarah Ansell

Director –
Advancement



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Celebrating success at graduation

Attending their graduation ceremony can now be crossed off the bucket list for Charles Sturt's class of 2020.

Graduation was a particularly momentous occasion for fifth-generation Orange local Jenna Hattersley, whose degree was almost a decade in the making.

Back when she was in high school, the Bachelor of Business Management graduate never thought she had the 'brains for university'. But for eight years she impressively juggled university while working full-time, raising her two children and running her business.

For Jenna, attending graduation meant that she finally felt that 'feeling of accomplishment' that inspired her to keep going throughout her degree.

"The graduation ceremony was the one moment I had been focused on to get me through my degree. I'm the first to graduate in my family and this ceremony is the first graduation my parents have attended, so it's an important celebration.

"The feeling of accomplishment I had when I was wearing the gown with my family there was exactly what I envisioned on those days when I felt I couldn't do it anymore. Having my biggest supporters there – my family, husband and children – showed them that anything is possible."

Since graduating, Jenna has continued working in her full-time role as operations coordinator for Charles Sturt's dental clinics. She's also been pouring some of her newfound time into her business, which provides coaching services and digital products, including time management and meal planning tools, to help people with busy lifestyles stay healthy.

"The reason I started my degree was to continue onto the next step in my professional development. The goal was to lead a team in the corporate world. Now, I'm in a position where I can apply all of the skills and knowledge from my degree to my new business.

"I also want to continue to grow as a leader and manager in my full-time role, and to help others achieve their goals by knowing anything is possible."

Another Orange resident who looked forward to her graduation ceremony is Mina Lama.

Originally from Kathmandu in Nepal, the international student moved to the Central West so she could complete a Bachelor of Computer Science.

For Mina, attending her graduation ceremony alongside her friends was an incredible experience.

"My whole family are so happy that I graduated. I have never had a graduation ceremony, so I really looked forward to it. I believe it's the ceremony to celebrate your hard work and dedication to achieve the degree.

"It was wonderful to see the happy faces of all the graduates and the unity of all the guests who cheered the achievements of their loved ones."

"My whole family are so happy that I graduated. I have never had a graduation ceremony, so I really looked forward to it. I believe it's the ceremony to celebrate your hard work and dedication to achieve the degree."

Pioneering change: meet Papua New Guinea's first female vet



Charles Sturt alumna Dr Tania Areori has become a pioneer in her home country as the first female vet in Papua New Guinea.

Tania moved to Wagga Wagga six years ago to study a Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Bachelor of Veterinary Science (Honours).

She grew up in Madang, Papua New Guinea, where she completed her primary and secondary schooling. There were many visits from the sea town of Madang to her mother's village 45 minutes away, where she was surrounded by flying foxes.

Her father worked as an agricultural extension officer and her mother worked as a midwife, which helped Tania develop her passion for working with animals and people.

"I have always wanted to be an 'animal doctor', ever since I could start thinking about what I wanted to be as a little girl.

"We don't have vets in Papua New Guinea, so I don't know how I knew about what an animal doctor was, and I didn't have anyone who motivated me down that path."

Tania experienced her first taste of life in Australia when she was six years old, when her mother was on an Australian awards scholarship in 1994. She returned to Australia in 2015, as an Australian awards scholarship recipient herself, to further her own studies.

Naturally, Tania went through a period of adjustment, but this was made easier with the help of Charles Sturt's support team.

"I had separation anxiety as a new mum. I was worried about settling in and making new friends. The staff at Charles Sturt student services helped me settle in and get used to how things worked in Australia."

"The staff were not only wonderful educators but provided such a comfortable environment for learning and building relationships, some of which are my Wagga Wagga family now.

"I'm thankful to the students from my year for their friendship and support, driving me to and from class, for group study sessions and working together to get through exams."

"The staff were not only wonderful educators but provided such a comfortable environment for learning and building relationships, some of which are my Wagga Wagga family now."

Tania has many highlights from studying at Charles Sturt, including delivering her first calf via caesarean, doing an ovariohysterectomy/castration, and working with horses, an animal not commonly found in Papua New Guinea.

It was all these experiences that were shaping the foundation for her to become a pioneer in her field.

"When I started out, I didn't know that I was going to be the first female vet. I was just a young woman going after my dreams.

"Now that I know this and acknowledge how challenging the journey has been to get to this point, the role I would play in inspiring or encouraging women and men from my home country is to do the same.

"I would like to make people, especially from the Pacific who are interested in pursuing this career, aware that studying veterinary science is possible.

"There is always a way. Just keep asking, searching and pursuing.

The shortage of vets in Papua New Guinea provides difficulties delivering and sustaining animal health programs, which affects the ability to detect possible exotic and zoonotic diseases and offer other important animal health services that are crucial to animal and public health.

"With my qualifications, I hope to support the current work of delivering animal health services in the country and support capacity building in this area."

Tim banks big on agriculture

As a high school student considering his next steps, Tim Harvey was advised against studying agriculture at university. But as a passionate farm boy, he followed his instinct and agriculture has powered his impressive career in banking.

Tim Harvey completed his Bachelor of Applied Science (Agriculture) in 1998 and started working at the Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA). He's been there ever since, rising through the ranks to his current role as General Manager, Agribusiness where he's accountable for developing the strategy and supporting agribusiness customers right across Australia.

Tim is also a farmer with a cropping and sheep farm outside of Wagga Wagga, in regional NSW, which provides advantages both personally and professionally.

"Agribusiness is a specialisation within the CBA that is a growth priority. Every day I'm thinking about our agribusiness customers and how we can serve them better. And thanks to the farm, I really do understand the ups and downs of having a commercial farming business.

"In banking, we look at agriculture as a long-term industry, looking through the cycles to see the long-term trajectory and the big picture. So, that's exactly how I do it both professionally and personally."

Part of being across the big picture of agriculture is keeping a close eye on technology and connecting farmers with the latest innovations.

"We've recently become a founding member of AusAgriTech. Part of our role is to understand and support what is going on in innovation and technology so our bankers can have a conversation about these things, share best practice and identify opportunity for our customers.

"The biggest buzz in my role is helping farmers attain their dreams. Ag is a sector that's full of innovation and it's rewarding to spend time with farmers and see how they can move their business forward."

Another rewarding part of the job for Tim is the chance to advocate for regional Australia.

"Being regionally based is important to me and I feel extremely passionate about being a strong voice for regional Australia outside of the regions.

"My advice is embrace your passions. I feel strongly that if you are passionate, you will be incredibly successful. That's why I studied ag – I felt that if I pursued my passion, no matter what it was, it could be a successful path for me."

"My advice is embrace your passions. I feel that if you are passionate, you will be incredibly successful."



“The biggest buzz in my role is helping farmers attain their dreams. Ag is a sector that's full of innovation and it's rewarding to spend time with farmers and see how they can move their business forward.”

Tim Harvey
Bachelor of Applied Science
(Agriculture)

Life: no dress rehearsal

From a communication degree to a Manhattan consultancy to CEO of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Emma Dunch has carved out a unique and exciting career in the arts. A global leader in the cultural sector, she has worked with some of the world's most talented artists, created art at the highest level, built one of North America's top tier female owned businesses and was named one of Deloitte Australia's Outstanding 50 LGBTI leaders in 2018.

“My advice is make the road by walking. A career is a winding path. Mine's gone for 30 years, and it wasn't a straight line. Meet each new opportunity with an open mind and seek to make a positive contribution in each pursuit you have. You have to make your road in life by walking it yourself.”

Emma Dunch
Bachelor of Arts (Communication)

Photo credit: Anthony Geernaert

How does one become Chief Executive Officer, Sydney Symphony Orchestra?

I graduated from Charles Sturt University in 1991 with a Bachelor of Arts in communication, and it's been a long and winding road over the last 30 years. After my degree at Charles Sturt, I went to Melbourne to pursue a degree in music and used my journalism skills to work as a music journalist to fund my further studies. I then returned to Sydney to be a publicist for the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and, after some years, moved to New York City. I went there for a job with a suitcase, \$20,000 and one person's phone number.

I stayed in America for 20 years and built a career, moving between public relations and journalism roles and music management. I worked in cultural management and built one of the largest professional management consulting firms in the cultural sector. Based in Manhattan, my company worked across North America and was in the top one per cent of US women-owned businesses.

One of our clients was the Australia Council for the Arts, and I became reacquainted with what was happening here. Some years later, the CEO role at the Sydney Symphony Orchestra – where I had started all those years ago – was vacant and I was invited to apply. I was so proud and excited to accept the role and wanted to bring everything I learnt overseas back home and try to share my knowledge and my expertise with our cultural sector here.

Can you paint a picture of what you do as CEO of the Sydney Symphony?

The Sydney Symphony Orchestra is one of the larger symphony orchestras in the world. It has a budget of almost \$45 million, so there is the management of a multimillion-dollar business corporation and moving about 160 people around on a week-to-week basis. It's a highly people-focused business, and my job is to make sure that the talented artists we support have the best conditions to perform at their highest level.

I think a lot about peak performance in the performing arts. It's almost like running an Olympic team because these are essentially the Olympic musicians of the performing arts. These businesses run years in advance, so I'm constantly thinking, 'What does Australia look like tomorrow, and how can we be ready? How can the whole cultural sector be ready?'

How have you steered the orchestra through the pandemic?

Without the talented people who work for us, the Sydney Symphony is nothing. An orchestra is an ensemble that takes 20 years to build, to recruit all the top talent from around the world and have them perform as a peak performance team. So first and foremost, we had to keep the team together. We quickly developed a One SSO philosophy – that it would be "all for one, one for all".

We looked down the barrel of about \$12–15 million worth of lost ticket sales, so we took big pay cuts and put in a salary floor for the lowest-paid employees. We are still on pay austerity measures as a group of 160. We've been able to steer the boat all in relatively good spirits. Our audiences have been tremendously supportive, with millions of dollars worth of tickets donated back to the orchestra last year.

What drives you to do what you do?

I'm really motivated by making a positive contribution. At this point, I've had a 30-year career – I've done anything that anyone in my field would have wanted to do. I've had a chance to be involved in art-making at the highest international levels, so you think about the second half of your career and say, 'I've been very fortunate. What difference am I going to make?'

I was in New York on September 11 – 20 years ago this year. I was working in a building near the World Trade Centre, and I saw that second plane go in. You don't go through an experience like that in life without thinking, what's it all for? And how am I going to use my time well? So, the real answer to your question is that we just get one crack at it. Life is no dress rehearsal, so make sure that you use the life you have well. For me, that's about making a difference in the field that I love.

Do you have advice for new graduates?

My advice is make the road by walking. A career is a winding path. Mine's gone for 30 years, and it wasn't a straight line. Meet each new opportunity with an open mind and seek to make a positive contribution in each pursuit you have. You have to make your road in life by walking it yourself.

Campus news

Find out what's been happening at our campuses.



NSW Premier opens Port Macquarie campus Stage 2 development

In June, NSW Premier, the Hon. Ms Gladys Berejiklian, officially opened the \$66 million Stage 2 development at Charles Sturt's Port Macquarie campus.

The newly-completed development increases the campus' capacity from 1,000 students to 2,800, making it the largest international campus in NSW outside metropolitan areas.

The ceremony revealed the \$21 million Stage 2B of the development, which includes the Port Macquarie international education centre, NSW emergency services training room, an innovation hub and co-working spaces, and student support facilities. Stage 2A of the development opened in October 2020 and includes learning and teaching spaces, tiered lecture theatres, event space, technology studio, engineering and sciences labs, a student gym, and staff offices.

The entire Stage 2 development, built over 6,300 square metres, was co-funded by the university and the NSW Government's Regional Growth Fund's Growing Local Economies program, established under the Restart NSW Fund.

Charles Sturt's Interim Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Germov, said the completed development provided educational, research and collaborative opportunities to benefit students and the wider community.

"This is a state-of-the-art facility which will enable Charles Sturt University to attract a far greater number of students to the beautiful Mid North Coast to study vital courses like nursing, teaching, and paramedicine. Not only will the resulting increase in student numbers further enhance the campus' already stellar reputation for quality education, it will provide an ongoing boost to the region's economy."



Australia's first fully-automated farm in Wagga Wagga

Charles Sturt will be home to Australia's first 'hands-free' farm as part of a new high-tech collaboration between the university and Food Agility Co-operative Research Centre.

Charles Sturt and Food Agility announced they will partner to build the Global Digital Farm. Australia's first fully-automated commercial farm will demonstrate the future of farming through robotics and artificial intelligence and new sustainability and carbon models to drive improvements in farming practice.

It will be located on the 1,600-hectare farm of the university's AgriSciences Research and Business Park (AgriPark) at our Wagga Wagga campus, which is operated as a commercial enterprise and incorporates a range of broad acre crops (wheat, canola, barley), as well as a vineyard, cattle and sheep.

The requisite data, telecommunication and other digital infrastructure needed for the farm will be developed and built on-site over the next three years.

Charles Sturt's Professor of Food Sustainability Niall Blair said the farm will be a commercial operation, educational facility and community outreach facility rolled into one.

"This ambitious and unique project will arm Australia's primary industries workforce with knowledge and technology in crucial fields like data analytics, geospatial mapping, remote sensing, machine learning and cybersecurity.

"The Global Digital Farm will utilise Charles Sturt University's world-class research and development capability in the agriculture space to help ensure the next generation of Australia's farmers are at the forefront of innovation."



15th annual Sustainability Scorecard

Charles Sturt has released the 2020 Sustainability Scorecard, which details activities and achievements that cement the university's commitment to environmental sustainability.

Manager of Sustainability Ed Maher said despite what was a tough year, the university did not lose sight of the big picture.

"While 2020 was an incredibly tough year for all, Charles Sturt continued to implement best practice in sustainability and ranked 61st overall from 768 institutions in the Times Higher Education 2020 Impact Rankings. We observed a very significant downturn in utility consumption and associated carbon emission figures in 2020, which was expected with the COVID-19 restrictions."

Mr Maher noted that while there were fewer staff and students on campus, Charles Sturt continued to work on the 254 hectares of biodiversity zones across the university's campuses at Albury-Wodonga, Bathurst, Canberra, Dubbo, Orange, Port Macquarie and Wagga Wagga.

Work carried out included planting trees, installing squirrel glider nest-boxes, monitoring endangered species including the Sloane's froglet, installing composting bays, replacing mown turf areas with native grass and shrub regeneration, erosion control, and completing remediation work.

While the university achieved a lot in 2020, Ed said there is still a huge amount to do in this space and he is committed to making sure sustainability is embedded across the organisation.

Charles Sturt was recognised as Australia's first carbon neutral university and has produced the Sustainability Scorecard for 15 years. The scorecard can be viewed at: csu.edu.au/sustainability



2MCE radio celebrates 45 years

Charles Sturt's 2MCE in Bathurst – the first non-metropolitan community radio broadcaster in Australia – celebrated 45 years.

In November 1975, the then Mitchell College of Advanced Education in Bathurst, received a special licence for educational broadcasting from the federal government and in February 1976 received the call sign 2MCE-FM.

The first test broadcasts were conducted in March 1976 and the first broadcast soon followed.

2MCE's station manager Lisa Mclean said a major factor in the success and longevity of 2MCE is the dedication of the station's community volunteers.

"Our community and student volunteers are the heart and soul of the radio station. While we can access news from around the world, it's the news and stories from around the corner and hearing our own voices which becomes even more important."



Organisational politics: lessons in workplace influence

Learning how to influence decisions in the workplace is not a typical lesson during clinical training. But one of a Charles Sturt academic Dr Andrey Zheluk says it's a must. The Master of Health Management and Leadership introduces students to the nuances of organisational politics.

Andrey is a big believer that in the modern workplace, organisational politics cannot be overlooked.

"In clinical courses, students are taught things like anatomy, physiology and drug interactions. It's not until they need to influence decisions that they realise there are issues of power or politics at play.

"Often clinicians will say to me that they go to a meeting armed with all the scientific evidence, and when they present their case, they are basically ignored. There can be many reasons for this – they might be younger and have less clinical experience; there could be gender issues at play; they may not control the purse strings – but whatever it is, another form of power is being deployed.

"Clinicians don't get any formal training in these dynamics, but they are dealing with them every day. And to overcome these dynamics, first you need to know they exist and learn to understand them. That's why I embed organisational politics into everything I teach."

Recently Andrey took the lessons beyond his classroom and delivered a webinar to help health alumni understand the power dynamics at play in their workplaces so they can better advance their ideas and their careers.

In the webinar, Andrey stepped through a simple approach called power mapping, which is useful in building successful alliances, and provided a skills framework to guide navigating organisational politics. This framework requires individuals to place themselves and others under the microscope and explores things like motives and behaviours, interpersonal skills, reading people and situations, building alignment and alliances, and understanding strategic direction.

"Organisational politics exists, and you shouldn't be offended by it. It's a tool you can use. It's a matter of realising power makes things happen and by mobilising power appropriately, it is possible to achieve change."

Andrey says that while the organisational politics webinar was geared towards alumni working in health, there are lessons that can be applied to any workplace.

Dr Andrey Zheluk has 30 years of clinical, industry and academic experience in health, as an executive and consultant in Australia and overseas.



Futureproofing with environmental management

With an ethos like yindyamarra winhanganha, courses focusing on bettering our collective future are all part of Charles Sturt's standard. The Master of Environmental Management, recognised by every environmental management agency in Australia, is future proofing environmental management.

Charles Sturt's Master of Environmental Management recently undertook an extensive industry review to ensure we're not just keeping up with the latest in industry best practices but continuing to play our part in shaping its future.

Course director Matt Hunt said while some adjustments have been made to the course in response to global and industry trends, feedback from the review was an affirmation of its excellent standard and a wonderful testimony.

Matt identifies four key areas of teaching that are seeing the Charles Sturt course and graduates outclassing others.

"Where our course is strongest are the areas of climate impacts and mitigation, sustainable agriculture including global food security and water resource management, the geospatial sciences and big data, and our First Nations cultural heritage management and Indigenous lands practices, which is a particular point of difference at this time."

Students also benefit from studying with a university that 'walks the walk and talks the talk' regarding environmental management and sustainable practices.

"As a university, we are very serious about sustainable practices – it's part of our fabric. We have an award-winning, sustainably designed campus in Thurgoona. We were the first carbon-neutral university in Australia, and we rank in the top 10 internationally for meeting the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, we have highly rated world-class academics in ecology and cultural heritage management undertaking world-class research.

Matt says there's never been a more exciting time in environmental management, and graduates can expect rewarding impactful careers.

"Yes, there are a lot of problems in the world now with pollution and biodiversity loss and the impacts of climate change. But it is an important and exciting space in which we can make a difference. And we do. Our graduates are out there now leading environmental management, and our future grads will be out there making a huge difference. That gives me optimism."



Medicine: a whole new stage for Heidi

A medical emergency provided the moment Heidi Annand realised she wanted to be a doctor.

Heidi is now part of the first cohort of the Doctor of Medicine, which commenced at Orange in February.

For most people, theatre-making is a long way from practising medicine. But not for Heidi. The eldest of six girls, Heidi grew up in Bathurst and worked in regional arts and events since graduating with a Bachelor of Communication (Theatre/Media, Journalism) in 2017. She was enjoying this line of work when a serious incident changed her perspective.

"While she's fine now, my mum had a stroke four years ago. We took her to the hospital in Bathurst and I went in the helicopter with her to RPA in Sydney. She was thrombolysed and stable, but I stayed overnight next to her bed and then spent the next few days in Sydney with her.

"I had never really spent any time in hospital before, and I suddenly realised what doctors and nurses actually do and how amazing it is. The care that my mum received was incredible. I was just so impressed by all the health providers in Bathurst and at RPA. I talked with my dad about it and said, 'maybe I should be a nurse. I think that would be really fulfilling.' My dad looked at me and said, 'You know, you could be a doctor.'

"That was a huge moment of realisation, that I could actually apply for medicine. Then in 2020, by nature of COVID on theatre and live events, I lost my job at the Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre. That's when I decided to focus on applying for medicine."

Heidi is part of Charles Sturt's first Doctor of Medicine cohort. And like Heidi, many of the students have completed or partially completed a previous university qualification such as communication, law, dentistry, nursing or physiotherapy.

"I chose to study again at Charles Sturt because I'd been hearing about the School of Rural Medicine for a long time. I'd previously worked at Charles Sturt in events, so I was aware of the course coming and the amazing new buildings going up on campus.

"I had such an amazing experience the first time around, but mainly I think I probably wouldn't have applied for medicine if it hadn't been for the course offering in Orange. I really care about the rural experience, and I think Charles Sturt does as well. It doesn't just pay lip service to it. I wanted to study in a small cohort with other people who also care, and to be surrounded by like-minded people who are passionate about working in the regions."

For Heidi, the best part of the course is working with her fellow students, tutors who really care, and anatomy classes.

"I really love anatomy. Getting in and using the cadaver specimens is so fun. I thought it would be confronting and wasn't sure how I'd react, but we do a lot of groundwork. They really prepare us for our responses, so we can act ethically with the generous donations of cadavers.

"One thing that has surprised me about the course is how much the tutors care about you. They are working doctors who take time out to teach and support us, not only offering clinical experience. We're learning how to engage with people and communities sustainably and ethically. We get mentorship and personal guidance. I didn't realise how much work doctors put into training the next generation, but it's pretty special. I feel extremely privileged with the experience we get here in Orange."

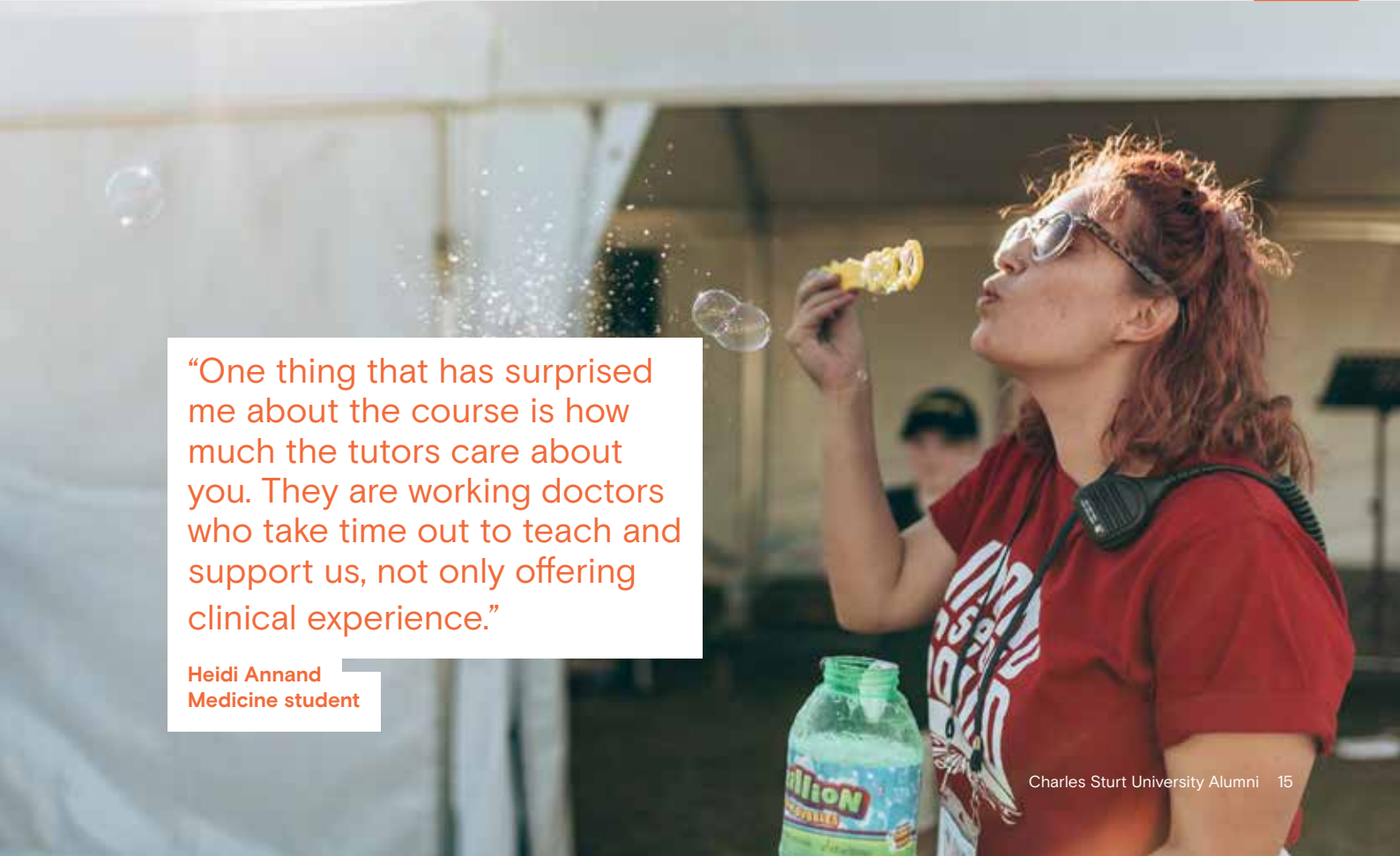
While she's only in the first year of a five-year undergraduate degree, Heidi is considering a career as a GP or rural generalist.

"I'm keen to go in that direction, being that first point of contact with healthcare for people and providing a holistic experience. I like the idea of following through with patients and having a lifelong connection with people in a health provision role. I'd love to work more rurally as well and spend time in remote Australia. I also have a particular interest in gynaecology and obstetrics.

"Knowing that the university lobbied so hard to get a medical school in the country to address rural medical shortages makes me feel like they're committing to yindymarra winhanganha, a motto I take seriously professionally and personally. I think the medical school is a visible commitment to creating a world worth living in, and becoming a doctor is the greatest form of activism I can do."

For more information

on the Doctor of Medicine, visit
→ study.csu.edu.au/medicine



"One thing that has surprised me about the course is how much the tutors care about you. They are working doctors who take time out to teach and support us, not only offering clinical experience."

Heidi Annand
Medicine student

Alumnigive



Giving back – it's what we do

You are Charles Sturt's greatest achievement. Your story, insight and talent can help future graduates realise their full potential.

The Alumnigive program provides alumni 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 addressed third-year students in a panel discussion. It was great to share and gain insights."

Adam Drummond
Bachelor of Arts
(Screen and Stage) 1996



Reddies celebrate 50 years

There was plenty to celebrate at the Reddies Rugby Club 50th Season Anniversary, with players old and new swapping stories of the club's history over the past 50 years.

Visitors travelled from Queensland, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania, regional NSW, Sydney and New Zealand to attend the celebrations.

The club has seen a number of name changes since its formation in 1972 as the Riverina College of Advanced Education, affectionally known as 'the chalkies', moved on to become the Riverina Murray Institute of Higher Education, then Rivcoll and now Charles Sturt University.

The celebrations kicked off with a meet and greet function at the Palm and Pawn Hotel on Friday evening, with everyone wearing something red.

Saturday saw the Reddies play Wagga City in four grades (first, second, third and women's) and Golden Oldies at their home ground Beres Ellwood Oval, before the anniversary dinner on Saturday evening at the Wagga RSL Club.

Celebrations wrapped up on Sunday with a recovery function at the Palm and Pawn Hotel.

"It was a great weekend celebrating rugby and our great club," said Graeme 'Dexter' Dutton, 1972 player.

"There is nothing like catching up with old mates, sharing a few quiet ales, trading stories and reminiscing about our old rugby playing days."

More than 250 players, officials and supporters attended the weekend celebrations, showing the rugby spirit still runs deep in the Reddies club.

The club's history has been captured in a four-part series on the Reddies 50th Season Anniversary Facebook page and in the 50th Season Anniversary book *Reddies Rugby, 50 seasons in the making*.



(L to R): Richard Hood, Leon Larson, Stuart Gordon and Matthew Conn.

(L to R): Michael Boneham, Glenn Punshon, Phil Jackson and Glenn Mullaney.

Winemaker of the year

Cate Looney's exceptional contribution to the wine industry, success at wine shows and her commitment to continued innovation of wine and winemaking has seen her crowned Winemaker of the Year 2020 at the prestigious Australian Women in Wine Awards.

Cate is the Senior Winemaker at Brown Family Wine Group and a Charles Sturt Bachelor of Wine Science graduate, and previous Ron Potter Scholar at the Charles Sturt winery.

The awards program, coordinated by The Fabulous Ladies Wine Society, celebrates Australian women in wine, acknowledges and rewards women's work in the wine industry and community leaders who champion equality and fairness for all sexes in the workplace. This is the only awards program for women in wine in the world.

Cate has been winemaking with the Brown Family Wine Group for 15 years and is the first team member to receive the top accolade from the Australian Women in Wine Awards.

"I am humbled to receive this award. My 15 years at Brown Family Wine Group has been amazing. I love the diversity. There is always something new and exciting happening with experimentation and innovation a constant in our daily operations. We have an experimental winery where we challenge the traditional, push the boundaries and experiment with new and different techniques, allowing us to respond to consumer demands through new product developments."

Ross Brown, Executive Director of Brown Family Wine Group said, "Cate is an amazing professional, a team player and generous coach in freely sharing knowledge and skills. Her intensely passionate drive in achieving excellence has seen Cate fashion wines at the highest level."

Before joining Brown Family Wine Group, Cate had worked in small wineries. When the opportunity to join Brown Family Wine Group was presented, Cate grabbed it, allowing her to grow her knowledge and experience working across a broad range of wines and winemaking techniques.

Cate's true passion for traditional method sparkling wine has seen her mark the industry as a leader in Moscato winemaking in Australia and is the driving force behind two of the most awarded Australian sparkling wines – the Patricia and Non-Vintage Pinot Noir Chardonnay.

Cate has also received recognition from industry leaders for her wine judging and mentoring of young women in the Australian wine industry.

As senior winemaker at Brown Family Wine Group, Cate manages a team of four winemakers, producing more than one million bottles of wine annually under brands including Brown Brothers, Innocent Bystander, Tamar Ridge and Devil's Corner.

Cate is the current Secretary of the Australian Sparkling Wine Show Committee and sits on the Charles Sturt University Wine Courses Industry Advisory Committee.

Chief Executive Officer, Brown Family Wine Group, Dean Carroll added, "Cate is an outstandingly understated achiever. This award is a thoroughly deserved acknowledgement for a brilliant contributor to Brown Family Wine Group and the greater industry."



Charles Sturt alumna off to a flying start in the thoroughbred industry



It seems Caitlin Smith was always destined to be involved in the racing industry. The 25-year-old has been riding horses since before she could walk and is the third generation of her family to undertake a career in the thoroughbred industry.

In 2019, the Charles Sturt Bachelor of Animal Science (Honours) graduate was awarded one of 12 scholarships to participate in the Godolphin Flying Start program.

Caitlin was the only person in the southern hemisphere to be awarded a scholarship. She joined the best young guns from the global thoroughbred industry, honing their management and leadership skills, while gaining experience international industry experience.

The Godolphin Flying Start program was founded in 2003 by Dubai's Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum. It's a two-year, full-time management and leadership training program, specialising in the international thoroughbred racing and breeding industry.

The program aims to recruit the most talented people globally, giving them professional training and experience, producing future industry leaders.

Caitlin said she feels privileged to have been selected for the program, "It's the opportunity that all young people in the racing industry aspire to achieve."

"The program provided me opportunities I may never have otherwise been able to experience, while increasing my understanding and networks across the international racing industry.

"It has allowed me to grow and refine my leadership and strategic thinking; skills that are invaluable for my future involvement in the industry."

As part of her two-year training program, Caitlin undertook practical training and visits, lectures and assignments in Ireland, the United Kingdom, the United States and Australia.

Caitlin graduated with her classmates via Zoom in July, receiving her diploma virtually by Godolphin Flying Start graduate and trustee Liza-Jane Graffard. Caitlin's fellow graduates are from the UK, Ireland, US, Argentina, France and Japan.

"While our experience has been different to other years due to COVID-19, my involvement in the Godolphin Flying Start program has been life changing – I wouldn't change it."

"I encourage anyone who is looking to pursue a career in the thoroughbred industry to think about applying. You will learn so much about not only the thoroughbred industry, but yourself. It will challenge you to grow personally and professionally."

"The program provided me opportunities I may never have otherwise been able to experience, while increasing my understanding and networks across the international racing industry."

Caitlin Smith
Bachelor of Animal Science
(Honours) 2019

Meet the 2021 Charles Sturt Alumni Award winners

The recipients of the Charles Sturt University Alumni Awards were announced as part of the university's Foundation Day celebrations.

With recipients from around the world representing our outstanding and diverse alumni, the group is testament to the impact that more than 230,000 Charles Sturt graduates are making in their communities every day.



Charles Sturt University Alumnus of the Year – Professional Achievement

Robin Boniwell

Chief Superintendent Rob Boniwell graduated in 2020 with a Master of Leadership and Management (Policing and Security). He is the Director of the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) State Operational Coordination Branch that coordinates all QFES resources during emergencies and disaster operations.



Charles Sturt University Alumnus of the Year – Professional Achievement (Research)

Balwinder Singh

Dr Balwinder Singh completed his PhD studies in 2012 and is currently working as research scientist with the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center, based in Kathmandu, Nepal. He is providing intellectual and technical leadership to priority areas including cropping systems design to build resilience, enhance profitability and permit diversification.



Charles Sturt University Alumnus of the Year – Service to the Community

Devika Fernando

Devika Fernando completed her MBA and Graduate Certificate in Organisational Change at Charles Sturt University online whilst living in Sri Lanka and Australia in 2018. Devika was instrumental in bringing two breast cancer nurses from Australia to Sri Lanka to train and educate 48 nurses throughout the island's provincial healthcare system, free of charge.



Charles Sturt University Alumnus of the Year – International Alumni

Boros Samheng

Boros Samheng graduated in 2018 with a master's in business management. He currently holds the position of Secretary of State within the Cambodian Ministry of Social Affairs. He is also Vice Chairman of the Executive Committee of Social Protection Council and Chairman of Social Assistance National Sub-Committee, reflecting his unwavering commitment to ensuring Cambodia's national evolution towards a fair and equitable society.



Charles Sturt University Young Alumnus of the Year

Tanya Hennessy

Tanya Hennessy graduated in 2007 with a Bachelor of Communication. She's an award-winning radio announcer, a celebrated and bestselling author, stand-up comedian, TV host and a social media maven.

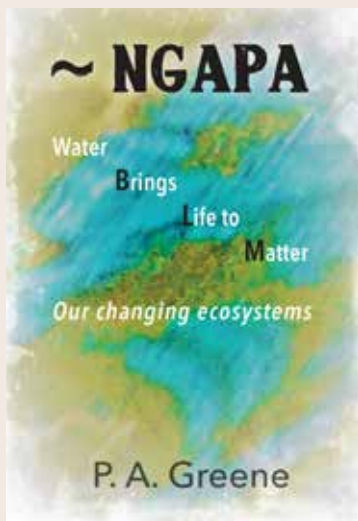


Charles Sturt University Alumnus of the Year – Indigenous Alumni

Peter Matsumoto

Peter Matsumoto graduated in 2016 with a Bachelor of Health Science (Mental Health). Peter supports his local First Nations community through counselling and gatherings that take place in a cultural way. He provides cultural awareness training to the non-Indigenous community to contribute towards building stronger understanding and connection between both the Indigenous and non-Indigenous community members.

Alumni authors



NAGAP ~ Water Brings Life to Matter: Our Changing Ecosystem

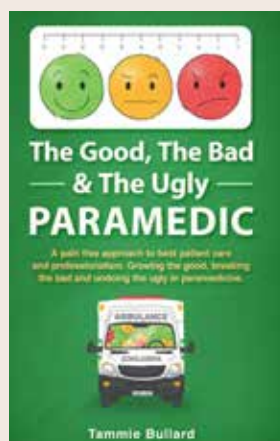
Dr Patricia Greene

Graduate Diploma of Ageing and Pastoral Studies (2013)

What can Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians hope to achieve in our walk together this century? The Uluru Statement from the Heart 2017 should see a treaty eventually become reality. Our future depends on the resolve to end that prolonged silence on our dark history; that began with colonisation when the bloodshed of massacres washed this land, of the psychological trauma of the stolen children, and human rights abuse. The next generation must become better informed – educated on what really matters.

William Stanner, an anthropologist, commented on the 'silence' maintained by Australian white society at the Boyer Lecture in the '60s. Rachel Perkins drew our attention to that again in the Boyer Lecture November 2019. A problem lies with our perception, how stereotypes perpetuate a racism deep within the national psyche, especially in older post-colonial Australians.

Dare we change our attitude so healing can begin?



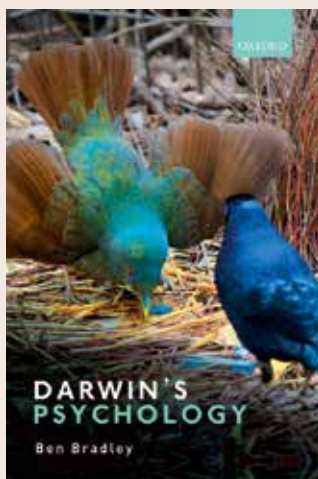
The Good, The Bad & The Ugly Paramedic

Tammie Bullard

Postgraduate Certificate in Intensive Care Paramedic Studies (2015)

In the current climate of increasing prehospital demand, it is more important than ever for paramedics to demonstrate optimum skill, safety and professionalism. With growing call volume, public scrutiny, legal liability and employer expectation often creating a sense of overwhelm, the ability to maintain these standards can begin to suffer. Find out how to evaluate your everyday practice using a simple, pain scale type approach. Remain at the top of your game, no matter where you're at in your career.

Using a friendly, conversational and inclusive format, *The Good, The Bad & The Ugly Paramedic* is an easy to follow book. Designed to be picked up, put down and picked back up again whenever and wherever no matter how time poor you may be. Written by a paramedic, specifically for paramedics and EMTs at every level. A relatable, scenario-based guide to growing the good, breaking the bad and undoing the ugly in all of us.



Darwin's Psychology

Ben Bradley

Professor Emeritus

Ben presents a Darwin new to contemporary science. It lights a way forward for those who seek to base psychology on the foundation of evolutionary biology, while challenging the misunderstandings and misrepresentations of Darwin's work current in biology and the social sciences.

The first book is dedicated to examining Darwin's extensive writings about agency, interdependence, and psychological matters. It proves that Darwin's psychology stands at the forefront of twenty-first century moves toward evolutionary biology in which organisms lead and genes follow.

What is most human about human agency flows from the fact we are what he called 'social animals,' whether we are talking about emotions, sexual desire, conscience, or culture, and thus, in developing this social approach, his work challenges the assumption that psychology can make sense as the study of individuals.



A Hacker I am Vol 2

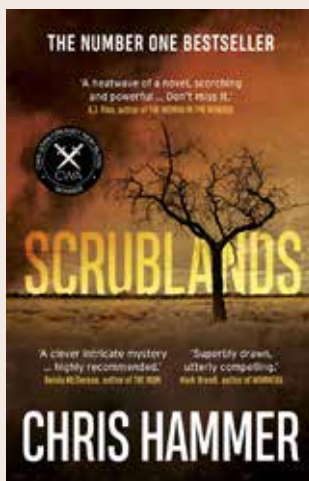
Craig Ford

Graduate Certificate in Management (Information Technology) 2014

Master of Management (Information Technology) 2016

Master of Information Systems Security 2019

This is the second book in the *A Hacker I Am* series. It is not your normal cybersecurity book – it's not meant to be read from front to back chapter by chapter – you open it up and pick which chapter piques your interest the most and read that one first. Then choose your next one and read that, and continue the process until you have finally read all of them. By all means though, if you want to stick to the old-fashioned method of reading a book, knock yourself out and read it from the front to the back. Hey, you bought the book. You should be able to read it however you want to. The book, as you would have probably guessed it by now, is all about cyber security, but it's not written to be overly technical. It's written so that it can be understood by anyone who wants to learn more about how to better protect themselves. This book will be great at helping introduce individuals to cyber security and help them get a better understanding of what to look out for, what problems we are all going to face in the future, and have a bit of fun while we are at it.



Scrublands

Chris Hammer

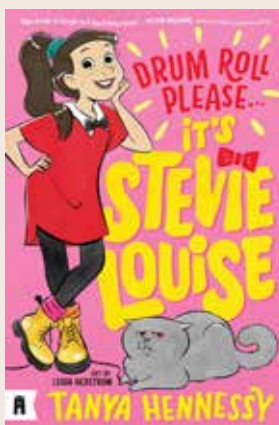
Bachelor of Arts Communication (Journalism) 1985

Set in a fictional Riverina town at the height of a devastating drought, *Scrublands* is one of the most powerful, compelling and original crime novels to be written in Australia.

In an isolated country town brought to its knees by endless drought, a charismatic and dedicated young priest calmly opens fire on his congregation, killing five parishioners before being shot dead himself.

A year later, troubled journalist Martin Scarsden arrives in Riversend to write a feature on the anniversary of the tragedy. But the stories he hears from the locals about the priest and incidents leading up to the shooting don't fit with the accepted version of events his newspaper reported in an award-winning investigation. Martin can't ignore his doubts, nor the urgings of some locals to unearth the real reason behind the priest's deadly rampage.

A compulsive thriller that will haunt you long after you have turned the final page.



Drum Roll Please, It's Stevie Louise

Tanya Hennessy

Bachelor of Arts (Communication – Theatre and Media) 2007

A delightfully funny and deeply relatable junior fiction story from one of Australia's most loved multi-media stars.

Meet Stevie Louise. She is an entrepreneur (that's like a businessperson), an entertainer (obviously), and an extrovert on the inside (wait, is this a thing?).

Stevie has a BRILLIANT PLAN. She's going to have fun, make money, and most importantly, make sure the Brooke Street kids stay best friends forever.

Then a new neighbour arrives and threatens to derail all Stevie's plans. And then real disaster strikes. But the show must go on. After all, Stevie is a professional.

From the war room to the boardroom

Garth Callender has travelled a remarkable road. The first Australian seriously wounded in the war in Iraq when his armoured vehicle was targeted by an insurgent bomb attack, Garth overcame both physical and mental trauma to be redeployed. He completed an MBA while in the army and is giving back to the veteran community.

For Garth, the link between the military and the business world is clear.

"In the military, you get given a problem and the resources to achieve the required end state. Then you build a plan around it, usually working backwards to engineer the best solution. There are so many parallels with the business world – strategy, project management, managing people.

"I saw those parallels and was looking for professional development, so the online MBA through Charles Sturt made sense. I completed my studies while posted all over the country and while deployed to Afghanistan, so online education worked for me.

"I graduated just as I stepped out of the army. Like most military people, it took me a while to find my feet, but I always had in my back pocket a business plan based on the premise that the military is good at teaching people how to make decisions. In Australia over the last 18 months, we have faced fires, floods and a pandemic, all perfect examples of why we need comprehensive solutions to often chaotic problems. I've been able to build a business around that thinking."

Garth is the managing director of Trebuchet Pivot, a consultancy practice specialising in risk advisory and crisis management. Now an accomplished company director, he provided compliance and governance advice to the Australian Student Veterans Association and is on the board of the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust. In October 2020, Garth was appointed Chair of Bravery Trust, a nationally operated charity that assists veterans to recover from financial hardship.

"I didn't ever see myself being a leader in the veteran community. I've just fallen into that space. I was injured in Iraq in 2004 and my life was saved by the group of fellow soldiers. I've been lucky. I've got a few scars, but none that slow me down. Importantly, I feel an obligation to make sure I look after people, particularly fellow soldiers, to who I owe so much.



Garth also hopes to encourage and promote veterans by paving the way for others to transition into civilian working life.

"I think there are a lot of stereotypes about people from the military, some negative. Often employers don't necessarily make connections between military skills and the jobs they're offering. I hope the work I do with boards and executive teams across the country is helping break down some of those stereotypes."

After leaving the full-time army, Garth wrote *After the Blast*, which chronicled the events in his deployments and won the Nib Military History Literary Prize in 2016.

"I saw those parallels and was looking for professional development, so the online MBA through Charles Sturt made sense. I completed my studies while posted all over the country and while deployed to Afghanistan, so online education worked for me."

Garth Callender
Graduate Certificate in Commerce
2007 Master of Business
Administration 2011





I love a sunburnt country,
A land of sweeping plains,
Of ragged mountain ranges,
Of droughts and flooding rains.
I love her far horizons,
I love her jewel-sea,
Her beauty and her terror –
The wide brown land for me!

Dorothea Mackellar (1885–1968)

Appreciation of our amazing country

Many may never have read the entire poem or the above verse yet know the words from Dorothea Mackellar's most famous poem. Why?

This is the subject of Charles Sturt PhD candidate Sharyn Anderson's thesis, exploring the way people think about their country, what they believe is truly Australian, and how people express their love for their homeland.

"Dorothea's words of praise for her country have passed into our everyday speech, but often we are unaware of the origin of these words and phrases. The striking poetic images have passed from a poem to become part of our language, expressing the things most important to us," Sharyn explained.

Dorothea Mackellar lived her entire life in Sydney, writing poetry and novels with the large majority of her writing unknown to modern readers. In 2017, her contribution to literature was globally recognised, when she became the first Australian writer recognised by UNESCO, with her manuscript copy of *My Country* added to the Australian Memory of the World Register.

Although Dorothea Mackellar resided in Sydney, her passion for the Australian outback shone through in her writing. Dorothea frequented her family property Kurrumbede near Gunnedah, NSW, working the station alongside family members, with these experiences reflected in her poetry.

Expert opinion beyond doctoral studies

The Mackellar family property is now owned by Whitehaven Coal. The company recently applied to the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to extend the mine and infrastructure to close proximity (within 300m) of the family homestead.

With many community organisations opposing the application, Sharyn was asked to provide an expert opinion by the grassroots organisation Lock the Gate to the Independent Planning Commission (IPC).

"This is where my concentrated study associated with my doctoral pursuits comes in handy,

"I submitted an experts report to the IPC in 2020, followed by an oral report earlier this year. I argued that we must protect the property on historical and cultural grounds given Dorothea's contribution to Australian literature, developed and enhanced by her time spent at Kurrumbede."

"Sadly, the IPC ruled that Whitehaven can extend the mine and infrastructure, under strict guidelines. But the good news is that the Kurrumbede homestead and its immediate surrounds will be preserved."

Dorothea Mackellar understood the true value of the land and loved its landscape. She valued the environment of the Liverpool Plains and the Namoi River and treasured her time spent at Kurrumbede.

'Core of my heart' Dorothea wrote. 'Core of my heart, my country!' as she watched her 'sunburnt country' and 'land of sweeping plains' unfold around her – beautiful, sustaining and timeless.

Sharyn is supervised by Dr Joy Wallace and Dr Lachlan Brown from Charles Sturt's School of Social Work and Arts in the Faculty of Arts and Education.

Teaching gives Spencer lessons for life

With a career spanning more than five decades, educator Spencer Harvey taught students from kindergarten through to university. Recognised for his service and commitment to education, Spencer says some of his biggest life lessons came from his students.

Spencer never dreamed of becoming a teacher.

"When I did my Leaving Certificate at 16, I had a Commonwealth scholarship to do a science degree at university, but it was out of reach financially. Then, out of the blue, they opened up a new teachers' college in Bathurst and offered full board and lodging plus a living allowance. It was an offer you couldn't refuse.

"My time at Bathurst Teachers' College taught me the most important thing – that teaching was for me."

Since graduating in 1952, Spencer has taught K-12 across various NSW schools, TAFE, university and with the University of the Third Age. One of his jobs was lecturer at Charles Sturt, educating student teachers.

"The students at university who had made a conscious decision that teaching was the life for them were the easiest to teach.

"Two groups stand out. Mature-aged students who were at uni while caring for a family, and younger students who were forced to take multiple part-time jobs to enable them to study. The dedication of these students convinced me that they would develop into great teachers.

"But I have to say that teaching boys at the Anglewood School for Truants at Burradoo was the most enjoyable time of my career, probably because it was the last time in my career that I could concentrate solely on teaching.

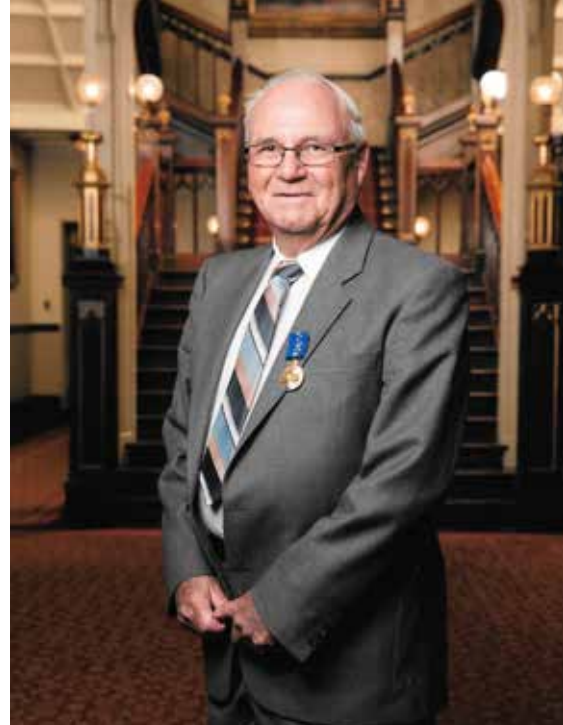
"In less than a year, these boys who initially hated anything to do with school worked hard and returned to society with the Intermediate Certificate, which in those days was very helpful in securing a job.

"Teaching is not about standing up at the front and telling kids things. It's about enthusing them and getting them to want to learn. My students taught me that the most important activity going on in the classroom is not teaching. It's learning."

In 2001, Spencer was named a Charles Sturt University Distinguished Alumnus, and in 2014 received the Medal of the Order of Australia for Services to Education and the Community.

"It was the same feeling with both awards – I was absolutely thrilled not so much for myself but for the fact that a teacher would be recognised this way.

"Teachers aren't always respected throughout the community as they should be. These awards recognised teaching and how wonderful it is."



Celebrating lifelong connection

From teacher training through to his appointment as Dean of Studies in 1989, Dr Henry Gardiner has had a strong connection with Charles Sturt for close to 70 years.

Born in Yoogali (near Griffith) in 1934, Dr Henry Gardiner was schooled at Yoogali Village School and Griffith High School. He undertook his initial tertiary education at the Wagga Teachers College – a predecessor institution of Charles Sturt University – in 1953–54.

Employed as a teacher from 1955 to 1963, Henry worked across primary and secondary schools in remote, rural and regional towns and cities of NSW before taking on a position as lecturer at the Wagga Teachers' College from 1964 to 1969.

He moved onto roles with a number of other Charles Sturt predecessor institutions, first at Goulburn Teachers' College, and was there as it transitioned to the Goulburn College of Advanced Education in positions as head of school, vice-principal and principal.

Henry returned to the Riverina in 1982, to the Riverina College of Advanced Education and then the Riverina Murray Institute of Higher Education as assistant principal, then dean of studies, including Dean of Murray Campus. His roles in institutions that grew into Charles Sturt University saw him appointed dean of studies from 1989 until his retirement in 1994.

Apart from the few years of the Whitlam era when tertiary education was free, all of his post-secondary education – bachelor's, master's and PhD – was undertaken on scholarships. Without this financial assistance, Henry says there is no way he would have been able to study or successfully complete a college or university qualification and embark on a satisfying subsequent career.

For more than 20 years Henry chaired Academic Boards at our Colleges of Advanced Education and was deputy chair of the Charles Sturt University Academic Senate from 1989 to 1994. He helped steer the newly formed university into the concept of cross-campus faculties that we have today and performed the duties of Esquire Bedell at graduation ceremonies for many years. He was awarded a Companion of Charles Sturt University in 2014.

Alongside his work within education, Henry is an honorary life member and past president of the Wagga Historical Society, served as Museum of the Riverina Committee Chair, and is a committed and active Rotarian.

Henry recently moved to Merimbula to be closer to family. We celebrate his many contributions to our university and wish him all the best in this new chapter.



The gift of learning

A generous scholarship bequest from the Andren family, has been helping journalism students achieve their educational goals since 2011.



Receiving the Peter Andren Memorial Scholarship was an amazing vote of confidence, says 2012 recipient Brodie Owen.

"It was someone telling me that I was on the right path and my efforts weren't going unnoticed – a huge honour. Peter Andren was an admirable man. He loved his community, and his community loved him. Receiving the scholarship took some of the pressure off study".

Peter Andren was a significant figure who forged a career in the communication and media profession, and later had a very successful political career. He was known to have always stood up for the people he represented.

Brodie said he feels he is continuing Peter's legacy, "Whenever I tap away at my keyboard, or I'm writing a story, I always think how it is going to make a difference and give a loudhailer to those who need it most".

Brodie is passionate about making a difference in people's lives, "I want to make society a better place to live".

One of the unforeseen benefits that Brodie said stemmed from receiving the scholarship was the favourable reaction from employers during job interviews. Brodie believes that although it wasn't the only factor, it certainly helped him get his first job out of university.

Every gift we receive makes a difference to our university and future generations of students. If you choose to remember Charles Sturt University in your Will, please accept our sincere thanks for your foresight and generosity.

For further information

Please contact Kirstie Grady, Advancement Services and Development Officer on 02 6338 4834 or kgrady@csu.edu.au



Creating a lasting legacy

Leaving a bequest requires careful deliberation. Your decision will provide you with an opportunity to provide something powerful which will affect generations to come. By making a bequest to Charles Sturt University, you can create a legacy and make an enduring contribution to the advancement of teaching, research and learning. The gift can honour you, your family or someone close to you for generations to come.

Before making a bequest, we recommend that you speak to your solicitor, legal professional or trustee to help ensure you have a valid Will that achieves what you intend. For those with an existing Will, you will need to have your legal professional add a codicil to your present Will outlining your donation to Charles Sturt University.

To ensure that your planned giving has impact for many years to come, we suggest that a bequest is worded in a way that allows for institutional and societal changes. What appears simple and unambiguous today may not make the same sense as time progresses. Your legal professional will be able to assist you through this process.

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. We hope that our events program can be implemented in 2021, but know you'll understand that circumstances can change due to COVID-19.



Pinot & Picasso

Pinot & Picasso will allow you to take on some of the basic (and some more advanced) techniques of painting on canvas, in a hassle-free, approachable and collaborative setting.

Enjoy a night of wine and painting as an expert Pinot & Picasso host delivers a session with comprehensive step-by-step instruction with plenty of room left for your inner-Picasso to run wild. By the end of the night, even all you 'non-creatives' will be taking home your very own Picasso!

Wagga Wagga
POSTPONED

Orange
POSTPONED

Port Macquarie
POSTPONED

Dubbo
POSTPONED

Networking event	What's on	Where	When
Henty Machinery Field Days Alumni VIP Event	Join us for a VIP alumni event at southern Australia's single biggest agricultural event, the Henty Machinery Field Days. The agribusiness super event, attracts more than 60,000 visitors each year.	Henty	POSTPONED until 2022
Vivid Sydney Harbour Cruise	Vivid Sydney warms the soul of Sydney with light artists, music makers and brilliant thinkers. Spark your sense of wonder and come out to play as Sydney transforms into a playground of the unexpected. New dates announced, stay tuned for program updates!	Sydney	POSTPONED until 2022
Archie Rose's Gin Masterclass	Stay connected with your alma mater with Archie Rose's selection of virtual experiences. Choose from a selection of Archie Rose's cocktails and a virtual cocktail masterclass from the comfort of your home.	Online	September
Virtual Run	It's back! After the success of last year's event, we are running our online run/walk/ride event. This is your chance to check in with yourself and your loved ones. Get outside and enjoy the sunshine while you give back to future students.	Online	December

Writing for *Law and Order: SVU* and the opportunities in between



Micharne Cloughley shares how studying with Charles Sturt gave her the skills and confidence to pursue a career that's taken her to a popular television series in New York City.

Charles Sturt Bachelor of Arts (Television Production) alumna Micharne has forged a successful international career entertaining and inspiring others. She didn't realise that one day she would make stage and screen productions professionally, culminating in a writing role with hit television drama *Law and Order: SVU*.

"From literally the first week of the course, we were in the TV studio on campus, rotating through the different roles, learning how to do different jobs. While I was studying, I think we spent at least half of our workload planning, filming or editing TV productions. That volume of practical time, making content, is unique."

The practical nature of the course allowed Micharne to explore her creative voice, and she credits the teaching staff with giving her the ability to test her creative limits. Her first major production, a short film called *Lost Weight*, was one of the more abstract ideas she pitched, but it was the one she was encouraged to pursue.

"With some years behind me now, I very much appreciate their support of my creative voice. I was inspired by all my teachers at Charles Sturt."

Micharne's career highlights include writing a play with music entitled *The Way They Live* with theatre company The Civilians, which was performed in The Metropolitan Museum of Art. The Civilians was the first theatre company to be in residence in the museum. The project also allowed Micharne the opportunity to work with the late Michael Friedman.

In 2016, she was the Creative Arts Fellow at the National Library of Australia where she developed a play, *A Dream Panel of Real Women*, using the oral histories of Hazel de Berg. In moving from theatre to television, her first writing job was on the hit television show *Law and Order: SVU*.

When Micharne is not in the writing process of an episode, she is on set at iconic locations in New York, such as Times Square or Central Park.

"*Law and Order: SVU* has an incredible legacy of bringing light to the stories of survivors of sexual assault. To be a part of that legacy is a privilege. Theatre was my first love but the creative possibilities of TV, in my opinion, are currently unmatched by any other medium. The volume of your audience, your potential influence on the culture of the moment and the speed at which what you write is then broadcast is unparalleled."

Micharne advises students to be clear on their career goals but be open to other opportunities that present themselves along the way.

"Don't forget that working hard is as much about focus and energy as it is about the number of hours you spend on a project."

"Your career is built with each day of work you do, so do your best every single day."

"Choose to be excellent."

"With some years behind me now, I very much appreciate their support of my creative voice. I was inspired by all my teachers at Charles Sturt."

Micharne Cloughley
Bachelor of Arts (Television
Production) 2003



Charles Sturt
University

Introducing the Alumni Podcast



Featuring world leaders in speech pathology, creatives using their skills for social good, and an IT expert tackling natural disasters.

Listen now on SoundCloud

Make it rain – relief for regional students

At Charles Sturt University, we have our roots firmly in regional Australia.

Across three decades, we have contributed to the health, wealth and prosperity of our communities. We've helped to generate agricultural sustainability and provide access to professional education and services. We support research for the development of powerful communities and direct economic impact.

We also know the uniquely regional challenges that can have an impact on a student's ability to attend university. Bushfires and drought, limited financial support, and being the first-in-family can impact a student's capacity to study at uni.

Through our work with students directly impacted by drought, we heard time and again of the need for students to be close to the family property. Students needed to be there to assist with hand feeding stock, and there was a diminishing opportunity for other work in the community. So using generous donations provided by individuals, companies and organisations, the Charles Sturt Foundation established the Rural Relief Scholarship.

Six \$5,000 scholarships were awarded to students from farming families or rural communities whose ability to attend or complete university was being impacted by ongoing drought conditions.

Learn more → csu.edu.au/scholarships

Elizabeth Bilton, physiotherapy student and scholarship recipient

“I am writing to thank you for offering me the Charles Sturt Foundation Rural Relief Scholarship. Words can't begin to let you know how truly grateful I am. My family has been greatly affected by the drought, which has been relentless over the past two years. The scholarship will enable me to purchase a new laptop and textbooks. Importantly, it will also allow me to continue to help my family with feeding cattle and I don't feel pressured to find a part-time job.”

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.



Professor Nick Klomp

Positions: Lecturer, School of Applied Science, School of Agricultural and Wine Sciences
Head of School, Environmental and Information Sciences, and Dean, Faculty of Science

Campus: Albury-Wodonga

Years at Charles Sturt University: 1992–2012

How would you describe your time at Charles Sturt University?

My time at Charles Sturt was informative and an important step in my career. During my time at Charles Sturt my knowledge and understanding of the higher education system increased and it gave me the opportunity to develop my career in both research and teaching.

But more importantly was developing an understanding of the significance of regional universities. Regional universities are often one of the biggest employers in a region and drive the local economy. They have a strong connection with the local community.

When I accepted the job at Charles Sturt, I thought I would be there for three years, and I ended up staying for 20 years! The opportunities were immense.

Standout memory from your time at Charles Sturt?

For me the standout memories are the people, their positive attitudes and ability to make things happen.

Other standout memories are my involvement in the development and building of the environmentally sustainable Thurgoona campus, developing courses in dentistry and physiotherapy at the Orange campus, and the development of the initial courses at the Port Macquarie campus.

What have you been up to since you left?

When I left Charles Sturt at the start of 2012, I took up the position of Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic at the University of Canberra. I held this position for seven years before moving to CQ University as Vice-Chancellor and President. I am also the current Chair of the Regional University Network.



Fred Goldsworthy

Positions: Lecturer in English and Communication

Head of School Visual and Performing Arts

Campus: Wagga Wagga

Years at Charles Sturt University: 1972–2001

How would you describe your time at Charles Sturt University?

My time spent at Charles Sturt was busy but exciting, building new subjects and courses, creating and servicing study centres in Griffith and Albury, and building important relationships with Wagga. As part of promoting Rivcol's presence in the Riverina, I got to host a 13-week television program on RVN2 titled *Effective Communication*.

As part of my focus on film, first as a useful aspect in teaching literature and then as subject focus itself, I was engaged by the local Wagga newspaper *The Daily Advertiser* to write a weekly film page. I continued to write for newspaper for 22 years! This led to me getting journalist accreditation to both the Cannes and Venice Film Festivals that provided exciting forays abroad.

I also attended the Sydney Film Festival each year. As a result, combined with my film studies background, I was engaged as an Adjunct Lecturer at Boston University. This saw me teach credit classes in Australian Film that involved lectures and seminar discussions on festival films.

Standout memory from your time at Charles Sturt?

When I think back to my rich and rewarding time at Rivcol and Charles Sturt, it is the people I think of. Wonderful colleagues and co-workers including Hugh Crago, David Gilbey, Frank Molloy, Colin Anderson, Vicki Kendall, Ken Page, Ron Cerabona, Ross Chambers, Anna Bounds, Lillian Jones, Ray Goodlass, John Saunders and, of course, the boss Cliff Blake.

What you been up to since you left?

I retired in 2001 but continued to live in Wagga. One of the most memorable times after my retirement was travelling to Ireland with my wife in 2005 for the marriage of our son, and then walking the Camino across Spain. I'll be 80 in a month. How did I get there? It's easy. keep smiling and wait.



Bruce Pennay

Position: Lecturer in Screen and Film, School of Performing and Visual Arts

Campus: Albury-Wodonga

Years at Charles Sturt: 1976–1998

How would you describe your time at Charles Sturt University?

Sometimes exciting and funny, sometime frustrating, but rarely tedious. I started at Goulburn College of Advanced Education in 1976, then moved to the Albury-Wodonga campus of Riverina College of Advanced Education, before it became Charles Sturt University in 1983.

Standout memory from your time at Charles Sturt?

I have vivid memories of the amalgamation of the Goulburn and Riverina Colleges of Education. A few of the former Goulburn staff who moved to Wagga or Albury still gather once a year for a morning tea or lunch catch up. We call ourselves 'Goulburn relics'.

There were several exciting memories including when we were told that we were going to become a university. Similarly, I have a vivid memory of being told we were acquiring a green fields campus at Thurgoona.

Memories I am grateful for include being told that the university was naming a building after me on the Albury-Wodonga campus and being told by the vice-chancellor that I was to be made an honorary Doctor of Arts.

What have you been up to since you left?

I have not really left. I am still here 45 years after I started in 1976, as an active adjunct.

Until the COVID-19 pandemic, I was still going to my office each day to carry out self-imposed research and community engagement duties. I have completed professional consultancy work in heritage and a lot of regional local history projects, especially in the field of post-war immigration.

I struggle with emptying my staff office of files, books and journals. Which do I keep? Which can I hoist on to someone else? Which go to the tip?



Plumtree CEO Sylvana Mahmic and Melinda Stevenson sit in the backyard of the plumtree house Melinda helped purchased in her volunteer treasurer role.

Paying it forward keeps legacy alive

Since graduating with a Bachelor of Business (Accounting), Melinda Stevenson has had a range of roles, including CEO of her own business advisory company. Throughout it all, she has found ways to give back, driven by the example of a generous uncle.

Melinda grew up in the Philippines until her family was sponsored to come to Australia.

"My uncle and aunty sponsored us to come here. They paid for everything, and we stayed with them for a few years until my parents could afford to rent a house.

"One time, my uncle and I were having a heart-to-heart talk and he said, 'look, we brought you here, but it's up to you to do what you want to do with your life. If you can pay it forward, then it's up to you to pay it forward.' I was really touched by that, so I took it upon myself to pay it forward ever since to keep my dearest uncle's legacy alive beyond his lifetime and mine."

Melinda sponsored her cousin and her immediate family to come to Australia. She also provides donations to a school and orphanage in the Philippines and St. Vincent's Hospital Sydney Palliative Care Department, where her uncle was cared for during the final weeks of his life.

For the past 12 years, Melinda has also volunteered as treasurer of Plumtree, a not-for-profit providing support for children aged from birth to eight years with a developmental delay or disability.

Melinda has used her business and accounting knowledge to assist Plumtree to undergo significant expansion and helped to diversify income streams. These contributions were recognised when the Plumtree CEO nominated Melinda for a Distinguished Alumni Award in 2020 and 2021.

"I felt so honoured to be nominated. I have always found the role as treasurer personally rewarding and am grateful for the opportunity to give back.

"I'm on a mission to keep paying it forward. I'm fortunate to be doing something I love and think it's only fitting to give back to the community by supporting good causes, great people and inspiring ideas."

Melinda is also a contributor to business magazines and writes extensively about issues that affect small business owners.



From scholarship to Sky News and back again

Elise Holman loves news. As Deputy Head of News at Sky News, Elise is responsible for assuring the quality of news content across multiple channels, including Sky News, FOX Sports News, Sky News Weather, Sky NewsExtra and Sky News Regional.

"I love news and I really love TV. As a journalist at heart, there's nothing more satisfying than seeing a really good story air."

Elise's passion for journalism was evident early. She studied a Bachelor of Arts (Communication – Journalism), making the most of opportunities to sink her teeth into journalism and hosting sports programs. She also contributed to panel shows on 2MCE, Charles Sturt's radio station. Early in her second year, Elise applied for a Sky News Scholarship, which offered a four-week internship.

"The internship was mid-2008, just before the Beijing Olympic Games. I won the scholarship and internship, and being very busy with the Olympics they needed some extra help.

"After those initial four weeks, I was offered casual work through the Games. I worked 15 days straight before I went back to campus. That worked well because they offered me weekend casual work and I was then offered a job as a producer/reporter in sport at Sky News."

Elise worked at Sky News for five years before taking a job in Qatar at Al Jazeera as sports editor. Upon returning to Australia, she ran FOX Sports News before taking up her current position.

"Receiving the scholarship in 2008 changed the trajectory of my career. It provided me direct contact with the industry I wouldn't have had otherwise. I was able to apply for this scholarship, and the news director of Sky News gave me the contact of the head of sport, saying, 'Call him, come and do your internship'. And that was the starting point."

Today, Elise provides the same opportunity to students through her Sky News Scholarship program involvement.

"I'm determined to make the program a success. I have a vested interest, and I know the benefit this scholarship had for me, so if I can in some way impart that same benefit on other students, I'm really happy to do so."

"Receiving the scholarship in 2008 changed the trajectory of my career. It provided me direct contact with the industry I wouldn't have had otherwise. I was able to apply for this scholarship, and the news director of Sky News gave me the contact of the head of sport, saying, 'Call him, come and do your internship'."

Elise Holman
Bachelor of Arts
(Communication –
Journalism) 2009



A message from Wagga Wagga Teachers' College

Teaching is never dull and continually throws up new challenges. Some of our scholarship graduates have shared some recent experiences with us.

Katelyn Rudd, who received a scholarship in 2017, has been teaching at a Catholic school in Picton. In addition to COVID-19, Picton was in the Black Summer fire zone and was threatened with floods when the Warragamba Dam overflowed in March. The school suffered a devastating flood in 2016 and, while the school escaped damage this time, routines were disrupted with early finishes and sandbagging classrooms. Katelyn writes:

"I have started a new position recently in my school in Picton. My school is one of ten schools within the Catholic Education Diocese of Wollongong chosen to participate in the 2021 COVID-19 Intensive Learning Support Program.

"The program will provide extra support for students with the greatest learning needs, following the disruptions caused by the pandemic and other natural disasters in 2020.

"The purpose of the program is to deliver targeted and intensive small-group tuition support to students. This has involved me working closely with the assistant principal, my colleagues and other persons of support to deliver small group support to students in Stage 2 across reading, writing and mathematics.

"Whilst this has had its challenges as it has not been done before, it has involved designing and building something completely new, so it has been exciting to be behind such initiatives and programs, realising that children, while resilient, have also suffered through COVID-19.

"Speaking to classroom teachers, they have already noticed some positive improvements so I look forward to seeing what the rest of the year brings for these students."

It is encouraging to see schools responding to the challenges thrown up by a hostile environment. We caught up with Molly Darrington (2018 recipient) in Narrandera while on a road trip. She is teaching Year 3 this year after Year 5/6 last year and is enjoying the challenge.

An additional challenge for Molly and her class has been having mice in the classroom through the plague this year. An uncomfortable experience for teacher and pupils!

As we expected, Molly is very much involved in the local community, especially playing and assisting in the administration of several sports. Molly had finished helping out at the canteen at netball following her game when we met.

Because of COVID-19 lockdowns last year, Renee Antill and Jack Catanzariti did not experience a scholarship presentation at Charles Sturt. Jack and Renee have teaching positions in Albury and are enjoying the opportunities they have without making light of the challenges of everyday teaching.

Renee is working at James Fallon High teaching English/history, while Jack has kindergarten at Albury North. When we met them for lunch they were both looking forward to attending their graduation ceremony in Wagga Wagga.

Mice had not invaded Albury but Renee related how brown snakes had come into Baranduda Primary School, near Wodonga, during her placement last year. Jack's class is incubating hen's eggs which is less threatening.

Mandy Reid, 2019, lives in Grenfell, where there is a wonderful piece of silo art featuring rural scenes. Mandy teaches at the small school at nearby Caragabal. Students at the school were encouraged to research local birds from the local environment and choose several to be included in an art display. The students enjoyed the project and the art work is displayed on the walls of a shed on the main road. Well worth seeing.

It is fascinating to see that nature influences education in both positive and negative ways and that young teachers are meeting the challenges.



Warm welcome for new alumni chapter president

We extend a warm welcome to Jeffrey Chan as the new president of our Hong Kong chapter.

Jeffrey completed his high schooling and a Diploma of Business in Hong Kong before moving to Australia in the late 1980s to study a Bachelor of Business at Charles Sturt University in Bathurst. Excelling in accounting and economics subjects, he managed to fast-track his degree to finish in two years.

Jeffrey's career began as an auditor for Deloitte Hong Kong, followed by management roles with Hutchison Whampoa, Royal Dutch Shell and Triumph, and increasingly more experience in global markets.

Looking to use his vast experience to help companies take their business to the international stage, he founded his own company with an international network of fintech, virtual technology and professional firms to provide a shared resources finance service. Services ranged from CFO to daily accountant roles.

Jeffrey was the president of CPA Australia, Greater China Division and is an Honorary Adviser to the Divisional Council. For the past eight years, Jeffrey has been involved with the Hong Kong Chapter of the Charles Sturt Alumni Association, and was happy to take on the role of president.

"My campus life in Bathurst had a profound impact on me, in terms of learning and in life. It was an important part of my life and I like to contribute back when I have the opportunity."

Jeffrey's immediate plan is to encourage greater involvement from alumni and an enhanced network.

"We want to link up with more alumni here and increase participation. We also want to link up more with our alumni and relevant professional bodies across south-east Asia."

"I look forward to enhancing the reputation of Charles Sturt University and the alumni through its global network and helping it to be seen as one of the esteemed universities for the new generation to join."

Charles Sturt University's Director, Advancement Office, Sarah Ansell paid tribute to long-serving outgoing president, Samuel Tung.

"Sam is a friend and colleague who has shown enormous dedication to his role as president, and to the university. We thank him for his many contributions. We also warmly welcome Jeffrey into the role and look forward to seeing where he takes things."

For further information

on joining or starting an alumni chapter, contact: alumni@csu.edu.au

Lost alumni

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

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

Aaron Rutledge	Beryl Gale	Garry Potts	Jodie Wilson
Aaron Wallace	Brendon Kerr	George Diakos	Joel Breaden
Aaron Mason	Brett Matthews	George Yee Joy	John Podvorec
Adam Aitken	Bruce Camm	Gerard Hicks	John Mason
Adrienne English	Campbell Finlay	Glen Davis	John Brassil
Ahmed Noman	Caroline Croker	Glen Braithwaite	John Henry
Aimee Kent	Carolyn Davies	Graeme Riddle	Jonathan Wright
Alan Mott	Catherine Halmai	Graeme Poules	Joseph Kazzi
Alison Robinson	Catherine Harris	Graham Bennett	Joshua Cam
Alyce Daniher	Chang-Sok Song	Grant Fleet	Joshua Martin
Amanda Smith	Charles Work	Grant O'Neill	Joshua Stewart
Amelia Burbury	Charles Rillstone	Gregory Holman	Joshua Makari
Amy Lamont	Cheryl Taylor	Gregory Bennett	Joshua Schooling
Amy Leslie	Christopher Collins	Gregory Doran	Joshua Windley
Amy Walkley	Christopher Maylea	Hayden Govers	Karen Schropp
Amy Robertson	Christopher Chow	Hayley Gassman	Karen Richards
Amy Irwin	Christopher Barnett	Hayley Walton	Kari-Lee Harris
Amy Castle	Cindy Robinson	Hollie Kinning	Karyn Payne
Anderson Lessing	Corinne Eastley	Hooi Choo	Kate Fletcher
Andre Korchagin	Corrin McPherson	Huang Jung-Hsing	Kate Larsen
Andre Ross	Craig Miners	Iain Adcock	Katherine Jackson
Andrew Astfalck	Craig Grigson	Iain Houlford	Katherine Todd
Andrew Fiddian	Daniel McIndoe	Ian Kegg	Kathini Harris
Andrew Greenwood	Daryl Mitchell	Irene Stabelos	Kathryn Howard
Andrew Hodgson	David Kingdom	Jalam Glossop	Kathy Madden
Andrew McKelvie	David Milne	James Trumbley	Katrina Murray
Andrew Parsons	David Cox	James Donnelly	Katrina Stevens
Andrew Lowther	David Moore	James Irwin	Kautil Mileng
Andrew Connell	David Busch	Jane Bray	Kayla Stone
Angella MacKay	David Edwards	Jane-Anne Denison	Keith McKay
Anika Molesworth	David Barrett	Jasmin Kilpatrick	Kelly Glazer
Anna Zajac	David Rowe	Jason Peters	Kerry Summerfield
Annalise Cheney	Dean Stanley	Jason Angus	Kevin Bloomfield
Anne French	Dennis Rider	Jason Fuller	Kevin Dawson
Anne Ferfolya	Dennis Reid	Jason Kirby	Kim Hefren-Webb
Annette Outtrim	Derek Hopson	Jay Corrin	Kim Toohey
Annette Ryan	Desley Valentine	Jayeshkumar Panchal	Kirstin Cox
Annie Wilson	Dinesh Rajendiran	Jeff Stoward	Kozan Ismail
Anthony Bogaerts	Dionne Greening	Jeffrey Boon	Kresimir Andrakovic
Anthony Thornton	Edward Jausnik	Jeffrey Gould	Kristijan Juric
Anthony Cashman	Elizabeth Ford	Jeffrey Walsh	Kristy Madden
Anthony Whyte	Elizabeth Koschitzke	Jenney Cai-Xia Xia	Kuldeep Raghav
Anthony Ivcevic	Elizabeth Harvey	Jennifer Clissold	Kyle Williams
Arron Lindsay	Ellen Agustin	Jennifer Downing	Kylie Masutti-Mills
Ashley Bold	Emily Parker	Jennifer Wilson	Lachlan McCabe
Ashley Keegan	Emily Woods	Jeremy Carr	Lachlan Tancred
Ashley Wotherspoon	Emma Davis	Jessica Raymond	
Barbara Hindson	Erin Hudson	Jessica Syne	
Barton Crowd	Evan Facey	Jillian Hebels	
Belinda Potter	Francisco Eugenio	Jocelyn Ledger	
Benjamin Hawes	Gareth Gilgunn	Jodie Wilson	



Charles Sturt
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