

# Thrive



**NEW COURSE**  
Islam in the contemporary world

**SMALL PIECE OF THE PUZZLE**  
Better understanding of pancreatic cancer

**STUDENTS WITH HEART**  
RAISING FUNDS FOR DEFIBRILLATORS

**CHEERING THEM ON: CSU STARS SHINE IN RIO**



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### ON THE COVER

Alicia Quirk created history as part of the first-ever team awarded an Olympic Gold in women's rugby sevens, joining fellow student Nicole Beck on the dais.

A former Australian Touch Football player, 'Quirky' debuted in the Australian Rugby Sevens team in London in 2012 playing fly half. Originally from Wagga Wagga, Alicia is often billed as one of the fittest players in women's rugby.

Last year was a big year for Alicia, who was crowned a world champion in May, won an Olympic Gold in August and graduated with her Bachelor of Physiotherapy in December.

She describes graduation as a big relief. "I had to make a decision back in 2013 to fully commit to the ARU (Australian Rugby Union) program and put my university studies on hold. It was a small sacrifice for the reward of a gold medal, but I always wanted to finish my degree because it is also something else I am very passionate about. I'm looking forward to seeing where I can implement it this year."

### CSU ALUMNI MAGAZINE

Special thanks to all those who contributed to this edition.

CSU used the editorial services of Frank & Earnest to assist with this publication.

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Welcome to *Thrive*, our alumni magazine designed to keep you connected.

Each edition, we bring you stories of your fellow graduates doing amazing things all over the world and keep you up-to-date with CSU news and achievements.

Traditionally, CSU has not done a very good job of shouting about our wins.

That's not because we don't have anything to celebrate. On the contrary, even we are surprised by the constant stream of activities and accomplishments of which we can all be proud.

**“This magazine gives us an opportunity to recognise not only what we as an institution are achieving but also what those in the CSU family have gone on to do.”**

We just always seem to be busy with the next thing. We are that person in the office who is always contributing, always working hard, but very rarely taking credit.

However, in a noisy, busy world, it's important that we stop occasionally to take stock of where we've been and what we've achieved and to celebrate in our collective success.

This magazine gives us an opportunity to recognise not only what we as an institution are achieving but also what those in the CSU family have gone on to do.

In this edition of *Thrive*, we celebrate CSU being named the first Australian university to be certified as carbon neutral; we talk with award-winning journalist Stan Grant about his appointment as CSU Chair of Indigenous Affairs; and we celebrate the past and present students who realised their Olympic dreams in Rio.

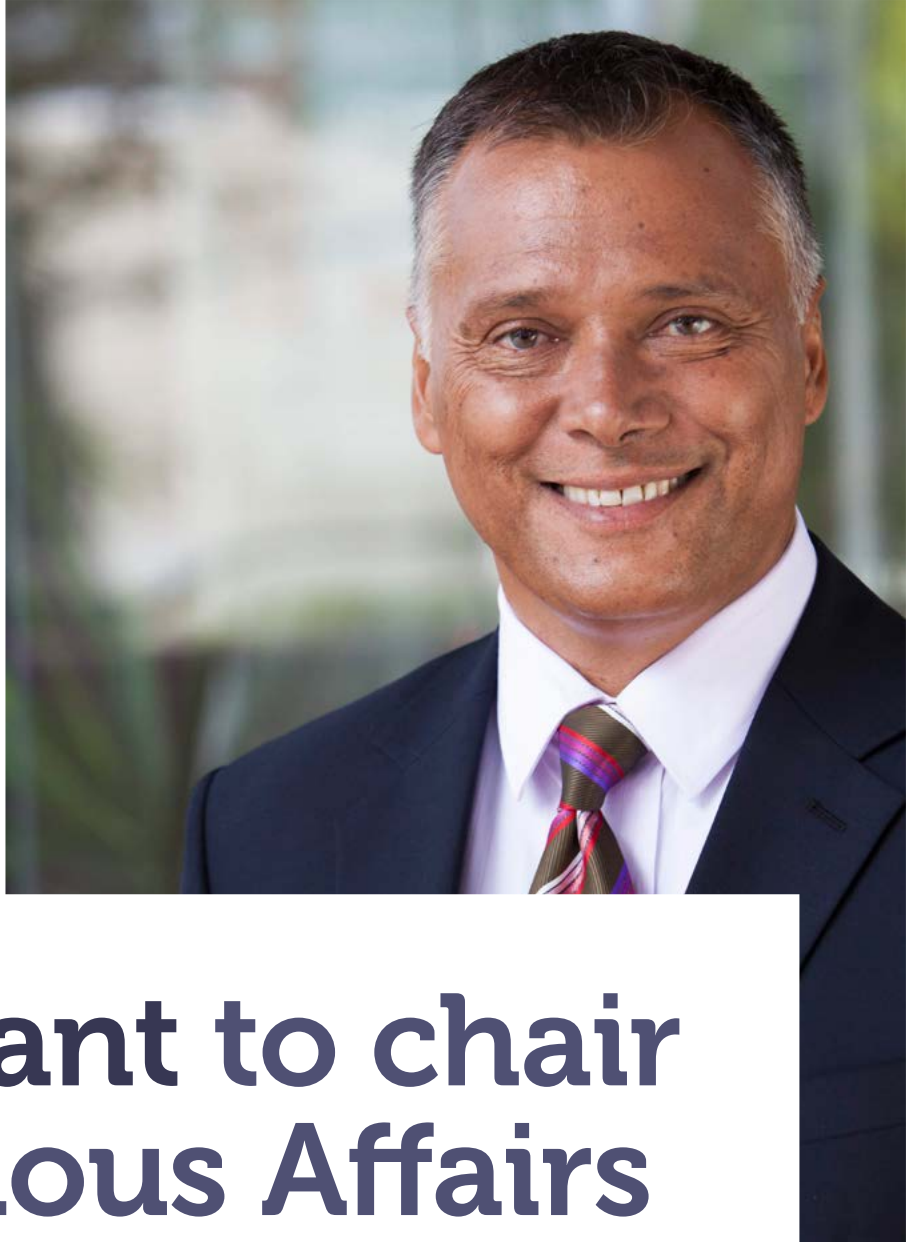
We hope you enjoy sharing in these successes and would love to reconnect with you. As always, we welcome your feedback. Please drop us a line at [alumni@csu.edu.au](mailto:alumni@csu.edu.au)

Sincerely,

Jennifer Galloway  
Senior Manager, Strategic Development  
Charles Sturt University

\*Graduate Destinations Survey 2013-15, published at: [qilt.edu.au](http://qilt.edu.au)

**WIRADJURI MAN AND AWARD-WINNING JOURNALIST STAN GRANT HAS JOINED CSU AS THE NEW CHAIR OF INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS.**



# Stan Grant to chair Indigenous Affairs

In June, CSU Vice-Chancellor Professor Andrew Vann announced Stan Grant's appointment to the position of Chair of Indigenous Affairs.

"His commitment to Indigenous affairs and experience in media and public affairs are remarkable," Professor Vann said.

"The Chair of Indigenous Affairs is a strategic appointment underpinned by Charles Sturt University's commitment to making a positive contribution to the wider Australian community. The University places immeasurable value on this aspect of our organisation.

"As Chair, Mr Grant will have the opportunity to create new knowledge and drive innovative thinking in all aspects of Indigenous affairs, including but not limited to education, community health, economic growth, sustainability and security of family and community, language, entrepreneurship, issues of recognition and acknowledgement, and preservation of culture."

Mr Grant said he was honoured to accept the appointment, which builds on a long-term CSU commitment to supporting Indigenous education.

"I am delighted to join Charles Sturt University. It is an innovative university with a strong demonstrable commitment to Indigenous issues. Many of the University's campuses sit on Wiradjuri land and the University has a deep relationship with my people.

"As Chair, I look forward to working with Charles Sturt University's research team and the staff in Indigenous studies to challenge ourselves to think deeply and creatively about issues facing First Nations people.

"Personally I feel privileged that in this role, along with my writing and media work, I can make a contribution to the things I am most passionate about."

The role of Chair of Indigenous Affairs has been created to complement the work of our existing Foundation Chair of Indigenous Studies and Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Education, Professor Jeannie Herbert AM.

"I am delighted to join Charles Sturt University. It is an innovative university with a strong demonstrable commitment to Indigenous issues. Many of the University's campuses sit on Wiradjuri land and the University has a deep relationship with my people."

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Mr Grant is the winner of the 2015 Walkley Award for coverage of Indigenous affairs as well as numerous other accolades. He is the Indigenous affairs editor for Guardian Australia, international editor at Sky News Australia and recently joined ABC News as an editor of Indigenous affairs coverage. He has previously held posts in Abu Dhabi, Hong Kong and Beijing for CNN International and covered many large international news events.

In April 2016, Mr Grant was appointed to the Referendum Council on constitutional recognition by Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Opposition Leader Bill Shorten. He is also the author of two books, *Talking to My Country* (2016) and *Tears of Strangers* (2004).

Mr Grant's father is Wiradjuri Elder Uncle Dr Stan Grant who was awarded an honorary doctorate from CSU in 2013 for his life's work to reclaim Wiradjuri language.

## COURSE SNIPPETS

### CSU meets evolving industry needs

CSU has a reputation for preparing students for industry, but what happens when an industry changes?

As lecturer Bruce Gater explains, CSU responds to those changes by adapting existing course content or introducing new courses aimed at meeting evolving industry needs.

"There's evidence out there that suggests we are all 'prosumers' – we both produce and consume media – and that the big networks are not simply broadcasting programs any more, they are producing content to engage with audiences across a range of platforms.

"Our new degree in Multi-Platform Producing helps prepare students for the realities of the industry and includes writing, photography, graphic design, business strategy, ethics subjects and a range of niche electives to build a student's skill base."

Offered wholly online, the Bachelor of Stage and Screen (Multi-Platform Producing) is one of several new programs offered through CSU's School of Communication and Creative Industries. Other new specialisations include Art History, Environmental Art, and Sound Design.

### New courses in Port Macquarie

CSU now offers both the Bachelor of Physiotherapy and the Bachelor of Exercise and Sport Science from the Port Macquarie Campus.

The University is investing more than half a million dollars on state-of-the-art teaching and learning equipment designed to simulate a range of clinical environments that students will find in the workplace. Also for the first time in 2017, the Bachelor of Exercise and Sport Science will be offered online as well as on campus in Port Macquarie and Bathurst.

### New data management course a first

Are you interested in how information can be used to drive change and influence the world around us? Do you have a thirst for knowledge and research? If you answered yes, the emerging field of data management may be for you.

CSU is currently the only university in Australia offering a course tailored for the emerging field of data management. Commencing this year, CSU's Graduate Certificate in Data Management is a part-time online course designed for information professionals, research administrators, researchers and others looking to broaden their understanding in data management and open up new career opportunities.

This course will provide you with knowledge and skills not covered in existing 'data science' courses, by focusing on data management and curation, metadata and the issues of preservation, access and analytics.

Once you have successfully completed the Graduate Certificate in Data Management, you will be ready to move into a variety of exciting roles, and/or continue your studies with either a Master of Information Studies, Master of Information Leadership (another brand new program) or Doctor of Philosophy.



Paralympian Kurt Fearnley in action.

# Cheering them on

**THE ROAD TO RIO WAS EXTREMELY TOUGH BUT THE REWARDS WERE WORTH IT. HERE WE MEET SIX CSU STUDENTS AND GRADUATES WHO GAVE IT THEIR ALL AT THE 2016 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES.**

It's August and in living rooms across Australia, members of the CSU community can be heard cheering on six of their own as they competed in the 2016 Rio Olympic and Paralympic Games.

CSU students Nicole Beck and Alicia Quirk created history as part of the first-ever team awarded an Olympic gold medal in women's rugby sevens, following a 24-17 victory over New Zealand in the final.

**"With so many inspiring performances seen, the entire CSU community was justifiably thrilled with the achievements of all athletes."**

Kate Staniforth, Student Liaison Officer (Elite Athletes and Sport), expressed the great pride the CSU community has in these outstanding athletes.

"We are extremely proud of the past and current CSU students who represented Australia at the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Rio.

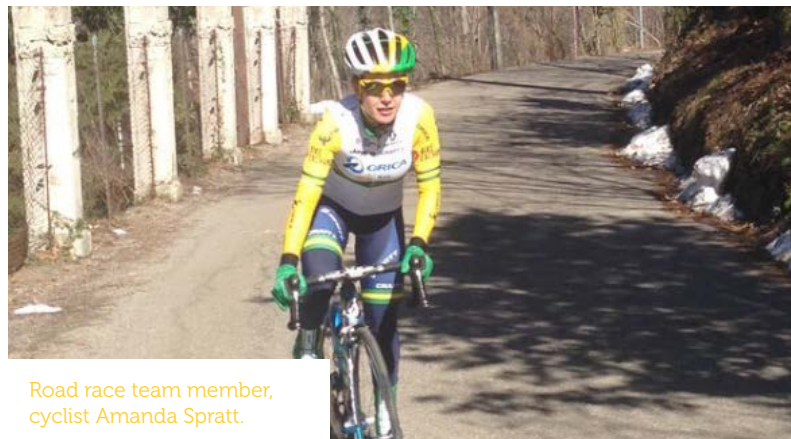
"With so many inspiring performances seen, and gold, silver and bronze medals won, the entire CSU community was justifiably thrilled with the achievements of all athletes.

"Most of us can't even imagine the mental and physical dedication it takes to train for an Olympic Games. To combine this with studying for a degree – as Nicole and Alicia have done – is that much more inspiring."

Paralympian Kurt Fearnley, OAM, added to the medal haul with silver in the wheelchair marathon and bronze in the 5,000m. He also finished fifth in the 1,500m.

National record holder and two-time Olympian Ben St Lawrence finished 28th in the 10,000m, while cyclist Amanda Spratt finished 15th in her road race making her the highest placed female Australian cyclist in the road race in Rio.

Competing in her second Olympic Games Equestrian, Lyndal Oatley was part of the Australia squad placed 9th in the team event, and was 36th in the individual event.



Road race team member, cyclist Amanda Spratt.

## MEET THE ATHLETES



### Nicole Beck

**Sport:** Women's Rugby Sevens  
**Degree:** Bachelor of Educational Studies  
**Hometown:** Bulli  
**Result in Rio:** Gold medal

Nicole is a master at time management as a mum, university student and professional Women's Rugby Sevens player. She is one of the most competitive members of the Australian Squad, and in 2016 became both a World and Olympic champion.



### Ben St Lawrence

**Sport:** Athletics – 10,000m  
**Degree:** Bachelor of Human Movement / Bachelor of Social Science (Psychology) (2005)  
**Hometown:** Penrith  
**Result in Rio:** 28th in the 10,000m

Watching his contemporaries from the stands at the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Victoria was enough inspiration for Ben to get back into running after a long hiatus. He is now the fastest Australian to run 10,000m.



### Alicia Quirk

**Sport:** Women's Rugby Sevens  
**Degree:** Bachelor of Physiotherapy  
**Hometown:** Wagga Wagga  
**Result in Rio:** Gold medal

A former Australian Touch Football player, 'Quirky' took up Rugby Sevens just three years ago and is now a key member and one of the fittest players in the Australian women's team. 2016 was a big year for Alicia who was crowned a World Champion in May, won an Olympic Gold in August and then graduated in December.



### Amanda Spratt

**Sport:** Cycling – Road Team  
**Degree:** University Certificate in Business (2008)  
**Hometown:** Penrith  
**Result in Rio:** 15th in the Road Race

A 2012 Olympic road race team member, Amanda had a great start to the season winning the 2016 Australian Championships. Amanda spends nine months of the year living and racing in Europe, and continues to study while training and competing.



### Kurt Fearnley

**Sport:** Athletics  
**Degree:** Bachelor of Human Movement / Bachelor of Teaching (2005)  
**Hometown:** Carcoar  
**Result in Rio:** Silver medal in the marathon; Bronze medal in the 5000m; 5th in the 1500m; also competed in the 4x400m

Three-time Paralympic gold medallist and five-time Paralympian, Kurt had the honour of being co-captain of this year's Australian Paralympic Team. In between his training and competing commitments, Kurt is a high school PE teacher and Pro Chancellor of Charles Sturt University Northern. Kurt now holds a record 13 Paralympic Games medals.



### Lyndal Oatley

**Sport:** Equestrian - Dressage  
**Degree:** Bachelor of Business (2006)  
**Hometown:** Sydney  
**Result in Rio:** 9th in Team Event; 36th in Individual Event

Based in Europe, Lyndal is an Australian equestrian dressage competitor who made her Olympic debut in London in 2012. Lyndal was twice named Australian Champion and subsequently nominated for the Young Australian of the Year. She decided to pursue dressage after watching her cousin Kristy Oatley compete at the Sydney 2000 Olympics.

## CATERING FOR ELITE ATHLETES

CSU understands that life as a student athlete can be challenging. Combining study while pursuing a sporting career offers a counterbalance away from training and competition, and can help elite athletes plan for life after sport. CSU wants its student athletes to achieve

just as much in their sport as in their studies and, as an Elite Athlete Friendly University, has committed to supporting our student athletes by offering flexibility, such as assignment extensions and deferred exams, study plans, online study options and access to a dedicated elite

athlete coordinator that understands your training and competition commitments. For more information on CSU's Elite Athlete program, please visit [athletes.csu.edu.au](http://athletes.csu.edu.au) or email [eliteathletes@csu.edu.au](mailto:eliteathletes@csu.edu.au)



# Students with heart

**STUDENTS AT CSU'S PORT MACQUARIE CAMPUS ARE GIVING BACK TO THEIR COMMUNITY BY RAISING FUNDS FOR MUCH-NEEDED DEFIBRILLATORS.**

Heart disease is Australia's biggest killer. Every 10 minutes someone in this country has a heart attack, with one death every hour, or about 9,000 deaths every year.

CSU students in Port Macquarie took those figures to heart, instigating a project to help improve the outcomes of sudden cardiac arrest in their community.

Co-founder of the Student Heart Project Daniel Steinbeck explains that students were looking for a way to give back to the community.

"We wanted to do something worthwhile so we came up with the Student Heart Project. After talking to people, we got the idea that defibrillators would be something tangible to give back to the community.

"The Student Heart Project now incorporates students from all courses, and staff as well, but originally it was started by three paramedic students. I guess that, being paramedics, we could see the huge need for defibrillators in the community. It all just made a lot of sense to give back this way."

The group held an inaugural fundraising ball last year and have staged other, smaller fundraisers like

Bunnings barbecues to raise \$20,000, which has funded seven defibrillator units.

"We called for expressions of interest from community groups who could get the most from the units. We've put the automated external defibrillators into a Men's Shed, outside a theatre and a school. We've put one in the middle of town and sent one to Lord Howe Island, where there was a real need for a unit," Daniel said.

"Now we're really working towards getting the community involved. So rather than purchase full units, we part fundraise and get the community to raise the other half to get more people involved and to build awareness.

"We also advocate for public access to the units and we're working with all the places around town that have one to make them available to the public 24/7. There are a couple of really good apps you can get on your phone that tell you where the defibrillators are located, so we'll be working with that.

"We're also trying to talk to NSW Ambulance to get all units on a register that they have so that if someone calls them, they'll be able to tell them where their closest unit is."





Student Heart Project representatives  
Brandon Robinson (left) and Daniel  
Steinbeck.

## GIVING BACK

Studying a Bachelor of Clinical Practice (Paramedic), Daniel describes the Student Heart Project as one of his best experiences at CSU.

**“It’s hard to pinpoint a best experience because when you’re doing a degree you love, all of it is good.”**

“I think being given the chance to be so involved in the community is huge for me. Coming from a job that I was very unhappy in and got no satisfaction from, to a degree where every aspect of it is quite amazing. To have all these opportunities to be involved at uni and in the community – with the Student Heart Project and things like that – is probably the highlight.

“It’s just a complete change compared to what I was doing. I worked for the railway as a cable jointer, and it was great money but I worked my life away and I just hated what I did. You weren’t

proud of what you did, and while I was in the volunteer fire brigade, that was about as active in the community as I got.

“Now I sit on the Student Council and on the Student Senate, I’m part of the Student Heart Project and I’m involved in the uni quite heavily. I guess loving what you do makes a massive difference in terms of being able to give back.”

» ESTIMATES SUGGEST THAT

**70** 

PER CENT

OF HEART ATTACK PATIENTS  
**WOULD SURVIVE**

— IF A BYSTANDER HAD —  
ACCESS TO A DEFIBRILLATOR.



# From Bathurst to the Big Apple

**WHEN PAULL YOUNG STARTED A BLOG DURING HIS BACHELOR OF COMMUNICATION (PUBLIC RELATIONS) AT CSU, HE NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD TAKE HIM AROUND THE WORLD. NOW WORKING ON STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE PUBLIC CONTENT TEAM AT INSTAGRAM, PAULL TRACES HIS STELLAR CAREER BACK TO BATHURST.**

Paul Young loves to communicate. He's good at it and he has the client list to prove it.


For the past 10 years, Paull has helped brands like Telstra, Cisco and the New York Times with their social media strategy.

He was also part of the first executive leadership team at charity: water, a non-profit providing clean drinking water to people in the developing world. Now he works with key partners to create best-in-class integrations on the Instagram platform.

Paul has been recognised as among the most influential expats by the Australian Trade Commission and has been asked to speak with media outlets such as the Wall Street Journal and Fox Business Channel about digital marketing and social media strategy.

For Paull, it all began with CSU.

"I think I was deeply interested in so much of what we covered in the degree. The more I opened my eyes, the more I learned



things. I started exploring internet communications while I was at Bathurst and it was so early from 2002 to 2004 that there were not many academics writing books about the internet.

“I started a blog just as I was finishing uni. There was, like, three lines about blogs in a textbook, but I was teaching first-year students by then and thought this blog would improve my writing and help share ideas with students.

“Unbeknownst to me, this was just the third PR blog in Australia and one of only about 100 globally, so it was a very, very small community and I was the youngest person in it.

“I met a bunch of people online through that blog. That was the initial launching point that set up my whole career and life path.

“At that point, there was no social media industry really in Australia.

“So I did what a lot of young Aussies do, I quit my job, sold my car, and got a one way ticket to the States and on to Europe to meet all the people that I had met blogging.”

Paull spent eight years in New York, first working with social media agency Converseon and then charity: water before accepting his current role with Instagram in January last year and making the move to San Francisco.

**“I’ve got nothing but love for CSU. Uni was the best years of my life. It taught me everything I know and it gave me the chance to land where I am today.”**

## COMMUNICATION REVOLUTION

Social media changed the way the world communicates and Paull has managed to harness that shift in his career.

“At charity: water we were the first charity to have over a million Twitter followers and the first charity and the seventeenth brand overall to use Instagram. I was responsible for raising about \$100 million online in five years with my team, so we sort of became the breakthrough example of an online charity.

“Now I sit on the media partnerships team at Instagram working with media partners, public

figures and celebrities all over the world as well as major cultural events like the Olympics.

“I’m sort of the nerd whisperer, as I sit between the people who work with public figures and the engineers who build the product.

“The industry is so fast paced and deeply intellectually stimulating. We do things at a really large scale and have tremendous global reach with 500 million users of Instagram. It’s a really fun place to be.”

Paull describes the rise of social media as a revolution.

“When I did my degree, we didn’t have Facebook, blogs were new and Twitter really did not exist.

“What we’ve seen is the democratisation of how people communicate and the world becoming connected on an individual basis.

“I believe that, ultimately, communication is about developing mutually beneficial relationships, and that aligns with the best models of public relations. I learned that at Bathurst.”

## NOTHING BUT LOVE

Paull happily maintains a connection with his CSU course.

“I did a virtual Q&A with comms students last year, which was really fun. Students at Bathurst were tweeting questions at me as I was flying across America for business. They asked me some really smart questions.

“I’ve got nothing but love for CSU. Uni was the best years of my life. It taught me everything I know and it gave me the chance to land where I am today.

“CSU is a brilliant uni academically and I’ll always think really highly of someone who has a CSU degree. I work with dozens of Ivy Leaguers, and there’s me from little old Charles Sturt University, but I don’t feel like I missed anything that my Harvard and Yale colleagues had.

“But what CSU also gives you is a community – relationships and connections that are even more important than what you learn in books. Being immersed in that culture provides so much more value than if you were simply just getting a degree. That’s why CSU is so special.”



PHD student Sarah Williams and her supervisor, Dr Mike Cahill

# Piecing the jigsaw together



**PHD STUDENT SARAH WILLIAMS IS PART OF A TEAM OF CSU RESEARCHERS WORKING WITH SCIENTISTS IN GERMANY TO BETTER UNDERSTAND A PROTEIN THAT HAS BEEN LINKED WITH CANCER.**

Using cell culture in the laboratory at CSU in Wagga Wagga, Sarah Williams and her supervisor, Dr Mike Cahill, are looking at the protein PGRMC1, and how it interacts with other proteins in pancreatic cancer cells. Meanwhile, researchers at the University of Dusseldorf are looking at the same protein and what it does in breast cancer cells.

“In 2008, the results of a collaboration Mike led in Germany with Professor Hans Neubauer’s group were published. This research found that the protein PGRMC1 was modified in breast cancer,” Sarah said.

“Mike was the co-founder and Chief Research

Officer of a German Biotechnology company when he coordinated the German Human Genome Project consortium including Neubauer’s group, and they’ve both been working together on it ever since Mike returned to work at CSU Australia in 2008.

“Basically, we are looking at the proteins that are differentially expressed in cancers, the proteins they interact with and the pathways that are involved, because if we know what pathways are altered in cancer, we could potentially target those pathways and develop cancer therapies.”

Last year, Sarah was awarded funding from the

Universities Australia - Germany Joint Research Co-operation Scheme to spend three months visiting and conducting experiments in Neubauer's laboratory.

"This was a fantastic experience. The research lab was within the hospital, so the breast cancer research is done right next to where their patient samples are being processed.

"They had nearly 20 people in their large research group, not just working on PGRMC1, but as a whole. Being part of a bigger research group is nice because we only have a couple of students here working in this area. I got to see some other projects involving breast cancer and detection of circulating tumour cells through patient samples, which was really interesting."

Sarah said her time in the German labs also yielded some exciting results.

"The experiments themselves worked really, really well and we are now looking into the structure and function of the inhibitor of PGRMC1, which is called AG-205. The idea now is to do a mouse model involving PGRMC1 expression."

### Targeted therapies

Sarah's research is contributing to what we know about cancer cells.

"Pancreatic cancer in particular is one of the most aggressive cancers with one of the poorest survival rates, and that's why we've been looking at this. Ultimately, we're looking to improve treatment therapies.

"It's really important for us to find which pathways are altered in cancer cell biology and how different proteins affect the cells. Right now, there isn't an ideal

way to treat cancer – things like chemotherapy and radiotherapy are very damaging to the surrounding tissues and to the patient's health. It's better for us to try and develop targeted therapies for the proteins that are differentially expressed in the cancers.

"I think that is how it will eventually go – when you're diagnosed with cancer, you will have some sort of profiling done for your proteins that are different and then these will be targeted in therapies to decrease both tumour size and growth."

While that is an exciting prospect, Sarah takes a realistic view of her research and necessarily keeps her focus tight.

"It's a little bit like a big jigsaw puzzle and we're just working on one small piece."

**"Pancreatic cancer in particular is one of the most aggressive cancers with one of the poorest survival rates, and that's why we've been looking at this. Ultimately, we're looking to improve treatment therapies."**

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"There are many things we could be looking at in lots of different places, and there are a lot of people working on these sorts of projects. We need to find out all of the things that are happening at the same time so we can get the bigger picture. But it looks like PGRMC1 really seems to be responsible for something quite significant in cancer cell biology and it might prove to be involved in a new target for pancreatic cancer."



The National Life Sciences Hub at CSU in Wagga Wagga



Dr Zuleyha Keskin is the Course Director at the Centre for Islamic Studies and Civilisation and a senior lecturer, lecturing on Islamic spirituality and contemporary Islamic studies.

# Islam in the contemporary world

**ISLAMIC STUDIES IS A TOPIC OF SIGNIFICANCE AS MODERN AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY SEEKS TO BETTER UNDERSTAND ISLAM AND THE ROLE OF MUSLIMS IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD.**

A new Masters program at CSU will explore contemporary issues facing Islam and Muslims and address the professional needs of people who deal closely with Muslims in daily life.

Commencing in February this year, the Master of Contemporary Islamic Studies seeks to provide insight into some of the common misconceptions about Islam and Muslims in society.

Dr Zuleyha Keskin, Course Director at the Centre for Islamic Studies and Civilisation (CISAC) at CSU, explained that people often wish to better understand Islam but they do not know where to go for information.

"I was born in Australia into a Muslim family. Having grown up in a multicultural environment (inner-west Sydney), I have always felt that better understanding of different cultures and religions is key for a harmonious society.

"Issues related to Islam and Muslims have local and global significance right now, so a course that deals with contemporary



Islam is both timely and needed, and will contribute positively to social cohesion, community and gender relations.

“We think this course will be an important avenue for learning about the second largest religion in the world (Islam), and empower students to build cross-cultural competency for a variety of professions.”

### GROWING INTEREST

Designed to develop students’ constructive and critical understanding of contemporary Islam and Muslims and related subjects, the Masters program focuses on contemporary Islamic thought, modern history, Islamic responses to modernity, and attempts for reform in political, social and cultural space to effect change in Muslim societies.

It will specifically cater for students who:

- wish to extend their studies beyond the undergraduate degree and focus on the social, political and cultural aspects of contemporary Islam and Muslims
- deal closely with Muslims in daily life for political, social, educational, business, gender relations, culture, community and public service purposes
- are interested in the study of contemporary Islam to be a better global citizen.

“Pressing issues of the 21st century include Islamophobia, radicalism and shariah; the study of Islam in more detail can shed light on all these issues and encourage enlightened discussion through understanding,” Zuleyha said.

“The Master of Contemporary Islamic Studies will provide students with insight into traditional, spiritual and historic aspects of Islam and allow them to develop advanced knowledge about political, legal and social issues that

impact on Islam, Muslims and Islam-West relations.”

Zuleyha believes there is a clear market for a course like this.

“Due to a growing Muslim population in Australia as well as Australia’s business and political involvement in Southeast Asia and various Muslim countries, there is a growing interest and need to understand political, social and cultural aspects of contemporary Islam and Muslim societies.

**“Issues related to Islam and Muslims have local and global significance right now, so a course that deals with contemporary Islam is both timely and needed, and will contribute positively to social cohesion, community and gender relations.”**

“While there is a clear market for a course like this, very few universities in Australia offer graduate courses on Islam.

“Only two other universities offer a Masters on Islamic Studies, but both of these are offered on campus only. CISAC’s online offering is an important feature for students who are seeking the flexibility of online studies.”

The Master of Contemporary Islamic Studies is available to study over two years full-time or four years part-time and can be used as a pathway for a Higher Degree by Research in contemporary Islamic studies. CSU also offers a Graduate Diploma of Contemporary Islamic Studies (two years part-time) and a Graduate Certificate in Contemporary Islamic Studies (one year part-time).

This is just one Masters program offered by CSU. Visit: [csu.edu.au/courses](https://csu.edu.au/courses) to explore your options.

Professor Lyn Angel believes it's important that CSU continues to recognise the impact and the commitment of its donors, which it does yearly through scholarship ceremonies.



# Giving back comes naturally

**PROFESSOR LYNDALL (LYN) ANGEL IS DEPUTY DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND AN ESTEEMED AND DEDICATED MEMBER OF THE CSU ACADEMIC FAMILY. SHE IS ALSO A LIVING EXAMPLE OF HOW TO PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR MOUTH IS.**

A passionate advocate for higher education, for the past 20 years Lyn and her family have sponsored The Angel Family Trust Scholarship for first-year medical science students at CSU.

Ten years ago, Lyn and her siblings, Jill, Robyn and Jeffery, also established the JH Chalmers Memorial Scholarship for third-year veterinary science students, in memory of their father, the late John Chalmers.

**“Providing these scholarships for CSU students just seemed like such a natural thing for our family to do.”**

Lyn describes the decision to establish both scholarships as easy.

“My whole family has been intimately connected with this University over several decades. Many of my nieces and nephews have studied at CSU, our daughter and one of our sons and his wife have graduated and I, too, am an alumna.

“As a veterinarian himself, Dad was completely supportive of CSU introducing a veterinary science course and he was committed to both his regional / rural community and his vocation.

“Providing these scholarships for CSU students just seemed like such a natural thing for our family to do.

“I can see the difference CSU makes in its communities and I think that we should really nurture that and be proud of it. This is one way of doing that.”



Professor Lyn Angel presents the JH Chalmers Memorial Veterinary Science Scholarship to Anna Bridge.





Professor Lyn Anger presents the Angel Family Trust Scholarship to Hannah Johnston.

## VALUE OF EDUCATION

In 1955, Dr Chalmers moved to Wagga Wagga having bought a local veterinary practice. Throughout his long and award-winning career, he and his partners at the Wagga Wagga Veterinary Hospital gave many final-year veterinary students their introduction to large animal practice. An influential part of the veterinarian industry in the Riverina, Dr Chalmers was interested when he discovered CSU was planning its own veterinary science program.

“When the course was being conceived, I was on the Veterinary Science Curriculum Development Committee. At that time, Dad was in a retirement village but had he had better health, he probably would have been on the committee instead of me.

“With permission, I would take information from each meeting to my father and then I would bring his feedback to the next meeting.

“The course had been running for three years when he died, so we thought that if we gave a scholarship in his honour to third-year students, every cohort of CSU vets would have had access to it. That was very meaningful to us; Dad would have understood!”

Lyn credits her father for her own philanthropic approach, her sense of community and her profound appreciation of the value of education.

“He was an amazing man.

“He had three daughters and a son and he was a great believer in seeing each of us reach our own potential, whatever that might look like. He was also a great believer in women

being able to pursue their interests on an equal footing. And he was a great believer in challenging us to think outside the square and justify our thinking with a bit of rationality and objectivity, rather than being emotive.

“He’d always play devil’s advocate and debate with me to make sure that if I was making a claim or building an argument, I would pause, reflect and ask myself, ‘Why am I making that comment?’

“For me, that’s part of what being an academic is about: always asking questions, challenging yourself and others to seek and provide that evidence for what’s informing your thinking.”

## SUPPORT AND RECOGNITION

For Lyn education is about so much more than the discipline being studied or the qualification itself.

“It’s about the whole journey. Education opens so many doors and provides for much broader thinking about yourself, about life and the world in which we live.

“Higher education in a supportive environment allows students to mature, build relationships, and understand how their mind can engage in ways that are bigger than the actual qualification.”

Establishing these two scholarships is Lyn’s way of assisting in levelling the playing field and ensuring equal opportunity for study, no matter a student’s financial situation.

“Not everybody is provided with the same opportunities for study. I’ve been very fortunate and I’ve never taken my opportunities for granted.

“Our scholarships are not big but if they can supply a bit of financial support that helps a student through their studies to graduate and become good members of the community, then I’m thrilled with that.

“Sometimes, scholarships are as much about recognition and knowing that someone believes in you as they are about the financial boost. I like to see people who genuinely have a passion or are keen to work hard be supported and provided with that recognition.”

The reward for Lyn is simple.

“It’s heart-warming to see the positive impact on the self-esteem of scholarship recipients – their self-confidence grows and they are able to say to their parents, ‘You won’t have to pay for my textbooks this year’ or ‘This will help with my placement’ or ‘Someone has recognised my potential and is backing me’.

“Feeling like you are contributing to a student’s learning and, at the end of the day, contributing to the community, is what really resonates with me and with other donors.

“I can see the difference that CSU and its students make in a community and I’m quite sure that by the time I retire, that that will not be the end of me and my family being involved with, and contributing to, the University.”



# Australia's first carbon neutral university

In July last year, Charles Sturt University was declared Australia's first official carbon neutral university. The University was certified as 'Carbon Neutral' by the National Carbon Offset Standard – Carbon Neutral Program, administered by the Federal Department of the Environment, becoming one of only 28 organisations to be nationally recognised for their carbon neutrality.

CSU's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Andrew Vann, called the official status a just reward for years of planning and investment in people, systems and infrastructure that have reduced the University's 'carbon footprint'.

"We have shown how an organisation with nine campuses spread over a thousand kilometres in regional NSW and Victoria can operate and thrive while being aware of and showing care for the places where we live and learn.

"It's beyond the simple goals of our University Strategy, or of higher education. It goes to the heart of all Australian people, particularly our communities in regional Australia.

"It shows we don't just claim to be sustainable – we are recognised as doing the hard work and investment to earn this status."

## REDUCING CARBON FOOTPRINT TO ZERO

Ed Maher, the manager of CSU Green, describes becoming Australia's first carbon neutral university as a significant achievement for CSU.

"It means that we've accurately measured and quantified our total carbon footprint; we've undertaken a range of projects to bring that carbon footprint down, things like energy efficiency, renewable energy and alternative energy sources; and we've also purchased offsets to eliminate the balance of carbon emissions that we still have.

"The University has had a long-standing goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2015 and has aggressively pursued energy efficiency, maintaining leadership in this area.

"This is something that's very close to CSU's heart. As an organisation, we see ourselves as being there for the public good and acting in the spirit of the Wiradjuri phrase 'Yindyamarra Winhanganha', which roughly translates to 'the wisdom of respectfully knowing how to live well in a world worth living in.'

"We hope that the action we've taken will inspire other organisations and individuals to follow suit."

## CONTINUED COMMITMENT

Professor Vann said CSU is determined to maintain its reputation as a leader in economic, social and environmental sustainability.

"Now we have reached this pinnacle, the University will continue its commitment to reducing its current emissions, particularly by reducing

**FOR MORE THAN A DECADE, CSU HAS INVESTED IN PROGRAMS TO IMPROVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY'S CARBON FOOTPRINT AMONG STUDENTS AND STAFF. CSU BEING NAMED AUSTRALIA'S FIRST CERTIFIED CARBON NEUTRAL UNIVERSITY IN JULY THIS YEAR IS JUST ONE STEP ON A CONTINUING JOURNEY.**



energy use by using more efficient lighting and air conditioning, and generating more energy on its campuses using solar energy systems.”

In addition to its carbon saving systems, CSU is investing in a range of projects, through Australian company CO2 Australia, that provide carbon offset credits and allow the institution to bring the balance of its emissions down to zero and maintain its certified carbon neutral status.

These projects include:

- The CO2 Australia Creating a Better Climate Program – a reforestation project in the historically cleared farmlands in NSW
- The Wulabo Wind Farm Project – a wind farm developed in Urumqi County, China
- The Hebei Chengde Weichang Yudaokou Pasture 150 Wind Farm Project – a wind farm involving 100 wind turbines transmitting power to the North China Power Grid
- The 10.9 MW Bundled Solar Power Project – a solar electricity installation in southern India.

CO2 Australia’s Managing Director, James Bulinski, said he was very impressed with the level of commitment CSU has shown to ensuring it uses only high quality offsets, delivering real emissions reductions and on-ground benefits.

“CSU has applied a very rigorous selection process for their offset purchasing and have consistently communicated their need for offsets to be high quality verified credits that are recognised by the Australian standard and which deliver a range of co-benefits.

“It’s been really exciting to see how CSU wants to be hands-on with offsetting activities. The University wanted to support local projects and I’m very pleased that we are able to work with them on some of our revegetation projects in regional NSW, which deliver a wide range of biodiversity and land management benefits, on top of the emissions reductions.”

For more information about CSU’s approach to staying carbon neutral, visit: [csu.edu.au/csugreen](http://csu.edu.au/csugreen)



[www.youtube.com/watch?v=bqjOAPY2ibw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bqjOAPY2ibw)

## Road to becoming carbon neutral

CSU’s plan to become carbon neutral started more than 10 years ago. Below is a list of achievements in the last nine years that have led us to this point.

### 2016

Procurement of CO2-e offsets from Australian and international projects

Submission of NCOS Carbon Neutral documentation to Department of Environment  
Electric carts introduced at Bathurst and Wagga Wagga campuses

Commissioning of solar PV systems at CSU in Bathurst, Port Macquarie and Wagga Wagga, rated at 216 kW of combined output

### 2015

CSU awarded inaugural Energy Productivity in Action Business Leader (Commercial) Award from the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage

CSU Organics established at Orange campus

Battery recycling established at multiple campuses

Energy Performance Contract (EPC) implemented at CSU in Wagga Wagga and Bathurst

### 2014 – 2013

Number of smart meters connected to CSU network reaches 500

Commissioning of CSU in Bathurst cogeneration facility

Best practice office waste recycling system introduced

### 2012 – 2009

CSU Awarded Australasian Campuses

Towards Sustainability Award of Excellence for sustainability

CSU awarded NSW Government’s Green Globe Award for Regional Sustainability

CSU’s organisation-wide building management and sub-metering network established

### 2008 – 2003

Energy retrofit program completed with assistance from NSW Government Public Facilities Program

CSU Green office formed

CSU achieves one of the first regionally-located 6-Star Green Star rated office buildings at CSU in Albury-Wodonga

Target established for CSU to become a carbon neutral organisation



# The Front Line

**CELEBRATING CULTURE, COMMUNITY AND COLLABORATION, *THE FRONT LINE* IS A POWERFUL VIDEO THAT EXPLORES THE JOURNEY OF INDIGENOUS STUDENTS FIRST-HAND.**

“I went in blind. I took a risk. I left country. I jumped in the deep end ... I could have drowned but I chose to swim.”

This is just one of the perspectives shared by Indigenous students in a new spoken word film called *The Front Line*.

**“[At CSU] I found a place where I felt at home. With support, with strength, with courage, you can do anything you want.”**

A collaboration between the CSU FirstDegree program and Desert Pea Media, *The Front Line* was developed and produced by 13 CSU students who are the first in their family to attend university.

Supported by local Wiradjuri Elders, the film



premiered at the Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre on 19 September, 2016.

First-year Bachelor of Criminal Justice student Jackie Burke, from Collarenebri in northern NSW, said she was happy to be involved in the project.

“The film is important to me because I want to send out a message that it is possible for anyone of any age and any colour to attend university.

“I’m from out West, a regional country town with 400 people, and when I was at high school I had no idea that I could go to university. I thought I wasn’t smart enough, I thought I wasn’t rich enough and I thought I couldn’t go because I was black, so I hope this video gets out there and shows those kids that they can do it.

“[At CSU] I found a place where I felt at home. With support, with strength, with courage, you can do anything you want. Now I’m a HD-getting, freestyle-swimming, gold medal-winning, hard-hitting, deadly, black sister!”

For Bachelor of Criminal Justice student Marley Blair from Tingha in NSW, the bottom line is that only 40 per cent of Indigenous people finish high school.

“There’s only one way to make change for my people and that’s to do it myself.

“I think that projects like *The Front Line* are important as it shows the Australian community that there are



Indigenous people out there who take the initiative to move away from country to attend university.

“To actually apply is a huge thing, so I believe it’s very important for us as storytellers to make sure that our story is portrayed wholeheartedly out to the Australian community, and that’s why I really loved being a part of this production.”

### CHANGE THROUGH STORYTELLING

Toby Finlayson is co-founder of Desert Pea Media. Graduating from a Bachelor of Arts Communications (Theatre and Media) in 2004, Toby has been working in remote Indigenous communities around Australia and the world to create social change through collaborative storytelling.

“*The Front Line* is a collaborative project working with Indigenous students at Charles Sturt University to unpack some of the issues Indigenous people face when attending tertiary education.

“It’s a pretty powerful and evocative production about Indigenous people’s struggles to attend university.

“For lots of the people involved in the project, they’ve had no family members finish school let alone go to university, so the gap in education between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people is pretty massive. The film talks about why that is and how Indigenous people can find strength and pride, and some of the tools they’ve acquired to pave new ground and to be leaders.”

Toby believes the power of the film lies in the personal journeys of the students featured.

“The film ranges from issues about identity and skin

colour to a mother of five who is a full-time mother as well as a student. There’s a humanitarian theme in the film. We’re talking about people and their real issues. I don’t think it targets racism specifically, but I think by suggestion it does.”

### CATALYST FOR CONVERSATIONS

FirstDegree Program Lead Kara King described the students in the film as trailblazers.

“These students are the first in their families, sometimes first in their communities, to come to university and I think sharing their stories and understanding the unique journey they have to come to university, some of the challenges they face, and how they navigate university, is really important on a number of levels.

“It’s inspiring for current students who may be struggling to see how somebody else is coping and to know that they’re not alone, but it’s also really important for potential Indigenous students back in community to see that it is possible to come to university.

“We hope that sharing stories like this makes it easier for students to talk about and share their experience with family and community back home. We hope it can work as a catalyst to encourage conversations about what it’s like to be an Indigenous tertiary student.”

*The Front Line* will be screened in transition projects for Indigenous students, by schools, community and mentoring programs, and will be airing in the Northern Territory on Aboriginal Broadcasting Australia media channels.

# Harnessing the power of social media

HELPING SCHOOLS HARNESS THE POWER OF SOCIAL MEDIA IS ALL IN A DAY'S WORK FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATOR AND CONSULTANT PETER SUTTON.



Having grown up in the Riverina, Peter Sutton studied his Diploma of General Primary Teaching at CSU in Bathurst before undertaking a teaching career that took him to Hong Kong and the United Arab Emirates.

Since returning to Australia, Peter has worked with more than 250 schools to help them minimise the risks of social media while building strong connections with their local communities.

Here, Peter explains how his new book, *Social Remediation* (co-written with his good friend, the late journalist Andrew Hughes), draws on his years of experience and reaffirms his love for education.

"It's a hugely powerful medium and in the education sector especially, schools and universities and non-profits already have a captive audience, so it's a fantastic way to engage."

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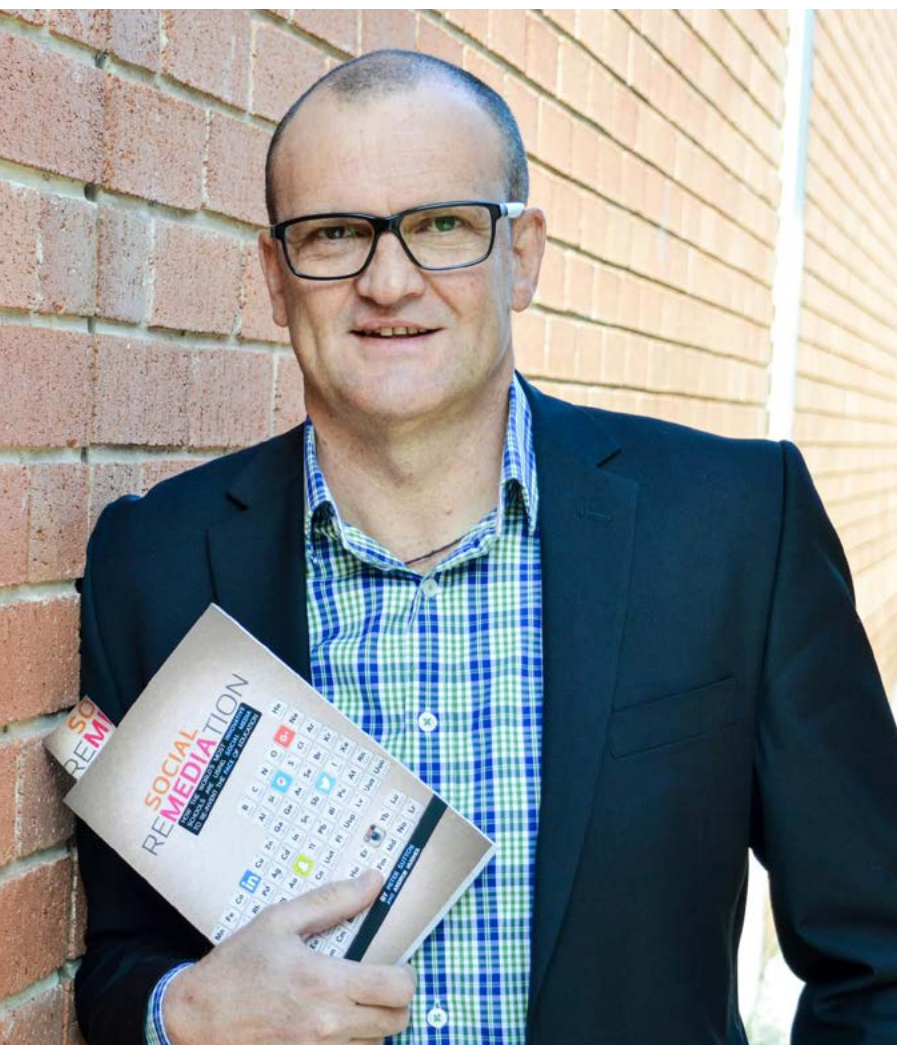
I was originally a Wagga Wagga boy.

I had started a degree at the University of Newcastle but it wasn't a fit for me at all. So I started my Diploma of General Primary Teaching at Mitchell College in 1988. In my last year there we became Charles Sturt University.

It was just a good, homely, easy place to be. It was friendly, easy to access, easy to make new friends and new networks. I really liked the cosiness of it.

My best experience at CSU was having my mind opened up.

I remember that during our course a lot of different people were brought in [as guest speaker] to reflect



culture and society at that point in time. There were probably a handful of people that really stood out for me and one was Linda Burney. I remember her speaking and I thought, "Oh wow!" She was a powerhouse.

The course instilled in me the idea that there's a big wide world out there and I didn't really know much about it.

I'm now a social media adviser / consultant. Essentially that involves helping organisations adopt social media in a positive way. My client base is about two thirds education and my focus is different from cyber bullying and cyber strategy. It's more about what is the impact on organisations, how can they minimise their risk and put social to really good positive use.

It's a hugely powerful medium and in the education sector especially, schools and universities and non-profits already have a captive audience, so it's a fantastic way to engage.

I kind of just fell into it.

I was being a house husband for a little while after we returned from 14 years overseas and I had an idea. I thought there had to be some better way social media could be put to use, and a principal I knew helped me trial it.

Then a big public school that was being hit really hard with reputational issues approached me. The principal and the leadership team took quite a gamble by allowing me to use them as my guinea pig. A whole lot of positive things came out of it. It changed teachers' perceptions; it changed school leaders' perceptions. We found that parents were ready, willing and able to engage really positively.

Traditionally in schools, the leadership team gets a lot of the squeaky wheels and negativity. They don't really have a space where people say, "Gee you've done some amazing things". That's been the story coming out of a lot of the tough schools I work in.

And that's kind of why I do what I do. It's a mix of the old educator in me, a fascination with the technology and the drive to see something really good come out of this.

The book started as a throw-away line from my co-author, Andrew Hughes, over a bottle of wine. I was explaining to him the good, the bad and the ugly of the things I come across, and he said, "I think you've got a book".

I laughed at him and we didn't speak about it for a month. Then I rang him up and said, "Are you keen on doing the book?" and he said, "Yeah, I am". It's been a fascinating journey in bringing all of those stories together in a coherent framework.

The process really strengthened me back into the education sector. I saw just how important it is that there's a different voice outside sexting, nude selfies and cyber bullying. There's now a voice that says to principals and school leaders and community, "You know what? You can come together in a very different way and it can be extremely positive."

The book is split into two sections – looking at the chaos and its impact, and the curation of that chaos.

There's a sad edge to the book's release.

Andrew was killed in a motorcycle accident in March 2016, on the day the first copies of the book arrived.

We're immensely proud of it. It's something close to us both. I've kind of fallen a little bit in and out of love with it given what's happened, but it is a great reference and I think it will make a huge difference.

Whatever projects I'm working on, the thing that connects them all is bringing the human spirit together.

I love watching people come together and celebrate online. I have a little saying, "A good online conversation builds a bridge to an even better face-to-face conversation" and I see that happen all the time.



# Authentic learning the key to success

**FINAL-YEAR ADVERTISING STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM WORKING WITH REAL WORLD CLIENTS AT ON CAMPUS MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS AGENCY, KAJULU.**

CSU is well known for creating opportunities for students to get real-world experiences and it doesn't get much more 'real world' than at Kajulu Communications, CSU's internationally awarded on-campus marketing communications agency.

The word Kajulu is a Wiradjuri word which means 'to look ahead'. Since its inception Kajulu has become a model for innovative teaching and learning strategies, replicating a real advertising agency in every way.

As Advertising Lecturer Anne Llewellynn explained, final-year students work almost exclusively in this agency environment, in effect completing a full year's practical internship while still at university.

"Students spend their last year working in Kajulu, as one would an agency, taking a live client brief. In the first session, they learn the steps as they work

through their client brief and present their strategic recommendations to their client at the end of the session. In their capstone subject (in Session Two) they develop and present an industry-standard integrated marketing communications full campaign to the client.

"We have a little dedicated building on the Bathurst Campus and they can come and go as they would in an agency, working in teams in that authentic environment.

"Working as CEO of the agency, I approach the clients and mentor the student through their capstone subject.

"We get some high profile clients, including Telstra, Jim Beam, and the Australian School of Management. This year we had Foxtel which was pretty exciting.



The brief that we had from Foxtel was the exact same brief they sent out to their agencies.

“The feedback we get from clients is usually absolute amazement. These students are as yet untarnished by the industry and they’ve just cemented all their learning, so their recommendations are always very pure to the client and the client is always utterly amazed at the standard and the professionalism of the students’ work. Some of these campaigns are actually going to market.”

## SET UP FOR SUCCESS

If students are not working on a client brief like the one supplied by Foxtel, they are competing in the annual International Advertising Association’s (IAA) Big Idea challenge.

Late last year, two teams from CSU (Kajulu Red and Kajulu Blue), one from University of Technology Sydney, one from Academy of Design Australia in Victoria and one from University of Canberra made the final round of the challenge. Each team had to develop an integrated marketing plan for a not-for-profit organisation, United Way Australia, to raise funds from high net worth individuals. The presentations were judged by the client and an esteemed panel of industry executives.

Kajulu Blue team member Harry Madigan had nothing but positive things to say about his experiences.

“It’s been incredible. Kajulu has really introduced us to the practical side of advertising.

“We started on a really comprehensive subject called Advertising 317, which is quite a complex subject about strategy in advertising, which really set us up for our the Big Idea competition.

“In the first semester, we worked on an integrated marketing plan for the CSU Bachelor of Laws and we all wanted to impress Anne to be selected as part of the Big Idea teams.

“I think the opportunity and experience here at CSU is unrivalled. I have friends who do communications at other universities and they hear about us doing Brief of the Week in second year, where we stand up every week and present a pitch. They’ve got no experience as far as these practical components, I think because they don’t have access to the facilities we do or the curriculum so focused on the practical.”

Harry added that being part of Kajulu has really pushed him out of his comfort zone.

“It’s quite an interesting experience. As much as the expertise of all the lecturers is available to us, we’re pretty much given a free run in any area we want to develop, and that’s where we benefit. In industry, your hand isn’t held the whole way through it. While that’s tough in the beginning, you learn so much through trial and error.

“Sometimes you wish it was easier, but Anne focuses strongly on the process – first it’s research, then insights. At other universities, they may just skip to the pretty, creative part and they forget the really pivotal research and proper thinking behind ideas that make them substantial and credible. That’s testament to the academic rigour here at CSU.”

## SINGULAR FOCUS

Kajulu Red took out the Big Idea competition on 31 October, the 11th time CSU has taken out the Big Idea challenge in 14 years.

For Anne, this consistent award winning record is testament to the singular focus and dedication to preparing students for industry.

“Kajulu gives our students an advantage over every other university, because it provides authentic learning.

“It’s learning within the environment of an agency, as it would be in the industry, and our students are therefore highly sought after when they leave here because they have that practical, hands-on experience.

“Students experience that throughout their course but particularly in Kajulu. Following this year’s Big Idea, the students all said, ‘This has just been the most amazing year. We have learned so much working in Kajulu’.”

CSU’s courses are among a select few in Australia to be accredited by the International Advertising Association (IAA). Successful completion of these courses entitles students to the internationally recognised IAA Diploma in Marketing Communications along with their CSU degree.

For more information about studying advertising or other Communications and Creative Industries courses, visit:

[csu.edu.au/courses/communication-creative-industries](https://csu.edu.au/courses/communication-creative-industries)

**CSU COMMUNICATIONS  
STUDENTS HAVE WON  
11 OUT OF THE LAST 14  
INTERNATIONAL ADVERTISING ASSOCIATION (IAA)  
BIG IDEA  
COMPETITIONS**



# Innovative pathways to tertiary study

**OPENED IN 2015, THE WANGARATTA REGIONAL STUDY CENTRE IS A PARTNERSHIP PROJECT BETWEEN CSU AND GOULBURN OVENS TAFE ESTABLISHED TO SERVICE THE NEEDS OF THE REGION AND DIRECTLY ADDRESS LOW RATES OF TERTIARY EDUCATION ENGAGEMENT IN THE AREA.**

At any given time, CSU has around 400 students studying in North East Victoria.

These students now have a facility to call their own in the Wangaratta Regional Study Centre.

As Centre Manager Ilena Young explains, the Centre was funded in 2012 by the Commonwealth Government.

“By putting a university in the region, the aim was to support the region and its workforce and deliver outcomes and create pathways to university through TAFE. The project was funded in this area because the Hume has a persistent low rate of engagement in tertiary education.

“Right now we offer a Veterinary Technology Integrated program, where students start with subjects at TAFE to get their Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing and then go straight into the CSU Bachelor of Veterinary Technology. Vet nurses who already have their Certificate IV can have that recognised and articulate straight into the Bachelor qualification.

“We also service the needs of online students and run a study skills day at the beginning of session two for students studying accounting, agriculture, environmental science and nursing. Having the Centre in Wangaratta means that we can offer those students extra support right on their doorstep.”

## BUILDING ASPIRATIONS

Another core role of the Wangaratta Regional Study Centre is running Outreach programs in local high schools to build students' aspirations for tertiary education.

While this includes attending regional career days and specific course focus days, in Small Business Month last year, CSU trialed a new format by bringing six entrepreneurs into local schools to talk candidly about their experiences.

One of those entrepreneurs was CSU graduate Dr Amanda Lugsdin, a veterinarian and practice owner of companion animal clinic Dr Paws in Wangaratta. This is a second career for Mandy, who graduated with a degree in Agricultural Science from CSU in 1997.

Mandy said she was delighted to be involved in the Outreach and Aspiration Building Program.

“I believe it is very important to not only help mentor the younger generation entering the workforce but also to help inspire them with the wonderful world of opportunity that is at their fingertips.

“It's hard to know what to do as a career sometimes. Not everybody gets it right the first time and the reality nowadays is several job changes and that's okay.



Wangaratta Regional Study Centre Manager Ilena Young (right) is pictured with local veterinarian and CSU graduate Dr Mandy Lugsdin.

What's really important, however, is to be happy in your work life and to look for a fulfilling career path.

"Networking and education plays a vital role in this process and while it may not be for everyone, tertiary education opens many doors to different careers, helps develop critical thinking skills, and helps us interact better within groups and form extensive lifelong networks.

"Well done to CSU for attracting small business mentors of a very high calibre to this event."

### ALUMNI INVOLVEMENT

This year, Wangaratta staff will look to develop new ways of engaging CSU alumni with the work that they do.

"We are well aware we have thousands of CSU alumni in our region doing all sorts of amazing things, and who are looking to work with the CSU Alumni team to create opportunities for graduates to share their knowledge and expertise and support us in the

work that we do," Ilena said.

"One idea being explored is a small business mentoring program designed to help small business operators in the rural city of Wangaratta gain advice and connections.

"This could involve us bringing together a number of alumni for a facilitated brainstorming session that allows the businessperson to pick the brains of people who've already done the kinds of things they would like to do.

"For us, it's all about strengthening regional partnerships, building on existing knowledge and creating innovative models of education and knowledge delivery. If you're a CSU graduate with good ideas who would like to get involved in some way, we'd love to hear from you."

Ilena encourages alumni who would like to be involved in a possible mentoring program to contact her direct at: [ilyoung@csu.edu.au](mailto:ilyoung@csu.edu.au)

## FAST FACTS

The Wangaratta Regional Study Centre works closely with CSU Faculties and Divisions to:

- act as a regional hub to support online learning
- support the delivery of online and distance education courses to Victorian students
- establish innovative pathway options from GO TAFE to CSU
- assist successful transition of students from vocational education to higher education
- build higher education aspiration and participation across the region
- develop niche under/post graduate qualifications responding to regional demand
- extend existing CSU professional development and research activities into Victoria
- deliver short courses and capacity building for regional industry and communities.

The facilities at the Wangaratta Regional Study Centre (available for hire) include:

- two 40 person seminar rooms which can be joined to accommodate 80 people
- 40 student science laboratory
- teaching kitchen with three-phase power attached to seminar room space
- 20 person Information Technology/ Computer Lab
- access to a further 4 x 20 person classrooms (two of which can be joined to hold 40 people)
- open plan student commons facilities with access to CSU student computers
- a variety of meeting, videoconferencing and break-out rooms to hold up to 10 people
- hot desks for visiting CSU staff.

For more information about the Wangaratta Regional Study Centre, please contact Ilena Young at: [ilyoung@csu.edu.au](mailto:ilyoung@csu.edu.au) or visit: [csu.edu.au/about/locations/wangaratta](http://csu.edu.au/about/locations/wangaratta)

FOR THE PAST 18 YEARS, CATHY MAGINNIS HAS SHARED HER PASSION FOR NURSING WITH CSU STUDENTS. A WELL-KNOWN FACE AROUND CSU'S DUBBO CAMPUS, CATHY SAYS SHE LOVES BEING A NURSE AND EDUCATING STUDENTS TO BECOME PROUD NURSING PROFESSIONALS.



# 'Passion for growing your own'

## **What's your background, and how did you come to work at CSU?**

I am a Registered Nurse and a Registered Midwife with a Graduate Certificate in Child and Adolescent Health. I had been working casually as a clinical facilitator and a child and family health nurse in both NSW and Queensland. I started working casually for CSU as a clinical facilitator, tutor, marker and casual lecturer while undertaking my Master of Health Science (Nursing) with CSU. I was then successful in gaining a permanent role at the Dubbo Campus as a lecturer.

I have always worked as a RN/RM casually while working as a nursing lecturer as I like the balance this gives me and it maintains my currency as a Registered Nurse and Midwife.

## **What is your best CSU experience?**

Taking nursing students on an international work placement to Thailand to provide health care in remote areas. I have been fortunate to do this for the past two years and find it an amazing experience. It is a humbling experience to provide basic nursing care and deliver health education to people living and working in such different conditions. It changes your perspective and broadens your views and practice.

## **What has made you stay at CSU for such a long time?**

I am passionate about nursing and enjoy teaching and sharing my knowledge and experience. I am also passionate about 'growing our own', and providing high quality education to people in rural and remote areas and empowering them to learn and achieve their goals.

## **How would you describe the calibre of CSU's graduates?**

High. We produce great nursing graduates that often work in areas where there are shortages within the workforce and skill mix. I feel confident that they are able to provide great nursing care based on their knowledge and skills gained in the course.

## **Do you stay in touch with graduates of your course?**

Yes, we often hear from our Dubbo graduates and the students that have come to Thailand with me keep in touch to let me know what they are doing. It is lovely to hear where they are working and what they are doing. Many go on to do specialty courses and Masters.

## **What have your students taught you over the years?**

We are privileged to deliver babies (if you become a midwife), to deliver care

when people die and the full spectrum in between. As a lecturer, the students keep you grounded by challenging you, and I encourage them to think critically. They teach me to explore how to deliver good quality education in different ways and to use a range of strategies to meet their differing learning needs. Their enthusiasm is great motivation.

## **Why are you passionate about what you do?**

I love being a nurse and being able to teach nursing. I enjoy seeing the students' progress from first session in first year to final session and graduation. A highlight for me each year is when students walk across the stage at graduation. Each has a story that has gone with them and many face numerous hurdles and overcome them to achieve their goals. I feel fortunate to contribute to their journey to becoming a nurse.

## **One last thing...**

I enjoy being a nursing lecturer and never in my wildest dreams did I imagine this would be my career path. I find this role very rewarding as well as frustrating and challenging at times. I am lucky to work at a rural campus in a lovely setting with colleagues who are supportive and great to work with.



# Alumni events

Each year, hundreds of CSU Alumni reconnect with the University and their fellow graduates at alumni events.

CSU's Alumni Experience Events were introduced to provide unique opportunities for shared adventures. When attending an Alumni Experience, you'll not only take part in a fun event, you'll meet new people, reignite old friendships and develop connections within the strong, vibrant CSU alumni community.

Alumni Relations Officer Stacey Fish said that Alumni Experience Events are not just about building the CSU Alumni community.

"Our events also raise money for the CSU Foundation Trust, with a donation from every event ticket sold raising money for Foundation scholarships.

"In this way, our graduates are directly supporting future generations of CSU students to reach their full potential.

"CSU aims to build a better tomorrow and we're absolutely delighted to continue in this mission with our graduates' help. We thank all those who took part in our events this year, and look forward to even more events in 2017."

Here's a recap of some of the great CSU Alumni Experience Events last year:

## Sydney Vivid Event 3 June 2016

CSU Alumni enjoyed a spectacular Vivid experience from Sydney Harbour aboard our exclusive Alumni Captain Cook Cruises boat. This event was offered at an exclusive discount price and sold out within 24 hours.

## Food I Am Cooking Class Event 28 July 2016

This event included a 3.5 hour hands-on cooking class with private a chef at award-winning boutique cooking school Food I Am. Another sell-out event, participants enjoyed preparing and sharing a Mediterranean banquet amidst much conversation and laughter.

## Mayfield Gardens Spring Symphonic Spectacular 22 October 2016

Enjoying the magnificent Mayfield Gardens in their spring splendour, Alumni shared an exquisite communal feast in the gardens before being treated to a one-hour classical performance in the Mayfield Chapel by the chamber orchestra-sized Macquarie Philharmonia – Australia's Inland Symphony Orchestra.



St Martin's College, on CSU's Wagga Wagga Campus, will mark its 25th year in 2017 with a celebration dinner on Saturday 20 May. All past St Martin's College residents are invited to attend the dinner to be held at the CSU Convention Centre. As part of its silver anniversary celebrations, the College will launch a fundraising program to raise \$250,000 to fund a new "full accommodation" first-year scholarship. For more information, visit: [stmartinscollege.org](http://stmartinscollege.org) or email the College at: [stmartins@csu.edu.au](mailto:stmartins@csu.edu.au).



The 2017 Sydney Vivid Harbour Cruise has been confirmed for 9 June!

Keep an eye on your inbox and the CSU Alumni Facebook page for announcements about more exciting events, including experiences in Singapore, Malaysia and China in April and May.

For all event details, visit: [alumni.csu.edu.au/home/events](http://alumni.csu.edu.au/home/events)



Pro-Chancellor Dr Angelos Frangopoulos, Dr Lars Karlsson who was awarded an honorary doctorate and Vice-Chancellor Professor Andrew Vann at the graduation ceremony in Sydney.

"Spread your friendships across the academic divides, because you never know where your career may take you; who might be able to help you; and how you might be able to help them."

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# Value in staying connected

## IN HIS KEYNOTE ADDRESS TO GRADUATES IN AUGUST, CSU PRO-CHANCELLOR, SYDNEY, ANGELOS FRANGOPOULOS SPOKE ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING CONNECTION WITH THE UNIVERSITY.

I am a proud son of the Bathurst Campus, where I studied journalism in the mid-1980s.

Through my training as a television journalist, I learned to get to the point of a story quickly – and hopefully clearly.

With that in mind, there is something simple, but I believe powerful, that I would like you graduates to take away today – in addition to your hard-earned degrees.

That thing is a desire for a lasting connection to Charles Sturt University.

The greatest educational institutions in the world thrive based on the contributions of their alumni as they voyage from study into the professional world and feed their experiences and support back into the place where they were educated.

Networking with your alumni and staying connected with the people you meet as a student even outside of the campus will advantage you in several ways. I believe it is critical for individual development.

As a journalism student, I became friends with a young woman named Fiona Nash, a country girl who drove the coolest V8 ute in Bathurst. I didn't know that she would go on to be a Senator for NSW and become Deputy Leader of the National Party and a prominent minister in the Turnbull Government.

I shared Vegemite toast on many occasions with a girl named Chris Bath who became a very handy journalist.

Not only were they great student friends, they have been great people to know as I have grown professionally, first as a journalist and later as the Chief Executive Officer of Sky News Australia where I have become a businessman with profit and loss reports to make to our owners and journalists of my own to manage.

An important characteristic of successful networking is to regard all the people you meet in your travels as having value, and to treat them with respect. There are practical reasons for this, as well as moral ones.



PhD graduate Dr Mariya Yesseleva-Pionka.



Aiza Kamar (right) Master of Information Systems Security graduate.



Graduates from the Australian Graduate Management Consortium (AGMC) pathway program.

I believe that I now have working for me, at Sky News, my future boss. Part of the evidence is in my networking experience as a student.

When I was in first year, I accompanied my contemporaries on a work experience trip to meet the News Director of Channel Nine.

The News Director's name was Ian Cook, and he was a very powerful figure in the industry. Over time, Ian and I became good friends. Some years later, I was in a position to be able to employ him at Sky News. He was a great mentor to me throughout.

Today, in his memory, exists the Sky News Ian Cook Memorial Scholarship.

I know from experience that you graduates will marvel at the often surprising things you and your friends will achieve over the coming decades. Stay close to each other. And spread your friendships across the academic divides, because you never know where your career may take you; who might be able to help you; and how you might be able to help them.

When I fell in love with journalism all those years ago, I didn't dream that it would one day take me from being a TV reporter to leading a media company as a CEO. Let alone lead me to be invited to become Pro-Chancellor of Charles Sturt University.

You are now part of a 170,000 strong alumni. You are a valued member of a special community. Stay in touch with it.

As is the case with all our relationships, alumni relationships need active care and attention to sustain them. That can be a tough ask with our demanding modern lives, but I think it's worth it.

I look forward to continuing my association with you, and with this great university in the years to come.

**Angelos Frangopoulos**

Pro-Chancellor, Sydney  
Charles Sturt University



# History through Wiradjuri eyes

**FOR MUCH OF HIS LIFE DR YALMAMBIRRA DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS WIRADJURI BUT THE DISCOVERY LED TO A DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND MORE ABOUT HIS CULTURAL HERITAGE AND EVENTUALLY A PHD THROUGH CSU.**

“Mum and Dad had kept the fact that we were Indigenous a secret because they didn't want to lose their children,” Dr Yalmambirra said.

“When I found out and came to university it hit home – I'm Wiradjuri and I've got to do something about this. I wanted to know who I was.”

## **UNIVERSITY ON A DARE**

The path to a PhD was more of an evolution than a planned journey for Dr Yalmambirra.

“I was a bad bugger when I was young and got sent to a boy's home for 11 months. So I left school at 11 years of age and started work.

“I had no educational background. My education came from my workmates who were much older than me.”

More than 30 years on, his brother Robert graduated from CSU with a Bachelor of Parks Recreation and Heritage in 1995, and he challenged Yalmambirra to do the same.

“The promise was if I came to CSU and passed the recruiting program for mature-aged Indigenous people, then I would see it all the way through.”

So, aged 44, Yalmambirra moved from Sydney to Albury-Wodonga to study full-time.

After being awarded his Bachelor of Applied Science (Parks, Recreation and Heritage) (Honours) Yalmambirra set his sights on a PhD and began his research in 2003.

## **UNDERSTANDING THE PAST TO UNDERSTAND THE PRESENT**

Drawing on thousands of old diaries, notebooks and literature, written largely from a colonist's perspective, Dr Yalmambirra's PhD research explores and then challenges how Wiradjuri culture was documented as inferior and stone-age.

“For example, many of the books I read as part of my research suggested that Wiradjuri peoples were cannibals.”

Dr Yalmambirra also spoke with



41 Indigenous people from across Wiradjuri country, asking about their cultural background and knowledge.

These interviews touched on the Stolen Generations, dispossession and relocation to missions and reserves; the impacts of government policies; and how contemporary policies define Indigenous people today.

“My Dad was a stolen child so we never knew where he came from. My Mum had two children taken from her at birth so I have two elder siblings I have never met.

“This experience provides an impetus for a person to understand who they are first of all and then to go out and try to corroborate what you have in your own mind and your own heart.

“I went out and spoke with Wiradjuri people of different ages and sexes to get their perspective on the history of this country, to get their thoughts, ideas, opinions and aspirations.

“We are often seen by the broader community as being so far assimilated into non-Indigenous society that our cultures no longer exist or are no longer valid.

“My PhD was designed around two things – to provide an avenue where Wiradjuri peoples could have a voice and to show the broader Australian community that we

are still here, that we haven’t gone away and we are just as valid now as we were 120,000 years ago.

“In order to understand where people are today you need to be able to understand where they were in the past.”

## PLANTING THE SEED

Yalmambirra is now turning his research into a text, which he hopes will help students better understand our history and Wiradjuri culture.

“I think it is important that the voices of those 41 Wiradjuri people that I interviewed are taken into consideration when these students read the published historical narratives of Indigenous peoples and culture.

“I think all of those resources that I used for my research are very important because they portray an Australia that is out of line with First Nations’ peoples.

“People need to read those books to put what we say into perspective. It’s up to people to make up their own mind. We plant little seeds and how they nurture those seeds is entirely up to them.”

Dr Yalmambirra was awarded his PhD titled ‘Indigenous Cultures in Contemporary Australia: A Wiradjuri Case Study’ in December 2015.



[www.youtube.com/watch?v=DfVI\\_znbXRc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DfVI_znbXRc)



# CSU'S Newsroom



## SCANNING A BEE'S BRAIN TO SEE HOW IT WORKS

Combining his profession in medical imaging with a passion for apiary, CSU scientist Dr Mark Greco is examining bees' brains to understand how they respond to environmental change.

"Approximately one third of our human diet comes from food that relies on pollination by bees.

"Across the world bees are in decline and it's important for us to understand more about how they are affected by the changes to our environment, both the natural changes and those brought about by human influence."

Mark said adding pollutants (chemicals) to the bees' food source can affect their memory and so it influences the time it takes them to get back to the hive because they forget the landmarks they have memorised on the way to the food source.

By using x-ray computerised tomography, a CT scanner, these are non-invasive experiments that can track changes in the brains of bees over time.

Mark recently received a \$120,000 grant from the Eva Crane Trust, which supports researchers who have an interest in developing new technologies to save the bees of the world.

"Across the world bees are in decline and it's important for us to understand more about how they are affected by the changes to our environment, both the natural changes and those brought about by human influence."

## PARAMEDIC SKILLS TESTED IN EMERGENCY

In an early test of commitment to their chosen career, a group of CSU paramedicine students provided medical care when confronted with a recent emergency.

The four final-year paramedicine students from CSU in Bathurst were on a bus with their rugby teammates when they came across a single vehicle accident on the Mitchell Highway near Molong.

Students Mathew Schofield, Sam Ruttley, Blayne Duncan and Tom Pegler immediately went to help the four injured members of the Dubbo Demons Australian Football Club.

"We pulled over at the accident site, and, along with a registered nurse who was also driving past, we were able to help and comfort the injured driver and passengers until the paramedics arrived at the scene," Mathew Schofield said.

"When we came across the overturned car, the training and skills we'd learnt during the Bachelor of Clinical Practice (Paramedic) just kicked in. It seemed natural to provide medical help at the crash site. After three years of study, it was good to be able to help and know exactly what to do and when to do it."



## CSU'S 'TALL POPPY' SCIENTIST ONE TO LOOK UP TO

Finding solutions to the modern extinction crisis is a tall order but it's the motivation driving award-winning CSU scientist, Dr Dale Nimmo.

The ecologist and conservation biologist has been named a NSW Young Tall Poppy by the Australian Institute of Policy and Science, an organisation which aims to 'recognise and celebrate Australian intellectual and scientific excellence and to encourage younger Australians to follow in the footsteps of our outstanding achievers'.

"Alarming, scientists who study modern ecosystems have now concluded that the earth is amidst a sixth mass extinction event caused by changes to the global ecosystem caused by humans," Dale said.

"I study ecosystems around the world – from bird communities in Papua New Guinea, bears and wolves in Romanian farmland, to dingoes and possums in the Australian outback – to reveal how big disturbances like wildfire, droughts, invasive species, habitat loss and climate change affect ecosystems.

"I collect large datasets to build complex statistical models that allow me to identify the best ways of managing landscapes to protect wildlife. By understanding how ecosystems are affected by disturbances, my research aims to find ways of balancing the needs of humans and nature."



## DOES THE FULL MOON BRING OUT LUNATICS?

As the full moon rises many police officers brace for a hectic night believing it's when 'lunatics come out' but CSU research has dispelled the myth.

For his doctoral research through CSU's Australian Graduate School of Policing and Security, Dr Geoffrey Sheldon examined eight years of data from the Queensland Police Service.

Geoffrey has been a police officer for more than 30 years and is a Detective Inspector within the South Brisbane District of the Queensland Police Service.

"Most police the world over firmly believe in a lunar influence upon behaviour and, accordingly, their workload.

"I decided to check if the urban myth that police are busier at a full moon was true."

Geoffrey examined more than 900,000 jobs attended by Queensland Police from 2004 to 2011, covering 99 full moon events.

"I looked at both the number of jobs and types of jobs that had appeared in previous literature, or were generally indicative of disturbed behaviour. This included calls relating to mentally ill people, domestic violence, general disturbances, rape, homicide, suicide, wilful exposure and fatal traffic accidents."

Contrary to world-wide policing folklore, Geoffrey found there was no increase in calls for service at the full moon.

"My study demonstrates the art of organisational discourse and how the more experienced police tell stories of such events which affirms the 'lunar hypothesis' to following generations of officers."

As one of CSU's  
180,000 strong alumni,  
you are a valued  
member of a special  
community.  
**Stay connected!**



“

The greatest educational institutions in the world based on the contributions of their alumni.

As is the case with all our relationships, alumni relationships need active care and attention to sustain them. That can be a tough ask with our demanding modern lives but I think it's worth it.

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**Angelos Frangopoulos**  
CEO and Managing Editor  
Australian News Channel Pty Ltd

[alumni.csu.edu.au](http://alumni.csu.edu.au)



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