

# Thrive

CELEBRATING  
**20 YEARS**  
OF PARAMEDICINE

REMEMBERING BLAIR:  
A MOTHER'S STORY

VINTAGE EFFECT - NEW KNOWLEDGE FLOWS AT CSU'S EXPERIMENTAL WINERY, CONTINUING THE UNIVERSITY'S RICH WINEMAKING TRADITION.





YINDYAM	-
A BEAUTIFUL PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE .....	12
MAKING A MEANINGFUL DIFFERENCE .....	14
A RARE PRIVILEGE .....	15
THERE ARE PLACES I'LL REMEMBER.....	16
THE SKY'S THE LIMIT.....	18
CALENDAR.....	18
STAYING IN TOUCH .....	19
ONTARIO .....	20
GOING GLOBAL WITH CSU.....	21
A LANDMARK YEAR .....	22
CELEBRATING ALUMNI .....	23
DID YOU KNOW?.....	23

## CSU ALUMNI MAGAZINE

**Senior Officer, Alumni and Donor Relations:**

Gael Evans-Barr

**Magazine editor:** Peita Vincent

**Design:** Amy Felke

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

## CONTACT US:

Division of Marketing and Communication  
Charles Sturt University  
Panorama Avenue  
Bathurst NSW 2795, Australia  
Email: [alumni@csu.edu.au](mailto:alumni@csu.edu.au)

© 2015 Charles Sturt University  
CRICOS 00005F.



*Yindyamarra Winhanganha* is a Wiradjuri phrase meaning 'the wisdom of respectfully knowing how to live well in a world worth living in'. It's a sentiment at the heart of CSU's approach to education, and reflects the University's ethos 'for the public good'. We are proud of our Alumni for making this a world worth living in.





**W**elcome to *Thrive*, Charles Sturt University's new Alumni eMagazine.

A fresh approach to Alumni communications, *Thrive* is our way of keeping you in touch with your fellow CSU graduates and your University.

I meet our alumni all across the world and they are successful life-long learners who prosper, advance and flourish. This is what we mean by *Thrive*. Not only do our graduates thrive, their communities grow along with them, both professionally and economically. CSU's commitment to community has never wavered and we want to use this publication to showcase examples of how, together, we are leading positive change.

**"When I think of our graduates, I think of successful life-long learners who prosper, advance and flourish."**

A twice-yearly publication, *Thrive* will feature profiles of successful graduates, updates on new CSU initiatives, news of exciting Alumni events and provide opportunities for you to take a stroll down memory lane.

I'm proud to introduce you to our dedicated Alumni team (pictured above). While they might be small in number, their passion for helping our 170,000 Alumni stay connected is second to none.

This team also administers the CSU Foundation, which, through the generosity of our amazing donors, gave \$1.5 million in scholarships to worthy students this year alone. These scholarships make a difference in the lives of so many of our students who, like many of you, have refused to let any obstacle keep them from following their dreams.

*Thrive* is not the only new initiative on the radar at CSU, with July 22 set to mark our inaugural Foundation Day celebration.

Designed to acknowledge our beginnings, CSU Foundation Day aims to create awareness of who we are, what we value and where we're going. As a past student of CSU, I encourage you to wear red on July 22 and show your support for Foundation Day. Read more about how you can get involved here.

I hope you enjoy this first edition of *Thrive* as much as the team has enjoyed bringing it to you. Please let us know what you think, contribute if you can, and keep an eye on your inbox for December's edition.

Sincerely,

*Andrew Vann*

Professor Andrew Vann  
Vice-Chancellor and President,  
Charles Sturt University

APPROACHING DEMENTIA ON A PERSONAL LEVEL  
ALLOWED CSU ALUMNA DANIELLA GREENWOOD TO  
EXPERIENCE A CONNECTION LIKE NO OTHER AND MADE  
HER REALISE THAT IT'S ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS.

# Where the good stuff happens



**D**aniella Greenwood knew she loved working with older people – particularly people living with dementia – from the first day she volunteered in an aged care home. Connecting on a soul level with a person who initially appeared unreachable brought her sense of joy and purpose she had previously never known.

A chance meeting with CSU academic Marie Sheahan at a conference persuaded Daniella to study her Bachelor of Health Science (Leisure and Health), allowing her to critique the status quo, “and it gave me the courage and permission to question the way I was working,” she said.

What followed was a collaborative revolution in her workplace, Arcare.

**“We need to be building dementia-friendly residential communities and these should be seen as fantastic choices for families, not as a failing of families.”**

Through Appreciative Inquiry, Daniella engaged residents, families and staff in imaginative conversations about the kind of future they wanted to create together. These conversations led to the development of Arcare’s relationship-focused approach to providing care and support, an approach that prioritised the development of deep and interdependent relationships between residents, families and staff.

A key component of this approach was the introduction of a dedicated staffing model, where staff work with the same small group of residents.

“Talking to residents, talking to staff, talking to families about the things that really matter to them, we heard the same thing from everyone: it was all about relationships,” Daniella explains.

“When cleaners were complimented by families, it was never about how well they had cleaned the room, it was about the relationships they’d developed with their mum. Pretty early on we realised that we needed to focus on facilitating those relationships and the deepening of them for the good stuff to happen.

“In terms of even understanding people who don’t use words anymore, how do we know what they want on a day-to-day basis? How do we help them make choices? We do that because we are in relationships with them and staff get to know little nuances and we use every skill available to make sure we know what they want and don’t want.

“It’s very easy to say we believe relationships are important, but this company says we believe it’s the most important thing we do. We need to be building dementia-friendly residential communities and these should be seen as fantastic choices for families, not as a failing of families.”

As Strategy and Innovation Manager, Daniella oversees the implementation of Arcare’s dedicated staffing model, and also facilitates staff training, undertakes research and evaluation and reaches out to make links with other like-minded organisations around the world.

“Growing old needs to be celebrated,” she said.

“It’s such an achievement and a natural part of being human is we get old and we break down, whether that’s physically or mentally; that’s what happens if we’re lucky enough to get old.

“I think that the idea that being old and vulnerable equates to being sick is a problem. Old people are vulnerable and they do need clinical support in some instances but that’s one small part of what they need – the rest of it is called life!”





Photo credit: Cathy Greenblatt



Photo credit: Cathy Greenblatt

“In that space there was no dementia. There was only an amazing shared connection and experience through the music.”

## SHARED CONNECTION

“I went to see the opera *Madame Butterfly* with Dulcie (pictured above), a woman I had known for the last four years of her journey through dementia. At that time she was no longer walking or using words. I was not sure whether she would be able to stay awake for the opera, but it didn’t matter, as it was her favourite, so I knew that she would get something from the experience.

“As soon as the orchestra started up, she sat up straight and didn’t take her eyes off the stage the entire time. During the ‘Humming Chorus’ I squeezed her hand, and she squeezed mine back. When I glanced down at both of our arms I saw that we both had goosebumps; we were both lost and moved in the same way at the same time.

“In that space there was no dementia. There was only an amazing shared connection and experience through the music.”

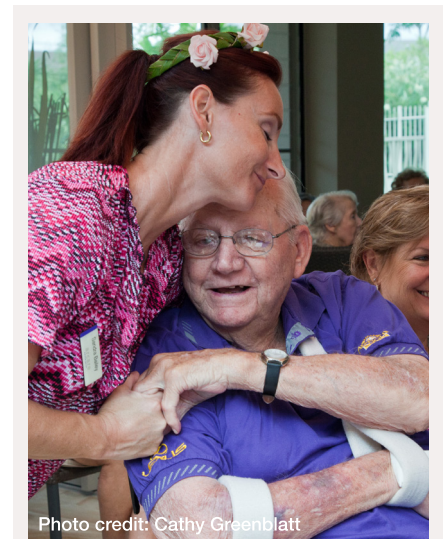


Photo credit: Cathy Greenblatt

## Daniella’s advice to young graduates just starting out:

- work in an area you feel passionate about
- trust your intuition
- question ways of doing and working that don’t make sense
- find like-minded allies, in your own organisation and beyond
- reach out and make contact with people who have inspired you
- don’t commit yourself financially – to anything – until you have found work that you love
- be courageous
- don’t ever compromise your values.

# IT TAKES A COMMUNITY

FILMED AT ARCARE, AUSTRALIA

Learn more about Arcare’s innovative approach to celebrating and supporting old age





WHEN BLAIR MILAN DIED SUDDENLY OF ACUTE MYELOID LEUKEMIA, HIS MOTHER LYNDEY DECIDED TO HONOUR HIS MEMORY BY ESTABLISHING A FUND TO SUPPORT OTHER STUDENTS.

# Remembering Blair



**B**lair always knew he was going to be famous – we just never thought it would be like this.

He had the most delightful and deep-seated self-confidence. Add to that the fact that anyone who met him for even a few moments remembered him. He had a way of being completely present when he spoke to you.

So when he died so tragically and quickly, my partner John Caldon, Blair's closest CSU friends and I decided to establish the Blair Milan Fund to ensure his name was kept alive. That is really, really important to me – that he will not be forgotten – and those not lucky enough to meet him will come to know him. Not only that, but the fund encourages similarly talented and committed young people to be acknowledged.

**“That is really, really important to me – that he will not be forgotten – and those not lucky enough to meet him will come to know him.”**

It's hard being a Theatre / Media student, so when you see that the individual award allows winners to travel for internships, have extra training and for the group winners to tour their shows interstate, it makes you feel very proud and pleased that Blair helped them achieve this. And that his name travels with them.

Blair only ever wanted to go to CSU and experience Theatre / Media. I don't think anywhere else was an option.

When I first went to visit Blair at CSU I loved it! I went to a Sydney university and really feel, in hindsight, that I didn't get involved enough in university life. I felt for Blair to go and live on campus and then move out with friends, he would get the most from it, meet others from diverse backgrounds and enjoy a country experience. Then my daughter, Lucy, chose the same path, arriving in first year when Blair was in third.

I loved the camaraderie of it all. Not only all the other kids, parents and amazing staff, but I would take a load of friends with me and stay in cottages on Mount Panorama. We would meet the kids at the pub after their Friday night performance. On Saturday I would cook a huge lunch for the kids and their friends.

I was brought up to believe that if you are fortunate enough to have a good education and family, then you should help others. I also want to make a difference. I always have. To make this world a better place, in some small way, than it was when I entered it. However, the greatest accolade here needs to go to my partner, John Caldon. Without his vision and generosity this fund would never have got a kick along.

The amazing thing about this fund is, that being attached to the CSU Foundation, all monies donated stay there and are not eaten into by administration fees. This is extraordinary. We keep encouraging donations and I email donors via the CSU Foundation with updates on what our winners are doing. I want them to feel connected.

*Lyndey Milan*





Blair Milan Tour Prize 2012 winners Romy Clugston and Lou McDonald combine wine and comedy in their new venture, 'The Vino Duo' produced by their company Sticky Feet Productions. Photo credit: Jessica Ann Harris (<http://www.photosbyjessieann.com/>)

## ANGUS WILKINSON AND REBECCA 'CUB' BLAKE - CICADA STUDIOS



First-year winner Angus Wilkinson and second-year winner Rebecca 'Cub' Blake have now formed their own theatre company in London called Cicada Studios, and will debut their first production, *Miss Sarah*, at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. This play was written by CSU

Theatre/Media student Ella Cook, with fellow alumnus Jordan Gallaway also performing in it.

"Receiving The Blair Milan Scholarship acted as a 'tick of approval', an indicator that said I was moving in the right direction," said Angus, who just completed a year as Baz Luhrmann's Executive Assistant.

"The funds allowed me to reduce my working hours at my part-time job for the remainder of my degree to focus on my study."

## CARISSA LICCIARDELLO - SIREN THEATRE CO



Currently developing two independent shows as part of the creative partnership she co-founded, leftofcentre theatre co., and interning with director Kate Gaul and her company Siren Theatre Co, third-year recipient Carissa Licciardello says being awarded the Blair Milan Scholarship gives her the honour of continuing Blair's legacy of hard work, a love of theatre and performance, and a joy for life.

"The overwhelming impression I have of Blair from the many people who knew and loved him was that

he lived an incredibly full life and threw himself into every experience, was kind, generous and absolutely devoted to the people in his life. I can only aspire to match this achievement, and keep this sense of perspective about the things that really matter in life.

"I want Lyndey and John to know that becoming part of that extended family of people Blair knew and loved is probably the most valuable component of being awarded the scholarship. I'm really grateful for that."

## THE FUND

Blair graduated from the Bachelor of Arts (Communication – Theatre / Media) with Distinction in 2003 (as did his sister, Lucy, in 2005). As Blair brought passion to everything he did, it only seemed right that we pass on his passion and enthusiasm to future Theatre/Media students.

The Blair Milan Fund comprises two parts, the Blair Milan Scholarship and the Blair Milan Tour Prize.

### The Blair Milan Scholarship

A \$3,000 scholarship is awarded annually to a third year Theatre/Media student who exemplifies the generous artistic spirit and attitude of Blair. The student is carefully selected by CSU's academic staff with input from Blair's family and peers. Selection is based on the student's community involvement, academic and on-stage performance as well as goals and motivation. The scholarship aims to encourage students studying Theatre / Media to demonstrate optimism, enthusiasm and a passion for their chosen field.


### The Blair Milan Tour Prize

One of the most significant moments in Blair's career was performing in the production *Death's Waiting Room*. This production was originally produced by final-year Theatre / Media students who were fortunate enough to secure funding to bring the work to Sydney. Funding from the Blair Milan Tour Prize gives other final-year students the same opportunity by providing financial support to bring their work to metropolitan and/or regional communities. Each year \$7,000 is provided to assist the chosen production as selected by academic staff with input from Blair's peers and the Milan family. Profits realised from this production are returned to the Blair Milan Touring Fund.

For information on how you can give to CSU, including directly to the Blair Milan Fund, visit CSUgive.







WITH A PROUD TRADITION OF ADDRESSING INDUSTRY  
SKILLS SHORTAGES, CSU IS EXCITED TO INTRODUCE ITS  
NEW ENGINEERING COURSE FROM 2016.

# Engineering the future

**N**ext year, CSU will commence an exciting new venture as one of Australia's only undergraduate entry Masters level engineering programs.

As Foundation Professor of Engineering Euan Lindsay explains, CSU Engineering is a program with a difference.

"What makes CSU Engineering different is that we don't actually have any students – we have Student Engineers.

**"CSU Engineering is about creating entrepreneurial engineers who make a difference."**

"From the day they start with us, we will treat them as an engineer; as a young professional moving towards becoming a professional engineer.

"For the first 18 months, that happens face-to-face on our Bathurst Campus where we will run them through realistic, team-based challenges that replicate authentic engineering practice.

"Then they move from being a Student Engineer to a Cadet Engineer for the next four years, where they go and work in industry as an engineer solving real-world engineering problems.

"Be it a local government authority, industry contractors, or overseas with a charity, they do tasks that serve their employer, not assignments we've made up to check their learning.

"This approach prepares graduates for the real world. We're preparing them to go straight into practice and that's a very big difference and one we're very excited about."

Thanks to industry input, CSU Engineering has been located within the Faculty of Business.

"Employers tell us they want graduates with more of the skills a business faculty teaches; they want engineers with the ability to communicate well, to convey information to both technical and non-technical audiences, to understand how business works, and how to make projects happen rather than just coming up with great ideas for projects.





## New courses...

**FROM 2016, THOSE LOOKING FOR  
ADVANCEMENT IN SAFETY AND SECURITY  
CAN STUDY A NEW DEGREE.**

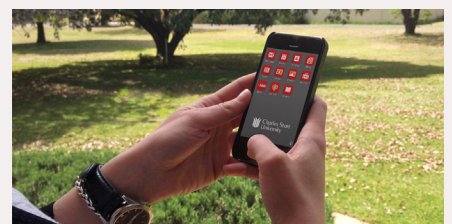


Offered online, the **Bachelor of Public Safety and Security** will draw upon CSU's considerable expertise in policing and criminal justice studies and provide diverse electives that will allow students to tailor their studies to suit their work context.

The course will support Australia's multi-agency approach to handling national security and public safety threats such as organised crime, transnational crime, cyber crime, people smuggling, money laundering, natural and man-made disasters.

A feature of the program will be the potential for students to engage study tours to Canada, the Middle East, New Zealand and the UK.

Keep an eye on our Courses page for details.



This year, CSU introduced its **Master of Mobile Applications Development**, enabling students to develop apps for all major mobile platforms, including Apple iOS, Google Android and Microsoft Windows Mobile, using the industry's leading development platforms including the Phonegap, Unity and Xamarin. The course concludes with a capstone project where students design an app they can commercialise.

**Read more here.**



"CSU's Faculty of Business has a real strength in entrepreneurship – the ability to actually make things happen. We're in there to make a difference. Our entrepreneurship is about social change and actually making our environment better.

"While a traditional engineering school produces engineers who make things, and a traditional business school will make entrepreneurs who make money, CSU Engineering is about creating entrepreneurial engineers who make a difference," Professor Lindsay (pictured above with Professor of Engineering James Morgan) said.

CSU Engineering will have its first intake of students in February 2016. For more information (and a sneak peek at our new Engineering building) visit our Engineering website.



**We caught up with Professor Euan Lindsay to hear more about why CSU is so excited to be introducing its Engineering program.**



WINEMAKING IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF CSU'S  
HERITAGE AND THE EXPERIMENTAL WINERY CONTINUES  
THAT RICH TRADITION.

# Vintage effect



**I**t's mid-March, and the Experimental Winery is a hive of activity.

Grapes from Griffith, Gundagai and Mildura have been harvested and are waiting to be pressed. Impressive machines hum to life on this warm autumn morning, and a quiet efficiency underlies the frequent good-natured banter of the workers.

Julia Gouot is an intern from Paris. Arms-deep in a vat of delicious smelling Shiraz grapes, Julia is one of the many international students who use the Experimental Winery to further their own, and the industry's, knowledge.

**"People think that winemaking is routine. But the composition of the grapes and the wine is always changing and you're always learning. I love that about winemaking. I call it the vintage effect."**

Already a winemaker, Julia is completing six months in Australia as part of her Master of Research and Development in Analytical Chemistry with AgroParisTech. Studying chemistry will give Julia the complementary skills needed to succeed.

"I wanted to come to the southern hemisphere for harvest, and my teacher in Paris is an Australian," Julia said. "The Wagga Wagga Campus is like a safari lodge; there's so much space and even kangaroos on the road."

Julia explains that she enjoys using the facilities of the Experimental Winery and knowing where any of her experimental wines are up to at any given point.

"I can see them, smell them and taste them whenever I like," she said.

"People think that winemaking is routine. But the composition of the grapes and the wine is always changing and you're always learning. I love that about winemaking. I call it the vintage effect."

It's that process of learning and creating new and interesting wines that lies at the heart of the National Wine and Grape Industry Centre's (NWGIC) Experimental Winery.

As experimental winemaker Campbell Meeks explains, making the wine is only half the job.

"We're sampling and analysing the wine at every step. We use neutral yeasts in the fermenting process and keep the temperature of the wine

controlled to ensure that we're analysing the effects of the experiment. For example, if the experiment was to manipulate nitrogen in the vineyard to see if that impacts on wine quality, it's vital that those effects are influenced by the winemaking process as little as possible, so we're constantly controlling and measuring everything."

Himself a CSU graduate (Bachelor of Applied Science (Wine Science), 2009), Campbell sees the benefits of having a hands-on learning facility for undergraduate and postgraduate students alike.

"The Experimental Winery prepares students for the wine industry and ensures new knowledge is developed to benefit the entire sector."

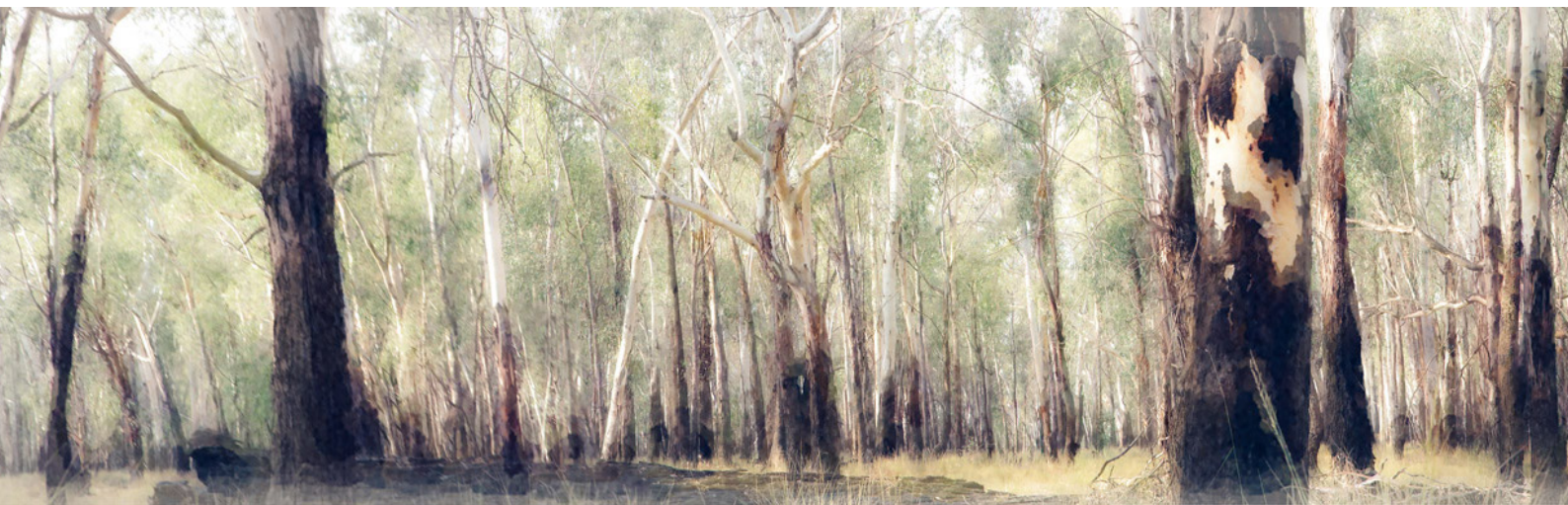




## WINE

Rocco Longo is from the Calabria region of Southern Italy. He's currently in Australia doing his PhD in Oenology





# Yindyamarra

## A beautiful philosophy of life

**B**ernard Sullivan is a non-indigenous artist working with a number of Aboriginal Elders, particularly the Wiradjuri people of Central West and southern NSW, exploring how culture can be understood and communicated.

“My PhD is about communicating what is most easily lost; the subtle deeper meanings of language and culture that are easily lost in translation, or when cultures are disrupted due to crisis, such as war, natural disaster or genocide. This is applicable to many situations throughout the world.

“We often make mistakes when trying to understand our own or other cultures.

“Unless we learn to listen and carefully interpret, and become open to deep learning, humanity faces the prospect of losing subtle and undocumented areas of understanding in many dimensions of life.

“My PhD is a way of fulfilling my need to contribute to society and I think revitalisation and widespread understanding of Aboriginal culture and language is a primary way to address the historical wrongs and contemporary imbalances in Australian society.”

With a background in graphic design and animation, Bernard was interested in how creative professionals could support the authentic and non-destructive transfer and revitalisation of culture.

“This is a complex, dynamic process,” he said.

“It is not about simple preservation, but about respectful partnerships, where the perspective and authority of the custodians of ideas is respected, and where the creative professional is healthily engaged in the process, according to appropriate principles and protocols.”

Bernard proposes that, where possible, the methodology and protocols, and everything related to conducting and presenting research, should be directly shaped by the cultural values of the people participating and collaborating with it.

In this case, the values of the Wiradjuri people have shaped the way Bernard is conducting his research.

“The Wiradjuri people, despite the cultural disruption of the last 200 years, have managed to hold in place a beautiful philosophy of life, *yindyamarra*. It is what their whole society was built on, and upon which significant revitalisation is now taking place.

“*Yindyamarra* is a single word, but it has multiple interrelated meanings including respect, honour, and taking things slow. It has been made clear to me by the Wiradjuri Elders that it is a whole way of life in one word and it continues to enrich my life enormously as I learn to think and act according to this concept.”

It is in keeping with *yindyamarra* that every part of the research process will have an ongoing benefit to the communities, families and individuals involved.

“This means that copies of video interviews, oral history books, language books, and the language animations and videos that have been created have been made available to the Elders who have provided the source material. The ownership of their material remains with them.

“In addition, with their agreement, much of the research material has been directly utilised in the **Graduate Certificate in Wiradjuri Language, Culture and Heritage** at CSU.





“Another important aim is that the PhD output itself will be intelligible and accessible to these communities, not sit on a university library shelf somewhere. This vision is helped by much of the doctorate itself taking the form of animated poetry in Wiradjuri and English, primarily of concepts related to *yindyamarra*.

“Dr Uncle Stan Grant has explained to me that it is respectful to speak Wiradjuri language on Wiradjuri country, and that the Wiradjuri Council of Elders asked him to make the language available to everyone, not just Wiradjuri people.”

Bernard hopes his research will contribute to establishing ways of working that respect Aboriginal people and culture. He’d like the concepts and processes resulting from his research to be implemented throughout the world to support the maintenance and evolution of cultural riches and wisdom of the world’s peoples, regardless of the threats or challenges they face.

“I hope the written thesis becomes a supporting handbook for creative professionals working in situations where cultural understanding and respect needs to be central, which of course is always,” he said.

“The legacies of the past will always haunt both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultures until we learn to see and acknowledge all the dimensions of this complex relationship. When we are able to work and live together with respect, with *yindyamarra*, amazing things will be possible in Australia.”



Bernard paid tribute to the generous support given to his PhD journey by a number of Wiradjuri and Ngilyampaa Elders, including Dr Uncle Stan Grant, Aunty Flo Grant, Aunty Joyce Hampton, Uncle Ray Woods, Aunty Lorraine Tye, Aunty Sandy Warren, Aunty Beryl Carmichael and many others.

“Without this support, the permission to work with the concept of *yindyamarra*, and the support of my Indigenous Reference Group, my research would be without any real application or relevance. I hope that the doctorate will be successful, not only in helping me to find my voice at a new level, but also as a platform and opportunity for the voices of the Aboriginal people I am working with to be heard in ways that they would not otherwise have been, and that, together, our voices are stronger than they would have been alone.”

Bernard’s animation will include elements of video, still and time lapse photography, painted elements, audio and voiceover. It will show as one of the exhibits at the opening of the Albury Art Gallery from mid-September 2015, and will be followed by a collaborative exhibition, with all who have contributed to the research, in Wagga Wagga in 2016.

Read more about Bernard’s research.

**Above image: Aunty Joyce Hampton, Bernard Sullivan, Aunty Lorraine Tye and Nives Zalokar working on artists’ books.**

**Balmang baliran-dha mamandha-l-guwaan**

**In the empty silence of the night, what was uncertain, or forgotten,**

**Gulur ngulagambila-girri, bunma-bunma-rra Yindyamarra**

**But will return home, makes a part of Yindyamarra**





PASSIONATE ABOUT REGIONAL PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES, CSU'S THIRD CHANCELLOR, DR MICHELE ALLAN, DESCRIBES HER APPOINTMENT AS A GREAT HONOUR.

## Making a meaningful difference

**D**r Michele Allan is no stranger to universities. Holding multiple degrees from various institutions, Dr Allan also has an academic background in biomedical science, management and law.

When you couple this with her extensive experience in agribusiness, including as current Chair of the Board of Meat and Livestock Australia, and her knowledge of regional people and communities, you begin to see why Dr Allan was recently appointed as CSU's third Chancellor, the first female to hold the role.

Dr Allan's passion for regional Australia began early in life.

"As a child, our family had a number of small regional enterprises, which inspires you to work with these communities," Dr Allan explained.

"My passion for working with regional communities and growers in a formal sense began in 1991 when I joined Kraft Foods. My role in the company took me to many regional communities in Australia and my work has continued to this day. I enjoy working in rural and regional Australia and maybe helping these communities in the work I do."

Dr Allan describes her appointment as CSU Chancellor as a great honour.

"Charles Sturt University has been continuously engaged in the delivery of education and research

of relevance to its regions for more than 100 years. It was this history, and the role I believe that Charles Sturt University can and will play into the future in the development of rural and regional Australia, that drew me to accept the invitation to become its third Chancellor.

"Interestingly I never think about being female. I have always worked in businesses and communities that value what you can add, rather than who you are. While it is an honour to be appointed CSU's first female Chancellor, I will endeavour to add value to the University where I can."

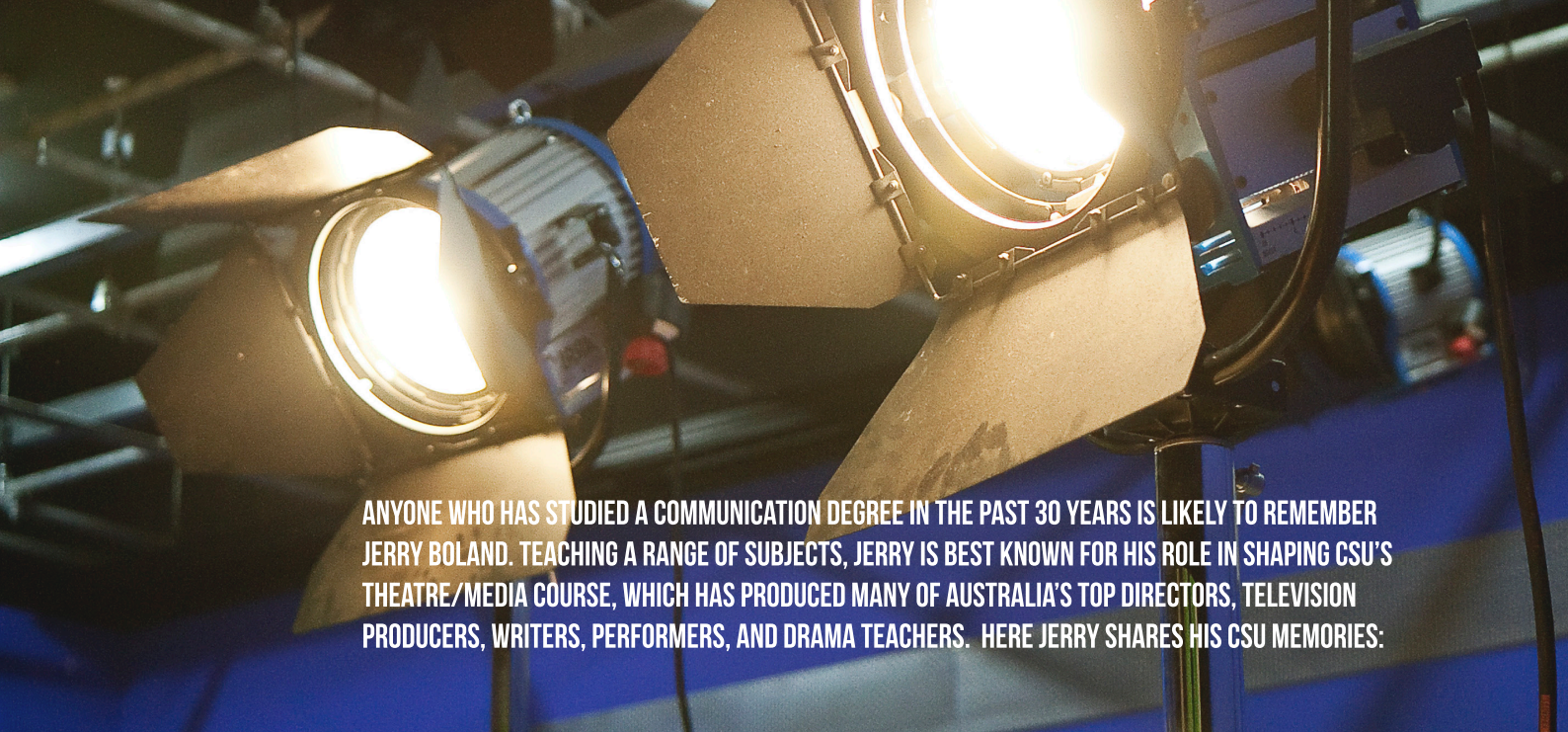
Dr Allan does not underestimate the responsibilities of her new role, particularly the advancement of CSU and its relevance to rural and regional Australia.

"The legacy I inherit as Chancellor is a University that has made a meaningful and practical difference to the day-to-day lives of ordinary rural, regional and Indigenous Australians. This is a legacy I intend to honour and extend.

"I aim to continue the great achievements of CSU in rural and regional Australia, and to uphold the wonderful heritage and rich courses we offer to our students.

"I hope that the service I am honoured to provide as Chancellor will be worthy of this truly great University."





ANYONE WHO HAS STUDIED A COMMUNICATION DEGREE IN THE PAST 30 YEARS IS LIKELY TO REMEMBER JERRY BOLAND. TEACHING A RANGE OF SUBJECTS, JERRY IS BEST KNOWN FOR HIS ROLE IN SHAPING CSU'S THEATRE/MEDIA COURSE, WHICH HAS PRODUCED MANY OF AUSTRALIA'S TOP DIRECTORS, TELEVISION PRODUCERS, WRITERS, PERFORMERS, AND DRAMA TEACHERS. HERE JERRY SHARES HIS CSU MEMORIES:

## A rare privilege



### What is your best CSU experience?

My favourite times are when I am in production with Theatre / Media (TM) people. It is during those times when we give the most of ourselves to each other, with the aim of creating something interesting and memorable for our audiences at the Ponton Theatre or in the streets and pubs of downtown Bathurst.

### What is your worst CSU experience?

The death of my friend / TM grad Tim Durick in 1994 and the death of one of my oldest friends, and decades-long work colleague, Professor John Carroll in 2011. These are 'CSU experiences' because working in Theatre / Media is a very unique and deeply personal experience.

### What has made you stay at CSU for 30 years?

I was hired to help reorient the Theatre / Media curriculum towards the creation of original work so that graduates could develop the tools and competencies to support their creative vision. My daily work is organised around a long-term social / educational project that contributes positively to the cultural life of the nation – as demonstrated by the achievements of our graduates. It is a rare and great privilege to engage in this sort of work and that conviction motivates me each and every day of my working life.

### Why is it important for Alumni to stay connected?

Beyond the friendship groups, CSU Alumni can choose to benefit successive cohorts in a variety of ways – and those ways will only begin, evolve and manifest by making efforts to stay in touch with one another following graduation. Networking to help peers find employment, or provide internship

placements for current students, or make donations to the CSU Foundation for scholarships are but three of the most obvious options available to all graduates.

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

Thirty cohorts of TM undergraduates have taught / reminded me to never take anything for granted, to always attempt to stay open and available to hearing and responding to what highly creative people are trying to communicate.

In this they are underscoring an essential truth of what it means to work as an educator and that is that you never 'arrive' – times, technology, perspectives, and people change, but on a day-to-day basis there is only this moment and this group of people with whom one seeks to effect some sort of honest and authentic dialogue about ideas and creative projects.

### What is one thing that you always wanted to do but never got around to?

Hey! I ain't gone yet... and I've a fair few years to go before I shuffle off. I am currently working with TM staff and graduates to organise an annual summer networking event for older TM graduates to connect and offer advice to newer TM graduates.

### What would you like your students to remember you for?

'Be the bus...' – they know what I mean.

### One last thing...

We conjure our future with our dreams and aspirations – commit yourself to others, trust the good in people, and go for it!



KNOWN LOCALLY AS 'SOUTH CAMPUS', THE SITE OF THE WAGGA WAGGA TEACHERS' COLLEGE HAS PLAYED A PROMINENT ROLE IN THE CITY'S HISTORY.

HERE TWO ALUMNI SHARE THEIR RECOLLECTIONS.

# There are places I'll remember...



**W**hen you live on a campus for any length of time, you become familiar with its buildings, its nooks and crannies, its sights and sounds.

For John Ferguson and Bruce Forbes, graduates of the Wagga Wagga Teachers' College (WWTC), South Campus left an indelible mark.

Five decades after commencing his Teachers' Certificate, John's recollections of campus life remain vivid.

*"Academically and practically, we were very well prepared to teach when we graduated. Socially, I had the greatest time of my life."*

"When I was a student, South Campus was on the very edge of town.

"I remember walking the 200 metres from the men's dorms to the dining room for meals and the old weatherboard buildings for lectures.

"The sounds of descant recorders echoing through the dorms as we all prepared for our music practical, and the smell of red haddock cooking on Friday afternoons in the college kitchen... a meal that only the hearty tried more than once!

"Listening to the latest Beatles and Beach Boys LPs on a borrowed record player and cramming for exams before the wisteria (pictured above) bloomed.

"Walking to Turvey Park Demonstration School every Thursday morning dressed in a coat and tie and being paid our fortnightly scholarship allowance in the old gym and then making a dash for the Turvey Tavern.

"Academically and practically, we were very well prepared to teach when we graduated," John said. "And socially I had the greatest time of my life."

Graduating from WWTC in 1966, Bruce Forbes says meeting wife Lesley (pictured top right) was the highlight of his time on South Campus.







"There were many highlights both on and off the campus, but meeting my wife to be and taking her out for a Dutch shout at the Bidgee Bar in Baylis Street on a regular fortnightly outing was the big one," he said.

"On campus, all meals were quite formal with lecturers having a head table and the entire student body having to stand and wait for the Principal to arrive. Sitting down to the meal was a cacophony of sliding chairs on lino as over 300 students sat down to participate in the mystifying culinary delight.

"The playing fields were extensive with basketball courts, rugby fields and athletic tracks. Fire hydrants were a great source of cooling relief in February and November.

"Father Green, fondly known as Pere Verte, kept a check on the expansive grounds for our safety and security. He also constantly supervised the 'milky way'— the road dividing the ladies' dormitory from the gentlemen's domain."

Now WWTC Alumni Association president, Bruce said he would like South Campus to be remembered as a residential institution that moulded and prepared 3,000 or more students to teach in the NSW public education system.

For John, South Campus was the place he met great colleagues, many of whom remain friends 50 years on. "I'd like to see a memorial to mark South Campus as the WWTC site in memory of the thousands of teachers who did their training there."



## A potted history

**1943** – Commonwealth Government acquires farmland site

**1944-1946** – Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) military hospital operates on site

**June 1947** – 146 students (72 men and 74 women) commence studies at the Wagga Wagga Teachers' College (WWTC)

**May 1949** – 144 students of the pioneer session graduate

**1958** – first College principal George Blackmore dies aged 58. More than 300 College students form a guard of honour

**1959** – George Muir appointed as Principal

**1961** – Maurice Hale takes up the role of College Principal

**September 1968** – WWTC site named as the location for the future Riverina College of Advanced Education (RCAE)

**1971** – Final graduating students receive their diplomas, and staff walk through the College gates for the last time

**1 January 1972** – Riverina College of Advanced Education opens with Clifford Douglas Blake as Foundation Principal

**11 December 1972** – Work commences on RCAE's north campus (adjacent to the Wagga Agricultural College) to accommodate growing student numbers

**30 October 1973** – The Duke of Edinburgh visits South Campus

**1 January 1976** – The Wagga Agricultural College becomes the RCAE School of Agriculture

**1978** – CSU Regional Archives, established in 1973, becomes autonomous. Today it is the third-largest university archives in Australia

**May 1980** – Governor-General Sir Zelman Cowen officially opens RCAE's north campus (known as Boorooma Campus)

Until the end of 2013, South Campus was used for CSU student accommodation, other CSU operations and as a space for the Riverina Theatre Company. The CSU Regional Archives, Riverina Conservatorium of Music and the CSU Kay Hull Veterinary Teaching Hospital remain operational on the site.

**Read Nancy Blacklow's book 'South Campus: A History' for more information.**

### WAGGA WAGGA TEACHERS' COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Formed in 1997, the WWTC Alumni Association produces the *Talkabout* magazine three times a year for around 1,500 former students and lecturers. The Association also provides a scholarship to a fourth-year CSU Education student each year and gives assistance to year groups promoting reunions.

Funds have also been allocated to various community projects, including the CSU Regional Archives.

If you would like to contact the WWTCAA, please **email Bruce Forbes**.





# The sky's the limit

*"The chilly morning air filled our lungs as we clambered into the cumbersome wicker basket. The sound of the flames breathing fire into the canopy overcame our senses as the basket squeaked and we jostled about in excitement. With one final burst from the burner we breathlessly began our ascent. In awed silence, we slipped seamlessly up, up and up into the glorious dawn sky. We could see forever... from the clear glass surface of Lake Burley Griffin to the widespread plains and distant mountains diffused with golden first morning light."*

**VISIT OUR  
EVENTS PAGE  
FOR MORE  
DETAILS**

Find yourself ballooning, climbing the Sydney Harbour Bridge or enjoying jazz in a picturesque winery – the choice is yours with CSU's Alumni Event Series.

This event series brings CSU Alumni together to experience something really special – unique encounters that foster fun and friendships.

Last year, CSU hosted a sold-out ballooning event in Canberra, with some amazing feedback given at the champagne breakfast held afterwards.

"Wow, this was an amazing experience and something I have always wanted to do," one Alumnus said. "I have met some incredible people from different professions and I am impressed by the diverse courses available at CSU," said another. A third participant, the child of a CSU Alumnus said, "Wow, my mum went to CSU and brought me here today and it was awesome. My uni doesn't do anything like this!"

As Alumni events coordinator Julie Brouggy said, staying in touch with fellow Alumni brings many opportunities for strengthening friendships, as well as developing vital connections that can lead to career progression, mentoring and professional development.



"With more than 170,000 CSU alumni spread across the globe, our aim is to support and facilitate our vibrant alumni community to go from strength to strength, with some fun and excitement along the way."

## Calendar

**Wednesday 2 September, Melbourne**

**LOOKING FORWARD — LOOKING BACK, CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF TRANSFORMING LIVES**

Help celebrate 40 years of library and information education at CSU with a panel discussion followed by refreshments at the State Library of Victoria.

**Thursday 17 September, Bathurst**

**RED AND BLUE BALL — CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF PARAMEDICINE AT CSU**

CSU Student Paramedics Australasia's annual Red and Blue Ball will celebrate graduates new and old by marking 20 years since Australia's first Bachelor-level paramedics course was introduced at CSU.

**Wednesday 30 September, Sydney**

**LOOKING FORWARD — LOOKING BACK, CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF TRANSFORMING LIVES**

Help celebrate 40 years of library and information studies education at CSU with a panel discussion followed by refreshments at the State Library of NSW.

**Saturday 3 October, Orange**

**ORANGE AGRICULTURAL CLUB BLACK TIE DINNER**

Held to recognise the students of the past 42 years, this event will include a two-course meal, industry speakers, live entertainment, silent auction and a chance to catch up with old boys, girls, past lecturers and course coordinators.

**Saturday 10 October, Bathurst**

**ILLUMINATION FESTIVAL**

Celebrate Bathurst's Bicentenary this Spring with an after-hours event at the Australian Fossil and Mineral Museum exclusively for CSU Alumni. Reconnect with Bathurst and CSU while enjoying a taste of the region with the local food and wine on offer.

**Friday 16 October, Sydney**

**THE SKY'S THE LIMIT ALUMNI BRIDGE CLIMB**

Exciting climb to the top of the iconic harbour bridge. Enjoy spectacular views across beautiful Sydney Harbour. Limited numbers so book early!

**Thursday 19 November, Melbourne**

**UP UP & AWAY ALUMNI DAWN BALLOON FLIGHT AND BREAKFAST**

Take to the skies over Melbourne in our exciting dawn hot air balloon experience. Includes breakfast at the Sofitel Melbourne. Don't miss out, limited numbers, book now!

**Friday 27 and Saturday 28, November**

**Wagga Wagga**

**CELEBRATE 40 YEARS OF VITICULTURE AT CSU**

Past and current viticulture and wine science students will converge on Wagga Wagga to celebrate 40 years since these courses commenced.

**LIVING IN HONG KONG OR INDIA? EVENTS COMING SOON.**

**KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR INBOX!**



# Staying in touch

## Matt Boylan-Smith



For many of us, University is like a melting pot.

People from diverse backgrounds are thrown together for three or four years, living and studying together, and, if they're lucky, forging friendships that last a lifetime.

That is certainly true for Arts graduate Matt Boylan-Smith.

For singer-songwriter Matt, the network he developed while at CSU remains strong today.

"At CSU I was inspired to cultivate my network.

"I catch up quite regularly with a few people from CSU. It seems to happen on a weekly basis at least. CSU has its tendrils in a lot of nooks and crannies in many industries in Sydney, so it's quite a regular occurrence."

Along with the more incidental meetings, Matt also regularly organises events for CSU alumni.

"I help organise a CSU catch-up at The White Horse in Surry Hills every couple of months to get whoever wants to come down together for an informal meet up. Last time we had old boy Bob Deacon do his stand-up routine before the Fringe Festival and another alum got up and played some of the best harmonica I have seen live.

"Personally I think it's great to have a beer and see what's been happening with old friends.

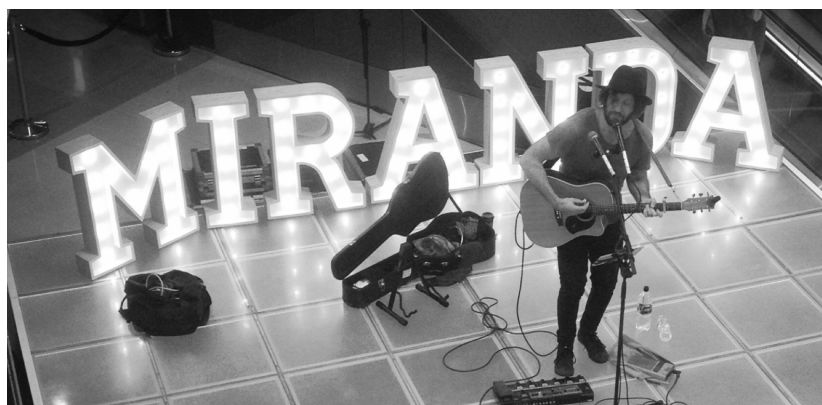
"Professionally it's great, as there is a ready-made network of people who have a predisposition towards wanting to help each other."

When asked how he would characterise the friendships made while at CSU, Matt explains he has been a groomsman for two friends that he met at CSU.

"The gravity is strong there."



"Professionally it's great, as there is a ready-made network of people who have a predisposition towards wanting to help each other."



### A BIT MORE ABOUT MATT:

**I'M CURRENTLY...** working on a new EP.


**I NEVER DREAMED I WOULD...** be self-employed before 30.

**MY GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT IS...** meeting and staying mates with so many great people.

**THE BEST PIECE OF ADVICE I EVER RECEIVED...** was from an old CSU lecturer - don't let your weekends affect your week.

**THE SINGLE-MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE IN THE WORLD IS...** ignorance.





JUNE MARKS A SIGNIFICANT  
WATERSHED FOR CSU IN CANADA,  
WITH A GRADUATION, A 10 YEAR  
CELEBRATION AND THE END OF OUR  
PHYSICAL PRESENCE IN ONTARIO.

# Marking 10 years in Ontario

**D**espite tornado warnings, more than 250 alumni, current students and staff gathered at CSU's Ontario Campus to mark a special occasion on June 10.

A reunion to celebrate 10 years of CSU in Ontario, the event also marked the end of the University's physical presence in Ontario as it transitions to offering online courses only. Guests were treated to a barbecue, cupcakes and champagne and alumni were also given bookmarks, Australia shaped post-its and pens and a CSU branded briefcase to mark the event.

*"We are proud of the contribution our graduates continue to make to the community of Ontario – they will be our major legacy in the province."*

A silent auction of campus artwork and memorabilia raised \$700 benefitting the United Way of Burlington charity, while the library hosted a 'fill a bag' event allowing Alumni to select from the remaining books in the campus library for a \$5 donation to *Books Without Bounds*.

Even though the reasons for the celebration were bittersweet, it was an uplifting event charged with emotion and forward thinking, as guests were overheard promising to keep in touch and remarking on what CSU has meant to them over the years. There was also talk of alumni events in future.

The gathering came just days before another 250 students graduated from a range of Education, Policing, Business, Health Sciences and Nursing programs.

In 2005, CSU became one of the first foreign universities to be recognised as a university in the Province of Ontario, and the first to commence operations with a Teacher Education program.

CSU Ontario Provost and Head of Campus Associate Professor Will Letts praised those students who had graduated from CSU in Ontario throughout the past 10 years.

*"We are proud of the contribution our graduates will continue to make to the community of Ontario – they will be our major legacy in the province."*

Professor Letts was joined by the Mayor of Burlington, Rick Goldring, and CSU Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Andrew Vann, in acknowledging CSU's time in Ontario.





**TOP LEFT:** Jes Wojkowski enjoys the 'fill a bag' event; Primary Education Studies graduate Alison Wojkowski addresses the recent gathering; John Bastedo searches through the Ontario Campus library; CSU Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Andrew Vann meets with guests.



## Going global with CSU



A mature age, distance education student with a young family isn't the most likely candidate for a CSU Global experience, but Grant Kelson grabbed the opportunity with both hands.

Studying a Bachelor of Business (Finance) and working as an agribusiness banker at the time, Grant considered studying in China to accelerate his degree. He also saw it as a good way to give his family an international holiday while learning about another culture. Grant took leave without pay, packed up his family and headed to Yangzhou – a city of 4.5 million people.

"I chose to study in China because it's where our future lies. I had done a bit of work within the bank trying to forge relationships between the Riverina (regional NSW) and China, and when I spotted this exchange I decided it was timely from a commercial point of view, a family point of view, and in terms of the degree.

"I received a \$5,000 CSU scholarship, and CSU helped me organise a student loan for another \$5,000. We sold our two motor vehicles to fund it, and came home to no cars and no fixed address. We threw a bit to chance, but I was confident the qualification meant it wouldn't be hard to find employment."

Although he hadn't learned much Chinese before leaving Australia, Grant said he became a very good pointer.

"You learn to improvise, and if the person you're talking to doesn't know English, there'll be someone walking by who knows enough English to interpret."

For Grant, the best part of the exchange was the people he met and learning about different cultural perspectives.

"This can't be taught from a textbook. You'll never get a more enthralling conversation than the first time you meet someone from another country and we met students from China, Canada, Belgium, North and South Korea, Sudan, Syria, Iran, India, the US and the Caribbean.

"Having done a cultural exchange, I would almost think it's mandatory for all students. I can now be confident that I have wrung every last drop of worth out of my degree. I experienced Chinese culture, learned some Chinese, studied Chinese business, brought my family, gave them a holiday and a Chinese experience. If I had just picked out half a dozen electives and blundered through them, it would have been a great shame now that I know what else I have had the ability to do."



Original interview by Annette Jacobsen



# A landmark year

2015 MARKS BIG MILESTONES FOR THREE CSU DISCIPLINES.

20  
YEARS

## Paramedic Education



Since its early beginnings, CSU's paramedic degree has pioneered and led significant change within paramedicine. The development of a Bachelor level qualification for paramedics began in the mid-1990s as changing social needs and innovation in primary health care interventions meant that a new model of education was needed. CSU worked with ambulance industry providers to develop a course enabling qualified paramedics to convert their technical qualifications and clinical experience to a degree qualification.

Not only was this the first Bachelor course for paramedics in Australia, the "degree conversion" course was subsequently delivered in Canada, Malaysia and the UK in partnerships with education providers in these countries. Since then the program has carried on to evolve and be nationally accredited to produce graduates who are strong performers for a competitive industry. A team with a passion continues to drive the profession of paramedicine.

40  
YEARS

## Library and Information Science Education



While the School of Information Studies itself is a mere 30 or so years old, Library and Information Science courses have been offered at Charles Sturt University and its predecessor institutions since 1975.

From a staff of two, and student numbers in the tens, the courses established in 1975 have evolved into the largest Library and Information Science programs in Australia. The School currently has more than 2,000 students, 18 academic staff teaching and researching in a wide range of areas, four administrative staff, and a large cohort of PhD students.

"Much has changed over the past four decades, and our courses have changed with the times," said Head of School, Associate Professor Philip Hider. "Constants, however, have been our commitment to quality education, and our focus on students and their individual learning journeys." Read more about the history of the School [here](#).

40  
YEARS

## Wine Education



This year marks the 40th anniversary of wine education at the Wagga Wagga Campus of CSU and its predecessor institutions.

Since 1975, the University has graduated more than 1,000 students in the fields of viticulture, wine science and wine business, with these graduates now working in the Australian and International wine industries.

This significant event will be celebrated in Wagga Wagga by a gathering of the alumni on November 27 and 28. The event will include an afternoon of recollections from alumni, wine tasting and a celebratory dinner on the Friday evening. Brunch on campus on the Saturday morning will include campus tours.

The close association between the teaching programs and the National Wine and Grape Industry Centre have ensured that CSU's courses have maintained an applied industry focus while incorporating the latest technological advances in oenology and viticulture.



# Celebrating Alumni

If you venture to CSU's main regional campuses, you'll see banners featuring many of our successful alumni. We love celebrating the achievements of our alumni, and these banners not only showcase some of our amazing graduates, but also CSU's immense pride in our vibrant alumni community.

Pictured is Pharmacist and Telstra ACT Business Woman of the Year for 2014, Samantha Kourtis (Bachelor of Pharmacy – 2004).



## Did you know?

Did you know that Charles Sturt University's Bathurst Campus is home to Captain Charles Napier Sturt's desk?


One of the most important explorers featured in early Australian history, Captain Sturt (1795-1869) sailed to the colony of NSW in 1827 and began pursuing his strong interest in exploration.

Tracing the Macquarie, Murrumbidgee and Murray rivers, Sturt traversed the areas where CSU's Albury-Wodonga, Bathurst and Wagga Wagga campuses now stand.

His beautifully preserved desk and associated books were gifted to the University by his grandson, Mr Anthony Sturt, in 2006. It takes pride of place in The Grange, a building named after Captain Sturt's cottage in Adelaide.







As a CSU graduate, you're in good company with more than 170,000 alumni found in all corners of the globe.

Whether it's been days or decades since you studied with us, we encourage you to stay connected with CSU.

## stay connected



1800 334 733 (free call within Australia)  
+61 2 6338 6077 (callers outside Australia)



[www.facebook.com/charlessturtalumni](http://www.facebook.com/charlessturtalumni)



[www.twitter.com/AlumniCSU](http://www.twitter.com/AlumniCSU)



search Charles Sturt University

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

 Charles Sturt  
University