From: University of New England
To: Alumni
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Alumni Newsletter

Celebrating 70 Years in 2024

We're celebrating 70 years and you're invited

UNE's 70th year is now in full swing and you, our alumni, are central to our celebrations.

Having studied with us, then gone on to contribute locally, nationally and internationally in your communities and workplaces, you have become UNE's finest ambassadors. In putting your university qualifications to meaningful work, you are the best possible advertisement for a UNE education. And each quarter we enjoy sharing your unique stories.

In this Autumn 2024 issue of the alumni newsletter, you will read about the founder of UNE's ground-breaking Oorala Aboriginal Centre – **Associate Professor Lynette Riley** – and Director-General of the National Library of Australia, **Dr Marie-Louise Ayres**. Both are leaders who dared to do things differently, who continue to challenge convention. At the other end of the spectrum, you will also hear from young **Arlo Taylor**, who, at just 17, is one of our youngest ever graduates.

Seventy years ago, our university – the first in regional Australia – was founded on a simple egalitarian principle. Our visionary first Vice-Chancellor, **Robert Madgwick**, believed that "…University education should be available in a democratic society to all who can benefit from it".

In the decades since, UNE has delivered handsomely on that ambition. We have opened

our doors to students of all ages and stages in life, and provided the pathways, academic rigour and support they've needed to succeed in a variety of disciplines.

I hear their inspiring stories almost every day and look forward to hearing many more as we hold activities to celebrate 70 years of excellence. These activities (see our dedicated **70 Year Anniversary webpage**) are aimed at strengthening old ties and forging new relationships.

I cordially invite you to join us whenever and wherever you can to reflect on our rich history, honour the achievements of our alumni, and envision an even brighter future for UNE.

Professor Chris Moran
Vice-Chancellor and CEO

70 years of UNE, in pictures

Over seven decades, UNE has grown from humble beginnings and given generations of students a place to learn and play (and occasionally protest). This production shows what has changed across the years – and what has stayed the same.

A special thank you to the UNE Archives and Heritage Centre for their ongoing support in supplying material for UNE's 70th anniversary.

Click on the picture above to view the video.

Alumni Profiles

Mak Ngoy

We were delighted to

Lynette Riley

When trailblazing Wiradjuri

Arlo Taylor

Meet one of our youngest

welcome back his Excellency Mak Ngoy, Director General of the Higher Education Department within the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport to UNE earlier this year to relive his Australian education journey.

Read more >

and Gamilaroi woman Associate Professor Lynette Riley accepted her Order of Australia Medal last September she was resplendent in a kangaroo-skin cloak she'd made to honour her people's heritage.

Read more >

ever graduates, 17-year-old Arlo Taylor. The young Tasmanian is a newly minted Bachelor of Science alumnus, having completed the UNE degree online while studying at high school.

Read more >

Nick Flood

General Manager – IBM Australia & New Zealand Nick Flood studied Education, Commerce and Business Research at UNE. He left his mark at St Albert's College, where he played rugby for the Colts XV side and served as a pastoral assistant and academic adviser.

Read more >

Marie-Louise Ayres

Today's Director-General of the National Library of Australia (NLA) Dr Marie-Louise Ayres was not quite 18 when she and her then boyfriend Russell arrived to study English and History at UNE.

Read more >

Phillip Schmidt

Phillip's contributions to the science and practice of geophysics and, by default the mining industry, earned him a gold medal from the Australian Society of Exploration Geophysicists (ASEG).

Read more >

Movers & Shakers

A big congratulations to:

- The 17 UNE alumni recognised for their work across a range of fields in the 2024 Australia Day Honours. For a full list, go **HERE**
- Governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia, UNE Economics alumnus **Michele Bullock**, who was named in the Forbes Asia 50 over 50 list of trailblazers.
- Dr **James Page**, who received an Honourable Mention in the Art of Unity Creative Awards hosted by the International Human Rights Arts Movement for the creative non-fiction piece *Ambush*, co-authored with Sagamba Muhira. It recounts an incident from the Congo Wars in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- Tamworth teacher **Graeme Harris**, who has become the first NSW Life Member of the National Association of Agricultural Educators Australia, recognising his contributions to agricultural education. Graeme graduated from UNE in 1979 and taught at Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School for his entire 38-year career.
- **Liz Price,** owner/ founder of Full Frame Coach, who was recognised at a special International Women's Day reception at the United Kingdom's House

of Lords for her strong contribution to entrepreneurship.

Giving Feature

Paving the way for others

When reflecting on the completion of her studies, UNE law graduate Melanie McMillan found a way to channel her gratitude into helping others.

“I could not have asked for more from my UNE experience,” said the pharmacist and Melbourne mother of three who completed a Bachelor of Laws online. “I was fortunate to have the opportunity to further my education but recognise that other people may face considerable barriers.”

The purchase of a paver in UNE’s Graduates’ Walk acknowledges Melanie’s appreciation and signals her support for the next generation of students.

Read more >

We met at UNE

Thirty-six years and still going strong

Lifelong friendships are renewed and celebrated every year at the annual Albies First Friday in December (FFID) reunion – an event not-to-be-missed.

Since an initial “long lunch” in 1986, the gathering has become a much-anticipated feature on the social calendar, drawing about 60 friends to a Sydney venue. And the 2023 event was no exception.

Read more >

Remember When....

UNE’s first Chancellor and the 11th Prime Minister of Australia, Sir Earle Page, was installed in 1955?

You might be a little too young to recall the actual day, but it attracted a large crowd of dignitaries from across the Commonwealth and some of our earliest students (pictured to the far right, behind the cameramen).

The politician held Australia’s top job for just 19 days in 1939 but was an influential member of Federal Parliament for 42 years, serving as leader of the Country Party, Deputy Prime Minister, and the minister responsible for several portfolios. Page was Chairman of the Advisory Council of the New England University College from 1938-1954 before UNE became an independent institution.

Subsequent UNE graduations were held in this location, before swelling student numbers necessitated a move to the Booloominbah lawn.

Earle Page College, which opened in 1963, takes its motto “Each prove yourself” from Page’s own writings.

Postcards From...

Lyndon Megarrity

I was born and educated in Townsville and completed my PhD at the University of New England (2002). My thesis was on colonial businessman and politician Robert Philp and my supervisors were Dr John Atchison and Dr Frank Bongiorno (now at ANU). My time as a UNE postgraduate student gave me a lifelong love of researching regional history and bringing it to a wider audience. While studying in Armidale on a scholarship, I lived at the University Flats and enjoyed getting to know international students and their cultures. I have fond memories of the university and the town of Armidale.

I am the author of several books and articles, many of which focus on the history of Queensland, Northern Australia and international student policy. In 2010-11 I was an Australian Prime Ministers Centre Fellow during which time I produced research on Commonwealth local government and regional policies. I was the inaugural history lecturer at the Springfield Campus at the University of Southern Queensland (2012-13) and have since taught history and political science at James Cook University in Townsville, where I am currently an adjunct lecturer. My book Northern Dreams: The Politics of Northern Development in Australia won the 2019 Chief Minister's Northern Territory History Book Award. With Carolyn Holbrook and David Lowe, I recently co-edited Lessons from History: Leading Historians Tackle Australia's Greatest Challenges (2022). In 2022, an extensively revised version of my PhD thesis was published as Robert Philp and the Politics of Development. In 2024, my biographical portrait of Whitlam era Minister Dr Rex Patterson will be published by Connor Court Publishing.

My advice to the next generation of scholars is to write for a broad audience: share and celebrate the knowledge!

Callan Robinson

I was born in Newcastle and my parents moved to the New England when I was very young, so I grew up in Armidale and Uralla. Since completing my Bachelors, I went to live in Japan for many years teaching English and towards the end I worked as a freelance translator for various small firms in Japan. Learning chemistry in Japanese was certainly a challenge I might say. Since returning home to Australia in 2012, I commenced employment with UNE and at this time I realized I wanted to further my study, so I started my MBA in T3, 2012.

As my goal is to work both in Australia and around the world, I knew that the MBA program was internationally recognized so that is the reason why I chose it. Using business resources and networks to improve the lives of those in my community is one of my main passions. From my MBA I have developed a strong interest in organisational leadership development. As organisations are much more multicultural and multigenerational than ever before, the need for the C Suite to work with and mentor those future leaders in the organisations is paramount.

My MBA also taught me that organisational behaviour and emotional intelligence are critical for developing relationships for positive business growth. I thoroughly enjoyed the following units:
· Marketing Management with the late Fredy Valenzuela who was an incredible mentor and friend;
· Organisational Behaviour with Dr Peter McClenaghan who was also my Enactus guide and an outstanding mentor;
· Strategic Management Project with Professor John Rice; and
· Economics for Management with Dr L. Emilio Morales.

You can engage with us at any time, at any career point for the opportunity and flexibility to continually future proof your career.

Share your story

alumni@une.edu.au

UNE News

UNE Sydney refurbishment underway

The refurbishment of UNE Sydney's new premises at 28 George Street, Parramatta has commenced, with major demolition works kicking off this month.

Read more >

UNE's Indigenous students start uni on the right foot

UNE's commencing cohort of Indigenous students will start their university journey on the right foot thanks to the Yinga Kara program.

Read more >

Innovative new degree in Early Childhood Education

The University of New England (UNE) is making it easier for early childhood educators to upgrade their qualifications and help meet pressing workforce shortages through an innovative new degree.

Read more >

Alumni Awards

Do you know an outstanding graduate?

The 2024 Alumni Award nominations open on 1 April 2024.

Nominations will be accepted from members of UNE Convocation including graduates, current or former UNE Council members, staff and former staff of the University of New England. Self nominations are not accepted.

Find out more >

Upcoming Events

Date: Wed Apr 10, 2024 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Location: Natural Resources Building EM1 (W055), UNE Armidale & Zoom

'A series of panel events telling the history of UNE through the eyes of our Alumni and Staff and how our history can shape our future'

Find out more >

View Events Calendar >

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