From: University of New England
To: Rhonda Brooks
Subject: UNE Alumni Newsletter - Spring 2023
Date: Thursday, 19 October 2023 8:43:15 AM

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une University of New England Alumni

Alumni Newsletter

Spring 2023

Building stronger communities

The theme of this spring alumni newsletter is a timely one.

Regional universities are foundational institutions in their communities and offer opportunities and facilities that are often above and beyond their core business of higher education. UNE is no exception.

Our university evolved from community need and we continue to engage and partner with organisations throughout the New England North West (and further afield) to apply and extend our valuable learnings. As you will read in this newsletter, our scientists are collaborating with GLENRAC staff to ensure local producers are as prepared as they can be for drought conditions forecast to return, and, at almost 90, Adjunct Professor Trevor Parmenter continues to engage with UNE researchers to help improve the lives of people living with disability.

In the Blue Mountains west of Sydney, Dr Thanjon Michniewicz, a graduate of UNE's Joint Medical Program, is enjoying the opportunity to support the health of his community – the very one he grew up in. The friendship forged between Erin Linn and Cheryl Williams is a professional network in the making.

I, too, am committed to exploring new partnerships – and funding models – that not only increase access to quality higher education but deliver strong economies and communities. Leveraging off the enterprising "can do" attitude of regional communities and UNE's cumulative learning and research outcomes promises endless possibilities.

UNE alumni have a vital role to play in this new era of re-engagement, and I warmly invite you to partner with us to shape the next exciting chapter in the university's history.

Professor Chris Moran, UNE Vice-Chancellor and CEO

Alumni Stories

Trevor Parmenter

As he approaches his 90th year, Professor Trevor Parmenter AM continues to be well served by a good memory. Even today, almost 60 years since he enrolled at UNE, those memories still inform his research and advocacy in the field of disability studies.

Read more >

Thanjon Michniewicz

UNE medical graduate Thanjon Michniewicz's doctor, growing up in the Blue Mountains west of Sydney, was Dr Linda McQueen – a "warm, approachable and bubbly" GP who continues to serve her community with aplomb.

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Edith Ziegler

Edith Ziegler's passion for history dates back to her childhood, but it was not until she had wrapped up a 30-year corporate and consulting career that she could truly pursue it – at UNE.

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Katie Barnett and Kylie Falconer

Graduates of UNE have regularly served as members of GLENRAC's board of management, and now both its chief executive officer (Kylie Falconer) and one of its

Scott Family

All four members of the Scott family have learnt with us, starting with Mum Claudia and Dad Brad, who met during their first year of studies. More than 30 years later, son Christian graduated with a

Cheryl Williams and Erin Linn

Over hours of role-playing clinician-patient scenarios, Erin Linn and Cheryl Williams' friendship blossomed. They now regard it as one of the best by-products of their

project officers (Katie Barnett) come from our ranks.

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Bachelor of Business and now daughter Jessica has a Bachelor of Education underway.

Read more >

studies.

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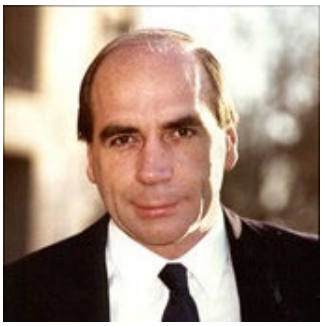

Bernie Fraser

Bernie served in two of Australia's most senior monetary roles – as Secretary to the Treasury and Governor of the Reserve Bank, from 1989-96, during Prime Minister Paul Keating's "recession we had to have".

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Judith Earl

For more than 20 years Judi has advised hundreds of people on the role that livestock can play in land regeneration, restoration and productivity, applying principles that date back to her UNE days.

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Brendan Blacklock

Cinematographer Brendan remains something of a rarity, and his proudly Aboriginal-owned boutique film and video media production house somewhat unique.

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Movers & Shakers

UNE alumni have been in the news of late, conquering physical and professional challenges.

Congratulations to former St Albert's College resident **Peta Bradley**, who was part of a six-person relay team that swam the English Channel in mid-September, completing the 35-kilometre stretch in just 13 hours and 15 minutes. Peta, who completed her Bachelor of Rural Science (Honours) at UNE and now works as the Manager Sheep Genetics for Meat and Livestock Australia in Armidale, said while the water temperatures were a pleasant 18-19°C, the big tidal variations made the going tough. "I'm just stoked we got it done," she said. "I now have a new appreciation for solo channel swimmers and boat pilots."

Well done to **Caitlin Herbert** (Master of Science in Agriculture) and **Catherine Marriott OAM** (Bachelor of Rural Science) who have been named 2024 Nuffield Scholars. Caitlin will explore the role of feedlots in drought-proofing Australian livestock production, while Catherine will research the impact of environmental, social and governance (ESG) policies on farm prosperity.

Moree agronomist **Kate Lumber**, who studied a Bachelor of Rural Science (Honours) with us, was recognised as a finalist in the CRDC Chris Lehmann Young Cotton Achiever of the Year Award. Although the award eventually went to fashion designer Emma Bond, we applaud Kate's contributions to the cotton industry, which started during her first year at UNE, when she took a job bug checking on a cotton farm and "absolutely loved it". Some of you might remember Kate from Duval College.

A story about the struggles of an 8-year-old Polish girl during World War II titled *Waiting for the Storks* has earned **Katrina Nannestad** the Children's Book Award in the 2023 Queensland Literary Awards. Katrina completed a Bachelor of Arts and Diploma of Education at UNE in the 1980s and this is the latest in a string of awards she has won. Congratulations on the latest page-turner Katrina.

We met at UNE

Camp K

As Earle Page College prepares to celebrate its 60th birthday, we caught up with college buddies who have been meeting annually for almost 20 years.

Originally known as 'Camp K' after the first camp at Kempsey, the tight-knit group cemented their Earle Page friendships after graduation by spending a week together each New Year's Eve on the Mid-North Coast. Progressively, their families and the tent community grew, and more recently they adopted Coffs Harbour as base camp.

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2023 Alumni Award Winners

Distinguished Alumni Award winners:

- Commissioner of NSW Police **Karen Webb**, in recognition of her outstanding leadership in the NSW Police Force;
- **Emeritus Professor Philip Board**, from the Australian National University, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to medical research, particularly in the fields of biochemistry and molecular biology;
- Former Crown Prosecutor and now artist **Virginia Lydiard**, for her inspiring career in education, law and arts, and for serving as a role model to women; and
- **Tshewang Tandin**, President of the Royal Thimphu College, whose achievements and leadership have promoted inclusive education and fostered positive organisational culture in Bhutan.

Alumni Community Award winners:

- Retired farmer **Anthony (Wayne) Chaffey**, in recognition of his significant commitment to improving educational opportunities both locally and abroad, and his work to protect the future of the planet; and
- Writer, performer and teacher **Ronald Vickress**, for his significant contributions to the New England community, particularly through drama and theatre.

Rising Star Award winners:

- Theatre manager **Michael Cornford**, in recognition of his support and creative excellence in the performing arts; and
- Special education teacher **Laila Mandoh**, for her outstanding professionalism and leadership in improving special needs learning.

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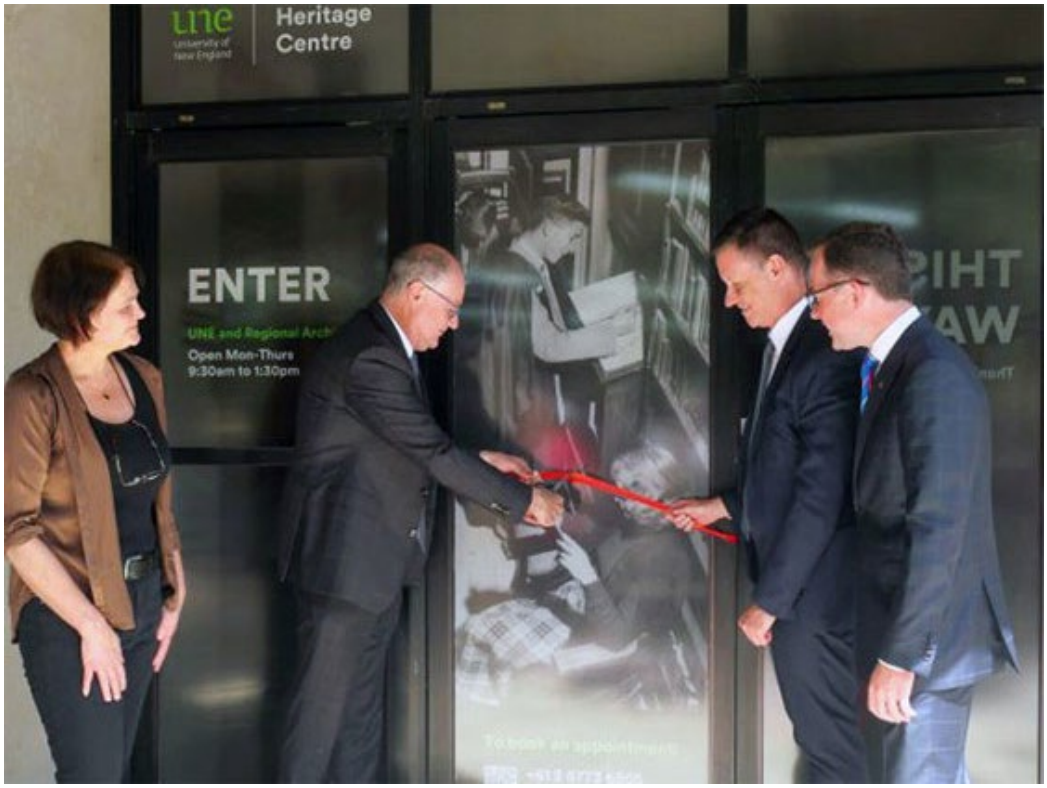
UNE News



The UNE Heritage Centre open again to the public

The home of the University of New England (UNE) and Regional Archives, known as the Heritage Centre, has re-opened its doors to the public.

Located in the grounds of the old Teachers College in Armidale, the building closed to the public in early 2022 for a workplace health and safety review. During this time important work has been undertaken on the building to ensure the Centre is fit for purpose to house important regional collections.

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UNE becomes first university to be endorsed by Soil Science Australia

UNE has become the first Australian university to be officially endorsed by the country's national soil science body, Soil Science Australia (SSA).

Read more >

A helping hand for Ezidi students

Fleeing brutality and violence in their homeland, younger members of Armidale's Ezidi community are finding a supportive space in which to learn at UNE – and preparing for a very different future.

Read more >

UNE preparing farmers for next big dry

With a hot summer on the horizon, the University of New England (UNE) is helping farmers across the Northern Tablelands of NSW to drought-proof their properties and minimise impacts of the next big dry.

Read more >

UNE to help create world-first vaccine for on-farm worm control

UNE will help solve one of the costliest problems for Australian sheep producers through an $11-million international research collaboration aimed at developing a vaccine for parasitic gastrointestinal worms.

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UNE launches two new succession and planning courses

The courses have been designed for professionals working across a range of industries, such as family counsellors, farm business consultants, lawyers, accountants, financial advisors, and extension and advisory staff within the agricultural sector who regularly deal with family businesses.

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New era of cultural respect dawns

Ngarabul and Dharug woman Lynette Marlow, Biripi woman Caitlin Davey and Wadi Wadi woman Brittany Abraham – all current UNE scholars – are our inaugural Lecturers in Indigenous Knowledges helping to advance a culturally safe and inclusive culture at UNE

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Click here for September Council Report

Want more of UNE's news from the Campus and beyond?

Sign up at this link to receive UNE's Pulse newsletter every Thursday with news on research, current students, events and more.

Sign up here >

Supporting UNE

Giving thanks

Each year UNE produces a Giving Report to acknowledge generous support for university students and projects.

This year we have highlighted the global impact of the learning that occurs at a regional university like ours, and the enormous difference even a small donation can make to the lives of others.

We thank all those alumni who continue to invest in the power and potential of a UNE education.

Read here >

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If you would like to know more about giving to UNE, please email advance@une.edu.au or telephone 02 6773 2431

Join our Graduates' Walk

A Graduates' Walk paver is an opportunity to celebrate your success whilst giving back to your university and supporting student scholarships.

Graduates' Walk >

UNE Events

Earle Page College 60th Celebrations
Date: Fri 20 Oct 2023 - 22 Oct 2023
Location: Armidale, NSW

School of Law Kirby Seminar
Date: 24 Oct 2023 12:00pm - 1:00pm
Location: Lewis Seminar Room, W38 School of Law, Armidale

Museum Creative Conversations
Date: Thu 26 Oct 2023 6:30pm - 7:30pm
Location: The Joan, Penrith

2023 Frank Archibald Memorial Lecture
Date: Thu 26 Oct 2023 6:30pm - 8:30pm
Location: Oorala Aboriginal Centre or via zoom

Tamtalks | Halloween Edition
Date: Tue 31 October 2023
Location: UNE Tamworth

Summer Graduation - Faculty of Humanities, Arts, Social Sciences and Education Awards
Date: Thu 7 December 10:30am - 12:00pm
Location: Lawns of Booloominbah, UNE

Summer Graduation - Faculty of Medicine and Health Awards
Date: Fri 8 December 10:30am - 12:00pm
Location: Lawns of Booloominbah, UNE

Summer Graduation - Faculty of Science, Agriculture, Business and Law
Date: Sat 9 December 10:30am - 12:00pm
Location: Lawns of Booloominbah, UNE

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The University of New England respects and acknowledges that its people, programs and facilities are built on land, and surrounded by a sense of belonging, both ancient and contemporary, of the world's oldest living culture. In doing so, UNE values and respects Indigenous knowledge systems as a vital part of the knowledge capital of Australia.

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