

Vale Professor Sonia Allan

It is with great sadness that the School of Law was informed of the passing of Professor Sonia Allan in March this year.

Sonia had multi-disciplinary training and experience in psychology, public health, and the law. She had worked in academia, law reform and as a consultant for decades, and prior to that in a variety of legal and healthcare settings.

Sonia's research focused on public health law, and the regulation of existing and emerging health technologies. She published extensively, and led major legislative reviews for the South Australian and Western Australian governments on assisted reproduction and surrogacy.

Sonia presented widely in international and domestic forums as an expert, including for the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the World Health Organisation, the United Nations Population Fund, and the Hague Conference on Private International Law.

Sonia was a Churchill Fellow, and a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (UK). She was a Global Health Law Fellow at Georgetown University (Washington DC) where she received the CALI Award for Health and Human Rights Law. In 2019 Sonia was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for her service to the law, and to tertiary education.

She had been Professor in the School of Law since June 2023.



Australia Day 2026 Honours List

The Honourable Peter Lind Johnstone AM (Adjunct Professor)

The **Honourable Peter Lind Johnstone AM**, an Adjunct Professor in the School of Law at the University of New England, has been appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) by the Governor-General of Australia for significant service to the law and to the judiciary, to legal standards, and to Indigenous youth.

Peter was born in Armidale, and attended the Armidale Demonstration School and the Armidale School. He completed his law degree at the University of Sydney (1969 - 1972). Peter was admitted as a solicitor in 1973 and practised for over 33 years at Ashurst (previously known as Blake Dawson Waldron). He was active in the NSW Law Society where he was an elected councillor for 5 years, and became President-elect in 2006. Peter was appointed a Judge of the District Court of NSW in 2006, and spent the next 18 years serving in that role until his retirement in 2024. As a judge, Peter served as President of the Children's Court of NSW (2012 - 2021), and also as Chief Magistrate of the Local Court of NSW (2021 - 2024).

During his tenure as President of the Children's Court, Peter expanded community services across NSW to assist disadvantaged families and children at risk, particularly focusing on mental health issues, family violence, drug and alcohol dependence, and homelessness. He was actively involved in addressing youth issues relating to children - such as the overrepresentation of Aboriginal children and young people in the youth justice and care and protection systems. Peter also oversaw the establishment of the Youth Koori Court in 2015, which now operates in Parramatta, Surry Hills and Dubbo.



Staff News

Staff Promotions – 1 January 2026

Congratulations to:

Associate Professor Siva Barathi (Sharl) Marimuthu

LLB (Hons), Certificate in Legal Practice (Malaysia), LLM, PhD (Monash)
promoted to Associate Professor from Senior Lecturer.

Associate Professor Marimuthu specialises in Global Food Security Law and Policy, Civil Dispute Resolution, and International Environmental Law. Her research brings together legal analysis, policy, and environmental science to address food security, environmental governance, and sustainability challenges in regional, national, and international contexts.



Dr Wellett Potter

BA (Music)/LLB (Hons I) (UNE), PhD (UNE)
promoted to Senior Lecturer from Lecturer.

Dr Potter's areas of research expertise include copyright law, technology and law and AI. Wellett has received a number of awards for teaching, research and service, and her roles include: Chair of the School of Law's First Year Committee, Editor of the Law School Student Essentials, member of the School's Education Committee, Engagement Committee, the Community of Practice for Generative AI, the Madgwick AI Community of Practice, and the Community of Practice for Retention and Engagement



Staff Farewells

Dr René Cornish

The School of Law farewellled **Dr René Cornish**. René has joined the Queensland University of Technology (QUT). René completed her PhD at QUT in 2024. Her doctorate examined the socio-legal consequences of social media on society – particularly employment law in the Global South.

During her time with the School of Law, René made a strong contribution through her teaching, research and engagement – including serving as one of the School's Academic Integrity Officers. She has been a highly valued member of the School and will be greatly missed. René will remain connected with UNE as an Adjunct Lecturer in the School of Law.



Michelle Edgely

The School also farewellled **Michelle Edgely**. Michelle has joined the Australian National Institute of Management and Commerce (IMC) as Associate Professor and Director of Learning and Teaching. Michelle's new role includes leading teaching and learning strategy and innovation, building AI capability, and strengthening academic quality and governance frameworks.

During her time with the School, Michelle made a significant contribution through her leadership, teaching, scholarship and service. She has been a highly valued member of the University community and will be greatly missed. Michelle will remain connected with UNE as an Adjunct Associate Professor in the School of Law.



Teaching Commendations

2025 Trimester 2

Unit Coordinator and teaching team	
Dr Wellett Potter Claudia Barbosa, Hugh Marshall, Jennifer Greaney and Reine Mills	LAW100 Foundation of Law <i>External</i>
Karthigeyan Kanagasabapathy	LAW261: Criminal Procedure <i>External</i>
Igor Mescher	LAW308: Employment Law <i>External</i>
Karen Conte and Scott Waterson	LAW320: Professional Conduct <i>External</i>
Dr Patrick Graham	LAW375: Australian Competition and Consumer Law <i>External</i>
Dr René Cornish	LAW499: Technology and the Law <i>External</i>

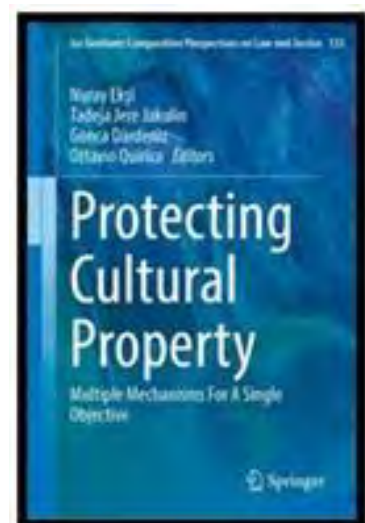
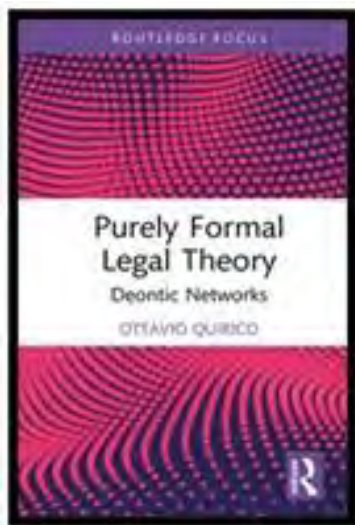
Publications

Books

Ottavio Quirico, *Purely Formal Legal Theory – Deontic Networks* (Routledge, 2025).

Ottavio Quirico, Walter Baber and **Michael Adams** (Adjunct Professor) (eds), *Implementing Climate Change Policy: From Engagement to Enforcement?* (Springer, 2026).

Ottavio Quirico et al (eds), *Protecting Cultural Property: Multiple Mechanisms for a Single Objective* (Springer, 2026).



Book Chapters

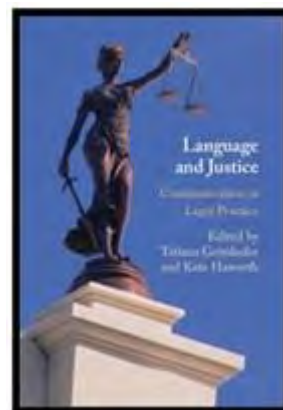
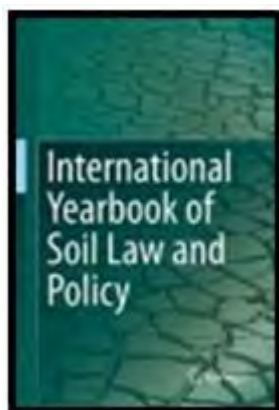
Patrick Graham, 'Statutory Devolution of the Prerogative Power: A Case Study from Northern Ireland' in *Executive Power and the Royal Prerogative in the Commonwealth* (LexisNexis, 2025).

Ben Hingley, 'King and the King: Prerogative and Martial Law in New South Wales' in *Executive Power and the Royal Prerogative in the Commonwealth* (LexisNexis, 2025).

Andrew Lawson, 'Recent Developments in Soil Governance in Australia: The Drive Towards a National Policy and Implications for Rural Land' in Harald Ginzky et al (eds), *International Yearbook of Soil Law and Policy 2025* (Springer, 2025) <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-032-03251-5>.

Laura Smith-Khan, 'Incredible Language and Refugee Legal Processes: Challenging Asylum Credibility Assessments' in J Setter et al (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Language and Prejudice* (Oxford University Press, 2025) <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780192869203.013.25>.

Laura Smith-Khan, 'Intercultural Communication in Migration Law Education' in T Grieshofer and K Haworth (eds), *Communication and Legal Practice: Language, Procedure, Process* (Cambridge University Press, 2026).



Samuel White (Adjunct Associate Professor) and Matthew Stubbs (eds), *Executive Power and the Royal Prerogative in the Commonwealth* (LexisNexis, 2025) ISBN 9780409360738.

Samuel White (Adjunct Associate Professor) and Matthew Stubbs, 'Introduction' in Matthew Stubbs and Samuel White (eds), *Executive Power and the Royal Prerogative in the Commonwealth* (LexisNexis, 2025).

Samuel White (Adjunct Associate Professor), 'Reading the Royal Mail' in Matthew Stubbs and Samuel White (eds), *Executive Power and the Royal Prerogative in the Commonwealth* (LexisNexis, 2025).

Samuel White (Adjunct Associate Professor) and Matthew Stubbs, 'A Comparative Analysis of the Prerogative's Justiciability' in Matthew Stubbs and Samuel White (eds), *Executive Power and the Royal Prerogative in the Commonwealth* (LexisNexis, 2025).

Samuel White (Adjunct Associate Professor) and Matthew Stubbs, 'Conclusion' in Matthew Stubbs and Samuel White (eds), *Executive Power and the Royal Prerogative in the Commonwealth* (LexisNexis, 2025).

Articles (refereed and non-refereed)

Imelda Deinla and D Antojado, 'Human Rights as Epistemic Practice: Anglophone Hegemony, Decolonising Imperatives, and the Criminal Legal System' (2025) *Legal Pluralism and Critical Social Analysis* 1–20.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/27706869.2025.2570580>.

Imelda Deinla, P Torio, and R Ang, 'Philippine Conglomerates and Inclusive Development in the Philippines: Tracking a Unique Trajectory in Asia' (World Scientific, April 2025)

<https://doi.org/10.1142/13076>.

Patrick Graham, 'Reform of a Constitutional Fundamental: The Principle of Cross-Community Consent and Northern Ireland's Governance' (2025) 75(3) *Northern Ireland Legal Quarterly* 446–476.

Patrick Graham, 'Burdening the Implied Freedom of Political Communication: Method, Ideas, and Disagreement' (2025) 48(3) *University of New South Wales Law Journal* 1036–1069.

Edward Musole (PhD student), 'Governing Neural Data in the Global South: Toward a Neuro-Responsible Business Framework for Zambia' (2026) 5(1) *International Journal of Advanced Business Studies* 47–61.

Ottavio Quirico, 'A Human Right to a Sustainable Climate?' (2025) *William & Mary Environmental Law and Policy Journal* 333–365.

Mia Mahmudur Rahim and **Amir Karton**, 'Regulating Engineered Nanomaterials in Food: Challenges and Lessons for Australia' (2026) 27(1) *Oregon Review of International Law* 101–186.

Mia Mahmudur Rahim and **Samuel Biresaw** (PhD student), 'A Critical Analysis of the Practice of Insolvency in Ethiopia in Protecting Creditors' Interests: A Good Law Buried in Institutional Dysfunction' (2026) 35(1) *International Insolvency Review* 1–45.

Mia Mahmudur Rahim, 'Monopolising the Harvest: Corporate Influence and Regulatory Gaps in Global Seed Governance' (2025) 59(71) *Vanderbilt Journal of Transnational Law* 71–141.

Mia Mahmudur Rahim and Subratta Chakroborti, 'Balancing Innovation and Integrity: Australia's AI Ethics and Trust Regulation in Global Context' (2025) 47(2) *Arizona Journal of International and Comparative Law* 119–328.

Mia Mahmudur Rahim, 'Contested Governance: The Geopolitical Transformation of Semiconductor Regulation in Asia' (2025) 15(2) *KLRI Journal of Law and Legislation* 121–194.

Patricia Vagg (PhD student), 'Voices from a Distance: Access to Legal Services, Western New South Wales' (2025) 2024(1) *Justice Ideas* (Law and Justice Foundation of NSW) <ISSN 2982-3951>.

Samuel White (Adjunct Associate Professor), 'Reading the Royal Email' (2025) 12(2) *Royal Studies Journal* 206–254.

Grants and Funding

Paul Akon et al awarded funding for the Armidale Yarning Circle from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs (A\$5000).

Ottavio Quirico awarded the following grant as lead investigator: EU Strategic Autonomy (\$55000, in partnership with the Australian National University).

Ottavio Quirico awarded the following grant as lead investigator: EU and MERCOSUR (\$40000, in partnership with the Federal University of Paraiba, Brazil).

Mia Mahmudur Rahim received the Research Success Fund (A\$1000) from the Korea Legislation Research Institute.

Conferences, Presentations, Public Lectures, Seminars, Symposia and Workshops

Associate Professor Skye Charry was recently invited to serve as an Australia Day Ambassador in Parkes, where she participated in a range of community activities and delivered the keynote address at the Australia Day Ceremony and Awards. Her address reflected on the enduring values of mateship, community, and the human spirit – highlighting the strength found in collective care, resilience, and local leadership.



Associate Professor Skye Charry has been invited to co-chair the Australian & New Zealand Rural Mental Health Conference to be held on the Gold Coast in November 2026. The conference will bring together researchers, practitioners, policymakers and community leaders to advance rural mental health outcomes across the region.

Dr Phil Glover presented a paper at the Colloquium on Religious Hatred in Australia - Social Influences & Legal Responses at the University of Southern Queensland, Toowoomba, in November 2025.

Ben Hingley (Law Lecturer) presented a paper at the Australian and New Zealand Law and History Society Conference at the University of Melbourne in November 2025.

Dr Andrew Lawson and **Paul Martin** (Adjunct Professor) facilitated a workshop on biochar initiatives on 12 December 2025 with government, industry and community stakeholders at NSW Government offices in Parramatta to better understand issues relating to biochar as a decarbonisation innovation in NSW. The workshop was part of a joint project of UNE's AgLaw and the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (NSW DCCEEW). The project is funded by the Land and Primary Industries Network (LPIN) of the NSW Decarbonisation Innovation Hub.

Dr Andrew Lawson spoke at the 1st International Farm Succession Symposium, an online event organised by the UK Succession Alliance, on 29 January 2026, and was also invited to facilitate one of the Symposium's breakout discussion groups. The Symposium brought together over 70 advisers, facilitators, researchers and on-farm voices from twelve countries to discuss contemporary issues in farm inheritance and succession. Andrew spoke about his work with other UNE colleagues in UNE's Rural Transition & Succession Research Group, as well as his experience setting up Australia's first university course for transition and succession planners.

Dr Wellett Potter and **Michael Adams** (Adjunct Professor) presented their co-authored paper, *Issues in Teaching Student Engagement, AI and Contemporary Relevance to the Law*, at the 2025 UNSW Legal Education Research Conference. The presentation explored the rapidly evolving role of technology in legal education, particularly the impact of artificial intelligence and emerging digital tools in teaching first year and advanced law students. Drawing on recent developments in copyright and AI and using Taylor Swift as a case study, the paper demonstrated how culturally relevant examples can be used to support student learning during a period of significant technological disruption.



Dr Potter and **Michael Adams** (Adjunct Professor) also shared innovative teaching and assessment strategies, including the use of oral presentations and high-quality BenchTV interviews to promote academic integrity and meaningful student engagement in the age of generative AI. The conference provided a valuable opportunity to connect with colleagues across the sector, including fellow UNE law colleagues **Ms Michelle Edgely**, **Dr Imelda Deinla** and **Dr René Cornish**.



Erlis Nurbani (PhD student) has been accepted to present at the *Blue Economy and International Law Workshop*, organised by the University of Melbourne in May 2026.

Associate Professor Mia Mahmudur Rahim presented at the *Society of Corporate Law Academics*. The presentation title was: ‘Algorithmic Corporate Governance: Directors’ Duties in the Age of AI’ in University of Western Australia, 1 -3 February 2026.

Dr Laura Smith-Khan, was invited to present a seminar titled ‘Language, Migration and Legal Literacy’, at the *Literacy in Diversity Settings Research Centre*, Hamburg University, Germany, 17 October 2025.

Dr Laura Smith-Khan, gave a plenary presentation titled ‘Developing Legal Literacy across Languages’ at the *Philippine Association of Forensic and Legal Linguistics 1st Biennial Asian Conference*, Bukidnon State University, Mindanao, Philippines, 25 November 2025.



Patricia Vagg (PhD student) presented the findings of her Fellowship with the *Law and Justice Foundation of NSW at the Justice Ideas Forum, Sydney*. Patricia used a storytelling methodology to amplify the lived experiences of individuals requiring legal assistance in far western NSW.

<https://lawfoundation.net.au/news/justice-ideas-2025/>

Patricia Vagg (PhD student) presented on the challenges and experiences of individuals seeking legal assistance in far western NSW at the *NSW Regional Women Lawyers Conference, Dubbo, September 2025*.

Patricia Vagg (PhD student) presented a paper titled 'Justice of Geography: Legal Services and Justice in Western NSW' at the *Research Pathways Conference, October 2025, University of New England, Armidale*.

https://www.une.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0012/592896/2025-RPC-Program-v3.pdf

Patricia Vagg (PhD student) delivered an invited online guest lecture for University of Wollongong's LLB3329 *Legal Practice in Rural and Regional Communities* subject, January 2026.

<https://courses.uow.edu.au/subjects/2026/LLB3329?year=2026>



Research Impact

Dr Phil Glover was acknowledged for his work on the *Surveillance Legislation Amendment (Identify and Disrupt) Act 2021 (Cth)* by the Independent National Security Legislation Monitor. Dr Glover's work was cited 34 times in the final report on the legislation.

Professor Mark Perry's paper 'Scientific and Critical Editions of Public Domain Works: an Example of European Copyright Law (Dis)Harmonization' (co-authored with Thomas Margoni) in (2011) 27 *Canadian Intellectual Property Review* 157 was cited by the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU). The CJEU is the chief judicial authority of the EU and oversees the uniform application and interpretation of European Union law in cooperation with the national judiciary of the EU member states. It also resolves legal disputes between national governments and EU institutions and may take action against EU institutions on behalf of individuals companies or organisations whose rights have been infringed.

Dr Wellett Potter's research on copyright and generative AI was referenced during second reading debates about the *Copyright Amendment Bill 2025 (Cth)* in Federal Parliament on Tuesday 3 February 2026. The Honourable Michael McCormack MP cited the title and themes of her 2023 *Conversation* article about ChatGPT and copyright. He stated, 'I had a conversation earlier this afternoon with Michelle Grattan, somebody who I've got the utmost respect for. She runs the *Conversation*. We all know the fine journalism work that she has done for decades, and long may that continue. *The Conversation*, which I recommend people read, has really investigated this copyright angle – particularly, as the member for Griffith pointed out, in this changing and emerging world of ChatGPT and the information age in which we live. In one article, author Wellett Potter, lecturer in law at the University of New England, writes, 'If ChatGPT wrote it, who owns the copyright?' – it's a good question – 'It depends on where you live, but in Australia it's complicated. 'That's why we're here today. That's why we're discussing this.'

Professor Ottavio Quirico has been nominated as a Member of the Advisory Board to UPeace, Human Rights Centre (San José, The Hague and Addis Abeba).

Dr Laura Smith-Khan published a research blog post that has been read over 14,000 times and has been used as an innovative learning resource by colleagues at Macquarie University, garnering 95 comments: 'Legal literacy in a linguistically diverse society', *Language on the Move*

<https://www.languageonthemove.com/legal-literacy-in-a-linguistically-diverse-society/>. Two short (bilingual) videos sharing the results of a part of the study are available on the [project webpage](#).

Dr Laura Smith-Khan supervised an internship project through her Law and Linguistics Interdisciplinary Research Network to develop a set of interdisciplinary teaching resources. As part of the project, the network intern, a final-year law and linguistics student at ANU, interviewed nine Australian academics working across multiple disciplines and at universities in four different jurisdictions who have incorporated law and language research into their teaching. The project has resulted in the development of a library of teaching materials and eight teaching case studies to serve as resources for network members and colleagues. These resources have been published on the Network's <[Law and Languages website](#)>.

Patricia Vagg (PhD student) has presented findings from her PhD at the quarterly meeting of the Community Legal Centres NSW Regional, Rural and Remote Network, February 2026.

Other Research News

Dr Imelda Deinla's and her co-researchers Dwayne Antojado (University of Adelaide) and Professor Rosalie Hall (University of the Philippines) visited Manila, Philippines, to conduct preliminary site visits with officials from Bureau of Jail Management and Penology for their DFAT-funded project on prison deradicalization. Discussions focused on prison reform and developing evidence-based disengagement mechanisms for persons deprived of liberty accused of terrorism offences, aligned with BJMP's 'welfare and development' framework. This research offers insights for Australian correctional policy, particularly how prisons can leverage Indigenous social structures and cultural values of mutual aid (*damayan*, *bayanihan*) to support disengagement under resource constraints.



Dr Andrew Lawson and **Paul Martin** (Adjunct Professor) and Professor Martin Thoms (Geography & Planning) are the UNE academic representatives on the Water in the Landscape Initiative (WITLI) committee. WITLI is a joint initiative between UNE, stakeholders in the Upper Namoi catchment communities, Tamworth Regional Council, and Tamworth Regional Landcare Network. WITLI hosted a tour for senior members of the Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) in the Upper Namoi Catchment near Tamworth on 19 March 2026. Engagement with the MDBA is important to progress plans for a major research project focusing on the role of upper catchments in sustainable water management and governance.

Allan Kimtai Ruto (PhD student) was accepted into a program sponsored by the Land & Primary Industries Network (LPIN) of the NSW Decarb Hub. The program is called 'Translating Research into Impact' and included online training and a workshop in the Gold Coast in February 2026.

Dr Laura Smith-Khan is currently finalising a pilot project, 'Improving Migrant Legal Literacy', supported by UNE's Internal Funding Scheme, and involving research with legal, settlement, and community services and libraries in NSW. She has set-up a project webpage on her Law and Language website to share project activities and outputs: <[Improving Migrant Legal Literacy – Law and Language](#)>. To date, Laura has shared emerging findings through multiple channels: see, eg, 'Submission to Inquiry on Migration (Administrative Review Council)', 27 January 2026 (available: <https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.34632.38403>).

Patricia Vagg (PhD student) was awarded a prestigious NSW Law and Justice Foundation Fellowship. Patricia's Fellowship explores the legal needs of people across western NSW, amplifying the voices of individuals in regional, rural, remote and very remote communities. Through interwoven storytelling, the project develops a composite narrative in which community members share their lived experiences to inform understandings of access to justice. The final output from her Fellowship has been published: <chrome-extension://efaidnbnmnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://lawfoundation.net.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Voices-from-a-distance.pdf>. Patricia is a PhD student in the School of Law and member of the AgLaw Research Hub, and is also a solicitor in regional NSW.

Media

Professor Sonia Allan was interviewed on ABC Radio (5 December 2025, 2pm). The interview was on legislation passed in Western Australia regarding, amongst other things, access to information by donor-conceived people about their biological heritage. This flowed on from recommendations Professor Allan made resulting in legislative review in WA.

Dr Wellett Potter, Friday 6 February 2026 – interview with Phil O'Neil, radio 2GB Sydney about AI Afterlife (producer Francis Fuller) – broadcast Tuesday 10 February [‘AI Afterlife is Now a Real Option’ Overnights with Phil O'Neil](#).

Dr Wellett Potter, Thursday 5 February 2026 – interview with Alice Matthews, ABC 666 Radio Canberra about the legal implications of AI Afterlife (producer Clare Mortensen).

Dr Wellett Potter, [An ‘AI Afterlife’ is now a real option – but what becomes of your legal status?](#), *The Conversation* (online, 4 February 2026, 11.40am AEDST).

Dr Wellett Potter, Thursday 22 January 2026 – interview with Shannia Cathcart, UNE Law Students' Society Careers Guide podcast.

Dr Wellett Potter, Monday 19 January 2026 – [interview with Ash Taylor TUNEFM \(UNE\)](#) about AI generated books and copyright.

Dr Wellett Potter, Monday 22 December 2025 – [podcast interview with Ash Taylor TUNEFM \(UNE\)](#) about the copyright implications of AI copycats on Spotify.

Dr Wellett Potter, Monday 15 December 2025 – radio interview with Jess McGuire, ABC NSW statewide drive radio show about copyright infringement of King Gizzard's music (producers Giles Hardie and Janine Fitzpatrick).

Dr Wellett Potter, Monday 15 December 2025 – radio interview with Kirsten Diprose, ABC Radio Melbourne, the Conversation hour about copyright infringement of King Gizzard's music (producer Tom Wright).

Dr Wellett Potter, Friday 12 December 2025 – radio interview with Sara Tingle ABC News Radio about copyright infringement of King Gizzard's music (producer Tim McGlone).

Dr Wellett Potter, [King Gizzard & The Lizard Wizard quit Spotify in protest, only for an AI doppelgänger to step in](#), *The Conversation* (online, 11 December 2025, 11.44am AEDT).

Dr Wellett Potter, Wednesday 3 December 2025 – [radio interview with ABC New England North-West about the National AI Plan with Kristy Reading](#) (producer Nathaniel Little) [listen from 45.00 mins to 54.00 mins).

Engagement and Events

Paul Akon, Uncle Steve Widders and Anthony Rummery travelled to Dubbo in November 2025 to progress the Armidale Youth Koori Court (YKC) project. They met with Magistrate Hopgood and attended a YKC session on 21 November. There are only three Youth Koori Courts in NSW: two in Sydney, and one in Dubbo. **Adjunct Professor Peter Johnstone** significantly contributed to the establishment of the Dubbo YKC when he was Chief Magistrate of the Local Court.

Fiona Burns' career and professional journey was featured in the Law Society Journal (NSW) in December 2025, p107, <https://lsj.com.au/>.

Associate Professor Guy Charlton visited Taiwan from 28 January-8 February 2026 as part of an ongoing research project on Indigenous communities that he has led for the past seven years. During his trip, he met with staff at Fu Jen Catholic University in Taipei and National Chengchi University in Wenshan to explore opportunities for deeper collaboration in research and teaching.



Associate Professor Skye Charry has been appointed Academic Lead for the University of New England Athena Swan Project. The Athena Swan initiative is a two-year institutional program focused on advancing gender equity in higher education.

Associate Professor Skye Charry attended the UN Commission on the Status of Women in New York in March as part of the delegation with the National Rural Women's Coalition. She looks forward to contributing to global conversations on gender equality and rural women's leadership, and to sharing insights from this international engagement with the UNE School of Law community.

Dr Andrew Lawson presented at UNE TamTalks on the topic of the School of Law's transition and succession planning courses. TamTalks is an initiative of UNE Tamworth that pairs an academic with a local practitioner on issues of interest. Andrew was paired with Isobel Knight – founder of the transition and succession planning firm Proagtive.

Dr Andrew Lawson co-convenor with Dr Julie Collins (HASS) of the organising committee for this year's Myall Creek Memorial Symposium on Friday 5 June 2026. They have secured a prominent speaker: Tony McEvoy SC. Tony is a Wiridi man from Central Queensland and a renowned NSW barrister and mediator. He has held a number of high profile positions, including Acting Commissioner of the NSW Land and Environment Court, and Acting Northern Territory Treaty Commissioner. Further details about this year's Symposium will be circulated.

Associate Professor Sharl Marimuthu presented to Council and to Law and Business staff on 10 February 2026 on strategic growth at UNE, focusing on sustainable approaches to increasing enrolments, strengthening retention, and improving progression. She highlighted measurable progress within the Law School, including growth in HDR enrolments, stronger progression outcomes and clearer internal processes that have enhanced the student experience and positioned the School for sustained development. The presentation outlined four key initiatives: strengthening HDR systems through structured supervision and milestone tracking; securing LPQB Malaysia accreditation to support international positioning and recruitment; developing structured 2+2 and 2+1 articulation pathways with trusted partners in South and Southeast Asia; and advancing DFAT-funded Australia Awards capacity-building programs to build international reputation and postgraduate pipelines.

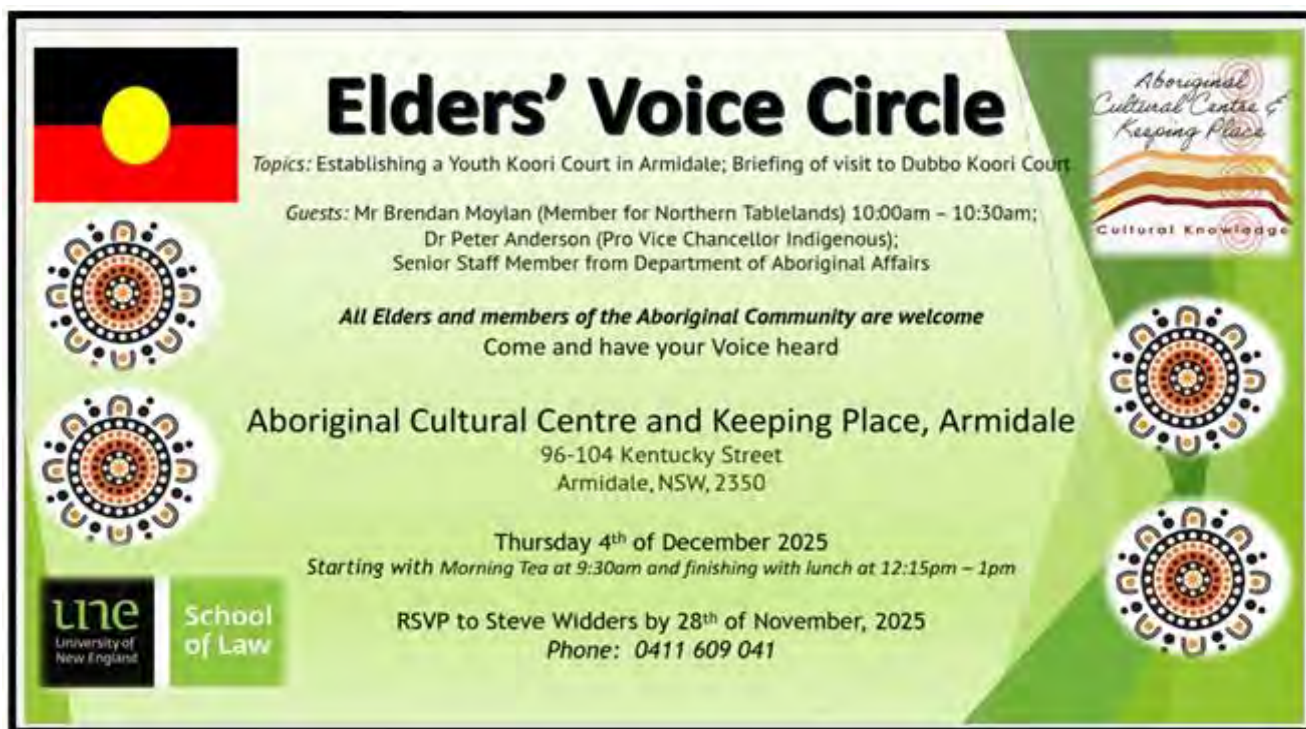


Associate Professor Sharl Marimuthu led the successful accreditation of UNE's law program by the Legal Profession Qualifying Board (LPQB) Malaysia in 2025. Members of UNE and the School of Law celebrated this major achievement over morning tea. Formally recognised in January 2026, the accreditation represents an important milestone for UNE Law and supports the School's international positioning and student recruitment. The accreditation process required extensive preparation and involved documenting multiple aspects of the law program, including curriculum design, assessment, governance, staffing and student outcomes. Associate Professor Marimuthu was supported during the complex submission process by several colleagues in the University and School of Law, including Professor Sujana Adapa, **Mr Kaelem Burgess**, Professor Simon Evans, Professor John Gibson, **Mrs Lyn Gollan**, **Ms Kath Johnson**, **Ms Anna Lawlor**, Mr Simon Ostler, **Professor Mark Perry**, Mr Alex Pont, and **Dr Kip Werren**.



Making the case for a Youth Koori Court in Armidale

Law School colleagues Paul Akon, Lyn Gollan, Ben Hingley, Adjunct Professor Peter Johnstone, Dr Andrew Lawson, Professor Cameron Moore and Professor Alpana Roy continue to support the local Elders Yarning Circle at the Armidale Aboriginal Cultural Centre and Keeping Place. A key focus is to lay the groundwork for the establishment of a Youth Koori Court (YKC) in Armidale.



The poster is titled "Elders' Voice Circle" and features the Australian Aboriginal flag in the top left corner. It includes several decorative circular patterns (wirls) and the logo for the Aboriginal Cultural Centre & Keeping Place. The text on the poster provides details about the event, including the topics, guests, and location.

Elders' Voice Circle

Topics: Establishing a Youth Koori Court in Armidale; Briefing of visit to Dubbo Koori Court

Guests: Mr Brendan Moylan (Member for Northern Tablelands) 10:00am – 10:30am;
Dr Peter Anderson (Pro Vice Chancellor Indigenous);
Senior Staff Member from Department of Aboriginal Affairs

*All Elders and members of the Aboriginal Community are welcome
Come and have your Voice heard*

Aboriginal Cultural Centre and Keeping Place, Armidale
96-104 Kentucky Street
Armidale, NSW, 2350

Thursday 4th of December 2025
Starting with Morning Tea at 9:30am and finishing with lunch at 12:15pm – 1pm

RSVP to Steve Widders by 28th of November, 2025
Phone: 0411 609 041

UNE University of New England School of Law

Guyra Central School visit to UNE Law, December 2025



Guyra Central School

Quality learning opportunities in a caring community

Guyra Central School visited UNE Law School on Monday 1 December 2025 to experience Law lecturer (and Barrister) **Karen Conte's** widely celebrated 'Trial by Jury' program. The students ranged from Year 7 to Year 12. Karen has now delivered this wildly popular program in numerous schools across NSW and Qld.

The day started with an interactive visit to the Law Library, hosted by Law Librarian, Dr Gilbert Meyns. This set the scene for more role play in the Moot Court where **Paul Akon** explained how a court works, allocating students to court positions with a script for each role to read as everyone enacted the opening procedure, including standing /bowing at the appropriate times – this made it all very real for the students. Senior Lecturer **Dr Wellett Potter** put 'law into practice' by explaining how Taylor Swift's efforts to reclaim ownership of her music demonstrated Intellectual Property rights – complete with video/sound bites for the 'Swifties' in the group. **Kath Johnson** (Law Course Manager) provided information about UNE Law courses, and **Nola Holmes** (Law School First Year and Academic Advisor) providing guidance about studying law. Guyra Central School students and teachers then did a campus tour - enthusiastically wearing UNE merchandise organised by **Joey Coleman** (Law School's Social Media officer). A thoroughly enjoyable day for all involved!

The Oorala Aboriginal Centre

Oorala Staff Recognition Award (professional or academic staff member)

The Team Award – The Myall Creek Team

UNE staff on the Myall Creek Memorial Symposium Organising Committee – **Dr Andrew Lawson, Professor Cameron Moore** (School of Law), Dr Julie Collins (The School of Humanities, Arts and Social Science, Indigenous Studies), Uncle Steve Widders (Oorala Aboriginal Centre), Tess Cullen (Oorala Aboriginal Centre) were awarded the Staff Recognition Award for Teams, at UNE’s Oorala Awards at the dinner and ceremony on 27 November 2025 at the Armidale Bowls Club. Professor Moore and Uncle Steve were unable to attend, so the award was accepted by Dr Andrew Lawson and Dr Julie Collins (pictured on the right). The Law School has been a long-term supporter of UNE’s Myall Creek commemorative events, sponsoring various events at Oorala.



Photo above: PSCI Professor Peter Anderson, Dr Julie Collins, Tess Cullen, Michelle Clare, Dr Andrew Lawson, Brad Lawson, Lucy Eggleton, Shannon Hamilton, Leilani Munns, Oorala Director Samantha Fowler and Peter Stier

UNE Orientation – Trimester 1 2026

Sydney Campus (Parramatta)

Associate Professor Guy Charlton attended the UNE Sydney in person orientation on Saturday 21 February 2026. About 80 students from all disciplines attended – including 6 law students.



Tamworth Campus

Dr Julia Day and Fiona Burns featured in the NBN News on 21 February 2026. A significant number of students attended Orientation Day in Tamworth. The Law School's Dr Julia Day and Fiona Burns met numerous students and lead them through a 'Legal Myth Busting' challenge, which was very well-received and tons of fun!



Armidale Campus – Hybrid Induction for First Year Law students

The on-campus induction day was delivered as a hybrid event and was very well received - attracting more than 220 online participants along with a large number of in-person attendees.



Lifesaver Day 2026 – UNE Law Student Society (LSS)

The LSS hosted a stall at Lifesaver Day 2026, where new students were welcomed and provided with information about the LSS. New students were provided with guidance on university life, study tips and upcoming events, along with copies of the *Trimester One 2026 Guide*, *Rural and Online Study Student Tips and Communities*, and the *Law Society of NSW Student Member Guide*. These publications are designed to assist students settle into their studies and feel supported as they commence their law journey at UNE.

Lifesaver Day was a vibrant and engaging event bringing together UNE and local communities and creating a very warm welcome for our new students. A wonderful start to the 2026 academic year!

