From: University of New England
To: Rhonda Brooks
Subject: UNE Alumni Newsletter - Winter 2023
Date: Thursday, 27 July 2023 2:31:55 PM

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une University of New England Alumni

Alumni Newsletter

Winter 2023

Creating and sharing knowledge

Welcome to the winter edition of the UNE alumni newsletter, which carries the theme Creating and Sharing Knowledge.

You will find many examples of innovative thinking and inspired education in this issue, from **Victor Briggs**' documentation of ancient travellers and **Sara Shams**' positive inclusion message to the pioneering science that has underpinned **Dame Bridget Ogilvie's** international career.

Our institution prides itself on generating, validating and sharing knowledge that challenges convention and seeks to solve real-world problems. Our graduates go on to forge influential careers, as demonstrated by business leaders **Troy Setter and Kathleen Plowman**.

Both executives credit UNE with putting them on the path to success; for helping them to develop the knowledge but also the teamwork, critical thinking and confidence their future careers have demanded.

In the process of developing their skillset and technical expertise our alumni also develop life-long friendships. The **South Australian chapter of the UNE Alumni Association (SACUNE)** – 27 years young and counting! – is testament to the enduring strength of those relationships, and the vital individual, community and business connections they foster.

This month our ever-expanding UNE community welcomed its 16th Vice-Chancellor, **Professor Chris Moran**, who comes to UNE "with high hopes and optimism".

Professor Moran is eager to begin discussions on "what practical, energising and meaningful initiatives and partnerships might form the core of a renewed common direction for us".

"I am confident that we can recreate an unconventional, exciting and vibrant UNE … and enable amazing lives for those who choose to learn with us," Professor Moran wrote last

week.

We invite you to read about some of the amazing UNE alumni already forging exciting new futures in these pages.

Alumni Stories

Victor Briggs

In Victor Briggs' culture, his old people are ever present. Their words and stories echo down the generations, informing and guiding and reassuring future generations.

Read more >

Dame Bridget Ogilvie

At a time when few women attended university, young Bridget Ogilvie was something of a curiosity to her father's friends and colleagues.

Read more >

Peter Ireland

This year was the 21st anniversary of the Balmoral Burn – a gruelling race up Sydney's steepest hill – and UNE alumnus Peter Ireland has completed every single, painful one of them.

Read more >

Peter Derrett

Peter Derrett was intent on becoming an English teacher when he arrived at UNE in 1967 but a passion for photography also found an outlet.

Read more >

Sara Shams

Modelling is a creative avenue for Sara to display her disability pride. As a peer volunteer for the charity Limbs 4 Life, Sara also supports new amputees and their families.

Read more >

Patrick Whymark

Patrick had completed an Arts/Teaching degree with us and was all set to start his Masters in 2014 when he was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia.

Read more >

Movers & Shakers

Congratulations to ...

- UNE alumna **Michele Bullock** on her appointment as new Governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia. Michele completed a Bachelor of Economics (Honours) at UNE and is the first woman to be appointed as Governor of the RBA. She is our second alum to be appointed to this role, behind Bernie Fraser, who was the Governor of the RBA between 1989 and 1996. Learn more about Michele's time at UNE and growing up in the country **here.**
- **Sarah Hain** who won the Colemans Contracting & Earthmoving Agriculture Award at the NT Young Achiever Awards in April. Sarah has made a significant contribution to the NT mango and broadacre industries. Well done Sarah!!
- UNE alumni won two major categories of the 2023 New England Volunteer Awards, announced in May. **Michael 'Mike' Porter** was named the Regional Senior Volunteer of the Year for his lifelong contribution to cricket in Armidale as a player and administrator. And **Margaret Waters** became the Regional Volunteer of the Year, recognising her work with the Uniting Church and especially the Alwyn Jones Community Award Committee. Current UNE student **Satmak Dapar** was named the Regional Adult Volunteer of the Year for his work with the Global Care Foodbank.

King's Birthday Honours for UNE community

Congratulations to the 19 UNE alumni recognised the King's Birthday Honours. We are very proud of their their diverse contributions to professional and community life. Take a bow.

Read more >

UNE is leading on leadership

It's no surprise to us to learn that UNE has produced a significant number of business leaders. We've shared many of their inspiring stories over the years. But now it's official.

Read more >

UNE investments pay dividends

Michele Bullock (right) and Bernie Fraser (left) were both educated at the University of New England before being appointed RBA Governors.

Read more >

We met at UNE

Barry and Jenny Buffier

There remains some contention as to when Jenny Johns met Barry Buffier at UNE.

Jenny says they were introduced during orientation week in 1966, the first year of Jenny's Bachelor of Arts degree and during Barry's second year of Rural Science. However, Barry says it took him a full year to get Jenny's attention and the first time they went out was during end of year exams.

Read more >

Alumni Gatherings

Southern solidarity

Almost three decades since it was established, the South Australian chapter of the UNE Alumni Association (SACUNE) – our most active in Australia – continues to go from strength to strength.

In May, SACUNE celebrated its 27th annual dinner, hosting UNE Chancellor James Harris and Deputy Chancellor Jan McClelland. It saw alumnus and former SA Premier, the Honourable Dean Brown AO, propose a toast to UNE, and Foundation President Dr Jennie Teasdale AM thank both UNE and SACUNE for honouring her with an Honorary Doctor of Letters at a graduation ceremony in April.

Read more >

UNE News

Professor Chris Moran appointed next Vice-Chancellor and CEO

The University of New England (UNE) Council welcomes Professor Chris Moran as the new Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive Officer.

Professor Moran is an experienced and respected university leader with an academic background in agriculture, natural resources and sustainable development.

Read more >

Keeping up with koalas

Our Armidale campus is part of an important corridor for koalas in one of the few remaining strongholds for this nationally threatened species. And now UNE has an updated Koala Plan of Management (KPoM) to boost its conservation efforts and inform future development.

Read more >

UNE works with Rural Aid to help farming families reboot

The “people side of drought” is front and centre for a Rural Aid-supported initiative helping farming families reboot not just their businesses, but themselves.

Read more >

Launch of first national map of Australia's protected cropping structures

The horticulture sector will now be better equipped to forecast yields, manage logistics, and respond to natural disasters and biosecurity threats, thanks to the launch of Australia's first map of protected cropping structures.

Read more >

An Outback where even the spinifex dies

A new study finds that Australia's arid zone vegetation is already being challenged by climatic extremes that will become more frequent under climate change.

Read more >

New insights into ancient hunter

Who killed the trilobites? A new biomechanical study led from UNE has shown that it was not the bizarre animal long thought to be an apex predator of Earth's primeval seas.

Read more >

UNE crowned meat judging champions

The 2023 Intercollegiate Meat Judging Association (ICMJ) National Competition has wrapped up in Wagga Wagga with Jonty Hemmingway from UNE taking out the title of Australian meat judging champion individual.

Read more >

Supporting UNE

A celebration of generosity and goodwill

Generous supporters of UNE students gathered in historic Booloominbah last Friday for our annual scholarships luncheon.

Almost 100 special guests, donors and trustees, as well as on-campus scholarship recipients enjoyed the opportunity to meet and share stories – of why they are compelled to support UNE education and the profound difference such gifts can make.

Each year UNE distributes some 300 donor-funded scholarships valued at $1.5 million. Their primary aim is to ensure UNE education is affordable to those of limited means, to support First Nations students and to recognise students who have achieved academic excellence.

New Vice-Chancellor Professor Chris Moran, Chancellor James Harris and Member for Northern Tablelands Adam Marshall were among the invited guests celebrating UNE's scholarship program.

Many of our scholarships are a result of long-standing industry partnerships and generous bequests from alumni who are invested in regional tertiary education. Thank you to the generous donors and their trust and foundation representatives who, each year, help give our students every chance of success.

You, too, can contribute to UNE's scholarship fund. **Find out more here >**

Give to UNE >

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 >

Around UNE

Sea of hands

A symbol of solidarity and a reflection on reconciliation.

UNE staff, students and community recently gathered on the Armidale campus to participate in Sea of Hands - an iconic installation event begun by ANTAR in 1997 in support of reconciliation, rights and respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

It was part of a truly special Reconciliation Week series of events on our campuses and online, where culture and friendship were shared generously. Thank you to everyone who took part.

Watch Video >

UNE Events

Are you going to Agquip?

Join us at the UNE tent for a free BBQ lunch and meet our new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Chris Moran.

Date: 23 August 2023

Location: Agquip, Gunnedah NSW

More details will follow shortly

Music Creative Conversations

Music Matters: The value of music within communities by Dr Alana Blackburn
Date: Thu 27 July 2023 6:30pm - 7:30pm
Location: The Joan, Penrith

French Poetry Films

A night of French Poetry Films featuring the creative work of UNE Music staff member Associate Professor Donna Hewitt
Date: Sat 29 July 2023 7:00pm - 8:30pm
Venue: Alliance Française, Canberra

Tamtalks Speaker Series 2023

The creation of agile communities - UNE Geographer and Futurist Tony Sorensen
Date: Tue 8 Aug 2023 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
Venue: UNE Tamworth

Tamtalks Special Edition

When the rivers run dry - A documentary about the Murray-Darling River
Date: Wed 16 Aug 2023 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Venue: UNE Tamworth

Artificial Intelligence Creative Conversations

The Future of Creativity in the Mirror of Artificial Intelligence by Associate Professor Donna Hewitt
Date: Thu 24 Aug 2023 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Location: The Joan, Penrith

Winter Graduation - Faculty of Science, Agriculture, Business and Law

Date: Fri 25 Aug 3:00pm - 5:00pm
Location: Lawns of Booloominbah, UNE Armidale

Winter Graduation - Faculty of Humanities, Arts Social Sciences and Education

Date: Sat 26 Aug 10:30am - 12:00pm
Location: Lawns of Booloominbah, UNE Armidale

Winter Graduation - Medicine and Health

Date: Sat 26 Aug 3:00pm - 5:00pm
Location: Lawns of Booloominbah, UNE Armidale

View Events Calendar >

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