From: University of New England
To: Alumni
Subject: UNE Alumni Newsletter - December 2023
Date: Thursday, 14 December 2023 10:38:28 AM

University of New England Alumni

Alumni Newsletter

December 2023

From the Vice-Chancellor

Throughout the year we have told many inspiring stories of UNE graduates shaping their communities in profound ways.

The fact that we now have alumni heading state government (in our NSW Premier **Chris Minns** and Treasurer **Daniel Mookhey**), our police force (**Commissioner Karen Webb**) and Fire and Rescue NSW (**Commissioner Jeremy Fewtrell**) speaks to the power of a UNE education, its very practical applications and impact.

But leadership is not confined to the top echelons of government, business or politics. In our final newsletter for 2023 you will hear from people quietly working to improve the lives of others, protecting our rich cultural heritage and environments, and – in the case of **Rejieli Cokanasiga-Taylor** – advancing human rights in the Pacific.

Since becoming Vice-Chancellor, I have delighted in meeting alumni at various events and been encouraged by the number who have accepted my invitation to discuss practical ways they might continue to engage with the university. I am committed to enhancing this alumni network and exploring new partnerships, so welcome your contributions in the new year.

UNE's alumni are our biggest asset and what makes UNE such a special place. In 2024 we will be **celebrating 70 years** as an independent university, and it's an occasion to reflect on the many people who have studied with us. UNE was built on a philosophy of embracing all. We welcome anyone who genuinely aspires to a university education, and has the capability and determination to succeed. This has not changed in seven decades, and I am now very focussed on ensuring that we receive the proper recognition and policy support from government to continue this invaluable work.

As 2023 draws to a close, I wish you and your families a happy and relaxing holiday season. I look forward to celebrating more of your professional and personal achievements in 2024.

Professor Chris Moran
UNE Vice-Chancellor and CEO

Alumni Stories

Jeremy Fewtrell

Congratulations to UNE alumnus Jeremy Fewtrell, who this year became Commissioner of Fire and Rescue NSW. With bushfires already blazing across NSW, Jeremy is prepared for a busy bushfire season.

Read more >

June Ross

Meet June Ross who has spent more than three decades either hiking or being choppered in to remote sites in northern and Central Australia in her quest to understand and protect Indigenous rock art.

Read more >

Tristan Bancks

Tristan visits up to 100 Australian schools a year to promote reading and his books – 17 titles and counting, including the popular *Tom Weekly* series and more recent best-sellers *Two Wolves*, *The Fall* and *Scar Town*.

Read more >

Rejieli Cokanasiga-Taylor

Rejieli Cokanasiga-Taylor was recently appointed executive director of Women's Fund Fiji, a charitable organisation dedicated to empowering women and advancing gender equality.

Read more >

Andrew Norris

For Andrew Norris, his years studying Rural Science at UNE were an exploration of the possibilities in agriculture that produced an entirely unexpected result.

Read more >

Lu Hogan

Prime lamb producer Lu Hogan has been elected to the skills-based board of Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) as a sheep meat production expert.

Read more >

Where have your UNE studies taken you?

Next year marks **70 years** since the University of New England became an independent educational entity. And we're celebrating!

As we reflect on UNE's history, we recognise that our alumni are among our greatest

achievements – and most valuable assets. Every quarter we delight in introducing you to fellow members of this inspiring alumni community.

In 2024 we invite you to share with us how UNE has shaped your life, as well as your top tip for our next crop of graduands. Drop us a line at **alumni@une.edu.au** and include a photograph of where your UNE education has taken you so we can share your stories throughout the year.

It's time to pay homage to the past but also imagine the exciting future we are creating, together.

Movers & Shakers

The contributions of UNE graduates to Australian agriculture dominate this edition's Movers and Shakers. We applaud:

- Science alumnus, former lecturer and Distinguished **Professor David Lamb**, who has been promoted to Deputy CEO and chief scientist of the Food Agility Cooperative Research Centre (CRC). David launched Australia's first SMART farm at UNE and in July 2022 became the first Australian recipient of the Pierre C. Robert Precision Agriculture Award from the International Society of Precision Agriculture.
- Rural Science (Honours) alumna **Maddie Fryer**, the Rangers Valley Feedlot data and operations officer, who was a grand finalist in the Australian Lot Feeder's Association Young Lot Feeder of the Year award.
- Winner of the National Merino Sheep Young Judges Competition, **Lindsay Brown**, who took out the title at the Royal Launceston Show. The Agriculture and Business Administration graduate was the NSW finalist in the competition and is now working as a wool classer with Elders in its Melbourne wool stores.
- **Ellah Thompson**, who completed a Business (Agribusiness and Management) degree at UNE and has been named one of 10 emerging grains professionals to undertake the 2024 Australian Grain Leaders Program.
- Genetics Australia's new beef manager, Bachelor of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences graduate **Damien Thomson**. Previously, he was an ABARES industry economist and AuctionsPlus senior market analyst.
- UNE educator Associate **Professor Ingrid Harrington** (Graduate Certificate in Higher Education, 2005), who received the William Walker Award for excellence in educational leadership. The award recognises Ingrid's development of the highly successful Commencing Student Success Program within UNE's School of Education.

We met at UNE

Natasha Loi and Boyd Gudex

Meeting at Mary White College in 2007 was the start of a true UNE romance for Natasha Loi and Boyd Gudex. But, like every good love story, its course did not always run smooth.

The couple maintained a long-distance relationship between Australia and New Zealand for almost two years until settling permanently in Armidale in 2013 – back where it all began.

Read more >

Alumni Reunions

60 years of memories

The Piano Man made a guest appearance via YouTube at the recent **60th Earle Page College (EPC) reunion**, capping off a nostalgic weekend.

But the gifted pianist – actually a cameo by former EPC resident Bob Crisp – was not the only highlight. Some 150 former college residents from all eras and all over Australia, as well as current Austin-Page students, enjoyed speeches from Vice-Chancellor Professor Chris Moran; Chancellor James Harris, former EPC master David Ward (1999-2010) and one of the college's first residents, 80-year-old George Ryland. A letter from Sir Earle Page's grandson, Don Page, also contributed to the moving Saturday night dinner in the old Earle Page dining hall, where many hours had been spent dining and taking part in formal dinners, balls, musicals and other college events.

Read more >

Lifelong Learning

Looking to enhance your UNE qualifications in 2024? Eager to contribute to solving some of the world's greatest challenges? Then look no further.

Next year UNE is launching an Australian-first program aimed at drastically improving health outcomes at the local, national and international level. Our **Master of Public Health (One Health)**, commencing on 26 February, investigates the connections between human, animal and environmental health to better understand infectious diseases and develop strategies to prevent them.

This new UNE program will appeal to alumni with a background in public health, business, management, law, education, veterinary sciences, social and environmental sciences, animal or biological sciences. It could be just the further education you need to join one of the largest and fastest growing jobs categories in Australia and advance your career in public health, health promotion, epidemiology and health leadership.

Our **Master of Public Health (One Health)** program is available fully online either full- or part-time and offers specialisations in Environmental, Organisational or Global health.

More information >

Giving to UNE

Thinking that has changed the world

Memories of visionary agricultural scientist and educator Professor Bill McClymont loom large at UNE, even two decades after his death.

Read more >

The power and privilege of education

Empathy for struggling students has inspired this educator to pay it forward.

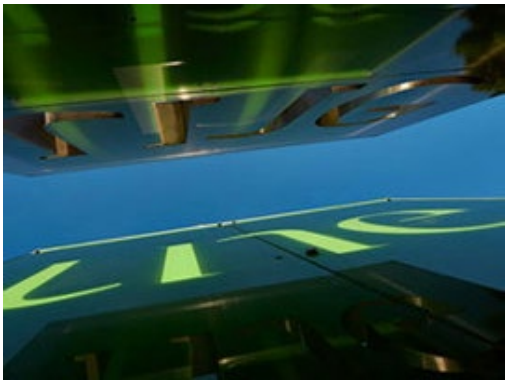
Read more >

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 News



UNE shines when it comes to job outcomes and equity

UNE has ranked fifth in Australia for the quality of its equity and access and ninth for career outcomes in new rankings released by the Australian Financial Review.

Read more >

Concepts for the UNE Tamworth campus on public display

The design team has created a building that promotes student success, equitable access to learning, and that is inclusive and welcoming.

Read more >

Rare white platypus discovered by UNE researchers

A rare white platypus has been discovered living in a stream on the Northern Tablelands of NSW by a group of researchers from UNE. The extraordinary discovery is one of just 12 documented instances of white or albino platypus since 1803.

Read more >

UNE helping to conserve NSW koalas as climate change threatens habitats

UNE is helping to conserve the state's koala populations through a collaborative project to predict where koalas will be living in the future, and what their habitats will look like as a result of climate change.

Read more >

UNE's 70th Anniversary

1 February 2024 marks **70 years** since UNE separated from the University of Sydney and became an independent regional University, with Sir Robert Madgwick the first Vice-Chancellor.

To celebrate, UNE will be hosting a range of events both in person and online and

we encourage you, as our alumni, to connect with us in whatever way you can. You can share an expression of interest to be more involved with our **70 year celebrations** by completing this form.

More information on what we are planning and how you can engage will be shared in 2024 or keep up to date with all upcoming **UNE Events here >**

UNE's New On-Campus Campaign

UNE has just launched a new marketing campaign, aimed at the school leaver cohort to study on-campus in Armidale.

The campaign, "Let our history shape you future", highlights the uniqueness of studying on-campus in Armidale, and features over 30 UNE staff and students, across 14 different locations. The emphasis throughout the development of the campaign has been to highlight and celebrate UNE's unique history, architecture, landscapes and collegiate atmosphere. Anthony Smith, Executive Principal – Brand, Partnerships and Business Development notes that "it is the combination of these elements that make the UNE on-campus experience so special - and something that no other university in Australia offers. The messaging also aligns with **UNE's 70 year anniversary** (coming up in 2024), which is being celebrated with an extensive range of on-campus and community engagement events."

The initial phase of the campaign includes a suite of videos running on free-to-air television, social media and in cinemas across New South Wales, as well as prominent billboards in Armidale.

View the video online here >

Click here for the November 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 to Pulse here >

In Memoriam

We extend our sincerest condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of the following people:

- <!--[endif]-->Emeritus Professor Norm Feather AM
- Mr Graydon Henning
- <!--[endif]-->Mr Gordon McCormack OAM
- <!--[endif]-->Emeritus Professor Brian Hardaker
- Dr Dale Spender AM
- Emeritus Professor Graham Connah AM

You are receiving this email because alumni@une.edu.au is signed up to receive UNE Alumni communications.

Subscribe/Unsubscribe | Update your contact details | Join UNE Convocation

Contact Us

www.une.edu.au/alumni

This communication is brought to you by the Student Experience Portfolio of UNE

© University of New England

University of New England CRICOS Provider Number 00003G

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.

Privacy Policy | Unsubscribe

University of New England

University of New England Armidale NSW 2351