




Country
Universities
Centre
MACLEAY VALLEY



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS 2023



Our mission is to provide regional people with the space and tools they need to create a vibrant and more prosperous future for themselves and their wider community.

The Macleay Valley Country Universities Centre wishes to acknowledge the Dunghutti Peoples as the Traditional Owners of the land on which our Centre is located and to pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and we honour the unique cultural and spiritual relationships to their land, waters, and seas, as well as their rich contribution to our community.

Message from the Chair

Liz Campbell

The Country Universities Centre Macleay Valley has been a vision for Kempsey for over 10 years. Access to quality education is fundamental to a thriving community.

For far too long our young people have travelled away to gain the skills and knowledge needed for prosperous employment, and our local workforce has made significant sacrifices to upskill without the infrastructure to support them.

Now, the community now has a flourishing Centre to support their pursuit of tertiary education.

The success of the Centre has come from the significant investment of our community. Our local skills-based Board has provided the Centre with the knowledge and expertise needed to drive our excellent results.

The Centre was officially opened on 30th April 2021 by Pat Conaghan and attended by many of our key university partners including UNE, CSU and CQU. The event highlighted the fantastic new opportunities this Centre will provide to the students in our community.

Since opening the Centre has exceeded expectations set out by the NSW and Federal Government we have support over 200 students at the Centre. A vast majority of these students studied in the areas of undergraduate health and education and were mostly female. As we move forward, the Centre will collaborate local industry and our schools to build connections between education and jobs and increasing the diversity of our cohort. Our community will only increase in its confidence, and we will build a job ready workforce. In 2023 we have 11 students going directly into the workforce into health and education.

Our community deserves this Centre. Together we face significant adversities, from the onslaught of natural disasters to the lack of opportunities that make growth and change difficult. We now have a resource that will help us grow. We now have equity of opportunity.

This Centre levels the playing field for accessing education in our region. Our vision of an inclusive Centre, with leading infrastructure and support for our local students will play a part of the future prosperity of our community and changing the narrative for many.

We hope you will consider collaborating with us to help continuing the support of our local students and growing our own professionals right here in the Macleay Valley.



Liz Campbell
Chair



Our Story

Over ten years in the making

Our History

For too long the people of our community have had to move away, or make significant sacrifice to pursue higher education. The area has needed a university presence for many years and the Country Universities Centre model is the perfect fit.

The Centre welcomes any student studying at any higher education institution in Australia, giving our students the choice to study what they are passionate about.

What we do

CUC Macleay Valley is a dedicated learning and study space where students can focus entirely on their studies. Students can connect with like-minded people and engage in a learning community while they study locally in the Macleay Valley. We are focused on assisting students settle into study, improve their academic skills and confidence to ensure they have the tools to succeed in their higher education journey.

Why we are here

Regional and rural communities deserve quality opportunities to pursue their dreams without the need to relocate. Our mission is to provide regional people with the space and tools they need to create a vibrant and prosperous future for themselves and their wider community. We want young people to stay in the valley, and for our workforce to have the opportunity to upskill in their chosen field. We want to grow our own professionals.

Who we are here for

All people who are studying higher education from any Australian university or non-university higher education provider. If you're a local business or service provider interested in engaging locally trained university graduates and students, or hosting student placements and work-based learning, we are here for you too.

Our Centre has an inclusive and diverse environment. We welcome and celebrate all our community.



Samantha Campbell
Bachelor of Nursing
Southern Cross University

CUC Macleay Valley Students

SEMESTER 1, 2022

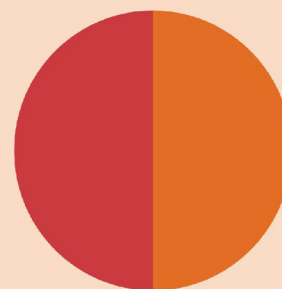


48%

are the first in their family to study

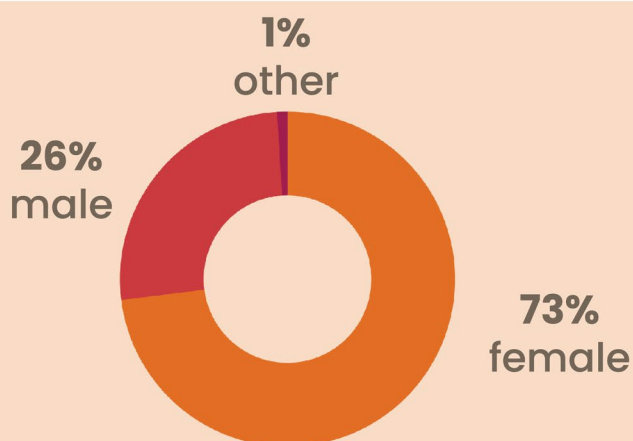
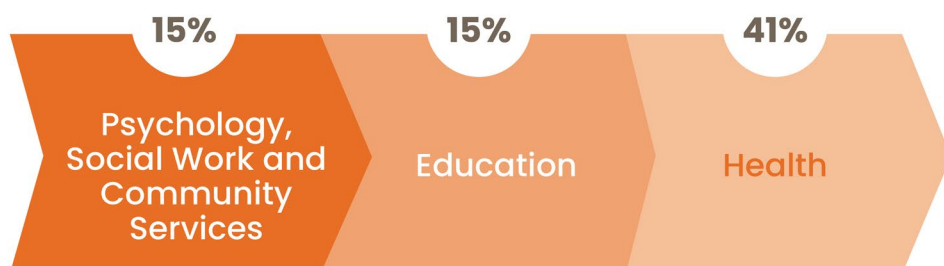
21 
different universities

50%
study full time



50%
study part time

TOP Areas of Study



15.2%
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage

Student Support

Here for our students

CUC Macleay Valley provides wrap around support for any student who is studying online or in blended modes at any Australian university and compliments the support that each student's university already offers. This support includes access to a local learning community, in addition to well-being, technology, administrative, and academic support.

In addition to being regional, many CUC students are often their first-in-family to attend university, are non-school leavers, have had a break from education, are balancing fulltime work with study, have caring responsibilities, or a combination of these factors. These factors influence every student differently and can combine to create unique challenges for each student to succeed in higher education. To support these students, the CUC 'meets students where they are' and delivers face-to-face support that is tailored to the needs of each individual student.

The focus on face-to-face support provided by CUC staff is highly valued by students. In the 2021 Student Experience Survey, **95% of students** indicated they are more likely to continue with their studies as a result of the help they received from the CUC, while **87% of students** experienced a sense of belonging to the CUC, and **99% of students** found the staff to be very or extremely helpful.



Having access to the CUC greatly improved my ability to focus on my studies and helped me achieve the best results possible.



Going to the CUC each day made me feel like I was back on a uni campus for the first time since the pandemic hit, and it felt like I had come home.



My grades went from average, due to studying at home in between work and kids, to HD grades, due to studying at the CUC and being totally focused on my assessments.



The CUC opens up so many options for people in Kempsey who can now stay and study locally.



Cindy Gorman
Bachelor of Nursing
Charles Sturt University

Growing our own professionals

Celebrating our students



Katie Barnett

Bachelor of Agriculture / Bachelor of Business
University of New England

Katie Barnett is currently studying while serving on multiple committees and working on 3 properties. Katie attended Kempsey High School and found herself with a passion for cattle and beef, as well as bio-security. Katie is always looking for self-improvement and ways to give back to her community. She has completed a chainsaw course and a truck driving course. Her long list of representation includes the Secretary of ASC Next Gen, on the Kempsey Show Committee, Beef & Cattle Younger Farmers Challenge, Schools Coordinator for UNE Farming Futures program and appointed as the UNE / RU US Representative.



Cindy Gorman

Bachelor of Nursing with Distinction
University of Newcastle

"Now is the time for women. It is time for us to discover, take charge and go for the things we want", nursing student Cindy says.

Though as a young woman in high school, Cindy gave up on the idea of going to uni even though it was a dream for her. She felt discouraged from going like it wasn't something she should aspire to and it would be too expensive.

Cindy graduated with distinction and is now studying a Masters in Women's Health Science.



300

Registered students since opening
And supported in their learning
journey

Success

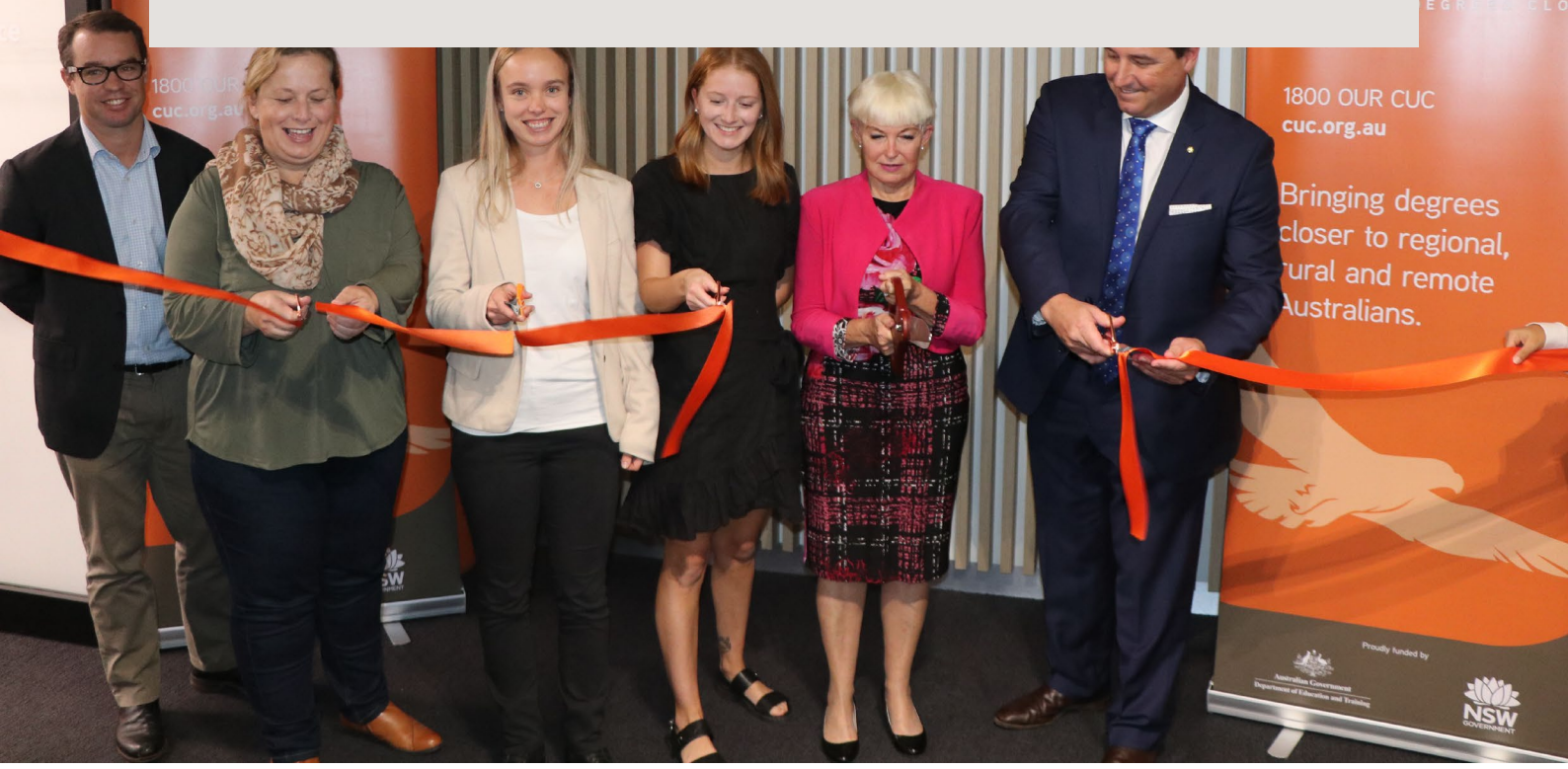
100% of students
believe the CUC has made it easier to
stay, study or work in their community

50%

First in family to study at university
and become role models for their
community

Academic results


95% of students
felt that using the CUC helped to
improve their academic results.



Sponsorship packages

Support the success of our students

Join us in empowering our regional community by enabling accessibility to higher education opportunities.

OPPORTUNITY	PLATINUM	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
Prominent signage in the Centre				
Logo on email signature				
Speaking slot at the CUC Macleay Valley Graduation				
Acknowledgement of sponsorship at key CUC event				
Guest spot on the Community Connections podcast				
Free use of the CUC Lecture Space and Group Space for meeting needs				
Promotional materials (provided by you) in student registration pack				
Acknowledgement and logo on website with link to sponsor website				
Sponsorship announcement including a media release, blog post and social media				
Invitation to the CUC Macleay Valley Graduation				
Framed acknowledgement of sponsorship				
	\$25,000	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$1,000



Nikki Bryant

Graduate Certificate in Inclusive Education
University of Newcastle

Bringing degrees closer
to regional, rural and
remote Australia.

Proudly supported by



Australian Government
Department of Education



COUNTRY UNIVERSITIES CENTRE
Macleay Valley

1800 OUR CUC