



Country
Universities
Centre

SOUTHERN SHOALHAVEN

20
22

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

Our Vision

A vibrant place of learning

Where people of the Southern Shoalhaven access tertiary education to enable lifelong learning that expands knowledge, changes lives and builds community.

Our Purpose

Bringing degrees closer

Empowering local people and communities to succeed in education and realise their dreams.



Yaradban

to soar/fly over

By Murramarang Yuin Artist Leanne Brook, 2021

Bundjanj dharanj bagandha Murramarang Yuwinjnggul
We remember we stand on Murramarang Yuin Country

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2022 Year
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Message from the Chair

Wayne Dedden



Welcome to this annual report on another year for CUC Southern Shoalhaven Ltd (CUCSS). The year has been a successful one and there are many to thank and acknowledge.

Together we have collectively and collegiately delivered on our purpose of 'Bringing degrees closer by empowering our local people and communities to succeed in education to realise their dreams'.

This annual reporting update on the progress experienced by CUCSS over the past year reveals three priority achievements: the growth of our student cohort well beyond our business expectations; staffing level expansion to support our growth; and our operational finances well managed and controlled. A gratifying effort and well done to all involved.

Congratulations to all those students who have chosen to be supported through our Centre over the past year. Several of those students' personal achievements and outcomes, such as employment in their respective study areas, have been listed in this Annual Report. These are the stories that define our Centre's local services to others, and they are worth sharing and recommending. So well done to all our Centre users - and let's keep telling the story. Thank you to our Manager Adam Gowen, and Centre Assistant Amy Lawry, for their ongoing commitment to the Centre's functions. Adam's professional development continued throughout the year in-house and inclusive of the (externally funded) AICD Director's Course. Adam exemplifies life long learning and achievement and is well placed to support and guide those around him.

Our first year was focused on building and establishing our Centre, followed by consolidation of CUCSS's core local business effort to deliver options for equity and choice to students. The coming year though will require the management and Board to further progress pathway opportunities for partnerships to deliver greater sustainability for centre operations. The recent Federal government changes shows strong ongoing support; post 2023 funding will be negotiated and developed for our Centre shortly. I am sure that our fiscal position may become more secure in terms of our operational cost coverage. Our CUCSS is in an enviable position due to the development of the Hive Collaborative Space which, if managed well, can become a generator of income to support to our Regional community base. This was most recently evidenced by Ulladulla High School Graduating Class of 2022 with the provision of 4 CUCSS scholarship opportunities. Recent events have continued to crystallise my focus on the true power of this Regional CUC model, and how a thriving 'Hive' can provide additional financial support in the long term.

The graduation was inspirational and gives life to the expression 'It takes a village to raise a child'. Additionally, in the coming year, such programs as Regional Partnerships Project Pool Program, and supplementary work supporting the role of the Centre, will help provide graduates to fill local workforce demand. Our CUC is a valuable part of the solution of growing a local, qualified, knowledgeable workforce; a clear pipeline of potential future local workers for state governments, in particular, local key public sector workers in the fields of health, education, justice, and community services. It will be an exciting time for everyone as we grasp this opportunity. There is already considerable community interest for that.

Our Board continues to provide sound governance and strategic oversight as evidenced by this report. My appreciation to all our Board and especially to those retiring, Robert Richards, Paul Ell and James Walker. I thank them, as I thank each and everyone of our remaining Directors for their very considerable contributions, volunteer commitment and enthusiasm over the past year/s. We look forward to the new Directors being appointed to meet the vacancies created. Thank you to the community for your ongoing support of CUCSS.

Wayne Dedden
Chair

Centre Managers Report

Adam Gowen

After opening our doors to students in December of 2021 we have seen a rapid adoption of our Centre as a preferred place of study for students in our local region. Over the course of 2022 we have seen over 100 students come through our doors and gain access to supports that have enabled them to remain in their courses and achieve increased levels of success and community connection. This is well in excess of the target of 40 students set in our operational plan and we are excited to see this trend in the student engagement space continue into the future.

The statistics in this report are vital data for us to both collect and share, but the individual stories of which this data is comprised are of equal importance. Our Centre has been able to assist students from a range of backgrounds and contexts in a diverse spectrum of courses. I often see our computer lab full of students studying nursing, teaching, social work, engineering, graphic design, and International studies to name a few, at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, all supporting each other and their unique aspirations. I am encouraged that this bodes very well for the development of the Shoalhaven for the professional and interpersonal connectedness of our region's future skilled workforce.

Our strategic vision exists to support these students who, as an equity cohort, face additional barriers to completing and succeeding in higher education. This can only be done in the context of community and I want to thank each of the people and organisations who are part of the network in which we exist, who make this possible.



Partners

Essential to the success of the CUC Southern Shoalhaven has been the support of our partners, including the Commonwealth Government, NSW State Government, university partners, local government and community partners.

Government and Community



NSW Government

The NSW Government has supported the CUC through multiple funding grants exceeding \$16 million, which facilitated its successful expansion. The NSW Government's Higher Education Strategy focuses on increasing participation in higher education, CUC Southern Shoalhaven is proud to assist the government to achieve this by supporting people in our region to pursue higher education in their local community.



Australian Government
Department of Education

The Australian Government

The Australian Government is investing more than \$74 million to assist in the establishment and operation of community-owned, Regional University Centres at sites across regional Australia. CUC Southern Shoalhaven is a successful recipient of the Commonwealth's Regional University Centres Program and gratefully acknowledges the support received to date.



Country Education Foundation

Country Education Foundation (CEF) and CUC collaborate to create and promote opportunities for regional students in areas of education, increasing aspirations, and community engagement.

CUC has been invaluable in my achievements this year. I travel 50km to access CUCSS because it allows me to study online, but not in isolation. I love the supportive staff at the centre, the manager has been a mature-aged student in a regional area, and understands the issues that arise.

Nicole Okimura – Bachelor of Social Work Student, Charles Sturt University



University Partners

The CUC has formal partnerships with the following universities:

University of New England (UNE)

As Australia's oldest provider of distance and online education, the expertise of UNE has been highly valued by the CUC. Sharing of knowledge between UNE Support Staff, CUC Centre Managers and LSAs has provided a valuable resource for CUC students and developed an enhanced understanding of the challenges online regional students face.

CQUniversity

The CUC and CQUniversity have a shared mission in supporting regional students to succeed, irrespective of where they live. The university has been a close partner of the CUC since its establishment and continues to provide expertise and support to students across the CUC network.

Charles Sturt University (CSU)

IN a collaboration between industry, community and university, the CUC is offering content specialised tutoring to assist CSU Bachelor of Nursing students registered with a CUC. The tutoring style is student-led, with students given the agency and flexibility to work with the tutor on the challenges they face in their personal learning. In 2022, CSU expanded their partnership with the CUC.

University of Technology Sydney (UTS)

UTS have partnered with the CUC to develop the Regional Partnerships Project Pool Program (RPPPP). This program brings together 25 universities and 16 Regional University Centres to design tailored school outreach programmes for the local community.

Federation University

This partnership provides the framework for future collaborations to share knowledge, expertise, and support students across the CUC network.

University of Southern Queensland

The CUC and USQ have begun exploring ways to partner together to allow students to have broad access, choice, and flexibility in their higher education pursuits.



The CUC provides a study sanctuary which has enhanced my University learnings and outcomes. Without CUCSS I would not be achieving the same results. I have made friends and connections that are central to my student life and future career opportunities. – **CUC Southern Shoalhaven Student**



Who Our Students Are

At CUC Southern Shoalhaven in 2022



100+
students
registered for
2022



13%
of our current
students identify
as First Nations
People

20+
our students attend
over 20 different
universities and other
higher education
institutions

40%
are first in their
family to attend
University

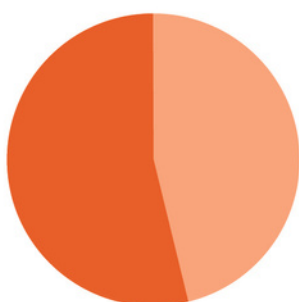


75%
of our students are 25
years and over



60%
of our students are studying
undergraduate degrees and
30% post graduate with the
remainder VET & tertiary
pathways

53%
study part time



47%
study full time

81%
of our students
are female



TOP AREAS OF STUDY:



Education **23%**



Health **20%**

Psychology, Social
Work & Community
Services



20%

2022 Year in Review

A time for growth

December 2021:

Doors open to students.

April 2022:

Official Opening Event.

Semester 1:

74 students supported.

July 2022:

Amy Lawry joins as Operations Assistant.

September 2022:

Regional Partnerships Project Pool
Program Community Consultation held.

October 2022:

Over 100 students supported.

Throughout 2022:

The Hive Spaces (thehivespaces.com)
continues to grow and develop
supporting the strategic vision of CUCSS.



**AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION
TO THE DIRECTORS OF
CUC SOUTHERN SHOALHAVEN LTD
A.B.N. 33 637 981 947**

7th September 2022

Declaration of Independence by Mark Burcher to the Directors of CUC Southern Shoalhaven Ltd

In accordance with the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and the Corporations Act 2001. I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2022 there has been no contraventions:

- i) Of the auditor independence requirements set out in the Australian Charities and Not-for profits Commission Act 2012 and the Corporations act 2001 in relation to the audit; and
- ii) Of any applicable codes of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



Mark Burcher

Office 1, 134 Princes Highway

Ulladulla NSW 2539

Dated: 07/09/2022

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Any advice given is taxation advice only and is not and should not be taken as financial or legal advice.
If you require these services we would be pleased to put you in contact with the relevant professional.

Ulladulla • Batemans Bay • Moruya • Sydney

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**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT
TO THE DIRECTORS OF
CUC SOUTHERN SHOALHAVEN LTD
A.B.N. 33 637 981 947**

7th September 2022

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of, CUC Southern Shoalhaven Ltd which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30th June 2022, the statement of comprehensive income for the year then ended and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended and notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the certification by directors.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of CUC Southern Shoalhaven Ltd, is in accordance with *Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- (i) Giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 30 June 2022 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (ii) (ii) comply with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 and *Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission regulation 2013*.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110: *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other Information

Those charged with governance are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Entity's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2022 but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

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Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report, or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The directors of CUC Southern Shoalhaven Ltd is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 is appropriate to meet the requirements of the ACNC Act and the needs of the members. The committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes out opinion.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the association's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report, in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

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Dated: 07/09/2022

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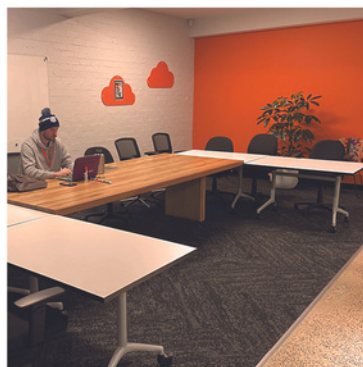
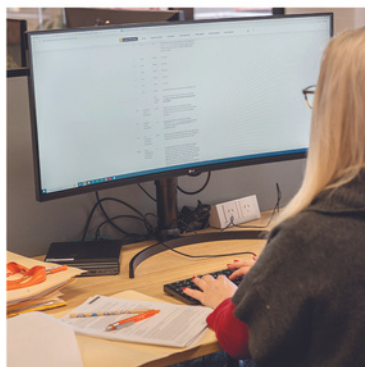
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- Office Hire – Consulting Spaces. One-off or ongoing long term
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An Initiative of CUC Southern Shoalhaven



Bringing degrees closer to regional, rural and remote Australia.

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