

UNCOVER

MAGAZINE



Apis mellifera



2019

Ideas | Connection | Impact

The University of Canberra acknowledges the Ngunnawal people, traditional custodians of the lands where Bruce Campus is situated. We wish to acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of Canberra and the region. We also acknowledge all other First Nations Peoples on whose lands we gather.



**UNIVERSITY OF
CANBERRA**

Welcome to UnCover, the magazine for all members of the University of Canberra and our wider Canberra community.

We'd love to hear your story ideas, feedback and thoughts. Contact us via

stories@canberra.edu.au

For a digital version of this magazine visit

www.canberra.edu.au/uncover/magazine

Publisher

University of Canberra

Editor

Tara Corcoran

Contributors

Suzanne Lazaroo, Katarina Slavich,
Amy Stevenson and Andy Visser

Photography

Lightbulb Studio, Madeleine Wood and supplied

Design

Nicola Bottomley

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Hello and welcome to the first issue of *UnCover* magazine.

It is bittersweet to present these stories to you, as it will be my first and final issue of *UnCover* magazine before I depart the University of Canberra to take up my new position as President and Vice-Chancellor of Dalhousie University in Canada.

It fills me with pride to reflect on the trajectory of UC over the past few years. We are now ranked in the top 200 universities in the world and the top 10 in Australia, according to the 2020 *Times Higher Education World University Rankings*. We owe this to the efforts and vision of our wonderful research, teaching and professional staff. I am confident that these successes will continue under the leadership of a new Vice-Chancellor and I will be watching with keen interest from the great white north.

As you will discover through this collection of articles, the University of Canberra is in an exciting position — achieving brilliant successes through research, technological developments and student support.

In our first research feature, we will explore the work of Murali Nayudu and his team, who are examining bee gut health and whether probiotics can help prevent Chalkbrood disease.

We will also spend time with Kerry McCallum, who is looking at the voices from the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse and how the media reported on the stories. Perhaps some marginalised voices were still left unheard ...

PACES (Prehab, Activity, Cancer, Exercise, Survivorship) is an exciting group of researchers who are passionate about oncology research. Kellie Toohey and Rebecca Cesnik discuss the benefits of exercise programs for cancer patients and survivors, while Catharine Paterson investigates how we can provide better support to patients and their loved ones throughout the journey.

The reach of the University of Canberra's research is global. We highlight this in a feature that delves into the work of Sunil George, Loata Ho and Sitti Maesuri Patahuudin, each of whom are spending time abroad in different capacities, researching healthcare access for remote communities in India; empowerment of rural women in Fiji; and mathematics education in Indonesia.

In an article about our capital city and home to our campus, Prue Robson investigates the fascinating concept of 'Canberra bashing' and how we can better communicate the heart of our community to the rest of Australia and the world.

Other articles highlight the varying aspects of life at the University of Canberra — from campus development plans, the revival of Stonefest and most importantly, our people.

Stories about people will always resonate — and this issue includes some key figures from our UC community: our latest Distinguished Alumni Award winner, Ian Wishart; an award-winning scientist from our Institute for Applied Ecology, Bradley Moggridge; digital technology whiz, Rebecca Armstrong; an accomplished alumnus, Shane Drumgold; and a student from our Faculty of Arts and Design, Keisha Preston.

I hope that as you read through these articles, whether in depth or as a brief distraction to your busy day, you uncover something new about the University of Canberra.

It has been an enormous pleasure to be the Vice-Chancellor and President of such an innovative, exciting and distinctive university.

Professor Deep Saini
Vice-Chancellor and President

HEALTHY BEES: A GUT FEELING

Probiotics could be the secret to improving
the health of the honey bee



ENVIRONMENT

STORY: SUZANNE LAZAROO

PHOTOGRAPHY: LIGHTBULB STUDIO





It's not easy, being a bee. The crucial task of pollination rests heavily on their tiny thoraxes. Of the 100 crop species that feed 90 per cent of the world, 70 are pollinated by honey bees.



▲ Dr Murali Nayudu examines a hive frame

“
If we can monitor
a colony, we'll be
able to determine
if it is healthy.

”

In Australia alone, more than 65 per cent of both horticultural and agricultural crops depend on honey bees — so anything that threatens bees also casts a worrying shadow over the country's food production.

At the same time, there's a host of pests and diseases that have bees firmly in their sights — these range from chalkbrood, a fungus that mummifies bee larvae with a cottony, chalk-white covering, to the fat-sucking Varroa mite, an important vector for bee viruses.

Varroa mites can decimate entire bee populations; this mite is one of the main reasons for the decline of the honey bee population overseas.

Microbiologist Dr Murali Nayudu is a Research Associate and Adjunct Associate Professor with the University of Canberra's Faculty of Science and Technology and says colony collapse disorder (CCD) is another concern.

“[It's] a phenomenon in which the majority of a colony's worker bees mysteriously leave, abandoning queen, nurse bees and larvae,” he says.

So far, Australian honey bees have enjoyed good fortune when it comes to both the Varroa mite and CCD due to the diligence of the bee industry.

“This is the only country in the world where bees remain safe from the Varroa mite, and we are so far unaffected by CCD,” Murali says.

“With globalisation, and increasing travel and trade, who knows how long this will last.”

The government currently has sentinel hives in place near major ports, such as Port Kembla — these form the first line of defence to alert the industry if Varroa mites reach our shores.

In this context, monitoring colony health and developing new diagnostic markers for bee diseases is important.

"If we can monitor a colony, we'll be able to determine if it is healthy. If it is not healthy, we can then look at diagnosis of whatever disease or pest it has. This information is critical for choosing the right treatment option," Murali says.

Ultimately, there is a need for a broader, overarching and proactive plan to support and safeguard bee health. Murali suggests that the secret of success lies with the bacteria found within the guts of honey bees themselves.

CHALKBROOD ... AND BEYOND

Murali has spent more than a decade investigating the intricacies of the bee microbiome. In particular, his research group studied bacteria in the bee gut and how they contribute to the overall health of bees.

Building on this previous research, the honey bee research group at the University of Canberra began a two-year project in October 2018 to explore how probiotics might be used to save bees from chalkbrood disease.

"Murali suggests that the secret of success lies with the bacteria found within the guts of honey bees themselves."

"Chalkbrood can absolutely devastate bee colonies," Murali says. Caused by the fungus *Ascosphaera apis*, the disease frequently kills the brood, thereby decreasing colony health, reducing honey output and weakening the colony so it becomes more susceptible to other pests and diseases.

Funded by AgriFutures Australia, the project has Murali working in collaboration with the University's Associate Professor Dr Michael Frese. This project is only possible through the practical support in providing bee hives and practical knowledge provided by Honey Bees Technical Specialist, from the NSW Department of Primary Industries, Dr Doug Somerville.

Chalkbrood is the focus of the project because it is the major disease affecting honey bees in Australia, says Michael.

▼ Murali in the lab





▲ Murali extracts the bee gut for examination



“We found that a healthy bee has more than 10 million bacteria per gram of bee gut.”

The project looks at the role probiotics can play in maintaining colonies, using native Australian bee gut bacteria to help them to resist and recover from chalkbrood. Results have been extremely encouraging ... and as a bonus, the use of probiotics is a natural solution that won't affect honey production or quality.

“Australian honey is one of the most natural in the world,” Michael says. “Our honey is largely free of antibiotics. Tetracycline is the only chemical allowed to be used to fight bacterial infections and it can only be used with veterinary approval. For this reason, we are now searching for a non-chemical method to control chalkbrood disease, keeping with the ‘clean green’ nature of Australian honey.”

The University of Canberra's honey bee group research involves monthly sampling and analysing bee gut bacteria from two locations: Bega, a town on the south coast of NSW, and Tharwa, a town just outside of Canberra. The two sites have different micro-climates and pollen sources.

“We sample three colonies per site, which means we go through a lot of agar plates,” Murali says, referring to the number of plates that are used for isolating bacteria.

“We found that a healthy bee has more than 10 million bacteria per gram of bee gut.”

The team found that healthy bees have higher numbers and a more diverse bacterial gut flora, as compared to bees from colonies that had been afflicted by chalkbrood.

“Colonies that recover from chalkbrood see the bee gut bacterial numbers go up,” Murali says. “That's what made us think that the use of probiotics is potentially a way to prevent, or maybe even cure, the disease.”

The University's honey bee group has isolated bee gut bacteria that can inhibit the chalkbrood fungus and is using this to develop probiotics for bees. The researchers currently characterise a number of different bacterial strains to determine which bacteria are most suited for an effective probiotic treatment.

“It’s just another step towards improving bee health and possibly mitigating one of the greatest ecological concerns the world had faced.”

“The probiotic bacteria kill the chalkbrood fungus by releasing compounds that dissolve the walls of the hyphae,” Murali says.

The process takes about eight to 10 days.

“Because of the complexity of the mechanism — more than one factor leads to the destruction of the hyphae — there is comparatively less likelihood of the fungus becoming resistant to a treatment with probiotics,” Murali says.

Bees in the study are fed a sugar solution. This helps the bees to keep their metabolic rates up, which further aids in the recovery of chalkbrood-infected colonies.

“Nurse bees can help clean the hive by throwing out diseased or dead larvae — so, a colony’s ability to fight disease is therefore partly dependent on the nurse bees’ hygienic behaviour,” Michael says.

Removing the fungus-affected larvae before the production of new spores limits the spread of fungus within the hive.

“They can only do all this if they are active, which is why it’s important to keep their metabolic rates up,” Michael says.

The group is currently testing feeding bees a sugar solution that is laced with probiotic bacteria; using the ability of the bacteria to inhibit the chalkbrood pathogen.

While finding a treatment was important, Murali thinks the project’s greater value lies in the fact that its findings may also help to maintain bee health.

“We want to use the probiotics developed as a prophylactic as well,” he says.



▲ Murali with Associate Professor Dr Michael Frese

MEASURING BEE GUT BACTERIA TO DETERMINE COLONY HEALTH

By the first signs of a disease show up in a colony, it can already be too late to do anything about it.

“Currently, when you get disease signs in a colony, the disease is already entrenched,” Murali says. “So, we need a way to assess colony health early.

“Bees from colonies infested with chalkbrood have far fewer bacteria than bees from healthy colonies.

“We want to build on the idea that bacteria numbers can help to diagnose a disease *before* other signs of the disease can be detected. If bacterial numbers drop, that could indicate the presence of a pathogen and herald the outbreak of a disease.”

THE FUTURE

“Bees are very active in spring, summer and autumn, but less so in winter — so one of the factors we’re monitoring is how bacterial numbers fluctuate over time, i.e., over the seasons,” Murali says.

This means the project needs to grow, and Murali and Michael are reaching out to establish new collaborations.

They’re now working with University of Canberra Associate Professor Dr Regan Ashby and his research group, who also study the bee microbiome.

“We will also be looking at different pollen sources to examine whether there is a link between the type of pollen and the numbers and types of bee gut bacteria,” Murali says.

It’s just another step towards improving bee health and possibly mitigating one of the greatest ecological concerns the world has faced.

A MAN WITH UNIQUE VISION: IAN WISHART

STORY: AMY STEVENSON PHOTOS: SUPPLIED

Meet Ian Wishart, CEO of the Fred Hollows Foundation and recipient of the University of Canberra Chancellor's Alumni Award for 2019



Have you ever looked back at your younger self and thought about the advice you would offer that person as they embark on their higher education journey, or their first job in the 'real world'?

For the Chancellor's Alumni Award winner Ian Wishart, the advice he'd offer his younger self is simple.

"There is always something unique about who you are, your experiences, your interests and what you are good at," Mr Wishart says.

"If you can discover your uniqueness, don't be afraid to build on that, no matter how out-of-the-box it seems. It will be the road less travelled. It is the unique you that you will bring to the stream of life."

Mr Wishart was awarded the 2019 Chancellor's Alumni Award in October this year and has always been a passionate advocate and supporter of people who live in poverty.

From a humble beginning studying a Graduate Diploma of Education course at the University of Canberra, with only a vague idea of how that might be used, it has been through sheer passion and determination that Mr Wishart has achieved a remarkable professional career that has fulfilled his sense of purpose in life.

"If you can discover your uniqueness, don't be afraid to build on that, no matter how out-of-the-box it seems."

With 30 years' experience and a full career helping people in poverty, Mr Wishart joined the Fred Hollows Foundation in March 2018 as the company's new CEO, having established himself as one of Australia's most accomplished CEOs in the global humanitarian sector, and previously holding high positions at a number of non-for-profit organisations.

Starting his development career at World Vision Australia, initially as an emergency relief officer deployed to the major emergency hot spots of the early 1990s, Mr Wishart later managed the humanitarian response team before spending three years as World Vision's Country Director in Laos, after which he served as an advisor to the CEO.

“When you see the discrepancy between rich and poor, you cannot ignore it. You are compelled to respond.”

With diverse experience that spans across places including Cambodia, Laos, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, South Sudan and Rwanda, Mr Wishart has also been a leader in the sector as a former Vice President and Director of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID), the peak council for Australia aid and development organisations.

Despite only having a vague idea of his career path during his time at UC, Mr Wishart adds it was his time studying that was influential in shaping and broadening his mind.

“My time studying helped me to learn a more critical way of viewing education, and pedagogy, which I have used throughout my career,” he says.

“It broadened my mind to a range of social issues. There was no obvious pathway at the time to the career I found so a broad-based education experience was important.”

Growing up as a teenager in pre-independence Papua New Guinea during the 1970s, Mr Wishart credits this time to awakening his interests in international development, and the beginning of his deep and longstanding commitment to helping those in less fortunate positions.

“When you see the discrepancy between rich and poor, you cannot ignore it. You are compelled to respond,” Mr Wishart says.

While he has only been at the Fred Hollows Foundation for just under two years, Mr Wishart still has a number of key achievements to his tenure including:

- launching The Foundation’s 2019–2023 Strategy
- leading global efforts to help Rohingya refugees arriving at crowded refugee camps in Bangladesh, and working alongside partners in the country to help the estimated 50,000 cataract patients in urgent need of eye surgery in the camps

- championing gender equity within The Foundation and its programs around the world with the launch of She Sees — a \$25 million campaign to close the gender gap in eye health
- completing a Gender Equity and Inclusion Framework to ensure equitable access to eye health care for women and girls
- commencing a global partnership with Sightsavers, an internationally recognised organisation working to end avoidable blindness.

Another key achievement Mr Wishart has overseen includes the launch of The Foundation’s biggest ever investment into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander eye health.

With an investment of \$40 million over five years, and a new Country Plan, The Foundation is continuing their mission to close the gap in eye health for Australia’s First Peoples, who are three times more likely to be blind or vision impaired than other Australians.

Ever ambitious, Mr Wishart says the Fred Hollows Foundation continues to strive to help those deal with the burden of avoidable blindness overseas, a number that currently stands at 34 million people.

And while big plans mean big investments to complete cataract surgeries, ultimately the outcome — restoring sight — outweighs any figure or cost.

Ian Wishart has certainly discovered his uniqueness and what he is good at — and continues to build on that every day.



▲ The Fred Hollows Foundation works towards eliminating avoidable blindness



▲ Ian on the night of the Distinguished Alumni Awards 2019

OUT OF THE LAB

A multi-disciplinary approach:
The unexpected side of cancer research

HEALTH AND
WELLBEING

STORY: TARA CORCORAN
PHOTOGRAPHY: LIGHTBULB STUDIO





What image comes to mind when you think about cancer research? Maybe you thought of a scientist in a lab, surrounded by test tubes and equipment, working tirelessly to find a cure? While we do have a few of those at the University of Canberra, we also have some researchers who are making real-life impacts for those living with cancer in ways you may not expect.

The PACES (Pre-habilitation, Activity, Cancer, Exercise, Survivorship) research group came together in early 2019 and consists of academics at the University of Canberra who are passionate about conducting research in oncology.

Once you hear about the various research projects currently underway, a bigger picture is formed that includes different aspects of cancer research and the multi-disciplinary approach to improvement for not only the cancer patient, but their loved ones too.

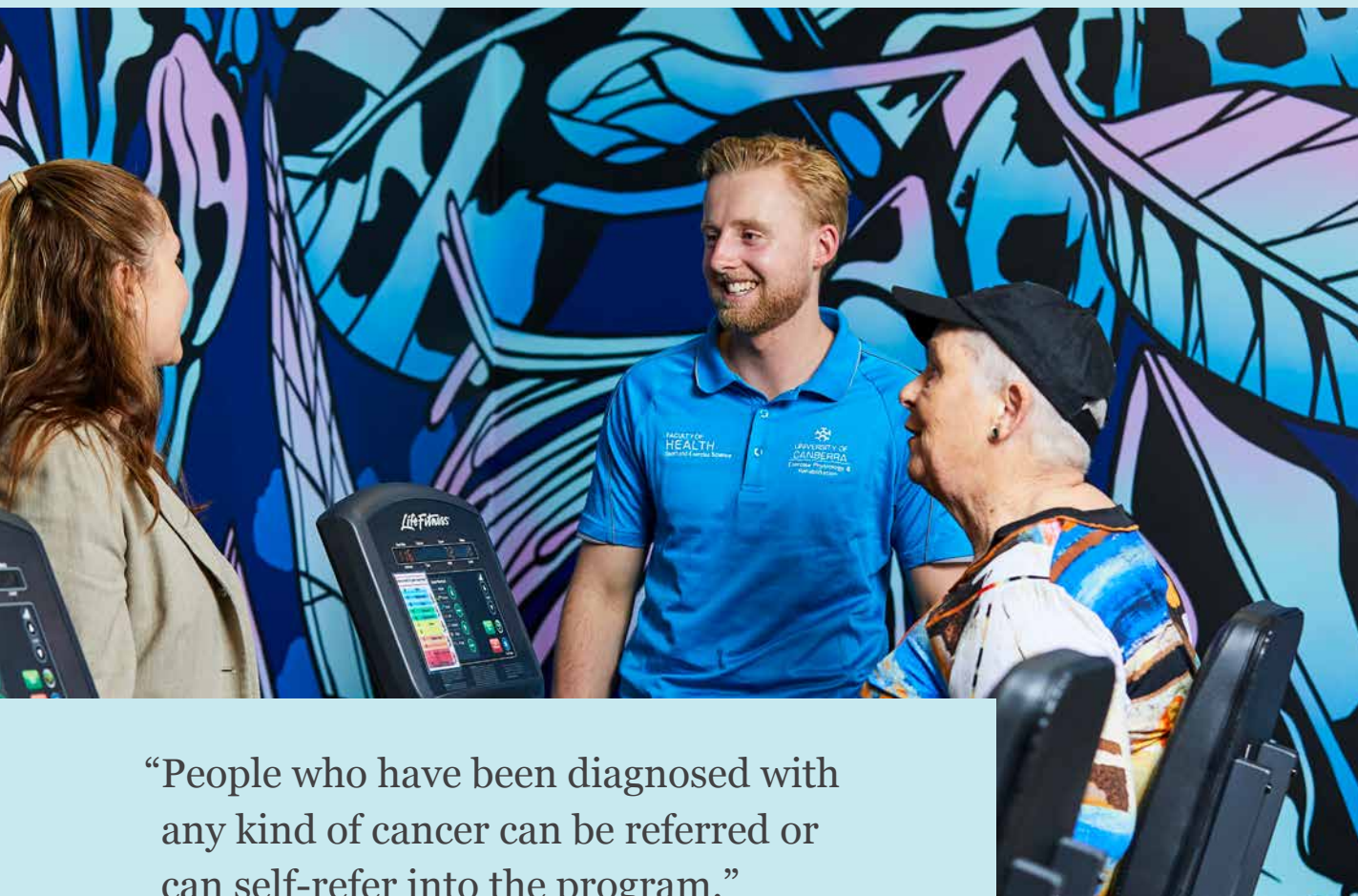
In 2014 Kellie Toohey, Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Canberra, started running exercise classes for cancer survivors, people going through cancer treatment or people post-treatment who were looking to build their strength and fitness.

“We got to the end of my project and people wanted to continue on with exercise, so we started to have some more classes on the timetable that have become a regular part of what we do at the Health Hub through the student-led clinics,” Kellie says.

“It started to get really popular and we had quite a waiting list. We recognised that it was an area of need within the community. So with all the health precincts and buildings on campus happening, there was a nice opportunity for a treatment provider to come onto campus.”

Fast forward to 2019 and the Canberra Specialist Medical Centre has been constructed on the University of Canberra campus and is now home to a regular Cancer Rehabilitation Program that incorporates exercise classes for cancer patients and survivors.

▼ Kellie Toohey and a UC student with a program participant



“People who have been diagnosed with any kind of cancer can be referred or can self-refer into the program.”

“

... they are able to complete their chemotherapy and their treatment much easier if they're fitter and stronger ...

”



“People who have been diagnosed with any kind of cancer can be referred or can self-refer into the program. They will see exercise physiology students, with a supervisor, who will take them through an assessment and then they will be fed into a program,” Kellie says.

The program can involve individual sessions or group sessions, depending on the needs of the person. People who are going through all different kinds of treatment for different types of cancer are eligible to join. The program is based on an individual’s needs and is tailored to suit their situation.

“We get many different types of cancer diagnoses coming through the clinic, from breast to bowel to prostate cancer, to some of the hematological cancers, such as lymphomas, leukemias, brain cancers. We have older people, younger people — it’s a big mix of participants,” Kellie says.

Cancer survivors are at risk of developing other chronic conditions, particularly cardiovascular disease, and research has shown that exercise can help reduce those risk factors — one of the key objectives of the program.

“When you have gone through cancer treatment, you haven’t moved, you’ve been tired, you’ve been sedentary,

which puts you at risk of these things — higher blood pressure, changes in cholesterol etc., which can eventually progress to cardiovascular disease,” Kellie says.

“Exercise guidelines for people with cancer are very general. But cancer patients are very complex. So we looked at the best targeted exercise programs for people and individuals, based on their capacity and their background in exercise.”

Kellie is hoping the success of the program will encourage support through further research grants or opportunities.

“This program has been running for quite some time and the benefits are incredible, and we see it with most patients. They do build their strength back up, they are able to complete their chemotherapy and their treatment much easier if they’re fitter and stronger, and they do gain this from the program,” she says.

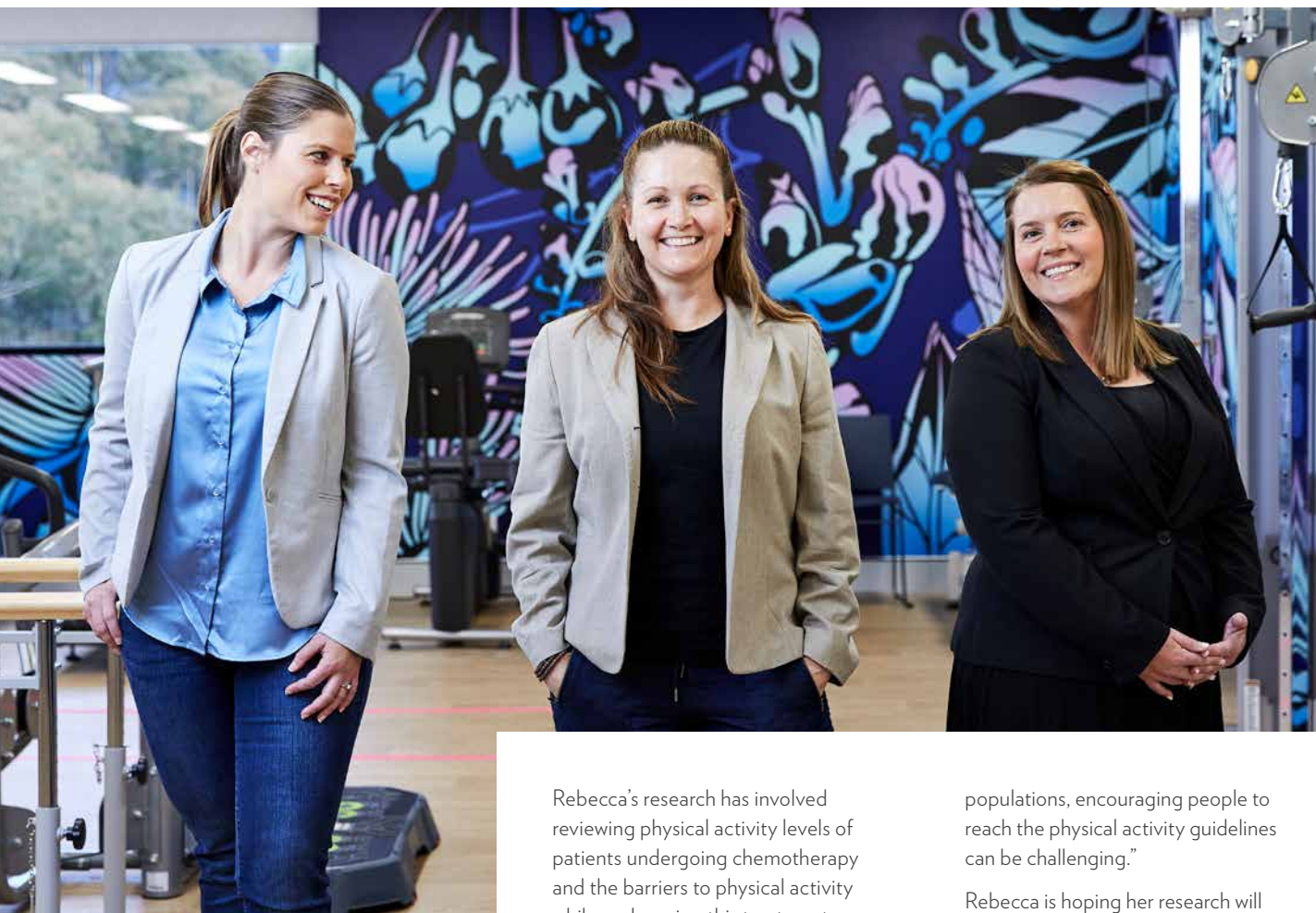
“They are also able to handle this big journey they are going through and this diagnosis while they are fit and healthier, so it’s better for their mental health too.

“We are building our research in this space and we hope to get more people through the program and to develop

better health outcomes for those diagnosed with cancer.”

Rebecca Cesnik, a Higher Degree by Research academic at the University of Canberra, has worked with patients undergoing chemotherapy in the Exercise Physiology Department in Canberra Health Services since 2014. Rebecca has seen first-hand the benefits of specialised exercise groups and is driven to ensure all patients have access to an Exercise Physiologist — after not only seeing the benefits of exercise but also the common barriers.

“With the large number of patients undergoing chemotherapy in the ACT, public health systems cannot support ongoing supervised sessions for everyone. I have seen the referrals for patients with a diagnosis of cancer increase by more than 4,000 per cent in four years in our department. It’s amazing to see the uptake in this group; and see how many patients are interested in exercising. I know from my research that there are still large numbers of patients we are still not seeing. I want to ensure that all patients have access to the expertise of an Exercise Physiologist, but know that more efficient ways of seeing large amounts of patients needs to be developed for this to occur.”



▲ Rebecca Cesnik, Kellie Toohey, Catherine Paterson

“We know that physical activity is beneficial for a number of reasons for patients undergoing chemotherapy for cancer.”

Rebecca’s research has involved reviewing physical activity levels of patients undergoing chemotherapy and the barriers to physical activity while undergoing this treatment. The next step is to develop a tool to use in counselling sessions.

“I am developing a tool to be used in physical activity counselling sessions while patients are receiving their chemotherapy — so focusing on teaching the patient how to exercise with their condition rather than using supervised sessions. I aim to use a three-arm study design. One that uses face-to-face counselling sessions while they are having their chemotherapy infusions and another that uses a mix of face-to-face and phone calls, and a control group,” she says.

“I have seen how hard it is for patients who try to continue with their previous physical activity, however because of various side effects, cannot, and I see them get disheartened and they often feel there is nothing they can now do.

“We know that physical activity is beneficial for a number of reasons for patients undergoing chemotherapy for cancer, ranging from reducing side effects, improving chemotherapy completion rates to decreased recurrence, improved mortality rates and the list goes on, but even in healthy

populations, encouraging people to reach the physical activity guidelines can be challenging.”

Rebecca is hoping her research will inform effective and efficient ways for Exercise Physiologists to see patients undergoing chemotherapy to improve their quality of life. With sustainable processes in place and widespread recognition of the value of individualised exercise program; health systems might also be able to support extra funding for Exercise Physiologists.

“Funding would result in not only increased job opportunities for a relatively new and small profession, but improved patient outcomes and improved access to evidence-based practice in a public health system,” she says.

Dr Catherine Paterson, Associate Professor of Nursing at the University of Canberra, is also working closely with ACT Health and is making meaningful contributions within the cancer research field by ensuring the best care for cancer patients and their families.

Catherine’s work identifies the unmet supportive care needs of people affected by different urogenital cancers. By better understanding the experiences of patients, partners



“I am passionate about optimising supportive care and quality of life for people and their families affected by these specific cancers.”

and key stakeholders, Catherine will co-design an intervention program to improve supportive care for patients and their quality-of-life outcomes.

“My work is targeted to improving the lives of 28,000 Australian and New Zealand men and women who are affected by urological cancers every year. I am passionate about optimising supportive care and quality of life for people and their families affected by these specific cancers, nationally and internationally,” says Catherine.

“The work I have led has identified that people and their families affected by these diseases can experience profound unmet supportive care needs, which may include information, practical, sexual, psychological, among other needs that are not adequately addressed in routine service delivery.”

Catherine’s work aims to provide a person-centred approach to the provision of services for those living with, or affected by, cancer throughout the process. Meeting their informational, spiritual, emotional, social and physical needs during diagnosis, through pre-habilitation (preparation before treatment), during treatment, follow up, survivorship, to palliation and bereavement.

This includes support for the patient’s carer and loved ones, as Catherine says, “Surprisingly, research traditionally has only been undertaken with the patients affected by cancer, and the partner, loved one, family members have been overlooked in research, and to be honest, forgotten about from a research perspective. My work is targeted to both the person who is diagnosed with cancer, and importantly their partner, loved one, caregiver, as cancer affects the whole family/social support network”.

As a clinical academic, Catherine has a chance to translate research into practice for the priority areas that matter most.

“As a clinician, I was inspired to improve, maintain and recover health while also researching new ways of delivering better outcomes for the patients I am privileged to treat and the patients and families I care for. My research is grounded and inspired in the day-to-day issues of my patients/families and the needs of the service,” she says.

“I came to nursing to make a meaningful difference to what matters most to people affected by cancer, and most importantly, the areas in which they are in most need of support and intervention.”

These three researchers make up just one part of the bigger cancer research picture at the University of Canberra. For a complex disease such as cancer, which affects people in different ways, it is important to have a multi-disciplinary approach to prevention, treatment and survivorship.

After hearing about these projects, what image comes to mind now when you think about cancer research?



A WEEK IN THE LIFE

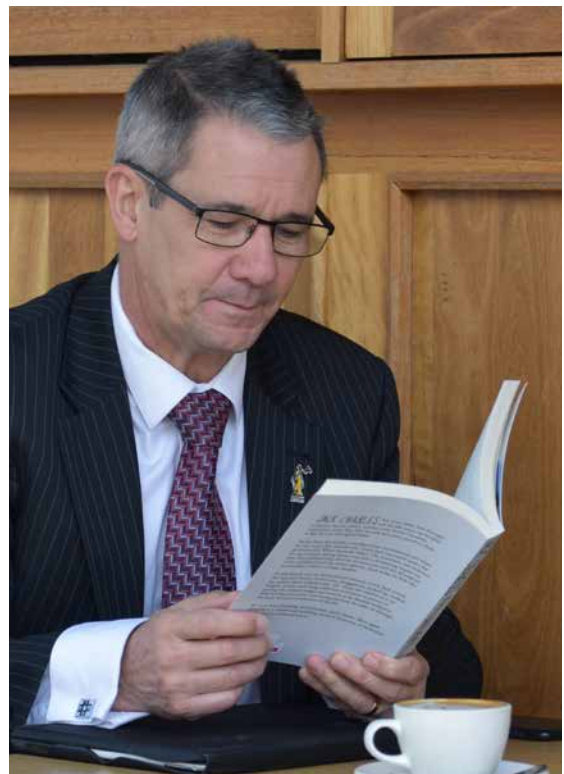
STORY: TARA CORCORAN PHOTOS: MADELEINE WOOD

For this issue, we join ACT Director of Public Prosecutions Shane Drumgold to find out how he balances budgets, books and the bar in his typical week.

Shane Drumgold is the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) in the ACT. As the chief statutory office holder, he makes all decisions and exercises all discretions arising out of prosecutions in the ACT. This includes a decision-making role with all prosecutions, and a role as both a trial lawyer and appeal lawyer, personally appearing for the Crown to prosecute both trials and appeals.

As Director, Shane's other role is the head of service for a large government business unit, making resource decisions for both physical and human resources, as well as being responsible for employment strategies such as workforce diversity. Shane has recently introduced an employment diversity statement and commenced initiatives to ensure the DPP workforce diversity is commensurate with the community most affected by DPP functions.

Shane studied a Bachelor of Laws and graduated from the University of Canberra with honours in 2001.



VARIETY

I enjoy the diversity of my role. For example, I might appear in the ACT Court of Appeal in the morning, dealing with a complex matter of law, and appear before the ACT Procurement Board in the afternoon to discuss a rental agreement for the office's accommodation requirements. The next morning I might be at a table with the union negotiating a certified agreement, and then appear in a murder sentence in the afternoon. Of all my functions however, I most enjoy appearing in both trials and appeals. Few lawyers dream of managing budgets and negotiating certified agreements, and while these things are an essential part of my role, I most enjoy my role as a trial lawyer.

WHAT ROUTINE?

The term 'typical week' does not really apply to a Director of Public Prosecutions, as it depends on the week. We have four trial periods and appeal periods in the ACT each year, and a typical week during these periods would mostly involve appearing in one court or another. Outside of the trial periods, I deal with matters of management and it depends on the particular issue that presents itself.

My role increasingly involves liaising with external stakeholders on common areas of interest, including the police, ACT Bar, Legal Aid, Court, ACT Government as well as my counterparts in other jurisdictions. I quite enjoy these interactions, as it constantly reminds me that we are all part of the same criminal justice system, and largely all have the same objective of delivering just outcomes.



HOBBIES

My hobbies have largely taken a backseat since my appointment as Director, however I try to get to the gym at least five times a week to maintain a healthy physical balance with my intellectual demands. I am also an avid reader and go to my local coffee shop for a cup of coffee and 20 minutes each day to read a non-legal book (my current read is *Sapiens* by Yuval Harari).

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

My respite from a busy life is just hanging out with my family and friends, sharing a meal or watching a movie, and just enjoying the company of people who love me.

GRATITUDE

While I am under a lot of pressure and have little downtime, I constantly need to remind myself that I am extremely lucky to have not only had the opportunity to complete a law degree and work as a lawyer, but to have a job that most lawyers aspire to but very few reach.

VISION

Being given the rare opportunity of appointment as the Director of Public Prosecutions places a heavy burden on me to use the opportunity to change things for the better; to ensure our criminal justice system is efficient, effective and most importantly fair to all Australians. At the moment, the disproportionate number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in custody is a major concern. A central role such as the Director has the very serious responsibility of addressing this and changing the trajectory. My other goal is to improve the interactions between victims of crime and the criminal justice system; to make sure that victims are as protected as possible from the impacts of engagement in the criminal justice system.

“I am extremely lucky to have not only had the opportunity to complete a law degree and work as a lawyer, but to have a job that most lawyers aspire to but very few reach.”

LISTENING TO UNHEARD VOICES

Media and the Child Abuse Royal Commission:
An exercise in listening



**SOCIAL
JUSTICE**

STORY: AMY STEVENSON AND TARA CORCORAN
PHOTOGRAPHY: LIGHTBULB STUDIO, SUPPLIED



The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse was an unprecedented exercise in listening — to previously silenced voices and unheard stories to ensure justice and redress.

However, when considering the media coverage of the Commission, were all voices heard?

Professor Kerry McCallum, Director at the University of Canberra's News and Media Research Centre, and her research team are examining the coverage of the Royal Commission to consider the unevenness in attention, and whether the media spotlight reached the most vulnerable and marginalised victims.

Over five years, the Royal Commission changed the national discourse around child sexual abuse, lifting the taboo and demystifying how institutions covered up or took responsibility for crimes committed inside their walls.

"This is the first Australian research to explore the nexus between media and commissions of inquiry in the digital era. We want to know how these important national conversations play out in this rapidly changing media environment," Kerry says.

HIERARCHIES OF ATTENTION

In their first published piece — *Media hierarchies of attention: News values and Australia's Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse*¹ — the research team found that the overshadowing pattern of news attention at times worked against the 'listening for justice' approach of the Commission.

The study found that entrenched news values directed media attention to the already powerful and influential voices, with the Catholic Church and Australia's most senior cleric, Cardinal George Pell, receiving the most consideration.

"It's not surprising that the story of the Catholic Church was the source of a lot of media and public attention. Pell was the 'big fish', the villain in the story, and the Catholic Church was the dominant institution investigated. That's how we as a community can make sense of

▼ Professor Kerry McCallum



individual crimes and institutional failures, but as media researchers it's our job to look at all those other issues that didn't get so much attention, and why," Kerry says.

Putting a critical media studies lens on, what were the stories that got less attention, and what does that mean? What does it mean that already powerful institutions are the focus of reporting at the expense of children abused in out-of-home care?

Kerry's team has secured a grant through the Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Projects research scheme to further examine the topic through a project called Breaking Silences.

COMMUNICATION AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

While the Royal Commission was long overdue when it was announced by former Prime Minister Julia Gillard in 2012, Kerry believes the media played a crucial role in determining how it was established, received, and its lasting impact.

One of the project's intentions is to explain how the evolution of media works within inquiries and how other countries can learn from the Australian Royal Commission.

"The Child Abuse Royal Commission was unique, and that had a lot to do with leadership of the Chair, the Hon. Justice Peter McClellan, who understood the media and had strong relationships with news editors and set up clear media guidelines from the outset. He knew the ABC, the big newspapers, would be very important for shaping the way the commission was understood and accepted by the public. But beyond that, he also understood this new media environment, which was quite unusual," Kerry says.

"McLellan built the commission on the principles of 'open justice'. Traditionally Royal Commissions are set with highly controlled media access, so it was different. Media were central to every aspect of this inquiry," Kerry adds.

The research team will look at how the Royal Commission itself used new and changing technologies that were available, and its attitude and approach to engaging public interest.

“
This is the first
Australian
research to
explore the nexus
between media
and commissions
of inquiry in the
digital era.
”

"The Child Abuse Royal Commission embraced digital technology. Along with the online submission of evidence, live streaming of public hearings and a real-time Twitter feed, they had a very active Facebook page, and we'll look at how other people's Facebook pages interacted with it.

"We'll be talking to people who worked on the Royal Commission, and we managed to attend a number of the hearings and speak to the Chair himself, and he understood this was an important topic no one had researched before," Kerry says.

"We hope our work will inform other inquiries about best practice media strategies. We already know international inquiries have visited Australia to learn from the Australian experience. There are commissions of inquiry going on at the moment in Norway, the UK and New Zealand, all around related topics, so they can learn from one another. The project team includes investigators from four Australian universities and the University of Oslo, so the international possibilities are exciting," Kerry says.

1 Waller, L., Dreher, T., Hess, K., McCallum, K. & Skogerboe, E. (2019). *Media hierarchies of attention: News values and Australia's Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse*. *Journalism Studies*, published online 24 June 2019. doi.org/10.1080/1461670X.2019.1633244



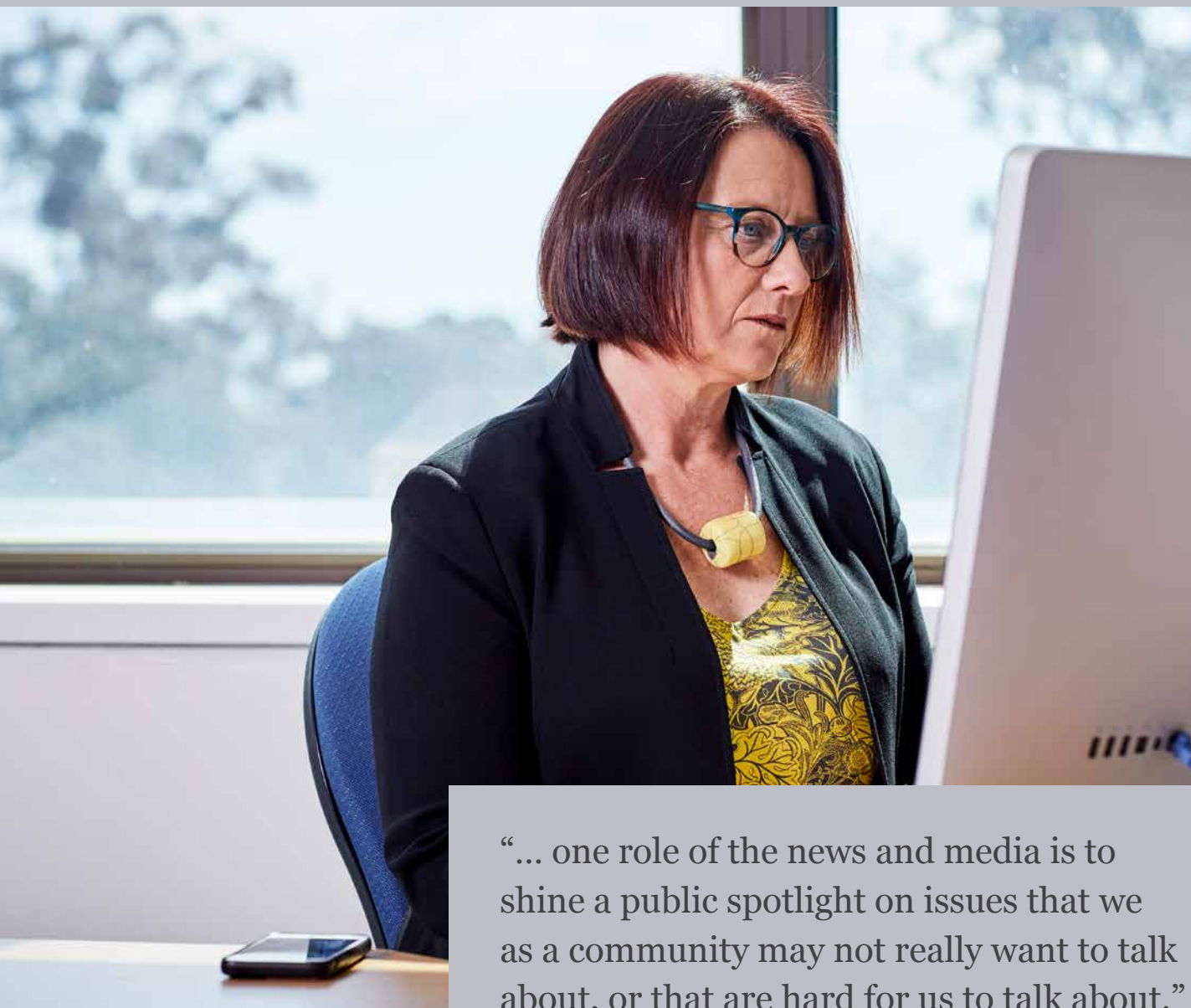
▲ Commissioner Andrew Murray, The Hon. Justice Peter McClellan AM and Commissioner Helen Milroy
© Commonwealth of Australia 2017. Images cropped.



▲ Counsel Assisting, Gail Furness SC
© Commonwealth of Australia 2017. Images cropped.



▲ The Hon. Justice Peter McClellan AM
© Commonwealth of Australia 2017. Images cropped.



“... one role of the news and media is to shine a public spotlight on issues that we as a community may not really want to talk about, or that are hard for us to talk about.”

NEWS COVERAGE OF THE COMMISSION

Another dimension of the Breaking Silences project is to engage with journalists and document how they covered the Child Abuse Royal Commission.

“That’s one aspect; we want to look at the role of news media triggering the Royal Commission and keeping the story alive. Because that’s one role of news and media, to shine a public spotlight on issues that we as a community may not really want to talk about, or that are hard for us to talk about.

“There were a number of amazingly brave and strong investigative journalists and news organisations, *the Newcastle Herald* being an important one, who worked

with survivors to pursue individual cases and show how institutions had failed to protect victims of abuse. But I would argue the media was one of the institutions that didn’t bring this critical conversation to light for a long time, and it has to take responsibility for that.”

“The Royal Commission was a large and complex institution; there were 57 public hearings, and news media were involved all along the way and covered every single one of those hearings, but unevenly.”

“Mainstream journalism and media played a role, whether directly or indirectly, in minimising attention and representation of marginalised and unheard voices, including those abused in Indigenous and out-of-home care institutions.

The Royal Commission committed resources to ensure Indigenous participation, and 16 per cent of submissions to the inquiry were made by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander survivors, however the news coverage focused more on the stories surrounding the rich and powerful.

“News professionals can prioritise and attend to certain voices and stories and can therefore impact on public awareness of an issue. There is an onus on journalists and news organisations to access the interests and claims of communities that have been marginalised. The valuing of these stories as legitimate and worthy of attention is a crucial form of recognition.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND NEW MEDIA

Another aspect of the research is to examine how local communities used social media to engage with and influence the Royal Commission.

“An example is the Loud Fence campaign, where ribbons were tied around fences at the institutions where crimes had been perpetrated. It was locally based in the Ballarat community, but it was also a global movement through social media, particularly their Facebook page, which was shared with people all over the world. That group was influential in changing the course of the Royal Commission, partly because the Commissioners were responsive, but also because of their activism. When George Pell was unable to come to Australia for his hearing, they actually took the commission to Rome, and that was a turning point,” Kerry says.

As the media evolves and we learn to communicate and absorb our news in new forms, Kerry says the role of social media and how it's used, is — and will continue to be — an important aspect of the 24/7 news cycle.

“My research is around ‘What is this media moment?’ How do these national conversations play out because we're in this particular moment in time? Whether we were in the age of radio, or the age of newspapers, or broadcast television and everyone sitting around watching the 7pm news, different issues play out differently because of the media landscape we're in at the time.

“Traditional journalism still has a very important role to play, but I think what I would say is this Royal Commission played out the way it did, because we're in the digital media moment.

“In the mass media era the rules between journalists and organisations were clearer. The digital media environment has radically changed that, and now news is produced by a whole lot of institutions beyond the traditional media.

“That can be a good thing, but it can also be a very challenging thing, particularly for sensitive issues being investigated in a very formalised way, so it makes the job of the Royal Commission and the job of those journalists who are reporting in a more traditional way much harder.”

“Ultimately, Kerry is hopeful her team can contribute to the process of providing justice for the victims, as they wait and see how the Morrison government implements the findings of the Royal Commission.”

SEEKING JUSTICE

While there are multiple aspects of the research project, the study as a whole is driven by a strong undercurrent of social justice, and Kerry's drive comes from years of researching these issues.

“My research background has been around the relationship between news media and social policy. I've done a lot of work around Indigenous social policy and the role media have played in shaping the sorts of policies that get made in a society like ours,” she says.

“The Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody was another ground-breaking Royal Commission that changed the national conversation about Indigenous incarceration and racism. But 30 years later, we still have unacceptable levels of Indigenous imprisonment.

“This led me to think a lot about whose voices get heard, and whose are hidden or silenced, when we talk about these big national issues. So there was very much a media justice motivation for looking at the issue. As a research objective, aside from all the other motivations, we are hoping to explain the role of media in these public institutions, and the role of the changing media in how inquiries play out.”

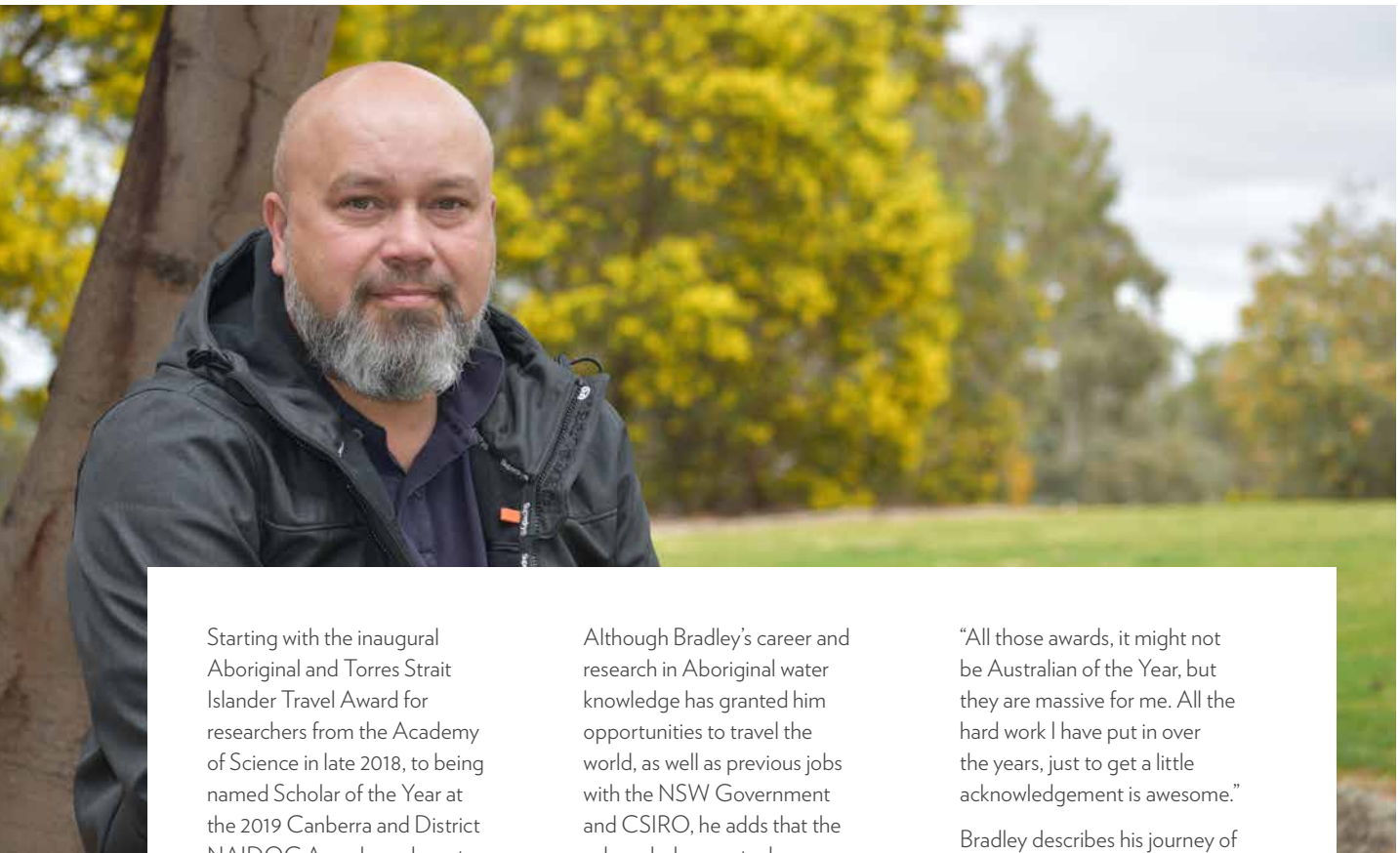
Ultimately, Kerry is hopeful her team can contribute to the process of providing justice for the victims, as they wait and see how the Morrison government implements the findings of the Royal Commission following the release of the final report in 2017, and the government response in 2018.

“Some of the recommendations have already been implemented as the inquiry went on, but in the end that's the main thing — will those victims get justice through this process?”

LEAVING A LEGACY: BRADLEY MOGGRIDGE

STORY: AMY STEVENSON PHOTOS: MADELEINE WOOD

There's no shortage of awards and accolades that Bradley Moggridge, a Kamilaroi man and PhD candidate at University of Canberra in the Institute for Applied Ecology, has received in the past 12 months.



Starting with the inaugural Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Travel Award for researchers from the Academy of Science in late 2018, to being named Scholar of the Year at the 2019 Canberra and District NAIDOC Awards, and most recently, receiving the 2019 Tall Poppy Science Award of the Year for Science from the Australian Institute of Policy and Science.

"It was very exciting to be nominated, but also to be recognised by your peers and Aboriginal people as an awardee. It means a lot," Bradley says of receiving Scholar of the Year during NAIDOC Week.

Although Bradley's career and research in Aboriginal water knowledge has granted him opportunities to travel the world, as well as previous jobs with the NSW Government and CSIRO, he adds that the acknowledgements show younger Indigenous students there are opportunities in the field for them too.

"That's the promotion the next generation see — that there's opportunity in science, there are awards for hard work and there are career pathways. There's a cultural shift happening," Bradley adds. "The academies are starting to think outside the white box and realise Aboriginal knowledge can value-add to science, can work alongside and inform better ways of doing things.

"All those awards, it might not be Australian of the Year, but they are massive for me. All the hard work I have put in over the years, just to get a little acknowledgement is awesome."

Bradley describes his journey of coming to study his PhD at the University of Canberra as a 'long story'; however, at its core, the pathway has seen him overcome roadblocks and barriers to work in a field he loves.

"Science has always been something that I've taken an interest in and not many Indigenous people take science. I was told I was never going to be smart enough for science and maths when I went from Year 10 to Year 11 in the late 80s, but I thought 'Bugger it, I'm going to do science,'" Bradley says.

After receiving dux of geology in Year 12, Bradley went on to forge a career for himself in science, studying a Bachelor of Science, Geology, a Bachelor of Environmental Science and then a Masters of Science in Hydrogeology and Groundwater Management. All of which led him to the University of Canberra.

Despite his successes over the years, there have been times of professional difficulties; however, Bradley not only found a career in water management and research, but his chosen field helped him to find a greater connection to his culture.

“I’ve been impacted by government and government cycles. I spent time at the CSIRO in water research — I was the only Aboriginal water researcher there out of 6,000 staff and when the drought broke, there was no work for me,” Bradley says.

“Water for me, I thought, was not only going to be a career path, but it had significance for Aboriginal people too, the cultural and spiritual connection to water, but also without it, you’re dead.

“It’s pretty important, and looking at the driest continent on earth, and one of the oldest living cultures on the planet, we didn’t have a voice. All my career has been focused on where I can make the most impact.”

A meeting with Professor Peter Radoll and Professor Ross Thompson in 2016 was the start of a conversation about the prospect of studying a PhD. Since then, Bradley has used the opportunity to further highlight how Aboriginal water practices and knowledge can complement western water management.

“The topic I chose for my PHD came about from my role within the NSW Government; it was quite easy. It’s looking at how traditional knowledge can inform and help western water management, because after 230 years, they haven’t done it well,” Bradley says.

“I always saw myself as the ‘go to’ person for Indigenous knowledge on water, and I suppose that’s where I find myself, and that is a good thing. But it also takes its toll because you want more people in support; you don’t want to be that lonely voice.

“I’m in a lucky position where I understand the language of water; it’s very complex, and with the legislation, the policies — at federal, state and

“I always saw myself as the ‘go to’ person for Indigenous knowledge on water, and I suppose that’s where I find myself ...”

national levels — it’s a tricky language to understand. But I’m in a position where I won’t be bamboozled by scientists or modelers who try and put it over me and think ‘Well this little fella probably doesn’t know anything’, but I do understand, I’m informed and I can respond.

“Throughout my career you see people who look down on you, on who you are, but also just assume you don’t know anything. I’ve brought people to account because of that.”

Bradley adds that despite the awards, his motivation for continuing his research also involves a far more personal reason.

“Maybe I’m a weird one, but I just enjoy science and learning about the earth, but through my career and growing up I got to learn about my culture as well,” he says.

“I’m still only a boy in cultural terms; I haven’t been afforded the knowledge set that maybe one day I’ll get. But maybe I won’t because of my mum’s generation — she’s one of 14 and they were disconnected from their culture because of government policies. They grew up thinking Aboriginal people were bad. It was in the textbooks; it’s what they were taught in the 1950s and 60s. It was tough times.

“My nan’s generation, we had her until 2014, she was 96, so we were very lucky to have her as our matriarch; those barriers that they faced were a lot tougher than the ones I faced, and I think that’s why I do what I do. For them.

“I also think about my kids’ generation, and if I can make the world a better place for them, better opportunities, reduce those barriers, then I have left a bit of a legacy.”



▲ Bradley Moggridge

FROM CANBERRA TO THE WORLD

Meaningful change stems from a solid foundation of
understanding: Research across the globe

**GLOBAL
IMPACT**

STORY: SUZANNE LAZAROO
PHOTOGRAPHY: SUPPLIED





For meaningful change to be effected, it needs to be built on a foundation of understanding and knowledge.

That's one of the essential tenets woven into the work of the researchers at the University of Canberra, who are constantly seeking to translate data and analysis into real-world outcomes.

Meet three remarkable researchers, whose work on topics as diverse as healthcare access for remote communities

in India, the empowerment of rural women in Fiji and the revitalisation of mathematical education in Indonesia all share one common thread: the desire to facilitate development, inspiration and better outcomes in the communities that need it the most.





SUNIL GEORGE, PHD CANDIDATE

*Faculty of Health / Centre for Research
and Action in Public Health*

Working towards better access to healthcare for Indigenous communities in Kerala, India

After a decade spent working with the Public Health Foundation of India, Sunil George found there was often a disconnect between health services and the communities who needed them the most.

One of the key reasons was because these service delivery frameworks were based on assumptions of homogeneity, rather than an understanding of the lived reality of marginalised communities.

“Universal Health Coverage (UHC), for instance, is largely based on the underlying assumption that if a country provides adequate health services and financial protection, everyone will get the health services they require,” Sunil says.

In the initial days, when UHC was being discussed at the level of senior policy makers in India, Sunil attended one of the meetings and was struck by the fact that all discussions centered around the technical aspects of implementing UHC. There was no voice from any marginalised community represented there.

“We were discussing what was important for their lives and we did not consider it important to hear their perspectives!”

Determined to bridge that gap, Sunil focused his PhD research on working for better access to healthcare for Indigenous communities in Kerala, India. Indigenous tribes like the Kurumbas are very vulnerable and in danger of losing their culture and language while also facing serious issues with accessing appropriate healthcare.

“So many of the initiatives here have much goodwill underlying them, but the lack of understanding about what is relevant locally is a problem,” he says. “For example, a young village boy once showed me some housing that was being built — right in the path usually used by wild elephants. They were given a 25-year guarantee on the robust quality of those houses, he said, but no one told the elephants about this guarantee.”

Working with three Indigenous communities — including the Kurumba tribe — in Kerala, Sunil’s fieldwork sees him travelling through challenging terrain and dense forests filled with wild animals, to reach these remote communities, by the same routes they would have to traverse to reach health services.

With most healthcare services centralised at speciality hospitals in town centres, this poses the first challenge the Indigenous community faces in accessing healthcare: “Even pregnant women have to be carried through the jungle in hammocks to reach a hospital,” Sunil says.

Another issue that stands in the way of the Indigenous community receiving appropriate health care from a non-Indigenous led health system is stigma, Sunil says.

“There is a lack of understanding of Indigenous cultures and why they do the things they do,” he says. “The participants I spoke to felt that the non-Indigenous healthcare providers looked down upon them and their way of life.

“None of my research participants felt that the hospitals there were ‘theirs’ — there was no community ownership, sense of belonging or identification with the health system.”

Sunil spends a lot of time interviewing the village elders, building relationships and learning about village customs and culture — all of which informs his research and the recommendations he hopes to make to policymakers in December.

Foremost among these is the importance of culturally safe healthcare.

“Culturally safe healthcare not only looks at technically sound healthcare like the provision of services, medicines and vaccines, etc., it also acknowledges that health, like any other issue, is contextual and it is important that the community is actively involved in what is defined as appropriate healthcare for them,” Sunil says.

“Local healing traditions should be appreciated as valuable and incorporated into the formal health system where

“Local healing traditions should be appreciated as valuable and incorporated into the formal health system where possible.”

possible. And healthcare as close to home as possible would be appreciated, rather than high-end healthcare that’s very far away. Birthing on country in particular, is very important to the community.”

The concept of ‘success’ also needs to be re-evaluated.

“What is considered a success to the healthcare system is not necessarily translated as a success by the community,” Sunil says.

He cites the example of an Indigenous woman he spoke to. Diagnosed with a potentially high-risk pregnancy, she was forced to leave her home and two children, to stay in a speciality hospital for the delivery of her third child.

“She was very unhappy at being forced to stay in the hospital for a week after delivery,” Sunil says. “She kept saying that for the hospital, it was a success, as they ensured both she and her baby were safe, but she was very anxious, worrying about her other two children and her domestic animals during that time.

“One of the main things I am doing now is to validate the analysed data and findings with the community and other stakeholders who participated.” And he’s looking to share his findings with the community.

“One of the things I keep hearing in my research is that other researchers who have come to collect data have never come back to tell the villagers what they found,” he says.

“The other day, I had a meeting with all the villagers in one of the villages where I had collected data and after I discussed my findings and heard their feedback, they clapped — it was the first time a researcher had come back to them!”



LOATA HO, MASTER'S CANDIDATE

Faculty of Arts and Design

Empowering rural women via an exploration of Indigenous Fijian architecture and women's knowledge

Architect and Master's candidate, Loata Ho, has been working with rural women in her birth country of Fiji since 2007. That was when the creation of a culturally sustainable hub in Savusavu town, in the province of Cakaudrove — Loata's maternal province, and where she grew up — was first seeded.

The RaMarama (Women's) Hub is today under construction and expects to see completion this year. Loata has worked with the Indigenous women's society Soqosoqo Vakamarama i Taukei Cakaudrove (SVTC) tirelessly for the past 12 years to bring it to fruition.

"Such a hub is an essential criterion for the development of women in an Indigenous Fijian context, and it must be accessible and inclusive," she says.

Some of the ongoing challenges faced by women living in remote Fijian villages include isolation and accessibility issues. Local initiatives like a women's hub can address these by providing access to educational, entrepreneurial, women's health, safety and wellbeing programs.

"Reasserting Fijian women's knowledge, woven together with my experiences ... are central to this study."

"A meeting with a local Indigenous women's organisation in my maternal community was initiated as part of my final-year architectural design project. After completing my study, two of my final-year classmates, Emma Healy and Lucia Wellington, joined as the pioneers to develop the women's project," Loata says.

Ongoing design was further developed and managed in 2008 with the assistance of volunteers, work colleagues, industry mentors, friends and family through *Architect's Without Frontiers Australia*, with funding for the construction secured from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in 2011.

The project combines Indigenous Fijian architecture and Indigenous women's knowledge — "very valuable in developing their own projects," Loata says — within the Indigenous cultural context of Vanua, a patriarchal and hierarchal identity to the land, people and their spirituality.

"'Vanua' is an umbrella concept that literally translates to 'land', but encompasses far more. It is about relationships, connections, environment — a very three-dimensional concept," she says.

Any conversation about Indigenous women's development in the Vanua should be explored, designed and built in the context of and consultation with the Vanua, as it links to the community and culture at all levels.

Now, Loata is conducting a study to examine the position of the development's beneficiaries, rural Fijian women in remote villages, in the Cakaudrove province, through a process of self-determination that includes the Dreketi district of Macuata — her paternal province.

For her study, Loata applies the concept of talanoa, an Indigenous methodological approach for data collection, analysis and verification.

"Reasserting Fijian women's knowledge, woven together with my experiences growing up and working in the Vanua as a Fijian woman, are central to this study," she says. "And it was important to draw on my familial connections as I applied talanoa to my research."

"Talanoa is deeply embedded in oratory tradition. It is participatory and observatory, and it was also about learning how the women interact with spaces and with each other, which would then feed into the design."

"Ultimately, not only did the participants enjoy the talanoa process in focus groups and consultation, they were empowered by it."

"I have become more aware of the various layers of invisibility of Indigenous women's voices, their positioning and their current living conditions."

"It was important to draw on my familial connections as I applied talanoa to my research."



**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
DR SITI MAESURI
PATAHUDDIN**

Faculty of Education

**Promoting engagement with
mathematics and learning
opportunities for disadvantaged
communities in West Nusa Tenggara,
Indonesia**

"Just like reading and writing, mathematics education is the right of every child," University of Canberra Assistant Professor Dr Sitti Maesuri Patahuudin says.

"Maths is a powerful tool that can be used to solve complex problems, engage with critical thinking, and teach you to be aware, analytical and questioning."

**"It was crucial that
this project empower
the teachers and
that they could
adapt what they
learned to whatever
location they
were teaching in."**

Buoyed by this belief, Sitti spearheaded an Australian Aid-funded project from 2014 to 2018, to promote mathematics education in 10 disadvantaged communities in Indonesia.

"Rather than teaching the teachers about what to do, the project was more about asking questions, reflecting and building their ownership and confidence."

"We chose to work in West Nusa Tenggara because it has limited resources, especially in terms of human resources," she says. "We wanted to work in areas where teachers might otherwise have few opportunities for training — and we knew that if the project was successful in helping teachers in these areas, it would likely work everywhere."

Sitti herself grew up in a disadvantaged community in South Sulawesi and furthered her education completely via scholarships.

"I have a passion for teaching, but also for supporting teachers themselves," Sitti says. "I have witnessed a lot of teaching practices that disadvantage students rather than support their learning."

The idea for the project was seeded when Sitti conducted an ethnographic study in an Australian classroom and noticed the strong similarities between Australian and Indonesian children in terms of the willingness to learn. However, teacher professionalism shapes them differently.

It was important that the project's educational framework was transferable. "It was crucial that this project empower the teachers and that they could adapt what they learned to whatever location they were teaching in," she says.

Sitti based her project on the Experience, Language, Pictorial, Symbol, Application (ELPSA) Framework. It encompasses a learning process that presents mathematical ideas through these five components.

"Rather than teaching the teachers about what to do, the project was more about asking questions, reflecting and building their ownership and confidence," Sitti says. There was also an emphasis on accommodating students' needs and building relationships with them.

With an initial 60 per cent female participation rate — an approximate reflection of the national make-up of the teaching profession in Indonesia — in the project, one early challenge the organisers faced was that many of the women participants were quiet and didn't speak up during sessions.

"As the project progressed though, you could see how empowered they became, how the role of women in determining community progress became very apparent to them — and many of them have now gone on to give presentations to the community, or participate in competitions," Sitti says.

"Seeing the impact of the project on the teachers has been phenomenal and the snowball effect, even more so. We have teachers from the project now going on to become regional and national trainers for other teachers."

Building on the project work, Sitti and her team are looking to expand it both nationally and across subject matter, applying it to the larger realm of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

"In order to be successful, this project must be sustainable, and we are exploring opportunities to disseminate it to other areas, and for participants to go on to contribute further, as those who have become trainers are," Sitti says.

Recently, Sitti was invited by the Department of Education of South Sulawesi Indonesia to deliver a guest lecture (live from UC with Zoom Video Conference) where she disseminated the project activities. This was attended by almost 1,000 high school and vocational school teachers from 24 districts (Kabupaten) in South Sulawesi Indonesia, including many teachers from remote areas.

THE WOMAN BEHIND UC'S DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION PROJECTS

STORY: UNCOVER TEAM PHOTOS: MADELEINE WOOD

In a previous life, Rebecca Armstrong was an aspiring horse trainer, working full time in the industry — up early, disciplined and dedicated.



Rebecca still rides and competes in dressage and show jumping, but these days it is more of a pastime. She now devotes much of her time to effectively changing the face of interaction between students, staff and the University of Canberra.

As UC's Deputy Director, AI, Projects and Innovation in the Digital, Information and Technology Management team, Rebecca is at the forefront of improving students' experiences. Through technology, the processes associated with university study will be simplified and seamless.

UC's digital transformation includes the UC Student 360 Customer Relationship Management project and the new MyUC project, reinventing the online experience to allow students more time to focus on their studies.

Rebecca's role is to lead and oversee these projects. With project teams ranging from three to 20 people, she says, "we are working in an agile environment, so we assign people to focus on solving student problems".

So how did she go from topping the NSW HSC in Primary Industries, to graduating from the University of Sydney with a Bachelor of Equine Business Management, to working with horses, and finally, being at the forefront of transforming the way students access information at university?

To a certain extent, this pathway seems to stem from the main influence in her life: her father, Peter.

"My dad had a solid career as a bank manager and a senior public servant," Rebecca says. "He gave me the necessary drive."

After three years working with horses, Peter told her she needed to get a 'real' job if she was to continue maintaining her own four horses.

"So I went and worked in a call centre in the public service. They had an IT project running, which had some challenges, and they were trying to pull resources across to the project to fill holes," Rebecca recalls.

"They were trying to find people who could use computers. I had a reasonable grasp of computers and I could do lots of different things. So I was nominated for the project, and then moved to another large system project. And that was the start of my IT career."

From there, Rebecca worked for a number of major organisations in IT, before landing a job as an IT project manager at UC in 2012. She was elevated to Deputy Director just under five years ago.

Although her career history appears, on the surface, to be quite disparate, Rebecca seems to have honed her ability to mentally construct and solve complex problems, and always with a sense of the practical end-use. This includes simplifying the university experience for UC students who can often find themselves overwhelmed.



▲ Rebecca Armstrong with Danni

“We need to get more women into technology and lift its reputation as an exciting and challenging career.”

“My goal is to keep delivering improvements in the technology and processes space,” Rebecca says. “Digital transformation is the biggest game changer for any business and it doesn’t have to be as complex as what it historically was thought to be. IT must be a critical consideration as the evolution of digital is one of the biggest enablers for any organisation.”

This practical focus has generated numerous awards for projects under her control, including the creation of ‘chatbots’, Bruce and Lucy, using artificial intelligence. Bruce and Lucy, the first multidisciplinary chatbots in the Australian university sector, answer questions presented by both students and staff, and are making a difference to student support outside student centre hours.

Earlier in 2019, Rebecca and her team won, among others, the international Campus Technology Impact Award for Administration for the Microsoft Dynamics CRM Project ‘UC Student 360’. This system, which is the one-stop-shop for UC students seeking information, has dealt with 412,000 responses to student enquiries.

Rebecca’s latest project is digitising the student journey to create a new MyUC, which takes the one-stop-shop concept even further. Recent releases include a personalised calendar, which effectively reduces seven separate calendars into one.

Students can already opt-in to this portal, allowing them to check their progress in their units on a daily basis. It also tackles the enrolment process and provides a much simplified and student-focused solution. On average, 50 per cent of students who have rated the new system have given it five stars.

Despite this high approval, it is clear that Rebecca won’t be satisfied until 100 per cent of students appraise the system with a five-star rating.

Beyond horses and digital transformation, the other topic that generates a passionate response from Rebecca is the Federal Government’s strategy to increase the number of women involved in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

“We need to get more women into technology and lift its reputation as an exciting and challenging career,” Rebecca says. “One where women can use new technology and can be innovative without restraint.”

Rebecca also acknowledges, drawing from her own experience, that “it can be tough for women in general to break into technology careers when they are historically in administration or policy roles, but have some interest in digital, and an enthusiasm to try. And much of the technology can be learnt”.

To suggest that Rebecca is leading by example is an understatement as she continues to transform the student experience at UC through the use of technology. Her award-winning projects have attracted interest from beyond the university sector as businesses look at the significant benefits, such as cost savings and improved communication.

Rebecca remains grounded though, despite her growing list of achievements. Using her previous life to put it all into context, she says with a grin, “there are similarities between preparing a horse to win, to getting a project ready for release”.

She is possibly one of very few people who could draw this parallel.

TEACHERS AS RESEARCHERS

STORY: KATARINA SLAVICH PHOTOS: MADELEINE WOOD

What does it look like when you combine research and school classrooms? The Teachers as Researchers program aims to develop teachers as school-based researchers, with the knowledge and skills to conduct their own research projects.



The Teachers as Researchers program is a joint effort between the University of Canberra and the ACT Government and makes up just one part of the Affiliated Schools Program.

The UC Affiliated Schools Program, led by Co-Directors Clinical Associate Professors Chris Morrissey and Kerrie Heath, is a shared vision and partnership for innovation, research and teacher professional development. The program is funded by the ACT Government with a focus on supporting learning professionals and improving learning outcomes for ACT public school students. Implemented in early 2019, the program is already producing fantastic results, with a strong connection between teachers and 25 ACT public schools, giving them the skills required to meet the needs and aspirations of public school students into the future.

The Teachers as Researchers component of the program is about developing teachers and leaders, as well as classroom and school-based researchers.

Professor Kerrie Heath says that teaching teams in schools requires more skills in the areas of defining, undertaking and reporting on research outcomes.

“Our aim through the project is to give them the understanding, the knowledge and the skills to participate in small-scale research projects on their own school sites,” she says. “Doing this starts to prepare them to participate in increasingly larger research projects and programs.”

The program consists of four three-hour workshops and four one-hour interim support sessions.

Six UC faculty members act as ‘critical friends’, who support learning at one or two schools to progress their research.

Kerrie says the program will be implemented over a period of several years, starting with a small number of schools and building on that annually.

“We are starting with eight schools, where we tried to match our staff to the area of interest for those schools,” she says. “The idea is that these eight schools will develop the skill set where they can move into some cluster-based research projects with greater support from the university.”

The faculty is expecting that next year, they will have another group of between five and 10 schools move through the program,

so they will end up having a critical mass of teachers with baseline research capabilities moving into the next stage of research.

“The Teachers as Researchers Program has been really interesting as there is a lot of talk in schools about action research, but I think they are really being challenged by the depth of learning needed,” said Professor Chris Morrissey. “It’s really exciting to see.”

Research teams based at schools across Canberra have been busy working on a range of different projects including improving literacy for English as an Additional Language students, building culturally responsive school cultures for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, supporting teachers to support students with additional learning needs, assessing impact of specialist learning programs, assessing impact of student-led, project-based learning, creating non-biased learning environments and more.

One team of researchers at the University of Canberra High School Kaleen are investigating how teachers at the school can better extend students who are already achieving at level outcomes.

Another group at Monash Primary School are researching the best practices to support students with a disability in a mainstream classroom, to develop a pool of resources that all teachers can use in their classroom.

The faculty is already seeing the benefits of the strong partnership with the ACT Government and the Affiliated Schools Program for education students after one completed semester since the program has been implemented.

Other universities are starting to pay attention to what is being done at UC as it encourages teachers to extend themselves beyond the classroom.

“It has been a very positive experience for our students,” Chris says.

“The students enrolled in our degrees are always wanting the practical aspect, and I think they are really seeing how the pedagogical theory sits in their practice.”

Take note of this innovative partnership between the ACT Government and UC, the implementation of this program has the potential to change the face of education.



▲ Chris Morrissey and Kerrie Heath

“The faculty is already seeing the benefits of the Affiliated Schools Program for education students.”

BURSTING THE CANBERRA BUBBLE

The truth about the multicultural,
diverse and community-minded spirit
of Australia's National Capital



COMMUNITY

STORY: ANDY VISSER
PHOTOGRAPHY: VISITCANBERRA







“

For the most part,
Canberra is a
hidden city, and
this is daunting
to outsiders.

”



Tree-lined suburbs, waterways and community parks are commonplace in Canberra; it's a city of many facets and rich in heritage and culture. Home of the Australian War Memorial, the Royal Australian Mint, the Australian Institute of Sport, the National Gallery and National Library, to name a few.

It has great measures of health and wellbeing, the highest median weekly income in the nation, a highly educated workforce, a strong arts and culture sector and the lifestyle factors are off the charts.

The vibrancy that lies beneath the surface of 'Canberra the seat of government' lends itself to a city that has a lot to offer and is regarded as one of the best places

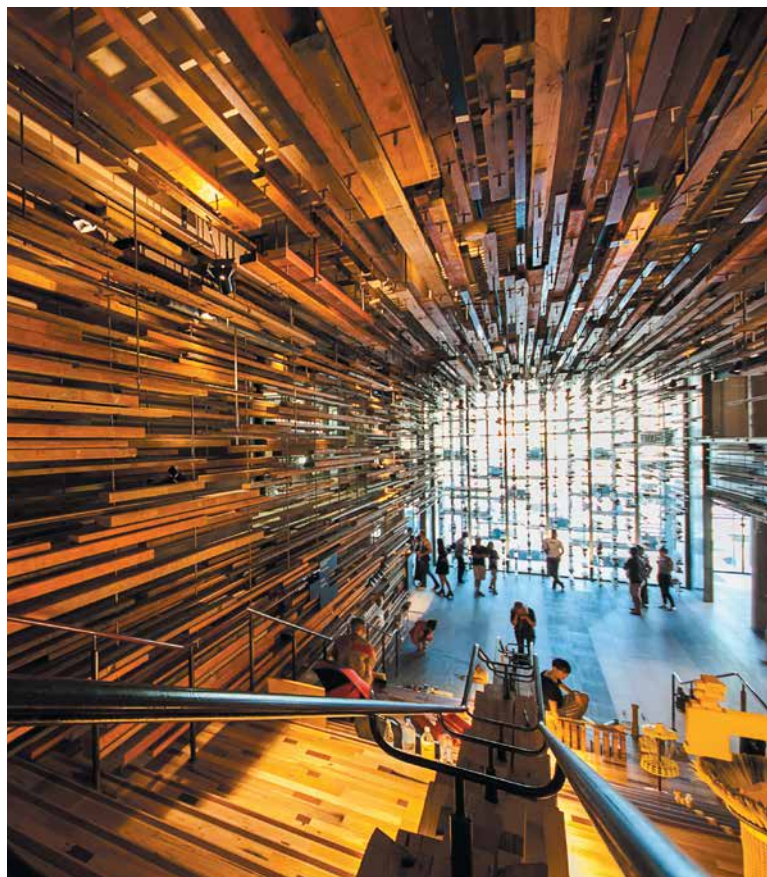
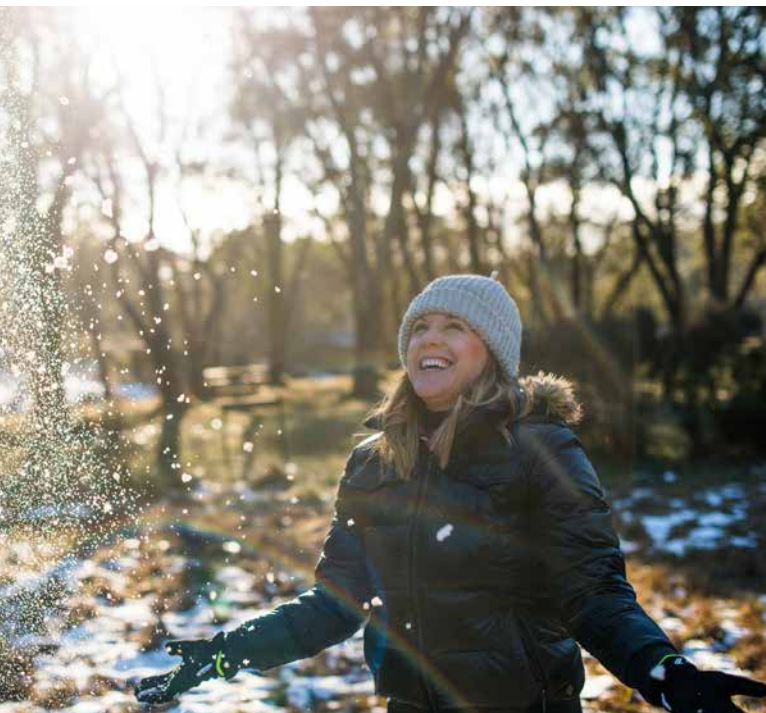
in the world to live — as recognised by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in 2014.

Established on the land of the Ngunnawal People — the first inhabitants of the land — after the federation of the colonies of Australia for the new nation in 1913, Canberra is Australia's largest inland city and the eighth-largest city in the country.

Canberra is a unique Australian city in that it was planned outside of a state, similar to Washington D.C. and Brasilia, by American architects Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony Griffin — a city planned around geometric motifs of circles, hexagons and triangles. Yet it is perceived as boring, sterile, soulless, political, conservative and unsophisticated, and these stereotypical attributes, although older, are seen as reality for most Australians living outside of the capital.

Canberra functions effectively at a local level in an urban design of neighbourhood centres, but it remains an 'insider' city where local knowledge is king.

“For the most part, Canberra is a hidden city, and this is daunting to outsiders. Neighbourhood centres are great for residents when you have shops and cafes in walking distance, but they can



be hard to find when you are new to the city. That vibrancy people are looking for is often tucked away in local haunts rather than being front and centre in a single location. People either love it or hate it. Those that love it stay and those that don't tend to move away very quickly," Ms Prue Robson, PhD candidate with the News and Media Research Centre at the University of Canberra, says.

Prue's research aims to examine the effectiveness of place image communications in attracting prospective residents to a city, especially when an outdated, unfavourable, or stereotypical reputation exists.

Prue believes that the contrast between the objective reality of the city and popular perceptions of Canberra partly exist because 'Canberra the place' is overshadowed by 'Canberra the political actor' that dominates the media.

"Canberra as the Federal Government is a strong component of the Canberra identity, whether we like it or not. In my research I have found a couple of hundred headlines referring to Canberra as a place and nearly a thousand using it as a metaphor for the Federal Government and their actions," Prue says.

"If people don't have a personal touchpoint with Canberra, such as friends and family, or they haven't visited recently, they tend to buy into the media reports that fuel these perceptions."

Canberra bashing — an actual phrase — was entered into the *Oxford Australian National Dictionary* in 2013 and has become a national sport for some; and Canberrans themselves are known to play into this.

Canberra bashing —
noun: **1** the act of criticising the Australian Federal Government and its bureaucracy.
2 the act of criticising the city of Canberra or its inhabitants.

"That vibrancy people are looking for is often tucked away in local haunts rather than being front and centre in a single location. People either love it or hate it."



“These stereotypical perceptions have been established and perpetuated over time and this will not change unless Canberrans work to change it,” Prue says.

Some of the best-kept secrets of Canberra may be Mount Ainslie, Lake Burley Griffin and Cotter Reserve; but is there more to Canberra than meets the eye? Are some of the best secrets carefully guarded by those who love living here?

That relatively smooth-flowing traffic to the school drop off, family strolls and picnics at any one of the many parks around the city and a country-style approach to life in the ‘fast lane’ are certainly not worth giving up. All pretty good reasons to keep the benefits of living in Canberra hidden under a bushel.

For Canberrans, these are the benefits of living in the Bush Capital, infamous for its 20-minute journeys to and from any place in the city. For people outside of Canberra, these benefits don’t seem legitimate as there is the belief that there is nothing to do in a city of politicians and national monuments, all long-term memories from a school tour of years gone by.

“Canberrans are also portrayed as ‘fancy’ by both the ACT Government and the media,” Prue says. “As Canberrans, we think our best-of-this, best-of-that indicators are a good thing and why wouldn’t you want to live here, but for

the rest of Australia this tall poppy-type promotion is less appealing.”

Like any other city in Australia, Canberra has its own social and economic challenges with pockets of affluence and areas of vulnerability.

Canberra should be positioned around living in a vibrant city that has a lot to offer, making it less about politics and being the national capital, and more about the day-to-day benefits of living here.

“We need to represent what it is like to be Canberran in the everyday context, as, despite popular perception, we are no different than any other Australian,” Prue adds.

Canberra is a regular city. Real people live in this city, work in the commercial, non-profit and public sector, have day-to-day lives like any other Australian, but this isn’t particularly newsworthy and so Canberra the everyday place to live in is overshadowed by political inference and misleading narratives.

“Every time the media reports ‘Canberra did this’ when in fact they mean the Federal Government, it sends our reputation as a place backwards. It is essential that we convey the heart of the community to the rest of Australia and the world. This is the difference between changed perceptions and the status quo,” Prue says.

▲ Hot air balloons over the National Arboretum Canberra. Credit: Matt Evans



▲ Enlighten Night Noodle Markets 2018. Credit: Martin Ollman

“... the words chosen to describe our city today can initiate a change in perception that will alter the narrative of our capital for the future.”

While Canberrans need to have looser lips about their city and give up on the idea of Canberra as Australia’s best-kept secret, universities also have a role to play in elevating the benefits of a place like Canberra and affecting reputational change.

“Internationally, people don’t know that Canberra exists, as it is overshadowed by Sydney and Melbourne. Universities are well positioned to pave the way by tying their research excellence with the place they serve,” Prue says.

“The breadth of world-class research being conducted at the University helps to put Canberra onto the international stage.”

Canberrans are by and large proud of our city. Community events and festivals are well supported and there is a growing social scene in the heart of the city.

“Canberra has had some more positive media coverage on our food and beverage culture in the past few years, so the message of Canberra as a more cosmopolitan city is getting out there, but we know that in place branding, reputations are slow to change,” Prue says.

It is clear that the decisions Canberrans make and the words chosen to describe our city today can initiate a change in perception that will alter the narrative of our capital for the future.

“In my research I am comparing how Canberra is portrayed in official marketing and communication messages, how the media represents it and what people actually think about it as a prospective place to live.”

THE EDUCATED LIFE: CAMPUS SET TO BE TRANSFORMED

STORY: UNCOVER TEAM PHOTOS: LIGHTBULB STUDIO

Imagine the University of Canberra campus bustling with activity day and night; people of all ages engaged in learning, various sports, cultural activities, shopping, dining and entertainment.

By 2030, the UC campus will have a very different ambience as we incorporate the broader non-academic population into the daily life of the University.

UC will become a hub, attracting the Canberra community through education, health, sport and events; blurring the lines between a place of learning and a place for all people.

This all forms part of the University's 'Educated Life' vision, which spans child care, education, working life and aged care, while at the same time offering a broad range of activities, from sport to learning, on the one campus.

To achieve this vision, UC needs to remove the boundaries between industry, the academy and the community, and open the campus so it becomes a vibrant civic centre.

Although there is still work to be done before that vision becomes reality, many aspects are well advanced. The campus is already home to world-class sporting teams, as well as a nation-leading cancer care centre and a sub-acute hospital on the University grounds, which provides opportunities for teaching, learning and research.

The next piece of the puzzle will be a 150-bed aged care facility on the campus, a 120–150 place early learning centre, eight staff and visitor apartments, NDIS apartments and a day care respite centre. This facility is being planned by the University's partner, the Moran Health Care Group, and is planned to commence construction in 2020.

As part of the program, the University is also planning a residential development,

▼ The University of Canberra Hospital





▲ Ethan Althofer and John Owens from the Campus Estate team

which will take shape over the coming years. Under an Agreement of Strategic Intent with the ACT Government, the University can build up to 3,300 non-student accommodation residential dwellings on the campus, at a sales rate of up to 200 dwellings per year. Once completed it will swell the University's existing residential population from 2,500 to close to 7,500 — effectively the size of a country town. This project will be a living example of the coming together of industry, academia and students, and is anticipated to provide the largest work-integrated learning program of any university in the country, engaging UC students in the development of this community.

There is also a strategy for affordable housing to be incorporated into the project.

What the University is hoping to do is engage new residents, most of whom will be non-students, into the daily life of UC. This could mean courses catering to a population of all ages, a broader range of sporting activities, or cultural pursuits offered by the University.

But central to making all this happen is a new Master Plan for the campus, which will integrate the Campus Development Program with the facility needs of the University.

The last Master Plan was published in 2012, when UC was just starting to think of ways to change and develop the campus. This new plan — to be

“This project will be a living example of the coming together of industry, academia and students, and is anticipated to provide the largest work-integrated learning program of any university in the country.”

completed in early 2020 — will lay the blueprint for the future development of the campus, ensuring all aspects of that development work together in an effective and efficient way. While much has been written about the University's plans for expansion, there is also a developing strategy around the future of UC's existing structures.

There are currently about 150 buildings on the campus ranging from academic to residential accommodation. Some of the older buildings were constructed as part of the Canberra College of Advanced Education, established in 1967, before UC achieved university status in 1990. The challenge will be to renew some of these older spaces within considered resources.

With the changing face of education, particularly with technology playing a greater role, it could mean there will be less focus on purpose-built teaching facilities in the future. UC has become a world leader in using technology to improve the student experience, and the new Master Plan will explore this aspect further.

There is also the prospect of light rail servicing the University. This may impact decision-making about what existing buildings remain and what buildings go.

The campus development team have been talking with ACT Transport and are considering a route through campus — one that wouldn't divide the University.

The Master Plan will also include the creation of an urban design on campus, promoting the advancement of reconciliation for Indigenous Australians.

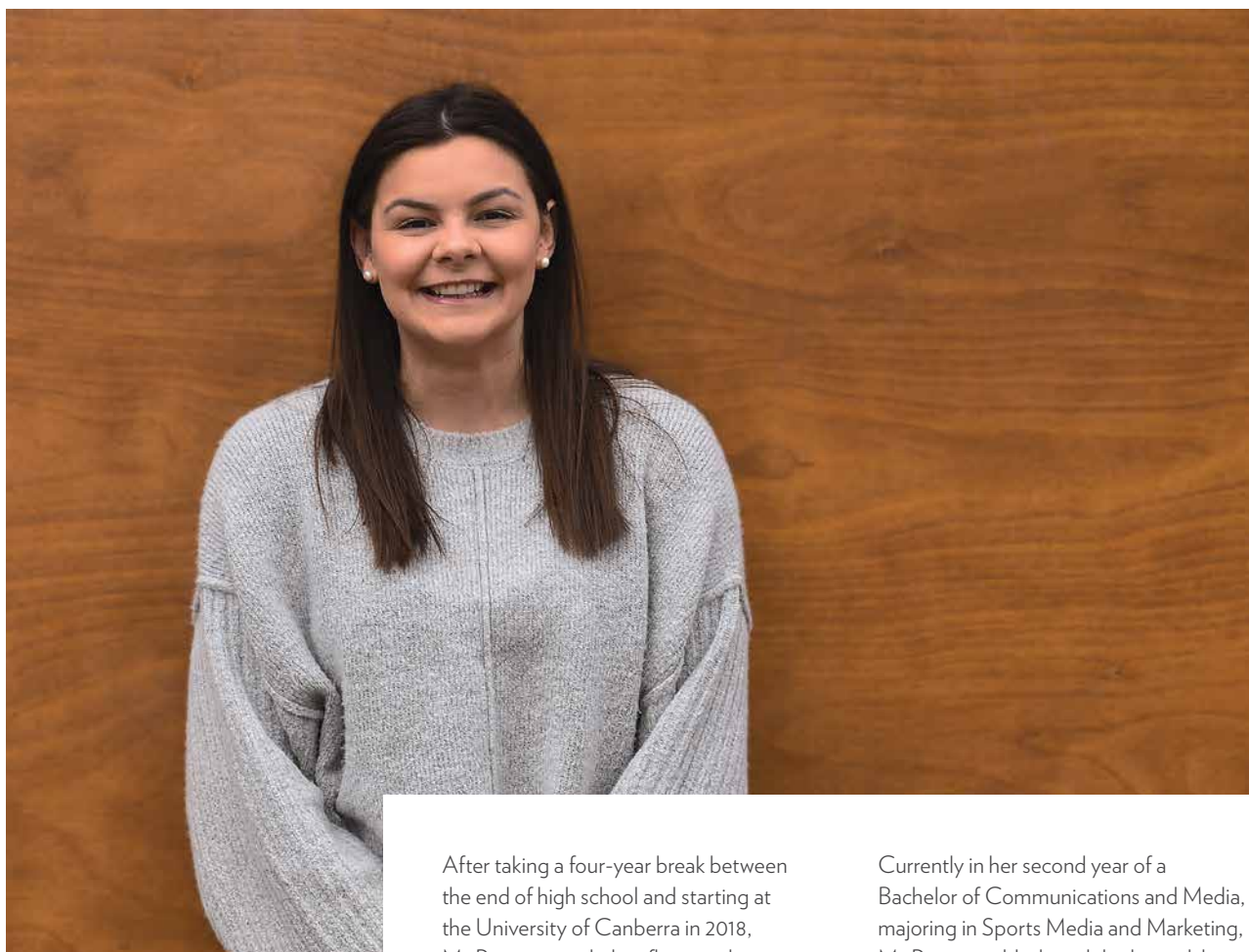
The University is aware that it must evolve with the times to maintain relevance and ensure sustainability. The challenge is to do this within financial constraints as well as maintain UC's status as one of the leading young universities in the world.

UC has a concept vision that will be a point of difference from other universities through a complete integration with the wider population, a population that sees the benefit of the 'Educated Life' philosophy.

KEISHA'S UNIVERSITY JOURNEY

STORY: AMY STEVENSON PHOTOS: MADELEINE WOOD

For Keisha Preston, the journey to higher education took a slight detour, and while she's faced uncertainty and doubt, there's one person who inspires her every day to push through: her mum.



After taking a four-year break between the end of high school and starting at the University of Canberra in 2018, Ms Preston regularly reflects on her mum's journey with tertiary study.

"My mum absolutely inspires me — seeing how successful she is now and how hard she's worked for everything she has," Ms Preston says.

"I remember we were so broke, and it was such a struggle, but seeing her have that drive and have that higher education, it gave me the drive to do the same thing. It's so inspiring to have that role model in my life."

Currently in her second year of a Bachelor of Communications and Media, majoring in Sports Media and Marketing, Ms Preston adds that while she took her time to find her own passions and a career she wanted to pursue, she has no regrets.

"I've done everything backwards; I was in full-time work for four years and I took time for some soul-searching and to decide what I wanted to study," she says.

"If I had come straight from high school, I think I would be studying early childhood education, or something that wasn't me. I took that time to be like 'When I know, I'll know', and I'm really glad I did because

it's all worked out and I'm really excited to finish my degree and start working."

Ms Preston calls Bathurst on Wiradjuri country home, with most of her family still residing there. She adds that her transition into full-time study away from home was made easier with the help of the University's Ngunnawal Centre.

"You really get out of your comfort zone coming to uni to study, and it's hard and scary for Indigenous people to leave their families because we're all so close," Ms Preston says. "The Ngunnawal Centre has been so helpful for me because you go there, you meet people and get that sense of home, and a sense of family you can connect with when you need a friend.

"So many of us have come from all over to study, so you have that meeting spot and it gives you that safety net and comfort within the UC community. If you're having a bad day, you can go there and connect with other Indigenous people and have that sense of home."

Adding that she feels the extended break before starting university allowed her to gain some valuable life experience, Ms Preston still faced challenges when it came to pursuing her degree.

"It was pretty daunting in a sense that all my friends went from high school to uni, and I was the one 'left behind'," she says. "I had a great job so it wasn't like I wasn't doing anything, but for me I felt a little bit embarrassed because I thought I was so far behind everyone else who were finishing their degrees while I was just starting out; it wasn't a great mindset to have.

"I didn't even tell anyone I was coming to uni. I told my mum and my pop, but that's it because I was thinking, 'What if I go and I hate it, and I'm a failure?' There was a lot of self-doubt."

However, it was advice from her role model, her mum, that helped her get over any fears she had about her new adventure.

"My mum kept reminding me I'm so young, and that I had to stop stressing because I have so much time ahead of me still," Ms Preston says.

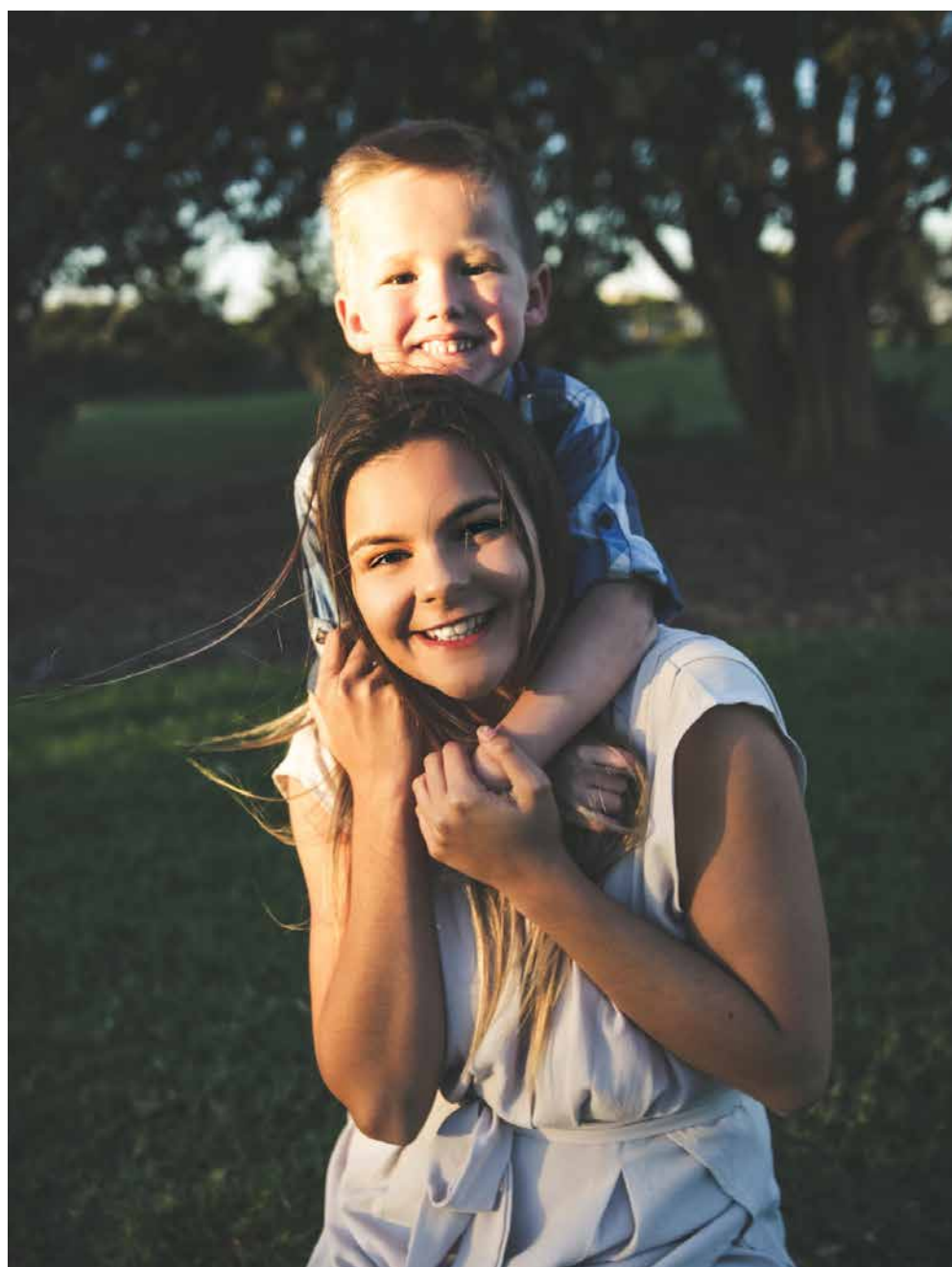
"One day I decided I had to stop comparing my path to everyone else's and just know that this was where I was supposed to be and realise that if I had come to uni straight after school I wouldn't be doing what I actually wanted to do."

Ms Preston now hopes her journey at UC inspires her younger brother on a path to higher learning when he's old enough.

"It's been hard being away from my family, especially my brother. He's the coolest little kid, but I want to be a role model for him, just like my mum was a role model for me," Ms Preston says.

"Whether he wants to go down the path of uni or not, I want him to know he can do whatever he wants to do, and there are absolutely no limits. I think for me, I must find my passion in life and I hope that gives him the inspiration to find his."

"One day I decided I had to stop comparing my path to everyone else's and just know that this was where I was supposed to be."

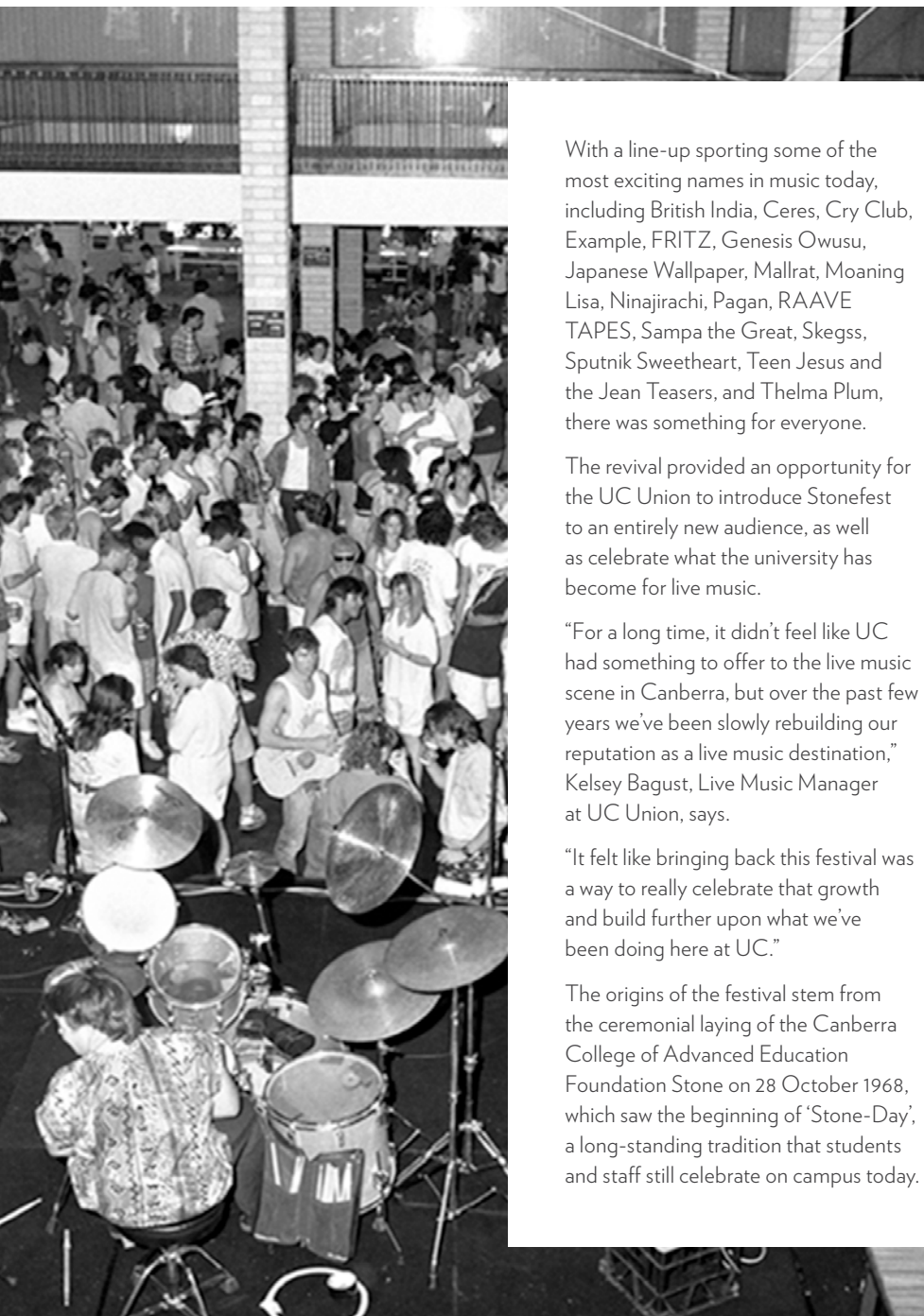


▲ Keisha Preston and her little brother Jay

THE RETURN OF STONEFEST

STORY: AMY STEVENSON PHOTOS: SUPPLIED

It's been on hiatus for the past decade, but in 2019 a familiar name in the local music scene re-emerged as Stonefest, the University of Canberra's festival for students and music lovers alike, made its triumphant return.



With a line-up sporting some of the most exciting names in music today, including British India, Ceres, Cry Club, Example, FRITZ, Genesis Owusu, Japanese Wallpaper, Mallrat, Moaning Lisa, Ninajirachi, Pagan, RAAVE TAPES, Sampa the Great, Skegss, Sputnik Sweetheart, Teen Jesus and the Jean Teasers, and Thelma Plum, there was something for everyone.

The revival provided an opportunity for the UC Union to introduce Stonefest to an entirely new audience, as well as celebrate what the university has become for live music.

"For a long time, it didn't feel like UC had something to offer to the live music scene in Canberra, but over the past few years we've been slowly rebuilding our reputation as a live music destination," Kelsey Bagust, Live Music Manager at UC Union, says.

"It felt like bringing back this festival was a way to really celebrate that growth and build further upon what we've been doing here at UC."

The origins of the festival stem from the ceremonial laying of the Canberra College of Advanced Education Foundation Stone on 28 October 1968, which saw the beginning of 'Stone-Day', a long-standing tradition that students and staff still celebrate on campus today.

The event has evolved over the years, with the first sighting of the 'Stone Fairy' in 1974, when the Foundation Stone was re-dedicated, to celebrations turning into Stone Week in 1976, before morphing once again in 2000 and becoming Stonefest, one of the nation's most popular music and arts festivals.

Stonefest has also had some popular names in music hit the stage and entertain generations of audiences, including Regurgitator, The Living End, Art vs. Science, Birds of Tokyo, Josh Pyke, Frenzal Rhomb, The Dandy Warhols, Grinspoon, The Hoodoo Gurus and Something For Kate, just to rattle off a handful of names.


However, it's no easy feat to revive a festival that holds so many special memories for previous attendees. Kelsey adds there is also a fine line between creating something new for Stonefest-goers and honouring the history of the event.

"It was a really interesting challenge because Stonefest has such a rich history at UC, and many Canberrans and UC alumni have such fond memories of the event," she says.

"At the same time, we were tasked with building something that's contemporary, modern and represents what live music is for UC in 2019. Presenting a line-up

◀ Stonefest in 1988

▶ Genesis Owusu at Stonefest in 2019.
Credit: Matt Sandford



“Stonefest has such a rich history at UC,
and many Canberrans and UC alumni
have such fond memories of the event.”

that’s diverse in genre, with the kinds of musicians who are represented, is very important to us.

“One of the interesting challenges was creating artwork that paid homage to the history of the event and spoke to our understanding of Stonefest as a uniquely Canberran experience. We were lucky to work with current UC student and graphic designer, Beniah Colbourn, who beautifully managed to tip our hat to the event’s predecessors while crafting a strong brand identity moving forward.”

The stellar 2019 line-up also included local Canberra acts Sputnik Sweetheart and Genesis Owusu, who happen to be current UC students and alumni respectively — with this aspect just one of the many considerations organisers paid close attention to when deciding on how to make Stonefest 2019 a success.

“There were a few things that were really important, like diversity, inclusion, locality and honouring the past,” Kelsey says.

“We decided we wanted to firmly plant our gaze on the future and what music at UC looks like in 2019. That meant including local artists like Sputnik Sweetheart and Genesis Owusu, but also paying homage to the history of the event with acts like British India and Example.

“It was important to us to book some heavy-hitters in the Australian music scene, such as Mallrat, Skeggs, Thelma Plum and Sampa the Great, and ensure there was a strong undercurrent of artists diverse in race, gender and sexuality.”

As for what the future holds for Stonefest, the 2019 return is just the start if organisers have their way.

“I really hope we’re able to continue into the future. I think it’s a great opportunity for the UC community to come together and celebrate in a way that is uniquely us. It’s a lot of work, but it’s definitely worth it,” Kelsey says.

WHAT WOULD YOU TELL YOUR YOUNGER SELF?

We asked our Distinguished Alumni Award winners what advice they would give their younger selves ... here are their answers.

IAN WISHART

Chancellor's Alumni
Award Winner



There is always something unique about who you are, your experiences, your interests and what you are good at. If you can discover your uniqueness, don't be afraid to build on that, no matter how out of the box it seems. It will be the road less travelled. It is the unique you that you will bring to the stream of life.

PETER GATELY

Chancellor's
Award for Service
and Philanthropy



Persevere. Always stick the course and be true to yourself. If you think something is important then go and do it and if you believe in yourself, then you will achieve what you want to achieve.

DANIELLE HARMER

Chancellor's Young
Alumni



Put yourself out there and put your hand up for opportunities. Focus on your results and outputs not on being liked by everyone else. Find your difference and what makes you unique. Use your difference as an advantage. If you get the opportunity, don't feel guilty for using that difference to get ahead. Find a support network and or mentor both in and out of work. What you're going through, lots of others are experiencing as well.

KATE CORKERY

Chancellor's Award for
Contribution to Sport
(Joint Winner)



Take an interest in people and take an interest in yourself. Self-care is not optional — it is essential. Be kind and look for opportunities to volunteer and give back to your community. Don't think that the end of school or the end of university is the end to personal development or improvement — think of it as an amazing train journey that only ends if you choose to get off the train.

**REBECCA
GODDARD**

Chancellor's Award for
Contribution to Sport
(Joint Winner)



(Laughing) don't spend as much time at the Uni Bar like I did in first year! But seriously, enjoy uni life, embrace everything it has to offer, follow your heart when you know what you want and most importantly, finish what you start.

**KAREL
WILLIAMS**

Alumni Excellence
Award in Health



I am currently mentoring a student midwife and the advice I give her is to develop skills around resilience and to build a solid support network and to hang on to it. I encourage her to understand that her expectations of working in a hospital may be very different to reality and to be prepared for that. I also encourage her to be reflective and to record her reflections.

**TABATHA
KELLETT**

Alumni Excellence
Award in Education



Prioritise and practise self-care. There's always more to learn, so find a mentor and ask them to help you focus on what's important. Find your own identity as a teacher and work on your strengths.

**YVONNE
MOTSISI**

Alumni Excellence
Award in Business,
Government and Law



With hindsight, I would urge my younger self to have more confidence in my innate ability to achieve my dreams. I believe every human being has a specific purpose in life and that we are uniquely created, and driven to realise that purpose. It is our personal responsibility to discover that purpose and to bring it into being.

**LINZI
WILSON-WILDE**

Alumni Excellence
Award in Science
and Technology



You can do a 9–5 job (which is fine) but you can also do more — look for the innovations, get involved in committees and societies, do research and write publications, it will be far more rewarding — they are the people that I hire to the Institute.

SUE MASLIN

Alumni Excellence
Award in Arts
and Design



Turn off your devices and just look around you! Take time to dream and imagine. Always remain curious and never give up if an idea or a story really speaks to you and you want to share it with others.

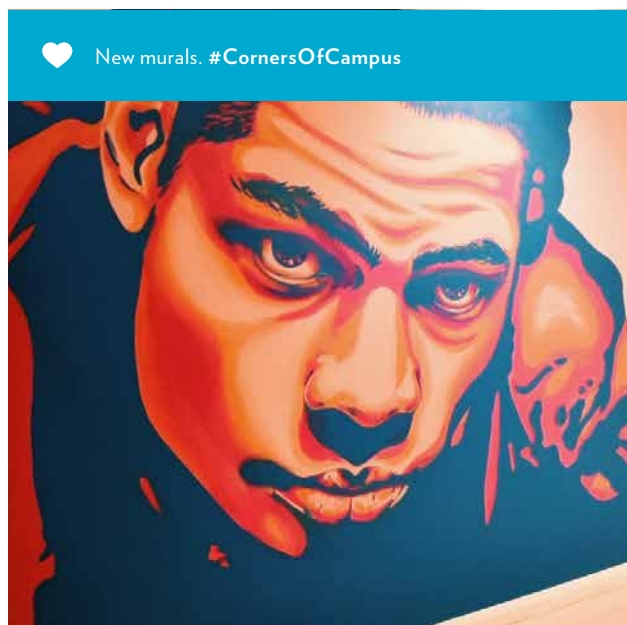
UC IS BUZZING THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Keep up with the action through our social media. It's the best place to find out about upcoming events, student life, and competition giveaways.

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 [universityofcanberra](#)

 [universityofcanberra](#)



“There’s something about coming full circle and I’m honoured to be able to leave my mark at an institution that I was educated in.”



George Rose mural — Canberra Specialist Medical Centre

George Rose’s mural in the Canberra Specialist Medical Centre incorporates natural medicinal botanicals and abstract brush work.

These include kangaroo apple (*Solarium laciniatum* and *Solarium aviculture*), snake vine (*Tinospora smilacina*), billy goat plum (*Terminalia ferdinandiana*),

Blackwood acacia *melanoxylon*, tea tree (*Melaleuca alternifolia*), eucalyptus and bubble lily.

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