

Summer Newsletter

February 2026

Supported by the Australian Government through the Regional University Study Hubs Program.

Manager's message

This is my first newsletter, having commenced with CUCNI in December 2026, following on from the initial work of Sally Thompson who has gone up to the Norfolk Island Central School (NICS) as Principal. Given her knowledge and background at CUCNI, we are looking forward to collaborating for seamless support of school leavers and secondary students with a tertiary component to their studies.

It was a busy quarter with our official launch, an end-of-year student gathering, initial priorities workshop and development of various resources for students.

By the end of our first semester of opening we had 26 students, a fantastic achievement in a few short months. There are also many 'walk-in' enquiries, supporting those seeking certificates, diplomas and degrees while referring informal 'ad-hoc' learners to next door's Knowledge and Learning Centre.

Michelle Sanson
Centre Manager

Launch of the Centre

The official launch of CUCNI took place on Friday 12 December, with speakers including David Buffett, Madeleine Lawler, Chris Ronan, Lotus Rana, Jane Evans, David Smith and Michelle Sanson.



Our team members



Michelle is a Norfolk Island resident and passionate advocate for inclusive, community-based learning. She has a strong background in university teaching and student advisory and coordination roles at universities in Australia. She holds a PhD in Law (International Law), Master of Education (Adult Education), Bachelor of Laws (First Class Honours) and a Bachelor of Business (Marketing and Management).

Lotus has a Bachelor of Marketing and Media, Graduate Certificate in Human and Community Services, and Master of Applied Research. Lotus is a resident of Norfolk Island of Pitcairn descent and is presently studying her PhD in Critical Indigenous Studies.



Andrew (Andy) has a background in the vocational education and training (VET) sector, with a focus on competency training and assessment. He is a great resource for all the TAFE students on the island studying trades and the like. He has a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment; Certificate IV in Work Health and Safety; and a Diploma of Hospitality Management.

Zara's background is in biosciences and health sciences, with experience lecturing for Bachelor of Health Science and Advanced Diploma courses and supervising student clinics. She has a Bachelor of Applied Science (Microbiology/Biochemistry); Advanced Diploma Nutrition; Advanced Diploma Naturopathy; Advanced Diploma Western Herbal Medicine; Certificate IV Clinical Classification and Certificate IV in Training and Assessment.



SNAPSHOT OF 2025

26
students



12
different
institutions



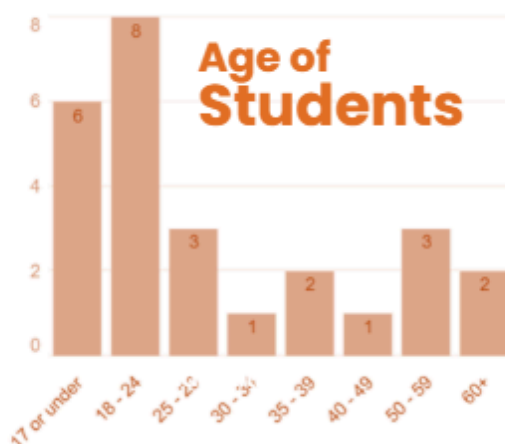
57%
of students have
parents without
tertiary education

34%
study
full
time



66%
study
part
time

96%
studying
principally
on-island



TOP
Areas of
Study

**Education
Traineeships
Health
Science**

Student end of year gathering

On 30 December we held an end-of-year student gathering down at Emily Bay. We had hoped to enjoy the beach and sunshine but nature gave us wind! We still were able to enjoy some local fish and chips and engage around a game of 'We Connect'.

L-R: CUCNI students
Jonno Snell, Zaria Evans,
Timi Snell, James Garden



Priorities Workshop

On 7 January we held our first workshop, titled 'Life priorities'. If study is envisaged as a funnel, the top of the funnel is the decision that studying is a top life priority, and the only way of being certain that is the case is by brainstorming one's priorities and coming up with a plan of action to implement them.



Spotlight: Community partner



The Norfolk Island Knowledge and Learning Centre (KLC) is CUCNI's next-door neighbour and the owners Geoff and Wallis Edwards are our landlords. The KLC is a fantastic community partner for CUCNI and was instrumental in the community and other engagements that led to its creation.

KLC supports informal learning, including through the provision of reading materials, public seminars with guest speakers, regular engagement with volunteers, and a night cafe, all geared towards sharing knowledge about Norfolk Island and supporting knowledge of residents.

The following are examples of how CUCNI and KLC can work together in supporting Norfolk Island residents to achieve their learning dreams.



Where KLC holds knowledge-sharing events on particular topics, CUCNI can guide attendees interested in further education on the formal online courses available to study them.

Where a resident expresses an interest in further study but sees a need for some skills development prior to that, such as in computer literacy, KLC can support informal learning.

KLC has a large, open event space, which can be hired by CUCNI where the event exceeds the study hub capacity.