



Country
Universities
Centre
NORFOLK ISLAND

Winter Newsletter

August 2026

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

Manager's message

We're having a wonderful winter on Norfolk Island, after a fantastic first semester at our study hub with 36 students registered and reaching a milestone of 50 students overall since opening.

The momentum is growing on the island, with many residents coming out of the woodwork with their study interests and it's really satisfying finding them options that will allow them to remain on Norfolk Island for all or most of their studies.

Our biggest excitement in the first half of 2026 has been securing additional grant funding for a partnership with Norfolk Island Health and Residential Aged Care Service (NIHRACS) and Southern Cross University (SCU) and are grateful to the Regional University Study Hubs (RUSH) Program of the Australian Government for this additional support and vote of confidence in us. We have added team members and have jumped into implementation.

Michelle Sanson
Centre Manager

Launch of Virtual Reality

We have procured a MetaQuest Virtual Reality headset with 'Work Window' career exploration and interviewing simulator for our students as well as for Norfolk Island residents exploring their study and career options. This is the first time such technology has been available to students on-island.

**VIRTUAL
REALITY**
@ CUC Norfolk Island
Available to all students!

Explore your future career today
- scan to book your VR session!

SEE YOU in CENTRE

Our new team members



Louise (Lou) has a Bachelor of Human Movement Studies, Certificate IV in Training and Assessment, Certificate III in Basic Health Care, Certificate II in Medical Service First Response and Certificate II in Horticulture. An experienced Outrigger Canoeing Coach plus a St John Ambulance trainer, Lou is leading on 'go-see' visits for our students

Katherine Jauczius (Kat) has a Bachelor of Visual Communications and is a former dux of Norfolk Island Central School. She is supporting implementation of Virtual Reality careers exploration, Careers Week and is taking on some of the Centre's communications.



Lillian Mann has a background in tourism, travel and community organisations, and is making the travel arrangements for visiting professionals and student industry exposure, as well as scholarship administration and liaison with local organisations.

Glenda Ewin has Bachelor and Master qualifications in Fine Arts and a Diploma of Therapeutic Massage, a past recipient of an Australian Postgraduate Research Award, and has been widely exhibited with her art. She is our newest team member and is keen to support fellow residents of all ages in their studies.



Strategic Planning

In June, two days of strategic planning were held. On 23 June, the CUCNI team focused on project planning and prioritisation, developing a Project Steering Grid. The group also had some team relational discussions and provided a 'first cut' of risk brainstorming.

On the second day, the CUCNI Board heard from the Deputy Chair Sharon Nicol on progress to date and Board Member Chris Ronan on the dynamics and directions in higher education. Centre Manager, Michelle Sanson then briefed the Board on the outcomes of the team planning day. The Board focused heavily on brainstorming and defining the strategic priorities for CUCNI for the coming two years, as well as working on risk management.

CUCNI is extremely grateful to Madeleine Lawler and Dianne Wall from Regional Development Australia Mid North Coast and Norfolk Island for their excellent facilitation support.



L-R: CUCNI Learning Support Officers Andy Seaton, Zara Elliott, Katherine Jauczius, Lillian Mann, Louise Donald.

Launch of first scholarship

CUCNI has launched its first scholarship, titled the "Be Inspired" Tertiary Education Scholarship. It offers \$4000 to assist a Norfolk Island resident (studying online or primarily online) to succeed in their studies and, in future, contribute to the island's success.



The sponsor is local treasure Agnes Hain, who has a long history of supporting secondary education on Norfolk Island, and was eager to extend this to tertiary education.



The first round of the scholarship has been launched for 2027 and applications are due in November 2026.

2026 SNAPSHOT (first half)



36
students



22
different
institutions



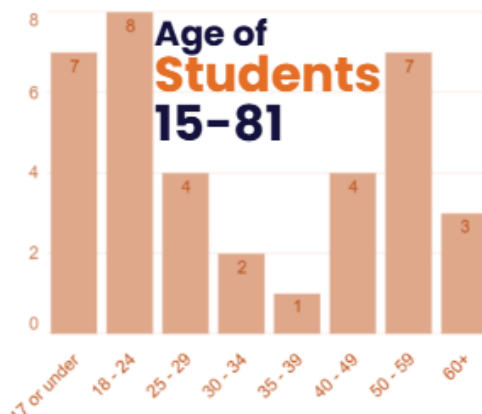
45%
first in family
at Uni

39%
study
full
time



61%
study
part
time

86%
are studying
principally
on-island



TOP
Areas of
Study

Health
Education
Science
Traineeships

Health and Wellbeing Expo

The CUCNI Team participated in the Health and Wellbeing Expo held on 8 August, emphasising the many study options for health and wellness, as well as the link between study and wellness. The 'Ubuntu' matching game was used as a fun exercise to engage younger residents towards a conversation on their future studies, and share with them about our plans for the upcoming Careers Market.

Additionally the Centre Manager, Michelle Sanson, gave a conference presentation at "Remote and Remarkable: Delivering Excellence in Care" on 10 August titled "Remote Study Health Nexus: a Study Hub Perspective". It shared about the Partnership between study hub, hospital and university to engage students in health studies and support health workforce development.

