

Spring Newsletter

November 2026

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

Manager's message

This Spring has been a most amazing (and busy!) time, with the biggest event in our annual calendar, the Careers Week, and the first student "Go-See" Visit. Both of these are supported by a partnerships grant supported by the Australian Government through the Regional University Study Hubs Program (RUSH).

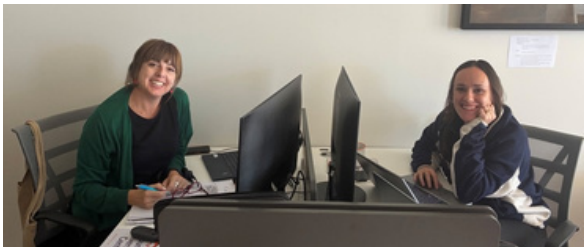
I was also fortunate to attend a RUSH Symposium and 2026 National Conference for Regional, Rural and Remote Education (NCRRRE) in Ballarat, with many useful sessions and learning from other study hubs across Australia.

We also had our first CUCNI Annual General Meeting, where the Board endorsed our Strategic Plan 2026-28, including six strategic priorities that cover how CUCNI functions and is positioned, how it serves students to achieve their dreams, and supports the island community and workforce. We are proud of what we have achieved so far and appreciate the clear grounding and direction from our wonderful Board.

Michelle Sanson
Centre Manager

'Himii' buddies

'Himii' means "you and I" in Norf'k language, and is the name of our student buddy system.



'CUCNI students Rachael MacLaren (Diploma of Counselling) and Caitlyn and Caitlin O'Callaghan (Master of Humanitarianism and Development) are buddies. They both work full-time and have committed to studying together on Saturdays. Each has agreed to follow up with the other in case she does not come along, and encourage one another in their studies.

Meanwhile on Facebook...



First Student "Go-See" Visit for Industry Exposure a Great Success

These are the words of our first CUCNI student to go on a Go-See Visit, Jonno Snell, who has been studying a Certificate III in Sport Coaching through Queensland TAFE.

"There are things you know, things you don't know, and things you don't know you don't know.... What a week of learning, growth and inspiration!

I was privileged to have be supported on an incredible "Go-See" experience by our Country Universities Centre team.

Highlights included:

- Completing my Squash Australia Level 1 accreditation, also including child safety and referee modules.
- Obtaining my Working with Children and Australian Police Check clearances.
- Spending 30 hours being mentored by Canadian Level 3 coach Robyn Prentice at Squash4Life Academy, Acacia Ridge, about junior development, player pathways, match analysis and coaching and supporting players from beginners through to Premier Pennant level.
- Attending the Queensland School Sport Conference, Pathways to Perform, at St Peters Lutheran College learning from inspiring speakers, including Dean Boxall (Australian Olympic Swimming Coach), David Shillington (Former NRL player), Medalist Kai Taylor, Netball Australia's Sharyn Donaghy and Leigh Smith speaking on leadership, athlete development and longevity, athlete mental health, culture and more.

A huge thank you to Robyn, and Lou and Michelle from Country Universities Centre for your inspiration, encouragement, guidance and support.

This experience has answered many questions, inspired new ideas and strengthened my commitment to helping our young people enjoy, develop and fall in love with squash."



Jonathan Snell with Robyn Prentice



Dean Boxall at the Conference

Careers Week

A Norfolk Island Careers Week was held 7-11 September, with activities at Norfolk Island Central School (NICS) and CUCNI.



L-R: Steven Arthur (Positive Behaviour Support Practitioner), Simon Kinch (Educational Specialist), Kate Kinch (Speech Pathologist), Debbie McGregor (NIHRACS), Michelle Sanson (CUCNI), Louise Donald (CUCNI), Luke Arnold (Health Data Analyst) at the Careers Expo.

On Monday there was a career dress up by the school students, with judging and prizes by CUCNI. On Monday evening there was a session on 'Unfinished Business', inviting residents who had started a course of tertiary study in the past and not completed it for any reason.

On Tuesday there were industry visits for school students and in the evening, a TAFE and Uni information session, with special guests from TAFE Queensland and partner Southern Cross University (SCU) student ambassador.

On Wednesday a special contribution from CUCNI's partnership with Norfolk Island Health and Residential Aged Care Service (NIHRACS) and SCU was the participation of four visiting health professionals to speak with CUCNI and NICS students about their passion for their careers and the study paths they took to reach them. It included a session at the school and another after work hours at the study hub for CUCNI students and Norfolk Island residents.

On Thursday there was a Careers Expo at the school, with a CUCNI stall and CUCNI also supported a barbecue for the students. Students nearing completion of their studies were invited rto study at the hub after school.

On Friday those whose interest was piqued from the activities of the Careers Week were invited to come along and enrol in a course and register with CUCNI.

Spring Fair

On 19 September, CUCNI contributed to the annual Spring Fair held on the grounds of St Barnabas Chapel, teaming up with partner Norfolk Island Knowledge and Learning Centre (KLC) with a stall including course guidance information.



L-R: Michelle Sanson, CUCNI Centre Manager and Lillian Mann, CUCNI Learning Support Officer

CUCNI celebrates our latest graduates

In October we celebrated three students who have completed their courses.



L-R: Jonno Snell, Maddi Murphy, Ash Christian with their CUCNI certificates

Jonathan Snell has completed his Certificate III in Sport Coaching through TAFE Queensland. ""It feels very rewarding and motivating—like I have reached a milestone that opens the door to my learning experience and I'm helping young squashes to grow" he said.

Maddison Murphy: Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood and Primary) through Swinburne University. "I feel really proud of myself for sticking with it and getting to this point. I can finally step into the career I've worked towards for so long and call myself a teacher. I now have the opportunity to use what I've learnt.

Ashleigh Christian has completed course requirements for a Bachelor of Visual Communication Design, and made the University of Newcastle Commendation List. "I've always wanted to work in the Creative Industries", Ash said. "I want to use my degree to help get Norf'k's production, design and story back into the hands of her people … I'd like to stay on the Island and work on commissions, and pursue other interests such as history/tourism … I have loved my time as an academic, so that's another avenue I can explore with CUCNI."



Ash with one of their creations



Maddi said of CUCNI "It gave me a place to study, access to support and a feeling of being connected to something bigger. Knowing there are people here who understand the challenges of remote study and genuinely want to see local students succeed makes a huge difference!"



L: Maddi undertaking her placement
R: Jonno coaching squash