

Alumni Connect

EDITION: 1

DATE: March 2014

Message from the Vice-Chancellor

An exciting new chapter in higher education began on 1 January, with the opening of Federation University Australia.

Australia's newest university has major campus operations in Ballarat, Gippsland and the Wimmera, making it one of the nation's leading regional universities.

The university will provide several hundred programs across many fields of study including business and commerce, human and community services, the visual and performing arts, mathematics, information technology, engineering, nursing, paramedicine, midwifery, biomedical sciences, criminology, food sciences, teacher education, behavioural and social sciences, humanities, human movement, sport sciences, the various trades and in manufacturing services.

Science and Engineering Building

The new Science and Engineering Building was officially opened on Tuesday 18 February, by Senator the Hon Scott Ryan, Parliamentary Secretary to the Federal Minister for Education. The \$45 million building at the Mt Helen Campus was predominantly funded by the Federal Government's Education Investment Fund, and brings together under one roof the School of Science, Information Technology and Engineering (SITE) and the School of Health Sciences.

Sports and Recreation Centre

The new Sports and Recreation Centre was also officially opened on Tuesday 18 February, by Senator the Hon Scott Ryan. The new Centre, which is part of the University's Unisports, will also be used by the School of Health Sciences for its students. It is fully equipped for the playing of basketball, netball, volleyball and badminton. With Federal Government funding of \$3 million, the centre has 1000 square metres of usable floor space.

Federation College

Federation College, an initiative from Federation University Australia, was opened by Peter Hall, the Victorian Minister for Higher Education and Skills on Friday 28 February. The college was established in 2013 to provide dedicated pathways for students from Year 10 up who have not completed VCE, to make the journey into Higher Education, employment or simply just to re-engage back into main stream education. The university thanked the Victorian Government for providing funding of \$10,163,000 for the construction of Federation College.

Building openings

Science and Engineering Building



The Hon Scott Ryan (left) and Professor David Battersby (right)

Sports and Recreation Centre



Dr Paul Hemming, Chancellor (left), The Hon Scott Ryan (middle) and Professor David Battersby (right)

Federation College



Karen Douglas, Deputy Chancellor (left) The Hon Peter Hall (right)

Talented cross-country skier Phillip Bellingham competed at the Sochi Olympic Games in the 15km Classical, 30km Skiathlon, 50km Freestyle Mass Start, Spring Freestyle and the Team Sprint Classic.

He's been skiing since childhood at his training base at Falls Creek, Victoria.

Phillip completed a Bachelor of Exercise and Sport Science at the University.



Phillip Bellingham, Winter Olympian

Congratulations to our Alumni Award winners

Young Alumni of the Year

Dr Robert Layton

Robert completed his Bachelor of Applied Computing (Mathematics), Bachelor of Computing (Honours) and PhD with the University of Ballarat. Robert's track record is impressive for an early career researcher, with over 30 publications, 130 citations and grants of a number of different sizes, including small, medium and very large grant outcomes.



Dr Robert Layton (left)

International Alumni of the Year Minister Alfredo Pires

Alfredo Pires is the Minister for Petroleum and Mineral Resources in Timor-Leste. His portfolio is one of extreme importance to the economic future of Timor-Leste, and he is acknowledged as steering a path that is both mindful of current economic imperatives as well as future socio-economic opportunities.



Minister Alfredo Pires

Are you Graduating?

FedUni and Graduate Careers Australia invite you to complete the Australian Graduate Survey.

Your feedback is extremely important to us and we would like to hear how you are progressing in your chosen field since completing your studies at FedUni.

The survey will be distributed in the coming weeks.

If you have moved recently please update your details with the Alumni Office at

www.federation.edu.au/alumni - Update your details or email alumni@federation.edu.au

For further information contact the FedUni Surveys Team on +61 3 5327 8083 or email Surveys@federation.edu.au

50 years on ... Alumni of 1965

Did you finish your studies at SMB in 1965? If so, we would love to get in contact with you.

Fellow colleagues who completed their studies in 1965 are seeking expressions of interest in holding a 50 years reunion at the end of 2015.

If you are interested or know of the whereabouts of fellow colleagues from 1965, please contact the Alumni Office on 03 5327 9929 or email alumni@federation.edu.au

Graduate Profile

Naomi Dunn (nee Cale)

Degree: Bachelor of Business (Accounting)

Graduation Year: 1994

Current Position: People & Development
Manager

Employer: Australian Securities and
Investments Commission (ASIC)



Naomi Dunn (right) receiving certificate

What are some of your career highlights?

Definitely my first job out of Ballarat University, in 1994 when we were in the midst of the 'recession we had to have'. I queued up alongside 10,000 eager people at KPMG, for a full day of psychometric and capability testing, trying to get a job at Crown Casino. There were 600 of us chosen to become Croupiers, we accepted unpaid training for 4 weeks and we worked 12 hour shifts. I ended up staying 9 years.

After 4 years of working in the Mahogany Room and private suites, looking after junkets and high rollers, I took a role in Human Resources administration. With an organisation employing up to 8,000 staff, it was a fantastic place to work and gain experience in a variety of Human Resource roles.

Describe the most enjoyable and challenging aspects of your job:

Working in Human Resources every day is different and challenging (and that is the best part of my job). I continually draw on my accounting knowledge despite having moved sideways into HR.

In my current role with ASIC, I have worked really closely with the Churchill campus to sponsor awards in the Business/Economics department, promote our graduate program, contribute to the career development programs and take on interns via the Industry Placement Program.

To see the development in our interns as they work their 6 months placement at ASIC has been thoroughly rewarding.

What are your strongest memories while you were studying at the University?

1. Walter Robson (the best Law lecturer) climbing up over the chairs in a lecture theatre to throw a duster (that's right ... we still had blackboards) at someone asleep.
2. Gillies Street Residence in my first year (I heard it got bulldozed more recently), my Dad giving me a \$50 note whilst mum wasn't looking when they dropped me off saying, "have a great time" and my little brother, Seamus, mad at me for "leaving him at home with them (our parents)."
3. Mt Helen Residence in 'Section C' when it first got built, the antics, the 90s music, Hot Gossip nightclub, the life-long friendships and any excuse to have a party and dress up in something stupid, really stay in my memory.
4. Waking up to snow every year and driving the Mazda 323 up the top of Mt Buninyong without chains.

Describe the most enjoyable and challenging aspects of your job:

Working in Human Resources, every day is different and challenging (and that is the best part of my job). I continually draw on my accounting knowledge despite having moved sideways into HR.

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Do you have any advice about life after study to pass on to current students?

I always look back at my time spent at Ballarat and think ...if I could do it all over again I would... and I wouldn't change a thing. Study hard whilst you can and stay motivated but have fun! And no matter what you study, it will always hold you in good stead in your professional career.



Interns from Churchill campus

Ex-Staff Ballarat

On Tuesday, 10 December 2013 the Ballarat Ex-Staff gathered for our end of year function which involved the unveiling of a plaque, a tour of the recently constructed Science and Engineering building and the AGM.

Following a short talk by Clare Gervasoni (Curator: Art and Historical Collections), Dr. Paul Hemming, Chancellor of Federation University Australia and John Murray, President of the Ex-Staff Ballarat unveiled a plaque celebrating the life and longevity of The Big Tree in front of approximately 16 interested people. This tree was planted in 1896 and it is hoped that it will survive for a similar time in the future. The wording on the plaque says it all.

Following the unveiling, everyone moved over to the new Science and Engineering building where Phil Collins (Facilities Manager, Building Services) took us on a tour and talked about some of the wonderful modern features incorporated into the building. Some of the older staff commented on the lack of blackboards or chalk boards and wondered how you could possibly lecture without accompanying chalk dust!! The new building was officially opened on 18 February by Senator the Hon Scott Ryan, Parliamentary Secretary to the Federal Minister for Education.

After the tour, it was time for the AGM with 14 in attendance and 8 apologies. Items discussed included the consequences of the University's name change for the Ex-Staff group and the possibility of a trip to Gippsland to meet our ex-staff from there which was enthusiastically supported. Committee elections saw Geoff Boyd replace John Murray as President following an outstanding term of office by John.



Plaque – Tree of Knowledge



Dr Paul Hemming, Chancellor (left) and Mr John Murray, President (right)



Ex-Staff Association with University staff

FedUni Alumni Library Membership

Just because you've left our University doesn't mean you lose the valuable resources of the University Library. Alumni Library membership allows you to borrow library items and access selected electronic resources.

There are three membership options available:

- 12 month membership from January – December AU\$55.00 (incl. GST)
- 6 month membership from January – June AU\$33.00 (incl. GST)
- 6 month membership from July – December AU\$33.00 (incl. GST)

You can apply for new library membership or renew your membership through myAlumni Centre.

For further information, contact the Alumni Office on +61 3 5327 9929, email alumni@federation.edu.au or visit our website federation.edu.au/alumni

Tell us your story!

FedUni Alumni would love to hear what you've been doing since you left University

To provide feedback or submit information for the newsletter contact Pam on +61 353279929 or email alumni@federation.edu.au

FedUni Golden Key

There has been much excitement around the rebranding of the University as this means we also have a new name: FedUni Golden Key. As David Sproules stepped down from the role of President late last year, Elisabeth Eccles has been voted in as Interim President until our next AGM (in May 2014). Also Ellen Sabo stepped down as Vice-President, and Adam Bignold has been voted as Interim VP.

On 13 February two members of our chapter here at Federation University Australia represented us at the 2014 Asia-Pacific Golden Key Conference.

Adam Bignold and Amelia Best attended the conference in Hobart joining members from New Zealand, Malaysia, Australia and beyond. This year's theme was 'Think GLOBAL, Act Local'.

The conference played hosts to a variety of workshops, panels and keynote addresses with a nice and early start for the delegates starting with a session by the Co-Founder of Mambo – Dare Jennings, with a focus on careers and professional development. The Keynote Speaker was Sebastian Robertson, Founder and CEO of Batyr. There was a large focus on leadership which was full of beneficial insights for all of our delegates to take home and apply in their life. Also our very own members presented a workshop on 'Partnership: Keeping your chapter afloat'.

*Article written by Golden Key member
Saumya Desai*



Adam Bignold (left) and Amelia Best at Asia-Pacific Golden Key Conference 2014



Golden Key

For further information on the FedUni Golden Key Chapter, visit the website www.fedunigoldenkey.com or goldenkey@federation.edu.au

Be involved in a FedUni Alumni Chapter

Hong Kong Chapter



Malaysia Chapter



Australia-China Alumni Association



For further information go to www.federation.edu.au/alumni - About Alumni Chapters and networks