Message from the Vice-Chancellor

More than 1000 students graduated at ceremonies in May from Federation University Australia, the first under the new banner.

Our first graduation ceremonies as FedUni were a very special occasion. It is pleasing that we had so many international students graduating, particularly in business.

The University has partner providers both nationally and internationally and we are delighted at graduation time to see these students and their families.

The University also was delighted to confer Honorary Doctorates on several leading local citizens. Former FedUni Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor Rowena Coutts received an Honorary Doctorate. Town planner and sportsman, Rex Hollioake MBE, also received an Honorary Doctorate.

In addition, students Christina Curry and Edward Peters were presented with their PhD testamurs, together with Christian Arendt, who was conferred with a Master of Engineering.

Students from the Wimmera Campus also graduated on Thursday, 29 May, at the Wesley Performing Arts Centre, Horsham. Former Horsham Mayor and local businessman, Don Johns OAM, received an Honorary Doctorate.

Honorary Doctorates

In recognition of her eminent service and contributions to the governance, leadership and international arrangements of the University of Ballarat, Federation University Australia was pleased to have Rowena Elizabeth Coutts as its first degree recipient with the award of Doctor of the University Honoris Causa.

In recognition of his eminent service and contributions to local government, to sport, and to the Ballarat community, Federation University Australia was pleased to honour Rex Hume Hollioake with the degree of Doctor of the University Honoris Causa.

In recognition of his eminent service and contributions to environmental protection, civic leadership and the community of Horsham, Federation University Australia was pleased to honour Donald McGregor Johns with the degree of Doctor of the University Honoris Causa.
The University Medal is awarded to a graduate who has consistently demonstrated exceptional academic achievement throughout their studies. The University Medal is the highest academic award that can be bestowed on a graduating student by the University.

This year the recipient of the University Medal was Cassandra Ann Crosbie.

Vice-Chancellor’s Award

This year the recipient of the 2013 Vice-Chancellor’s award was Leah Tiley.

Leah received the Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Excellence for consistently high academic results, clear commitment to the University, ongoing studies for career development and continual involvement.
A number of partner provider graduates from ASTRO, DELL and STAMFORD in Malaysia have sent in Graduate Profiles. These are all available for viewing on the alumni website under Alumni Profiles – Profile Listing. Excerpts from each profile are shown below.

**Do you have any advice about life after study?**
- To be brave, to try new ideas and to achieve different results
- Dream big, dream often and no dream is unreachable
- Stay positive and do not be hesitant to take up additional responsibility
- Without support groups, it wouldn’t be possible. Always stay positive and motivated
- Always start things ahead of time, don’t rush things at the last minute
- The learning does not stop after you complete your studies
- Have commitment and determination to complete despite the hard times
- Stay focused on what you want to do
- Whatever you do, as long as there’s passion, there will be success
- When encountering any obstacles, never give up and continue to work hard
- Work hard, but remember to have fun
- For greater success, have full passion and be involved in whatever you do

**What are your strongest memories of time studying?**
- Being exposed to a totally new world
- I loved the access to the great lecturers
- Doing a lot of research, reading in University, online library, Dell Library
- Meeting people from diverse educational backgrounds and working experiences
- Definitely my teammates. We had fun and enjoyed every moment of the course
- Building strong team rapport with my team members
- Getting further understanding about other international friends’ cultures and lifestyles
- Having strong support from program officers and lecturers
- Learned to face challenges head-on
Hong Kong Alumni Chapter

Professor Todd Walker and Professor Mike Willis spoke to the Hong Kong Alumni Chapter members in March to provide an update on Federation University Australia and to discuss plans for 2014.

Hong Kong Alumni Chapter event photos (above)

Federation University Australia officially launched in China

Professor David Battersby and members of the senior team successfully launched the new University in China under the marketing banner of “Your Future Has a New Name” at Beijing Traders Hotel on Monday March 10.

The event was attended by over 75 people including Australian government representatives from peak bodies, Australian Embassy Beijing, Austrade and DIPI, Chinese Ministry of Education and provincial education authorities, Australian stakeholders and FedUni partner institutions, together with a cohort of FedUni alumni who are based in Beijing and Tianjin.

Prominent alum, Dr Xiaohong Zhang, Deputy Director of International Office, Fujian University of Technology, spoke at the function of her positive experience during her years of studying in Ballarat. Xiaohong spoke emotionally about the level of support she gained from staff while she studied her PhD at the Faculty of Education and Arts.

Senior staff and delegates at Hong Kong Alumni Chapter event

Australian Alumni in Singapore event

The Australian Alumni in Singapore event hosted in May by the Australian High Commissioner was a huge success.

Over 450 people were in attendance, including alumni from Federation University Australia.
On April 11 the 2014 Golden Key (GK) New Members Reception was held at Federation University Australia in Ballarat. The Chapter was pleased to meet representatives from the local Australian Catholic University chapter, as well as our new University Relations Officer Amelia Yip, at the event.

Inducting 145 new members on the night, with an additional 230 or so people who received their certificate via post, the chapter is going from strength to strength.

Keynote speaker, Professor Marcia Devlin (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Learning and Quality) spoke about investing in experiences whilst at university to build capacity and skills suitable for the job market. "If you put your all in to something, you will soon reap the rewards" said Prof. Devlin.

To reflect the new name, and the broadening of the University footprint, the chapter inducted honorary members Prof. Marcia Devlin, Dr Harry Ballis, Head of Gippsland Campus along with Mr Geoffrey Lord, Head of Western Campuses. "It's a great opportunity for us to reflect that FedUni stretches from Horsham in the West, to Churchill in the East" said Chapter President Elisabeth Eccles. “All three of our Honorary members have had significant impacts in their areas. Dr Ballis has worked tirelessly to improve education in the Gippsland region, Prof. Devlin has worked to improve opportunities for rural and remote students to enter higher education, and Mr Lord not only has raised the profile of FedUni in the west, encouraging young people to take up vocational and higher education opportunities, but has used his connections in the business world in the region to put higher education on the agenda.”  "We are delighted to have such prestigious educational leaders in our GK fold.”

“It’s great to pull all of our campuses together with honorary members, who can be advocates for Golden Key in their local regions.” said chapter advisor, Deborah Cutts.  “Welcoming 360 students into our Chapter, with 145 of them able to make it here tonight is amazing and I am so excited about the things the chapter can do with such enthusiastic people.” she continued.

Deborah also received the Intellectual Engagement Award for 2013 on behalf of the chapter. In the lead up to the Federal elections, the chapter organised a political debate as their IE event, with David Sproules, Damien Ray and Tischa Biddle taking the lead, with the support of Naomi Biggs from the FedUni Student Experience Office. “I am extremely proud to be able to receive this award on behalf of the Chapter” Deborah said. “It’s amazing to see the team put in so much effort, as well as develop negotiation, project management and PR skills.” she went on to say. The event saw representatives from six of the political parties running for the local seat in the election discuss topics put forward by students including same sex marriage, education and climate change.

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

Name: Mark Thrimawithana
Degree: Master of Business Administration (Marketing)
Graduation Year: 2014
Current Position: Senior Manager Marketing
Employer: Softlogic Finance PLC

What are some of your career highlights?
I have been in the Banking and Marketing field for the last 20 years. Brand Management, Service Marketing, Product Development, Retail banking, and training and development is some of my experience.

Leaving my first job after working for over 15 years was the biggest risk I took which rewarded me for life.

For the last few years I have been able to enjoy some of the best experiences in life. I was able to work as a Marketing Consultant at a Multinational IT company and I was the Head of Marketing at a medium size bank.

I believe the Master of Business Administration at the University of Ballarat modified me and moulded me with a 360% turn to face challenges which paved way for my success.

What are your strongest memories while you were studying at the University?
Meeting some fantastic people;
Team work;
The extra knowledge that we received

Describe the most enjoyable and challenging aspects of your job
The most enjoyable time is when I see the results of a program implemented and reaching the expectations. Implementing a scheme for the first time in Sri Lanka was something that I really enjoyed.

The biggest challenge I have faced so far is working with people.

Do you have any advice about life after study?
Life is short. Every minute is something that you will never have back.

Love the life that you live, love the others as well as you expect.

Respect the education and share humbly where you will receive credit at the right time.

Have some of the good fellows around. They will be better than diamonds when you need someone so badly.
Mentors Wanted
Calling all Indigenous Alumni members

Would you like the opportunity to mentor a fellow indigenous student undertaking FedUni’s Indigenous Careers Program?

Mentoring will give you the opportunity to assist students overcome common challenges which might include transition issues into their chosen industry, having to build a new network of friends, and managing a busy work/home/study life.

The position would allow you to provide first-hand support to enable students to embrace the challenges and opportunities they will face in their chosen industry/profession.

If you are interested in helping smooth the transition for students undertaking the Indigenous Careers Program and develop your leadership and interpersonal skills, please contact Student Careers and Employment Office at FedUni on (03) 5327 9910 or email studentcareerhub@federation.edu.au

R. W. Richards Medal

The R W Richards Medal is awarded to the most outstanding graduate of Applied Science. John Hazledine was awarded the medal at the School of Science, Information Technology and Engineering, Student Award Ceremony on Friday 30 May 2014.

John has had an excellent academic record during his three years at the University with a GPA of 6.9 and all his results were high distinctions (HDs) except two which were distinctions (D)

The R W Richards Medal has been awarded annually since 1959 to commemorate the life of Richard (Dick) Richards, as an Antarctic Explorer and Lecturer in Physics and Mathematics and Principal of the School of Mines 1946 to 1958 and for his long service to tertiary education.

John Hazledine’s achievements during his three years study make him a worthy recipient of this award.

Honour Boards unveiled

As we continue the transition from the University of Ballarat to Federation University Australia, three new honour boards have been designed to ensure the continuance of the R W Richards Medal, the A E Stohr Medal and Pitman Benjamin Prize for Engineering Sustainability awards into the future.

These new honour boards were displayed for the first time at the Student Awards Ceremony and are proudly displayed in the foyer of the new Science and Engineering building at Mt Helen.

John Collier Bequest

Alum, John Collier was born in Ballarat in 1937 and studied at the Ballarat School of Mines (SMB) receiving a Diploma of Mining and a Diploma of Civil Engineering and then went on to study further in Melbourne. He believed that his experience at SMB had a profound influence on his life and was very proud of his association with SMB.

He made a significant contribution throughout his career in Mining and in 2006 was made a Legend in Mining by the Australian Mining Industry. John passed away in June 2012 and generously bequeathed funds to the School of Science, Information Technology and Engineering (SITE) to support research, learning and teaching and knowledge transfer within the school. These funds have been used to purchase a Perkins diesel engine. The engine will be used by students for simulating the underground mining environment where diesel particulate emissions are a serious health concern. With this engine we can carry out research and develop particulate filters for the benefit of underground mining workers.
Ex-Staff visit to Gippsland

Following the enthusiastic response to the idea at the December Annual General Meeting, it was decided that a visit to the Gippsland campus would be interesting for all. And so it was that on the 30th April at 8am a mini-bus departed the Mt. Helen campus with a small group of approximately 10 ageing ex Ballarat staff with cryptic crosswords, sudokus and cameras in hand, under the guidance and surveillance (remember, ageing!) of tour organiser Pam Sutcliffe.

After close to a four hour drive including a pit stop on the outskirts of Melbourne (remember, ageing again!) and a phone call back to Ballarat to ensure that the red light on the dashboard wasn’t really going to cause our demise, we arrived at the refreshingly beautiful Gippsland campus to be met by Phil Rayment and Kevin Cale of the ex Gippsland staff.

After a very relaxing and casual lunch, Gippsland’s John Harris gave a brief presentation of the Gippsland history. Accompanied by much nodding (not the ageing type!) from the Ballarat staff we soon realised that the alignment of our histories was amazing with Technical School/College and Victoria Institute of Colleges involvement and now University involvement. Of particular significance was the importance of the Gippsland Institution to the large neighbouring Electricity Industry of Victoria. Further, the similarities of providing off campus studies to serve rural and overseas students, was noted.

A brief tour of the campus and its buildings followed. The impression was clearly of a very friendly campus nestled beautifully into the surrounding environment.

Finally, the trip home. Nice to have someone a bit younger driving the bus. All in all, a great day with the ex Ballarat staff now looking forward to a return trip with the ex Gippsland staff later in the year.

Thanks to Pam, Phil and Kevin in particular for a most enjoyable day.

Geoff Boyd
President, Ex-Staff Ballarat

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 3 5327 9929 or email alumni@federation.edu.au

Ex-Staff Ballarat & Gippsland visit (above)

Gippsland history

Former chemistry lecturer John Harris gave an excellent, well researched presentation covering the evolution of the Gippsland campus at the ex-staff visit.

- Yallourn Technical School established in 1928, which offered professional diploma courses in engineering from the early 1930s, through to the present day.
- In 1965, Yallourn Technical College, as it was by then named, moved to new facilities in East Newborough, near Moe.
- The next step was the establishment of the Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education (GIAE) in 1968, under the aegis of the Victorian Institute of Colleges, with its first new buildings in the new town of Churchill being occupied in 1972.
- GIAE’s first Director, Max Hopper, was a strong advocate of distance education, which saw rapid development through the 1970s and 1980s.
- By the late 1980s, the range of courses offered spanned engineering, applied sciences, business, humanities and social sciences, teacher education, visual arts and nursing, with most programmes being either wholly or in part available also in the off-campus learning mode.
- In more recent times, GIAE merged with Monash University in 1990, first as a university college and then later as Monash University Gippsland Campus.

All present noted the many parallels between the Ballarat and Gippsland campuses in this process of evolution, even though Ballarat’s history extends further back in time.

Phil Rayment
Ex-Staff Gippsland