



Country
Universities
Centre
OVENS MURRAY



ANNUAL REPORT

2024

We wish to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands that CUC Ovens Murray services. We pay our respects to the people who walked these hills and waterways for thousands of years, as well as today. We extend our respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People and their deep and enduring connection to Country across all these lands now known as Australia.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message From the Chair	1
Centre Manager Report	3
Our Story	5
Student Support	6
Partnerships	7
Community Engagement	10
2024 Year in Review	11
Student Experience Survey	12
Snapshot of 2024	13
Highlights of 2024	14
Student Success	15
Celebrating Our Students	16
Our Board	18
2024 Alumni	19

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



**John
Joyce**

Board Chair

It has been a privilege to again Chair this Board, which comprises people of extraordinary wisdom, experience, insight and energy.

On behalf of the CUC Ovens Murray Board, I am pleased to present the 2023-24 Annual Report. As reported last year, CUC Ovens Murray (CUC-OM) was established on the back of extraordinary vision and the enormous efforts of individuals and agencies within our region. The aim was to ensure that a new model of equitable and locally accessible university education delivery could occur across the three geographical sites of Wangaratta, Mansfield and Corryong.

The supporting roles of the three councils, Rural City of Wangaratta, Mansfield Shire, Towong Shire and our local partners in our three localities have been instrumental in both the consolidation and development of CUC Ovens Murray. Especially GOTAFE at Wangaratta, MACE in Mansfield and the Towong Shire Council and Snowy Hydro in Corryong, for their support of facilities and service.

Again, as per last year, I have to acknowledge the support and guidance that we have received through our affiliation with CUC Central through its highly skilled staff and passionate advocacy for rural and remote education. The leadership role of CUC Central across all our sites nationally provides a clear space for local CUC's to concentrate fully on our own development priorities.

Although I run the risk of being repetitive, as CUC-OM is a company limited by guarantee, it is required to be governed by an independent Board of Directors. It has been a privilege to again Chair this Board, which comprises people of extraordinary wisdom, experience, insight and energy. Over the course of this reporting year, the Board has again continued to establish and implement the appropriate mechanisms and tools of governance to ensure appropriate oversight and provide our communities with access to university education.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

During the year, the Board has continued to refine and develop the key outcomes that we are strategically addressing: student success, regional impact, interconnectedness, local knowledge and growth. We have spent a good deal of time finalising our latest Strategic Plan which we were proud to launch at our AGM (this can be found on our webpage).

For all organisations, without a superior Strategic Plan and a clear understanding of the priority goals for the forthcoming years, there is little direction for the operational side of the organisation. I am really pleased that, as a Board, we believe we have a document that provides clarity of direction and is succinct in its format. Again, many thanks to each Board member and our Centre Manager, Mark van Bergen, for the input and development of this important document.

Having mentioned the operational side of our Centre, I wish to recognise the continued outstanding efforts made by our Centre Manager, Mark van Bergen. Mark's passion for education and advocacy for our students ensures that all those who come into our centre are supported to overcome any obstacles and barriers to their completion of studies.

Mark and his team are the key drivers in leading our registered people towards our vision of "A local space for lifelong learning, where people can engage in higher education, explore interests and remain curious in a supportive learning community."

The Board would like to thank each and every staff member for their dedication to making our communities a better place to learn.

Finally, we are excited to also announce that we anticipate that the refurbishment of our Wangaratta site, Building F at GOTAFE, will be finalised this October and we can return to our dedicated "home". I cannot thank Mark and the Wangaratta team for the great efforts while we were relocated at the GOTAFE Tone Road campus during renovations.

Also the great support that GOTAFE has provided during our Wangaratta journey being instrumental in now having a first class facility to offer to our Wangaratta community.

With all that in place, I look forward to further great outcomes into the future.

John Joyce
Board Chair

CENTRE MANAGERS REPORT



**Mark
van Bergen**
Centre Manager

As the inaugural Centre Manager, it has been pleasing to reflect on the progress and achievements we have made in our first three years.

As I write this, I can report that we have supported over 300 students in the Ovens Murray region with their higher education studies, and as you will see further on in the Annual Report, we are now seeing some of these people graduate. Most of these graduates are local people who will use their knowledge and skills locally which is tremendous for our communities.

On our website homepage there is a quote I gave when I commenced in the role: ***“Learning online or by distance doesn’t have to be an isolating experience.”*** As our number of registered students grows, so does the number of student visits to our centres in Mansfield, Corryong and Wangaratta. This growth has been a highlight for me, seeing people connect and share the highs and lows of completing a course, even though they are doing different degrees and qualifications with different institutions. They share a common bond, not only of studying but also the juggling of work, family and their involvement in the community.

Our staff at CUC Ovens Murray are vital to the work that we do to support students. We have eight staff across our three sites, with each bringing a wealth of experience, local knowledge and enthusiasm to their role. Our Centre Administrator provides administrative support across the three locations, as well as being the welcoming face in Wangaratta and holding the fort whilst I am out and about. In Corryong and Mansfield, we have Education Coordinators providing that first port of call for students and establishing connections in the community, and we also have Learning Skills Advisors (LSA) that provide one-on-one academic support and workshops to students in Corryong, Wangaratta and Mansfield.

Student survey results indicated that all respondents found the staff ‘very helpful’ or ‘extremely helpful’. Our service has conducted 332 LSA sessions totalling 274 hours over the last 12 months, covering a range of topics from assignment planning, digital literacy, referencing, through to exam preparation, writing feedback and everything in between.

CENTRE MANAGERS REPORT

We have also added a Widening Participation Coordinator to the team to support our Peak Pathways program which is a dynamic collaboration between CUC Ovens Murray, La Trobe University, and RMIT University. A series of four activities have been co-designed in each community, to empower Year 5 - 7 students in regional areas to explore higher education and career opportunities through engaging, hands-on activities. Peak Pathways is funded through the Regional Partnerships Project Pool Program (RPPPP), an initiative of the Australian Government Department of Education. Our project is 1 of 18 that make up the Eastern Australia Regional University Centres Partnership (EARUCP) EARUCP is co-led by UTS and CUC Central, in partnership with Universities and Regional University Centres across Queensland, Victoria, ACT and New South Wales.

Visiting our pilot schools each term and delivering engaging activities that inform aspirations in young people, has been a standout accomplishment this year. As one teacher commented through feedback,

"...Very engaging activities that support social skills and goal setting. This program opens up the possibilities in careers that our country kids don't know that are out there".

Another teacher wrote "...great use of movement initiatives to support student engagement as well as creating an experience for students to reflect and identify different job skills."

I am pleased to report that refurbishment works are well underway at our Wangaratta facility and are scheduled for completion in October. We are incredibly grateful to GOTAFE for being able to continue our CUC service from the GOTAFE Tone Road Campus whilst refurbishment works have been taking place. The commencement of this project has been a long time coming, and seeing this progress is a testament to the commitment and perseverance of all involved in the partnership.

Another significant accomplishment I am pleased to announce, is the release of CUC Ovens Murray's Strategic Plan for 2024-2027. The plan builds upon our experience and knowledge of operations over the last three years, and provides clear direction of what CUC Ovens Murray aims to achieve in the next three years and why. Thank you to the CUC Ovens Murray Board of Directors for their support and guidance over the year. I look forward to growing our presence in the community and providing support to many more students in the coming years.

**Mark
van Bergen**
Centre Manager



OUR STORY

The Country Universities Centre's origins were in the establishment of the Cooma Universities Centre in 2013, designed to provide improved supported higher educational opportunities in that town of approximately 7,000 people.

WHAT WE DO

CUC Ovens Murray are three dedicated learning and study spaces located in Wangaratta, Mansfield and Corryong, that support any student, studying any course, at any Australian university. Students can connect with like-minded people and engage in a learning community while they study locally. We are focused on supporting the academic success of students and ensuring they have the tools to succeed in their higher education journey.

STUDENT SUPPORT

HERE FOR OUR STUDENTS

With the support of their local CUC regional, rural and remote students can follow their dreams when it comes to study. The CUC has responded to student needs and created an innovative model that allows choice by supporting any student, studying any course, at any Australian Tertiary Education Provider.

The wrap-around model of student support provides face-to-face academic, wellbeing, technology, administrative support in a learning community in addition to what each student's university already provides. These extra layers of support are crucial for many students who study with the CUC.

Regional online students are often at greater risk of attrition. Many students are from low SES backgrounds, are the first in their family to attend university, or have caring responsibilities and multiple other commitments. The CUC offers a free, safe and welcoming environment to study with flexible and personalised face-to-face support. The CUC understands that students are individuals that need a variety of supports to meet their needs so that we meet students where they are in their education journey.

CUC Ovens Murray supports students at all our sites, with the provision of Education Coordinators at the Mansfield and Corryong locations and a Centre Manager and Centre Administrator in Wangaratta to support students registered with CUC-OM. Learning Skills Advisors are employed across the three sites, offering workshops and one-on-one academic support to students.



PARTNERSHIPS

Government & Community Partnerships

Essential to the success of the CUC has been the support of our partners, including the Commonwealth Government, university partners, local government and community partners.

The Australian Government

The Australian Government is investing more than \$74 million to assist in the establishment and operation of community-owned, Regional University Centres at sites across regional Australia. CUC is a successful recipient of the Commonwealth's Regional University Centres Program and gratefully acknowledges the support received to date.

Foundation for Regional Rural and Renewal (FRRR)

The FRRR is supporting the CUC through its not-for-profit fundraising account.

Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE (GOTAFE)

GOTAFE have provided the ongoing use of a facility located within the Docker Street campus.

Mansfield Adult Community Education (MACE)

CUC Ovens Murray is supported by MACE with a dedicated space within their facility in Mansfield.

Towong Shire Council

Three modular buildings at the Corryong Innovation Space have been provided by the Towong Shire Council to accommodate the CUC Ovens Murray.

PARTNERSHIPS

University Partnerships

The CUC has formal partnerships with the following universities:

LaTrobe University

A new strategic partnership between La Trobe and CUC will enhance support for rural higher education students choosing to stay in their local community. This partnership is a testament to the shared vision of improving low participation rates in higher education outside of metropolitan areas through a community-led approach.

University of Technology Sydney (UTS)

UTS have partnered with the CUC to develop the Regional Partnerships Project Pool Program (RPPPP). This program brings together 19 universities and 16 Regional University Centres to design tailored school outreach programmes for the local community.

University of New England (UNE)

As Australia's oldest provider of distance and online education, the expertise of UNE has been highly valued by the CUC. Sharing of knowledge between UNE Support Staff, CUC Centre Managers and LSAs has provided a valuable resource for CUC students and developed an enhanced understanding of the challenges online regional students face. UNE are also an Outreach and Widening Participation partner with the CUC.

CQ University

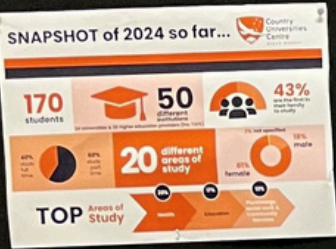
The CUC and CQUniversity have a shared mission in supporting regional students to succeed, irrespective of where they live. The university has been a close partner of the CUC since its establishment and continues to provide expertise and support to students across the CUC network. CQUniversity are also an Outreach and Widening Participation partner with the CUC.

Charles Sturt University (CSU)

In a collaboration between industry, community and university, the CUC works with CSU to provide connections between students and the university. CSU are also an Outreach and Widening Participation partner with the CUC.

Federation University

This partnership provides the framework for future collaborations to share knowledge, expertise, and support students across the CUC network. Federation are also an Outreach and Widening Participation partner on the RPPPP.

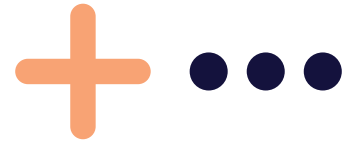


Ask
Que
...



A sign titled "SUPPORTING HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS" with the Country Universities Centre logo. It features a QR code and the text "REGISTER NOW". Below the QR code, it says "The CUC Ovens Murray provides facilities and support for higher education students from any institution, including Curtin, Edith Cowan, Murdoch University & RMIT University. It offers a range of services, including: • Access to the CUC Ovens Murray building • Access to the CUC Ovens Murray building • Access to the CUC Ovens Murray building". At the bottom, it says "gotafe" and "Country Universities Centre".

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



OUR COMMUNITY ARE OUR BIGGEST SUPPORTERS.

The Centre has engaged with local industry, schools, and organisations. The success of this Centre depends on the support from our local community.

Local Schools

Our Peak Pathways program is a series of activities that we have co-designed with local schools and university partners. We have piloted four different activities with upper primary and lower secondary students across our three communities to inform aspirations. CUC Ovens Murray staff have also engaged with the schools by supporting school expos and presenting to senior students and answering their questions about higher education.

Local Organisations

CUC Ovens Murray continues to build connections and partnerships with local organisations and groups across the region. CUC Ovens Murray has been visible and active in supporting community events, groups and networks across Corryong, Mansfield and Wangaratta.

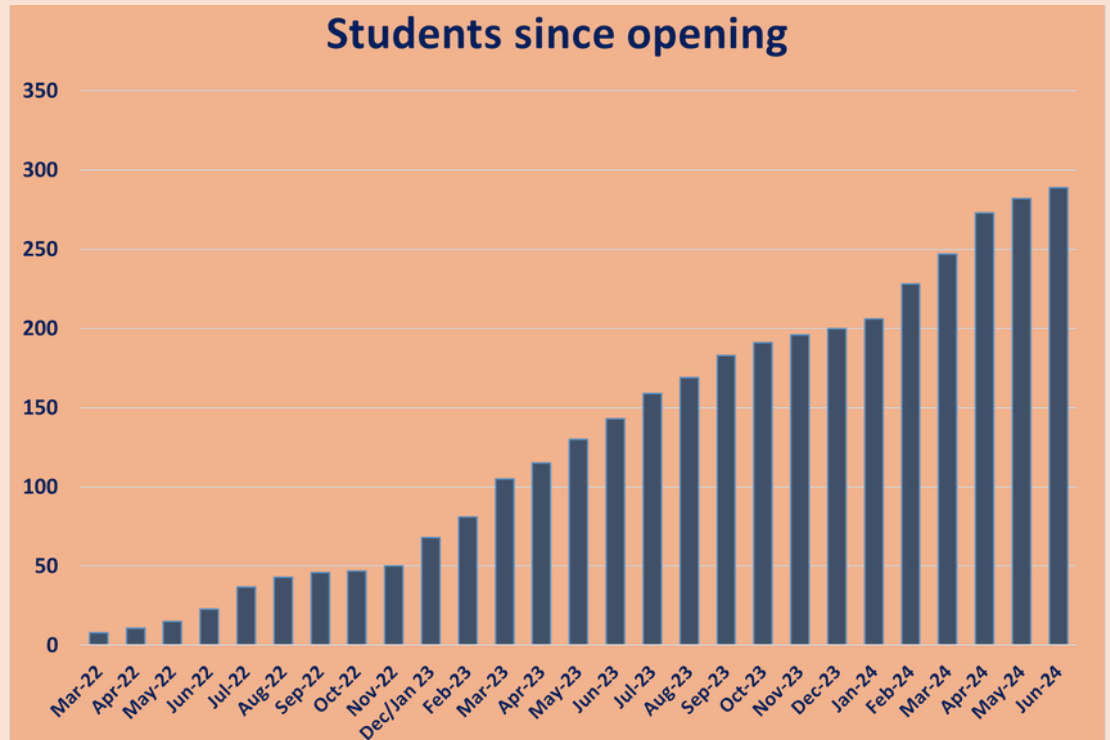
Local People

Our students are our greatest ambassadors. 'Word of mouth' of their experience and knowledge of the Centres has been a key driver of our growth. CUC Ovens Murray now has a pool of casual 'Student Ambassadors' that have been supporting our Peak Pathways program in schools, as well as community stalls and events.

2024

YEAR IN REVIEW

A TIME FOR GROWTH



- July - Widening Participation Coordinator appointed (0.6 FTE)
- Aug - Co-Design workshops with CUC-OM, schools and university partners held in Mansfield, Wangaratta & Corryong.
- Sep - Snowy Hydro donate two sit/stand desks for Corryong
- Oct - Year 12 VCE student study space available at CUC-OM during the three week exam period.
- Nov - AVCLP group complete community project for CUC-OM about Educational Aspirations for 3 local primary schools.
- Dec - 200th Student registered with CUC-OM

- Jan - Mansfield student received Bursary (\$1000) through Bendigo Community Bank - Mansfield and District.
- Feb - Tender approved to complete Wangaratta refurbishment
- Mar - Mental Health First Aid course run at Wangaratta
- Apr - NBN Enterprise Ethernet upgrade to Wangaratta
- May - Delivery of multiple Peak Pathways activities at schools
- Jun - Temporary relocation of Wangaratta to GOTAFE Tone Road campus, whilst refurbishment works commence.

STUDENT EXPERIENCE SURVEY 2024

KEY FINDINGS

100%

of students felt safe and welcomed at their CUC



100%

said the CUC helps improve their academic performance



93%

said the presence of a CUC contributed to their wellbeing



“DEDICATED STUDY AREAS” was the main reason students attended their local CUC

“The environment really helps you feel focused on study and I have access to everything I need, fast internet especially, the internet at home is shocking.”

Rebecca Dowd,
Bachelor of Nursing

“I feel much more confident about studying my degree online knowing that CUC is there and there is staff that I can meet with face to face and can get guidance and feedback on my work.”

Martina Stevenson,
Bachelor of Social Work



100%

said the presence of a CUC makes it easier for me to stay, study or work in my community

SNAPSHOT OF 2024

177 STUDENTS

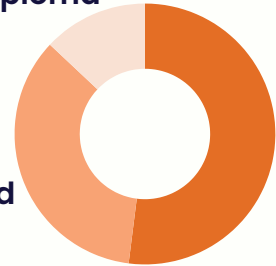


44%

are the first in their family to study

13%
Cert/Diploma

35%
Postgrad



52%
Undergrad



50
UNIVERSITIES
& NUHEPS

39%
study full time



61%
study part time

TOP AREAS OF STUDY

39%

Health

18%

Education

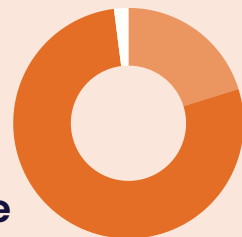
12%

Psychology,
social work &
Community
Services

20 different areas of study

2% non-binary

80%
female



18%
male

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024

Peak Pathways

Working with school, RMIT and La Trobe university to co-design outreach activities that inform aspirations of students in years 5 to 7. Four tailored activities have been developed and are being delivered at our pilot schools each term.

Student Ambassadors

CUC Ovens Murray now has a pool of casual student ambassadors to support our widening participation work. This is largely due to the increase of engagement activities that CUC-OM is involved with, through the Peak Pathways program and community events.

Wangaratta Refurbishment

The refurbishment works to the building at the GOTAFE Docker Street campus are well underway and are scheduled for completion in October. It will be a space that has been redesigned for students to include; toilets inside the building, six bookable breakout rooms, a meeting room, a student lounge with full kitchen, a new entrance, reception and office.

Growth

The last 12 months has seen growth in student registrations and number of visits to the centres each month. We have also seen an increase in Learning Skills Advisor sessions held, and most pleasing has been the number of people that have graduated.

STUDENT SUCCESS

GRADUATE STUDENT STORY

**Dani
Netherclift**

**PhD. in
Creative Writing**

**Deakin
University**



It took until I was in my 40s, having left jobs in accounts and sales after having my two children for me to return finally to my first love, creative writing. The rise and rise of online learning resources allowed me to return to study at Deakin University while my children were still very small, and I completed my bachelor's degree and honours before I moved to Mansfield the year I embarked on my PhD in creative writing.

The first half of my PhD was at times a struggle, with continuing lockdowns and assisting my children with remote learning. When I discovered CUC Mansfield, located within the Mansfield Adult Continuing Education centre (MACE), it made so much difference. Being able to have a professional workspace, as opposed to my kitchen table meant not only that I could motivate myself to not get distracted from the task at hand by the pressing need to wash the dishes or hang out some laundry, but that I become part of a larger local cohort of adult tertiary students in my community. I met some great people at CUC, and there is such a range of difference in what people are studying and at what stage. The staff, Sally and Tara were always welcoming, and it was a pleasure to have a chat, as online study is quote a solo endeavour by nature, and especially at a post-grad level where you don't attend any online classes. Such a sense of community is, I believe key to retaining students in continuing education.

It was wonderful when I had a deadline, to be able to access the centre on the weekends or at night with my key fob, and it felt safe, and was additionally warm in winter and cool in summer. It was handy to never have to worry about an internet connection, and to be able print out drafts for marking up during editing.

I have now finished my degree and am just waiting to graduate in September, so I can be Dr Dani. The narrative nonfiction book that I wrote for my PhD, *Vessel: The Shape of Absent Bodies* will be published by Upswell in November, so I have been busy with edits and other book related things, and I am writing another book, as well as a long academic paper, and working out what comes next, whether to stay in the academic sector or elsewhere. I am also the new president of the Mansfield Readers and Writers Festival, which we are staging in October of 2025. I feel blessed for the resources provided by CUC Mansfield, and it certainly helped me to get where I am. Many thanks to Sally, Tara and Mark, as well as to the friendly staff at MACE.

STUDENT SUCCESS

GRADUATE STUDENT STORY



**Handoko
Wahjudi**

**PhD. in
Ecology**

**University of
Melbourne**

I'm grateful to you and the CUC. Last year, I lacked a quiet place in Corryong to work from which made it difficult to publish my PhD research. Fortunately the CUC kindly provided me with an office, dual monitor computers and internet. Your support helped me publish on time, which cleared the way for my river restoration work in New South Wales and several publications with the University of Melbourne. Thank you for your very kind help. I'd recommend your facilities to anyone looking to complete their studies.

Here is a short description of my work. "Han investigated the relationships between dams, river flows and the amount of egg-laying habitat for aquatic insects. He found that irrigation flows coupled with excessive algal growth cause catastrophic losses of such habitat. These world-first findings help explain biodiversity losses from dammed rivers and provide new avenues for river restoration." - Prof. Barbara Downes, The University of Melbourne

CELEBRATING OUR STUDENTS

OUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS



Isabelle Cottrell
**Bachelor of Medical
Radiation Science**
Charles Sturt University

When I heard of the CUC, I was excited to have a place to go and get out of the house and complete university work. Having access to dual monitors, wi-fi, printing and stationery was a game changer! I have used the CUC for all aspects of university, from streaming lectures, completing assignments, and sitting exams," said Isabelle.

After the completion of her third-year studies, Isabelle started a 9-month placement in Wangaratta.

"I used the Wangaratta CUC Centre before and after work to complete my assessments and portfolio. This Centre was a space for me to go after work, relax and get lots of work done. Some days it felt like a second home."



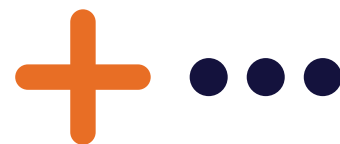
Karen Hemsley
**Cert IV in Training and
Assessment**
CBD College

Karen has been a regular visitor to CUC Ovens Murray's Corryong centre whilst she has been studying a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment to develop skills and qualifications to support her work in training lifeguards and running the local pool.

She recently commented,

"The CUC makes me motivated to study. I find I get a lot more work done here, compared to home. I have no distractions, a quiet place and all the support and technology to complete my qualifications."

OUR BOARD MEMBERS



JOHN JOYCE
Chair



KYLIE RICHARDS
Treasurer



**DR. WERNER
VOGELS**
Deputy Chair



**JACQUI
BRAMWELL**
Board Member



DR. TRUDI RYAN
Board Member



DREW TWIGG
Board Member



DAVID McINDOE
Board Member



CHRIS RONAN
Board Member

2024 ALUMNI

CUC OVENS MURRAY

CLAUDIA McKIMMIE
Bachelor of Education (K-12)
Charles Sturt University

DANI NETHERCLIFT
Ph.D. in Creative Writing
Deakin University

CAROLINE DUNLOP
Cert. IV in Training & Assessment
Gordon TAFE

LAURENCE ADORNI-DICKSON
**Master of Teaching Practice
(Secondary Education)**
RMIT University

DARCY SULLIVAN
Bachelor of Biomedical Science
La Trobe University

ARISA HERRY
Diploma of Early Childhood and Care
GOTAFE

AMY WHITEHEAD
Bachelor of Education (K-12)
Charles Sturt University

JACK MELROSE
**Bachelor of Electrical & Electronic
Engineering**
Deakin University

MELANIE McKOY
**Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood
and Primary)**
Swinburne University of Technology

ALISON BALLARD
**Bachelor of Criminology & Criminal
Justice**
Griffith University

ELISE ALLEN
Diploma of Community Services
Wodonga TAFE

NICHOLAS EDEN
Master of Aviation
Swinburne University of Technology

2024 ALUMNI CUC OVENS MURRAY

ANDREW RAFFERTY
Master of Counselling
Monash University

MARIA CONNOR
**Master of Social and Organisational
Leadership (Change Facilitation)**
Charles Sturt University

RHONDA McCALLUM
Bachelor of Business
Swinburne online

MARNIE HUNTER
Cert III in Individual Support
Alpine Institute

MELISSA VAN BERGEN
**Grad. Cert of Child & Adolescent Mental
Health**
Victoria University

KELLY HALL
Bachelor of Arts
Varsity College of South Africa

DAVID McINDOE
**Grad. Cert. of Cyber Security
Governance and Risk Management**
RMIT University

HANDOKO WAHJUDI
Ph.D. in Ecology
University of Melbourne

MADDISON HARRIS
Federation Access Studies (FAST)
Federation University (online)

ISABELLE COTTRELL
**Bachelor of Medical Radiation Science
(Diagnostic Imaging)**
Charles Sturt University



Bringing degrees closer to regional, rural and remote Australia.

Proudly supported by



Australian Government

Department of Education



CUC Ovens Murray Ltd

ABN 95 647 799 415

Special Purpose Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

Contents	Page
Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income	2
Statement of financial position	3
Statement of changes in equity	4
Statement of cash flows	5
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements	6
Directors' declaration	11
Auditors' Independence Declaration	12
Independent auditor's report	13

Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income

For the year ended 30 June 2024

	Notes	2024 \$	2023 \$
Income			
Grant income	2	306,384	670,829
Other income	2	121,874	52,080
Total income		428,258	722,909
Expenses			
Employee benefits expenses		425,542	361,150
Operating and administration expenses		106,676	95,351
CUC affiliation fees		60,000	50,000
Regional Partnerships Project Pool Program expenses		19,485	-
Depreciation		16,319	14,616
Total Expenses		628,022	521,117
Surplus/(deficit) before income tax expense		(199,764)	201,792
Income tax expense	1(c)	-	-
Net surplus/(deficit)		(199,764)	201,792
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive result for the year		(199,764)	201,792

The statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of financial position

As at 30 June 2024

	Notes	2024 \$	2023 \$
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	1,333,889	1,636,174
Trade and other receivables	4	39,047	-
Total current assets		1,372,936	1,636,174
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	5	111,687	67,047
Total non-current assets		111,687	67,047
Total assets		1,484,623	1,703,221
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	6	39,134	71,522
Provisions for employee entitlements	7	31,154	17,600
Total current liabilities		70,288	89,122
Total liabilities		70,288	89,122
Net assets		1,414,335	1,614,099
EQUITY			
Accumulated surpluses		1,414,335	1,614,099
Total Equity		1,414,335	1,614,099

The statement of financial position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

CUC Ovens Murray Ltd

Statement of changes in equity

For the year ended 30 June 2024

	Accumulated Funds	Total
	\$	\$
Balance at 30 June 2022	1,412,307	1,412,307
Net Surplus	201,792	201,792
Balance at 30 June 2023	1,614,099	1,614,099
Net Surplus/(deficit)	(199,764)	(195,747)
Balance 30 June 2024	1,414,335	1,418,352

The statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 30 June 2024

	Notes	2024 \$	2023 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts from customers and government funding		385,594	793,515
Payments to suppliers and employees		(636,103)	(562,974)
Interest received		9,183	621
Net cash inflow from operating activities	8	(241,326)	231,162
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments for purchase of property, plant and equipment		(60,959)	(18,371)
Net cash inflow from investing activities		(60,959)	(18,371)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents held		(302,285)	212,791
Cash at the beginning of the financial year		1,636,174	1,423,383
Cash at the end of the financial year	3	1,333,889	1,636,174

The statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 1. Summary of material accounting policies

CUC Ovens Murray Ltd (the Company) is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee, incorporated and domiciled in Australia.

(a) Basis of accounting

In the Board of Director's opinion, the Company is not a reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements.

These special purpose financial statements that have been prepared for the sole purpose of complying with the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012* to prepare and distribute financial statements to the members and must not be used for any other purpose. The directors have determined that the accounting policies adopted are appropriate to meet the needs of the members.

Under AIFRS, there are requirements that apply specifically to not-for-profit entities that are not consistent with International Reporting Standards (IFRS) requirements. The entity has analysed its purpose, objectives and operating philosophy and determined that it does not have profit generation as a prime objective. Consequently, where appropriate the Company has elected to apply options and exemptions within the AIFRS which are applicable to not-for-profit entities.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable Australian Accounting Standards, Australian Accounting Interpretations and other authoritative pronouncements with the exception of the following:

AASB	7 – Financial Instruments - Disclosures
AASB	9 – Financial Instruments
AASB	15 - Revenue from Contracts with Customers
AASB	16 – Leases
AASB	119 – Employee Benefits
AASB	124 – Related Party Disclosures
AASB	132 – Financial Instruments – Presentation
AASB	139 - Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement
AASB	1058 - Income for Not-for-Profit-Entities

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention. Unless otherwise stated, the accounting policies adopted are consistent with those of the previous year. Comparative information has been reclassified where appropriate to enhance comparability.

(b) Income

(i) Grant income

Grant funding is recognised as income when the Company obtains control over the granted asset. Control over granted asset occurs at the earlier of receipt or when the company is deemed to have established a right to receipt.

(ii) UNE & Universities partnerships and sponsorship income

UNE & Universities partnerships and sponsorship income is recognised as income upon receipt

(iii) Other income

Other income, including exams fees, is recognised as income upon provision of the related services.

(iv) Interest

Interest income is recognised on an accrual basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 1. Summary of material accounting policies (continued)

(c) Income tax

Income tax is not provided for in the financial statements as the Company is recognised as tax exempt under the Income Tax Assessment Act and therefore not subject to tax.

(d) Property, plant & equipment

All items of property, plant and equipment are stated at historical cost less depreciation. Historical cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of the items.

Capital works in progress is not depreciated. Depreciation on other assets has been calculated on a straight-line basis in order to write off the cost of assets over their expected useful lives. Estimates of remaining useful lives are made on a regular basis for all assets. The expected useful lives are as follows:

Plant & Equipment	4 - 10 years
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An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the assets carrying amount exceeds its estimated recoverable amount.

(e) Provisions for employee entitlements

(i) Annual leave

A liability for annual leave is recognised and measured as the amount unpaid at the reporting date at current wage rates, plus on-costs, in respect to employees' service up to that date.

(ii) Long Service Leave

A liability for long service leave is recognised and measured for only those employees who have attained 5 years' service with the Company, based on amounts unpaid at the reporting date at current wage rates, plus on-costs, for services provided up to that date.

(f) Leases

Lease costs are expensed in the period to which they relate.

(g) Comparative Figures

Where required by Accounting Standards comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation for the current financial year.

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 2. Income

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Grant income		
Department of Education, Skills and Employment	165,646	670,829
Regional Partnerships Project Pool Program (RPPPP)	140,738	-
Total grant income	<u>306,384</u>	<u>670,829</u>
Other income		
UNE partnership income	25,842	35,797
Universities partnerships income	74,626	14,662
Exam fees	7,450	800
Interest revenue	9,183	621
Sponsorship	4,500	-
Other income	273	200
Total other income	<u>121,874</u>	<u>52,080</u>
Total Income	<u>428,258</u>	<u>722,909</u>

Note 3. Current assets - Cash and cash equivalents

Operating bank accounts	121,622	1,634,738
High yield savings account	1,208,778	-
Debit card	3,489	1,436
	<u>1,333,889</u>	<u>1,636,174</u>

Note 4. Current assets – Trade and other receivables

Trade debtors	33,481	-
GST receivable	5,566	-
	<u>39,047</u>	<u>-</u>

Note 5. Non-Current assets – Property, plant and equipment

Plant and equipment – at cost	92,348	86,389
Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>(35,661)</u>	<u>(19,342)</u>
	<u>56,687</u>	<u>67,047</u>
Capital works in progress	55,000	-
Total Property, plant and equipment	<u>111,687</u>	<u>67,047</u>

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 5. Non-Current assets – Property, plant and equipment (continued)

Reconciliations of the carrying amounts of each class of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of the current financial year are set out below:

	Carrying amount 1 July 2023 \$	Additions \$	Disposals \$	Depreciation \$	Carrying amount 30 June 2024 \$
Plant & equipment	67,047	5,959	-	(16,319)	56,687
Capital works in progress	-	55,000	-	-	55,000
	<u>67,047</u>	<u>60,959</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(16,319)</u>	<u>111,687</u>

Note 6. Current liabilities – Trade and other payables

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Trade creditors	2,910	2,466
Accrued expenses	3,213	-
GST payable	-	32,758
PAYG payable	19,592	24,057
Superannuation payable	11,645	10,154
Salary packaging deductions	1,774	2,087
	<u>39,134</u>	<u>71,522</u>

Note 7. Current liabilities – Provisions for employee entitlements

Provision for annual leave	<u>31,154</u>	<u>17,600</u>
	<u>31,154</u>	<u>17,600</u>

Note 8. Reconciliation of surplus/(deficit) to net cash inflow from operating activities

Surplus/(deficit) for the year	(199,764)	201,792
Depreciation	16,319	14,616
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
(Increase)/Decrease in trade and other receivables	(39,047)	-
Increase/(Decrease) in trade and other payables	(32,388)	6,095
Increase/(Decrease) in provisions for employee entitlements	13,554	8,659
Net cash inflow from operating activities	<u>(241,326)</u>	<u>231,162</u>

Note 9. Commitments

At balance date the Company held commitments for expenditure as follows:

Within one year	39,864	3,564
Later than one year but not later than 5 years	22,850	8,264
	<u>62,714</u>	<u>11,828</u>

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 10. Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

The directors are not aware of any contingent liabilities or contingent assets that may exist as at 30 June 2024 (2023: Nil).

Note 11. Key Management Personnel Remuneration

Key Management Personnel (KMP) are defined as people with authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the entity. The directors have identified KMP as the members of the Board of Directors and the Centre Manager.

As the directors are appointed on a voluntary basis there is only one KMP who receives remuneration for their services. As there is only one KMP who is remunerated the Company has applied the exemption provided by the ACNC not to disclose this KMP's remuneration.

Note 12. Related Party Transactions

The company's related parties consist of key management personnel, close family members of key management personnel and entities that are controlled or jointly controlled by those key management personnel, individually or collectively with their close family members.

During the financial year related party transactions included the following:

- Fees of \$3,048 were paid to a board member for mental health first aid training services provided.
- Fees of \$11,088 were paid to Mace Inc. for office management, utility and room hire charges. Mace Inc. is a related party by virtue of a Board member of CUC Ovens Murray Ltd also being a key management personnel of Mace Inc.
- Affiliation fees of \$60,000 (2023: \$50,000) and software licence and insurance fees of \$7,774.15 were paid to CUC Pty Ltd during the year. Partnerships contributions of \$74,626 (2023: \$14,662) were received from CUC Pty Ltd during the year. CUC Pty Ltd. is a related party by virtue of a Board member of CUC Ovens Murray Ltd also being a key management personnel of CUC Pty Ltd.

No other related party transactions were identified for the year ended 30 June 2024. Related party transaction above were on an arm's length basis.

Note 13. Economic Dependency

The Company is dependent on the ongoing receipt of government funding to fund the provision of its core services. At the time of signing of these financial statements the directors had no reason to believe that this government funding will not be ongoing.

Note 14. Members' guarantee

CUC Ovens Murray Ltd is incorporated under the *Corporations Act 2001* and is a company limited by guarantee. Members as at 30 June 2024 and up until the date of this report will be deemed to have given a guarantee for the purposes of membership, and their financial obligation in the event of the winding up of the company will be limited to \$1.00.

Note 15. Events occurring after the balance date

No matters or circumstances have arisen since 30 June 2024 that have significantly affected, or may significantly affect the company's operations, the results of those operations, or the company's state of affairs in future financial years.

CUC Ovens Murray Ltd
Directors' declaration
For the year ended 30 June 2024

As stated in Note 1(a) to the financial statements, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, the Company is not a reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements. These are special purpose financial statements that have been prepared to meet the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012*.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and mandatory professional reporting requirements to the extent described in Note 1(a).

The directors declare that the financial statements and notes set out on pages 2 to 10:

- a) comply with the Accounting Standards, as detailed above, and the *Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012*; and
- b) give a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 30 June 2024, and of its performance, as represented by the results of its operations and its cash flows, for the financial year ended on that date.

In the opinion of the directors, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

The Company has not prepared a consolidated entity disclosure statement as Australian Accounting Standards do not require it to prepare consolidated financial statements.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors and is signed for and on behalf of the Board of Directors by:



John Joyce
Board Chair



Kylie Richards
Board Member - Treasurer

Wangaratta, VIC
18 September 2024

CUC Ovens Murray Ltd

**Auditor's Independence Declaration under 60-40 of the
*Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2011***

For the year ended 30 June 2024

Auditors' Independence Declaration

As lead auditor for the audit of CUC Ovens Murray Ltd for the year ended 30 June 2024, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- a) No contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2011* in relation to the audit; and
- b) No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



Ryan Schischka
Director
Johnsons MME

Albury
18 September 2024

Independent auditor's report to the members of CUC Ovens Murray Ltd

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements, being a special purpose financial statements, of CUC Ovens Murray Ltd (the Company), which comprise the statement of financial position at 30 June 2024, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year ended on that date, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion the financial statements of the Company is in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- a) giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in note 1; and
- b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in note 1 to the financial statements.

Basis of Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Basis of Accounting

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 of the financial statements which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements have been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the Board of Director's financial reporting responsibilities under the *Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012*. As a result, the financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose.

Responsibilities of the Board of Directors for the Financial Statements

The Board of Directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements and have determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, which form part of the financial statements which are appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012* and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members.

The Board of Director's are also responsible for such internal control as the directors determine necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The directors are responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

Independent auditor's report to the members (continued)

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: <http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Johnsons MME
Chartered Accountants



Ryan Schischka
Director

Albury
18 September 2024