



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

PRESIDENTS REPORT

**Executive Committee of Alumni
Annual General Meeting
21 October 2011**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Executive Committee of Alumni (ECofA) is established, under the University of Newcastle Act which provides for an elected group of Alumni, to represent its graduates.

Our committee has an advisory role to the University Council on all matters relevant to Alumni and partners with the Alumni Relations office to support Alumni development. We also have a suite of Awards to recognise outstanding Alumni.

Our committee's vision for the University of Newcastle Alumni is to facilitate networking and community spirit among our graduates for the positive improvement of the University, the individual and the community.

In 2011 the Executive Committee of Alumni (ECofA) continued to go from strength to strength.

Three sub-committees were established to focus on the development of an Alumni House, Hunter Chapter and Strategic Planning.

It is my privilege to bring this report for 2011.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Kennaugh', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brian Kennaugh
President, Executive Committee of Alumni

1. SUB-COMMITTEE WORK OF THE ECofA

Please refer to Appendix 1 and 2 for full list of membership and sub-committees.

1. STRATEGIC PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE

Chair **Dr Alan Broadfoot** (December 2010 to April 2011)
 Ms Belinda Grealy (current)

The purpose of the Strategic Planning sub-committee is to provide direction, structure and drive to the projects of the ECofA.

The initial goals of the strategic planning sub-committee were:

1. Establish a Strong Brand Name.
2. Strong Active Involvement by Alumni
3. Establish an effective 'say' in University matters
4. We need to value add to University activities
5. Maintain and Improve Career Activities

These are being reviewed and a Strategic Map with associated targets is being designed to be tabled at the first meeting of 2012.

2. ALUMNI HOUSE SUB-COMMITTEE

Chair **Mr Don Magin**

An Alumni House would stand as a tangible testament of the University's strong commitment to its alumni as a key stakeholder in the University's past, present, and in its future aspirations and to acknowledge that, in the local context, our alumni make up a significant part of the Hunter community.

It is proposed that an Alumni House would provide a new social nucleus and focal point for the alumni, the community and the University that fulfils the objectives of the University's 2011-2015 Strategic Plan *Building Distinction* and in particular its engagement priorities. Depending on location, it might also be positioned to assist the transformation of the Newcastle CBD and provide space and facilities for (but not limited to):

- Hunter based alumni relations programs and services;
- community access to specially designed areas to showcase some of the unseen University collections and exhibits;
- provide a community based setting for public access to student work/performances;
- provide a commercial venue for meetings, events, function space;
- Provide space for administration areas for the Executive Committee of Alumni, Alumni Relations Office staff and Corporate Relations Office staff, and other relevant staff.

With the support of the Vice Chancellor, Professor Nick Saunders, the project is currently in a process of due diligence considering building/venue options.

3. HUNTER CHAPTER SUB-COMMITTEE

Chair Ms Roxanna Olivares

The Committee has been working towards developing a model for an Alumni Chapter to service local graduates based on the model of other city based locations in the Alumni Network. It will also be a 'face/platform' for the Committee and its work in the Hunter.

The Hunter Chapter sub-committee has worked with an independent facilitator (alumnus, Mr Greg Mowbray) to engage alumni in representational focus groups (gender, age etc) to better understand the needs of local graduates related to a Hunter Chapter and its possible programs. Strong support for the establishment of such a Chapter was consistent across the groups.

The Hunter Chapter is set to be launched in 2012. The sub-committee is drafting a proposed program on the basis of this feedback, and aligned to the program and capacity of the Alumni Relations office, to be discussed at the next meeting of the full committee.

4. 2011 ALUMNI AWARDS RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Chair Ms Rosemary Thomson

In 2011, the ECofA focused its attention on maintaining the Alumni Awards as its premier flagship event. The Committee received 56 nominations across the suite of 8 Awards. 33 finalists were selected from an exceptionally high standard of nominations from across the globe.

The event was held at City Hall with a capacity attendance of 300 and a number of media interviews with the President, Rosemary Thomson and finalists were conducted. There was also an article in the Herald following the event.

University of Newcastle 2011 Alumni Award recipients were:

- **Convocation Medal for Professional Excellence** - Dato' Ir Dr Abu Bakar Bin Jaafar - Advisor to the Malaysian National Security Council and Malaysian graduate.
- **Newton John Award** – Julie Squires, internationally recognised sculptor
- **International Leadership** – Peter Tay, President Singapore Food Industries Limited and Dr Andrew Mears, Principle Consultant, Majority World Technology Ltd
- **National leadership** – Denise Goldsworthy, Managing Director Rio Tinto and 2010 Telstra Business Woman of the Year
- **Regional Leadership** – Dr Anne Wakatama, General Manager Health Services the Royal Flying Doctor Service and Mohammed Faiz Kamaludin, Malaysian Airlines Captain and part of Malaysia's Astronaut Program
- **Exceptional Community Service** – Associate Professor Pauline Chiarelli, Australia's first Physiotherapist Continence Advisor
- **Indigenous** – Dr Sarah McEwan, rural general practitioner working in Indigenous health
- **Young Alumni** – Dr Nikola Bowden, University of Newcastle researcher into improved diagnosis and treatment of cancer.

I encourage you to place the Awards event in your annual calendar as a recurring event and to act as ambassadors for this program by encouraging your peers to 'spill the beans' and nominate graduates for the 2012 Awards.

We will continue to both maintain the high standard with our Alumni Awards and to work with the University to raise the profile of our Alumni.

As President I chair the Award program selection panel, but I would like to formally thank members of the panel – Vic Levi, Professor John Lester, Rosemary Thomson, Kristen Keegan and Debbie Bradbery for the difficult work of selecting finalists.

I thank the faculty Pro Vice-Chancellors who sponsor the attendance of both their respective finalists, and faculty staff and guests at the event; their support is important and valued.

I also thank the group who worked on the Alumni Awards event itself and note the wonderful contribution from Ousha Events, owned by fellow member Tracey Irving.

2. OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE ECofA

1. ALUMNI POSITIONS ON UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

The Committee has continued with its agenda for 2011 to fully engage the Alumni positions on University Council which are also ex-officio members of the ECofA. A workable agreement has been reached with governance, the Vice-Chancellor and the ECofA represented by the President. This is tabled tonight for endorsement under business of the AGM Agenda.

Stronger connections have already occurred with Ms Dianne Allen attending a recent ECofA meeting and other events.

2. CONVOCATION LECTURE

This lecture showcases the expertise of a recently appointed Professor to the University of Newcastle. Professor Louise O'Brien delivered the 2011 Convocation Lecture on Wednesday 1 June at City Hall Newcastle.

The topic was "Mental Health Care: Everyone's Business" – the lecture was attended by approximately 300 people. The lecture drew upon research related to the provision of mental health services, with a focus on mental health nursing, as well as the experiences of people with mental illness and their families.

Professor O'Brien has over 40 years experience in the mental health field, and holds a joint appointment with the University and Western/Far Western Local Health Networks.

The incoming Vice Chancellor and President, Professor Caroline McMillen will be invited to deliver the 2012 Convocation Lecture early in the year as one of her first engagements in the community.

3. ALUMNI MENTORING PROGRAM - TRIAL WITH iLEAD STUDENTS

A trial mentoring program commenced in the second semester of 2011 with 12 Alumni mentors engaging with iLEAD students to share their knowledge and experiences with current students. Of some concern was the limited response by alumni as mentors – it is anticipated the launch of a Hunter Chapter will better profile such programs.

A celebration event of the trial will take place 27 October 2011 with the Chancellor and Vice Chancellor in attendance, and evaluation of the trial will then be conducted to provide recommendations for 2012.

4. ALUMNI ADVANTAGE BREAKFAST PROGRAM

The Alumni Advantage Program is a professional development program for students and graduates of the University of Newcastle.

The Alumni Advantage program gives current students the opportunity to meet graduates from their discipline and allows graduates to engage with the University and contribute to the student experience.

In 2011, the ECofA hosted breakfasts for the following disciplines: Psychology, Nursing and Midwifery and Social Science and Humanities. The Wollotuka Institute also hosted a breakfast to discuss the National Apology.

The Alumni Advantage program will continue in 2012.

5. MARKETING REVIEW

The Committee commissioned an external marketing agency, through instruction to the Alumni Relations office, to develop a marketing strategy for the ECofA with consideration to naming, positioning and differentiation to support our work.

To do so, the agency also had to review the Alumni Relation's office and its work, position and differentiation. A number of focus groups took place.

The results of the marketing review will be presented to the ECofA at a date to be confirmed.

3. THE ROLE OF PRESIDENT

Since the last AGM on 5 November 2010, I have represented the Committee and the alumni community as President of Alumni at a range of events, examples of which are as follows;

- Callaghan Graduation ceremonies and the Vice-Chancellor's graduation lunches in (April and October 2011)
- Annual Alumni Receptions in Brisbane (May 2011) and Sydney (July 2011)
- International Graduation Ceremonies and Alumni dinner in Singapore (November, 2010)
- Annual Alumni Reception in Malaysia (November, 2010)
- A number of dinners with visiting alumni and over 38 meetings with external parties as President, connected to work with the alumni and the University
- Radio interviews
- Meetings with the various member of the University's Senior Executive throughout the year, including the Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Chancellor
- Meeting with representatives from the Retired Lecturers Association
- Hosted the Convocation Lecture and the following dinner

Formal Committee work as President of Alumni:

- Member, University of Newcastle Community Engagement Advisory Committee (CEAC)
- Member, Alumni Advisory Board to the University of Newcastle Foundation

I was appointed to the University Council in March 2011. Although this was a separate individual appointment for me it is a good result considering the increased engagement and profile of the President's role. The ECofA however will continue to consider its ongoing strategy for the President of Alumni to be a formal position appointment on Council.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT

The Finance Report for the Executive Committee of Alumni is attached as Appendix 3.

The Alumni Relations office has subsidised ECofA activities to the cost of \$54,748.54.

5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND THANKS

Throughout the year, Professor Stephen Crump, the Pro Vice-Chancellor of External Relations has continued to provide support for our work; we would like to thank him for his involvement.

The role of the Associate Director External Relations is critical to our work and we thank Rosemary Thomson and her team for their excellence in partnering to deliver our projects.

As a Committee, we acknowledge with appreciation the active and engaged support of the Chancellor Professor Trevor Waring and the Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Nicholas Saunders for our Committee and its work during their respective tenures.

Further, the Deputy Vice-Chancellors and the Pro Vice-Chancellors are also supportive, and we are particularly grateful for their support of the Alumni Awards.

I would particularly like to thank the Vice President, Dr Bernie Curran and the Chairs of the Sub-Committees; Ms Belinda Grealy, Ms Roxana Olivares, Mr Don Magin and Ms Rosemary Thomson for their strong support and shared leadership activities.

6. CONCLUSION

To conclude my report, I thank again the Committee for their time and commitment in 2011 – it is a team effort and it has been a great year. I am looking forward to working with you and our new members in 2012 to further strengthen and develop our Alumni Community, and the University.

Mr Brian Kennaugh

President of Alumni - Executive Committee of Alumni

2011 MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF ALUMNI

Mr Brian Kennaugh (President) - Bachelor of Business (2006)

Dr Bernie Curran (Vice President) - PhD Classics (1972)

Associate Professor Neil Morpeth – PhD Classics (1988)

Ms Belinda Grealy - Bachelor of Engineering (1998)

Mr Chad Watson - Bachelor of Arts (Communication Studies) (1993)

Mr Don Magin - Graduate Diploma in Management (1995)

Mr Lam Nguyen - MBA (2010)

Ms Meredith Young - Bachelor of Communication (2008)

Dr Jennifer Archer - Senior Lecturer, School of Education

Mr Dave Karlson - Bachelor of Mathematics (1981), MBA (1993)

Mr David Newham - Dip Aboriginal Studies (1997), B Social Science (2007)

Mr David Wise – International Partnerships Officer, Faculty of Education and Arts

Mr Robert Lutton - Bachelor of Arts (1981)

Ms Deborah Bradbery - Bachelor of Arts (1979), Dip. Ed (1979)

Ms Donna McLean – Bachelor of Education (2008)

Ms Lillian Eastwood – Master of Educational Studies (2002)

Ms Roxana Olivares - Bachelor of Social Science (2000)

Ms Tracey Irving – Bachelor of Communication (1995)

Prof. Tim Roberts - Dean of Singapore Campus (2005-2008)

Ex-Officio Members:

Mr James Tocci (Immediate Past President) - Bachelor of Business (1997)

Ms Rosemary Thomson – Associate Director, External Relations

SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS

STRATEGIC PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE

Belinda Grealy (Chair)

Bernie Curran
Dave Karlson
James Tocci
Lillian Eastwood
Meredith Young
Rosemary Thomson

ALUMNI HOUSE SUB-COMMITTEE

Bernie Curran
Brian Kennaugh
Dave Karlson
Don Magin (Chair)
James Tocci
Kristen Keegan
Rosemary Thomson
Tim Roberts

HUNTER CHAPTER SUB-COMMITTEE

Bernie Curran
Brian Kennaugh
Lillian Eastwood
Rosemary Thomson
Roxana Olivares (Chair)

ALUMNI AWARDS SUB-COMMITTEE

Belinda Grealy
Brian Kennaugh
Dave Karlson
Debbie Bradbery
Donna McLean
Ennia Nyabadza-Jones
Meredith Young
Rosemary Thomson (Chair)
Roxana Olivares
Tracey Irving

**Executive Committee of Alumni
Financial Statement Period Ending 31 October 2011**

**Income Statement - Year to Date
1031112 - Convocation Working Account
As at 19 October 2011**

By Account Code	Actual \$	Year To Date Commit. \$	Total \$	Full Year Budget \$	Variance \$
Brought Forward	11,538	-	11,538	-	11,538
INCOME					
Total Income	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
NON SALARY EXPENDITURE					
5461 - Alumni Merchandise	53	-	53	-	(53)
Total Non-Salary Expenditure					
Total Expenditure	<u>(53)</u>				
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	<u></u>	<u>-</u>	<u></u>	<u>-</u>	<u></u>
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS AS AT 19 OCTOBER 2011	<u>11,485</u>		<u>11,485</u>		

