



## Centre Manager's Message

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Happy New Year and welcome to 2025.

The last three months have been very busy in the Centre as we completed our first full year of operating. Some highlights in the latter part of 2024 and early 2025 include:

- confirmation from the Federal Government Department of Education that funding for our CUC Mallee has been secured for the next 4 years!
- 144 student registered for Semester 2 2024. October was our busiest month with 310 student visits.
- Holding our first AGM in November.
- Welcoming three new board directors – Troy Thamm, Joelle Whiting and Katie Fox. The board is looking forward to the contribution that our new directors will bring to our Centre as we move into our second year. Please see later in the newsletter for more details on each of them.
- Thank you to departing board members Ann Young and Megan Stewart. Ann was our board chair and a driving force behind getting CUC Mallee up and running. Megan was also heavily involved in original application for the funding of our Centre.

It is very exciting to be heading into our second full year. Last week we commenced the Cells Upgrade. This is an exciting development that will turn two of the cells into three breakout rooms. These rooms will allow the Centre to cater for growth in student numbers and Centre usage over the coming years.



If you are an individual, school, organisation, business or community group and you think CUC Mallee may be able to assist you, please make contact with us.

Likewise if you think you can assist CUC Mallee and our students in any way, please let us know.

If you are looking to study or you know someone that is looking to study, please let them know about CUC Mallee and remind them that they can register with us at any time of the year.

It has been amazing to see the response from the communities in our region. With a full complement of staff now in place, we look forward to continuing to support students in our region to achieve their educational and workforce goals in 2025.

Hayden Hogan  
CUC Mallee Centre Manager

## CUC Mallee's 1st Birthday

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In December we celebrated an exciting milestone for CUC Mallee, the Centre's first birthday! The growth of the Centre has been beyond expectation and we are grateful for everyone who has made CUC Mallee a reality.

Thank you to our students and community for a wonderful first year! We look forward to supporting higher education in our region for many years to come!

## End of Year Celebration

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CUC Mallee's students, staff and board members saw out the academic year with an end of year celebration. It was wonderful to acknowledge all the hard work of our students last year and to congratulate the 2024 graduates on their incredible accomplishments! We will be publishing photos of our students as they graduate over the coming months.

## Board Updates

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We are excited to welcome three new directors to CUC Mallee's board this year, Troy Thamm, Joelle Whiting and Katie Fox.

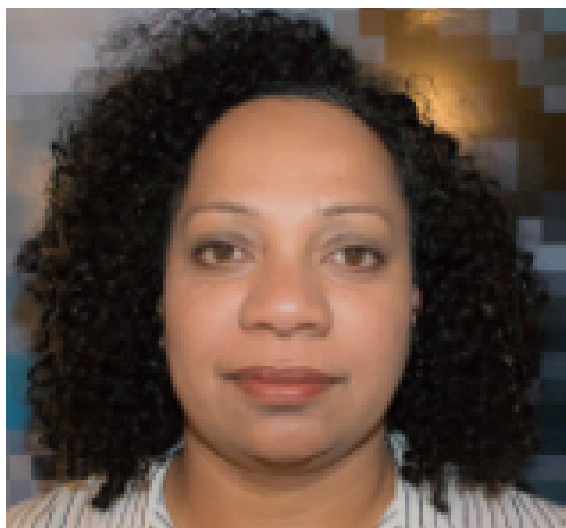
### Troy Thamm



Troy is a CPA Accountant and Partner with Pooles Accountants & Tax Specialists based in Swan Hill, and has taken a lead role in the development of Farm Businesses – a Pooles initiative that provides a comprehensive farm management service linking agronomic and production advice with whole farm profitability.

Troy and the team at Pooles are acutely aware of the need for access to higher education in our region and pride themselves on providing an opportunity for staff to develop their career in an environment that offers continual learning.

## **Joelle Whiting**



Joelle is a registered teacher and has worked in education for the last 14 years.

Throughout her career, Joelle has worked alongside the community to establish programs with long-term outcomes for children and families.

Joelle was raised in Mauritius and moved to Australia in 2000 as an international student

which gives her an understanding of the challenges faced by the international students CUC Mallee's supports.

Joelle is passionate about her Mauritian heritage, which she shares at Swan Hill's annual Harmony Day festival.

## **Katie Fox**



Katie is a Primary School Teacher of 10 years, having held various roles at Swan Hill Primary, and schools in Ballarat. She completed her Bachelor of Education at Federation University and has recently completed postgraduate studies online via Flinders University.

Katie is passionate about living and working in our region. She is enthusiastic about creating equity of access to education and recognizes the potential that the CUC hub provides to our community.

Katie is passionate about creating opportunities for skilled, qualified professionals to enjoy the lifestyle on offer in our region and is enthusiastic about upskilling our local workforce.

## Community Engagement

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Stacy and Hayden have been engaging with many communities, schools and organisations over the months leading up to Christmas, traveling as far as Balranald and Birchip.

In Balranald they attended the Health, Wellbeing and Support Services Expo and in Birchip Hayden caught up with Jo at EWHS – Birchip campus, Simone at Birchip Neighborhood House,

The staff at Birchip P-12 School and Fiona at the Birchip Cropping Group.



Peter Walsh, Member for Murray Plains, visited the Centre and was given a tour by Stacy who shared how our study space is positively impacting the students in our region.

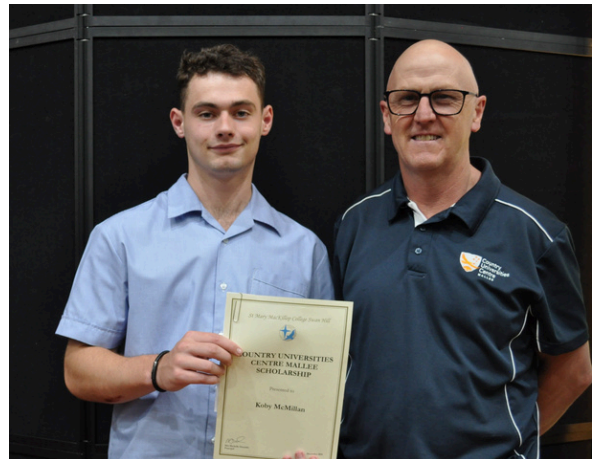


Sarah our Centre Administrator had the opportunity to participate in Swan Hill Rotary Club's Walk Against Family Violence during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence.

Swan Hill Special School had the opportunity to tour the Centre and learn about the services CUC Mallee offers.



CUC Mallee had the privilege of sponsoring and presenting a scholarship/award for a local high school student at St Mary MacKillop and the Swan Hill College.



Logan and Hall, GMG Financial Group, Headspace Swan Hill, Swan Hill District Health and Swan Hill Inc utilised our facility to host staff meetings, an AGM and staff training sessions

