



Centre Manager's Message

Welcome to CUC Mallee's first newsletter. It is an understatement to say that plenty has happened in the last six months since we opened.

However before we reflect on our first few months of operations, we need to look back a little further and thank those people who helped CUC Mallee to the starting line. Firstly thank you to our CUC Mallee Board members Ann Young (Chair), Peter Abraham, Megan Stewart, Michelle Hauesler, Chris Ronan and Helen Morris who provided the inspiration and perspiration to get the idea of CUC Mallee up and running. Thank you also to Swan Hill Rural City Council and its staff who made major contributions towards the application process. Last, but not least, thank you to Chris Ronan and the team at CUC Central for their amazing support throughout the process.

The build would not have happened so effectively if it wasn't for the tireless efforts of landlords and project managers Dee and Ryan Heil and also Dan Keenan from CUC Central. Thank you to all the trades and suppliers who did an amazing job turning a very run-down ex-police station into the wonderful education facility students are utilising today. Thank you also to the staff at the Australian Government Department of Education and to the Regional University Study Hubs team for their support of the establishment of CUC Mallee.

Hayden Hogan

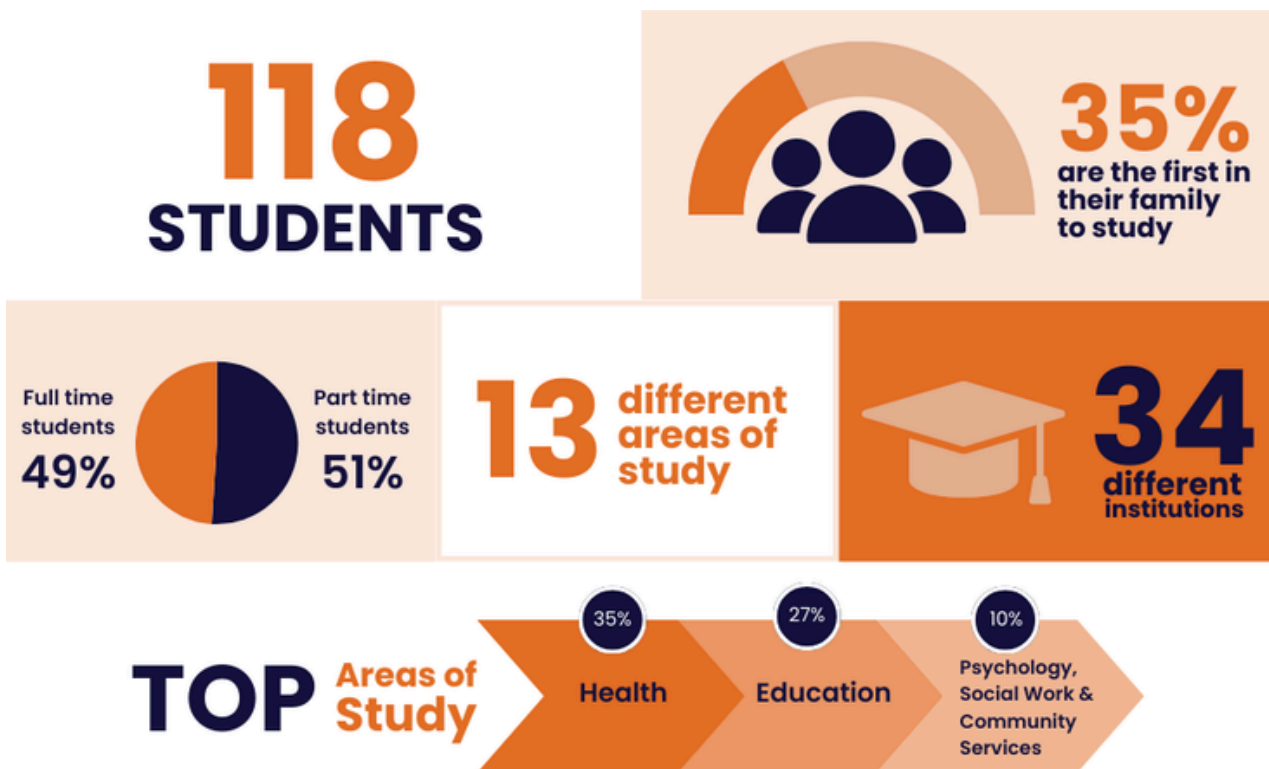
Official Opening

CUC Mallee opened for students on on December 15th 2023 and was officially opened by Swan Hill Rural City Council Mayor Stuart King and CUC Mallee Board Chair Ann Young on April 10th 2024. It was a fantastic opportunity thank all those who had been involved in getting the Centre open as well as showcasing the Centre to the Mallee region community.



Our Students

To paraphrase Kevin Costner from the movie Fields of Dreams, "If you build it, they will come!" This has proven true with 118 students registering to use the Centre in its first semester. So many students, registering so quickly, certainly highlights how needed a Centre such as CUC Mallee was needed in our region. It also reinforces the vision of those who identified the need so early on. Here are some of the statistics on our Semester 1 students.



Graduations

Yes, we already have some CUC Mallee students graduating or finishing their course! While these students have only been with us a short time, and while we can't claim a major role in their success, we will be acknowledging them in the coming weeks and months.

Board Updates

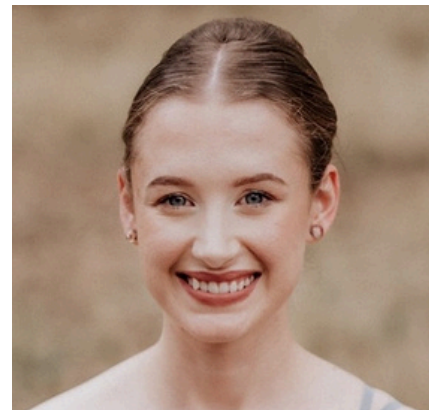
Peter Abraham left our board in April. Peter was instrumental in ensuring that CUC Mallee got off the ground, as he saw a need for such a centre, and how it could support staff at his workplace at Swan Hill District Health, and the wider Mallee region. Peter was eager to allow new board members to take CUC Mallee on the next stage of its journey. Thank you, Peter.



Steph Hartshorn joined the CUC Mallee board early this year. Steph is working at Youth Inc. and has already ingrained herself in the centre, leading the way on the social activities that have occurred and the planning of those to come in the future.

New Staff

Sarah Steel is our new Centre Administrator. Sarah will be in the office Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and will be a valuable member of our team. Sarah is looking forward to meeting and assisting students to achieve their educational goals.



Chelsea Brooks is our new Student Services Coordinator. Chelsea is a Med Student in Swan Hill and is passionate about helping students achieve their full potential in whichever area of study they choose.



Chelsea will be running academic workshops and one-on-one academic skills sessions to support students in a way that suits their needs (bookings coming to our website soon).



Stacy Selleck is our new Engagement Coordinator. Stacy is a Swan Hill local studying a Bachelor of Teaching/Bachelor of Community and Health. She will be in the office Tuesdays to Fridays and is passionate about supporting students to reach their goals and make the most of opportunities.