



Country  
Universities  
Centre  
SNOWY MONARO

# Annual Report 2020





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# Chair's Report



What a year 2020 has been! Expect the unexpected and pivot to accommodate, seems to be the 2020 mantra.

It is with great pleasure that I present my chairs report for 2020. We began the year with catastrophic fires Australia wide against a backdrop of severe drought. Our region Snowy Monaro, was hit hard with many of our students, staff and board members being directly affected. These events impacted on the Centre and our student community. It was a time of sadness and uncertainty. Our response was to monitor student welfare closely, providing extra support in navigating all Universities enrolment processes, plan and implement our learning support programs and increase our advertising and marketing campaign.

Thanks to the Vincent Fairfax foundation funding, we were able to employ a Learning Support Advisor, Dr Vel McKeachie, just before the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Along with the rest of Australia, we found ourselves in uncharted waters, as COVID-19 Government restrictions became a reality, and the world as we knew it ceased to exist. It signified confusion and uncertainty for everyone. Our job at CUC Snowy Monaro was to make this upheaval as smooth as it could be for our students, taking into consideration the vast change this would bring to the academic world and Universities mode of operations that were being directly affected culturally and financially.

We had to close our doors abiding by a carefully constructed COVID-19 action plan involving varying levels of lock down coming in line with Government restrictions, albeit still with the ability to make local decisions. We did however, manage to have our 7th birthday celebration the week before national lock down.

Interestingly, we are in the business of supporting online remote and distant learning, which became the focus mode of study as the rest of the education world caught up with this style of delivery. Even though our students could not be on site, they kept up their studies with tremendous support from the Learning Skills Advisor and regular welfare checks, fun newsletters and virtual cuppas from our Centre Manager.

All staff, students and board members very quickly became accustomed to Zoom and other online meeting platforms as learning support, board and management meetings were all conducted remotely. This heralded the learning of new skills and ways of conducting business that soon became our norm.

If there is one take away, while navigating the constant changes and supporting Nadine in the running of the centre, from my point of view, was that agility and lateral thinking were the order of the day and yes, “we are all in this together”, which, strangely enough, on some level, provided a commonality and feeling of comradery.

Amongst all of this, CUC Central was able to launch our new webpage bringing all the Centres under the one roof in an overarching website. Our Facebook posts and other socials have been fabulous this year, with particular attention to celebrating our students.

**Website:** [www.cucsnowymonaro.edu.au](http://www.cucsnowymonaro.edu.au)  
**Facebook:** CUC Snowy Monaro

# Chair's Report

An online booking system was implemented by our Centre Manager, where rooms can be used for workshops, group work, virtual intensives and exams. Also, a booking system to secure consultations with the Learning Skills Advisor (LSA) was created.

Another quiet hero to be achieved as part of the CUC Family, was the transition into the 'edu' domain. This simple change to our email addresses, may appear to be subtle but in fact holds a great deal of credibility. With this simple transition, we are now on the same level footing as other educational institutions.

Now that we have emerged from critical lock down and are doing business in our new world, things have been progressing well for planning 2021.

Already to date we have achieved, with our new LSA, Viveka Hocking, many fun seminars and creative support workshops such as 'Study Feast', academics skills for 2021 and presentation skills workshops. The 'Road to Rural Nursing' seminar was also successful and we continue with accurate Federal Government reporting obligations and with excellent enrolments.

## 2021 planned activities:

- Buddy program - first year students are invited to buddy up with one of our more experienced students. CUCSM - 5 x experienced students available
- Step up summer school for yrs 10/11 this year - ACU
- Head Space - summer program
- Continue to build on local school programs that were delivered from CUCSM in 2020
- More delivery from our LSA program - particular focus on supporting and orientation of our new starters
- Professional development short courses in a COVID-19 world
- Strong marketing and advertising campaign
- Grant applications

This year as a board, we have worked our way through a thorough review of our 2019/2020 Strategic Plan and CUC Snowy Monaro has continued to be host to many politicians, interested regional councils and in supporting CUC business such as intensive onboarding for new Centre Managers.

We have demonstrated financial growth through our partner universities. In the current climate we are an attractive model to governments both Federal and State. With the continued support of Snowy Hydro Limited and Snowy Monaro Regional Council, I say thank you for your ongoing vision in the realisation of the capacity CUC Snowy Monaro brings to the region in the education space. Quite plainly, without your vision we would not all be here. Thank you.

## Student statistics break down for CUC Snowy Monaro:

Our largest areas of study are (statistics taken from Semester 2, 2020) Health, Education and Community Services (interesting to note that during COVID-19 to now, this area of study has grown). Closely followed by Law/Business with Agriculture a growing area of study also. Three quarters of our students are female, leaving one quarter male, however, our male students are growing slightly in number. Two thirds are undergraduate students and a third post graduate. We have noticed a new trend for our Centre as the largest group using the Centre is under 25 years and over half our students are first in their family to study.

Work done through Central to support the centres is phenomenal, student support strategy, student success programs, continuous work from Monica Davis, Education Director, on tracking and building data with the student surveys conducted each Semester, is invaluable information.

CUC Snowy Monaro would like to congratulate the work and research done by the CUC team that not

# Chair's Report

only is strategic findings for us, but adds value to the wider remote and rural education community resulting in formal recognition i.e. the findings on internet speeds for rural and remote communities.

Thank you to our Centre Manager Nadine Holland for her pivoting this year and able running of the Centre.

Special thank you the central team for their abundance of support and guidance particularly through navigating 2020. I would also like to extend this thanks to the central board members as well.

As an inaugural board member for CUC Snowy Monaro, it has been my privilege to be a part of the growth and evolution of the CUC Family as we continue to fill the educational space for regional,

rural and remote learning now spread across NSW and the East coast of Australia. With vision and foresight by the then local council, Snowy Hydro Limited and local business, the foundation has been built for our future and continued growth in this educational realm.

I am looking forward to 2021 of course through the lens of living with COVID-19 but more importantly, our evolution into a new phase of CUC Snowy Monaro as we move to be more aligned to the other CUC Centre structures under Country Universities Centre.

**Carolyn Ewart**  
**Chair, CUC Snowy Monaro**



# Centre Manager's Report



2019 – 2020 was my first full year as the Centre Manager for CUC Snowy Monaro. It was certainly an adventurous time with many challenging, as well as many exciting times that impacted upon the Centre, the student body, individual students, and I.

Semester Two, 2019 saw our highest number of registrations to date with 114 students accessing the Centre over the semester. This meant that we were always buzzing with activity and, several times, we were filled to capacity. The Semester Two Student Survey provided feedback that was overwhelmingly positive.

Over January and February, we experienced horrendous bushfires all over the Snowy Monaro and surrounding areas. This had a significant impact on students settling into their study in the early part of Semester One. Many conversations were had with students as they debriefed their individual experiences with the fire and how they were planning to move forward. A small number of students decided to defer from university as their lives had been so affected, they were unable to commit to the time or focus that they needed to complete their study.

In February CUC Snowy Monaro recruited Dr Vel McKeachie as the Learning Skills Advisor. Vel came to us with many years of experience at universities doing exactly what she was recruited to do at CUCSM.

We were lucky and privileged to be able to offer her skills and experience to the students in this role. Vel stayed as the Learning Skills Advisor with CUC Snowy Monaro until June, 2020 and during the five months she was in that position, she built some wonderful relationships with the students and supported them to achieve some impressive results with their study. Vel's position was very generously funded by The Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation.

We celebrated our 7th birthday in March with students, Board members, community members and staff gathering for a morning tea. With support from Country Universities Centre, March also saw the introduction of the new CUC Snowy Monaro website. The website provides a polished and professional information for students, community members and stakeholders.

Even though COVID-19 had been affecting other countries for a couple of months, March saw it starting to take hold in Australia. CUC Snowy Monaro with the support of CUC Central changed how we operated to ensure we met the Government's safety recommendations. This period also saw several local university students return from the on-campus study to live back at home. This meant an influx of students registering to use the Centre who would not have normally done so.

In compliance with the Government's directions, CUC Snowy Monaro suspended access to students between 30th March to 10th May. Vel and I worked from home and continued to support the registered students remotely. Each registered student was contacted at least once a week during this period using either telephone, newsletter, email or Zoom to ensure the students knew that they could still access Vel or I for study and well-being support.

# Centre Manager's Report

When CUC Snowy Monaro were able to provide student access again, we proceeded to work within a COVID-Safe Plan.

Semester One exam period saw the implementation of alternate exam conditions for students as universities adapted their assessment methods to meet COVID\_19 requirements. Catering for the new exam conditions meant purchasing some new equipment for the Centre and some very challenging scheduling as each student required their own space to complete their online exam.

CUC Snowy Monaro finished Semester One, 2020 with excellent Student Survey results displaying an appreciation of how students were supported with their study through the bushfire period and the COVID-19 lockdown period.

In July, Dr Viveka Hocking commenced working as the Learning Skills Advisor. With amazing vigor and enthusiasm, Viveka has engaged with the students over the past four months and supported them with workshops, one-on-one consultations, and well-being sessions. Viveka is a wonderful asset with outstanding skills and experience.

Semester Two, 2020 look as though we have continued our successful student registration trend with 112 students registered to use the facilities and services at the Centre. The three most popular institutions that students are registered with are our three partnership universities: Charles Sturt University (26); University of New England (18); and Central Queensland University (10).

Our three most popular areas of study remain consistent with previous years with 18 students studying psychology, social work and community services related courses, 18 students studying health related courses, and 18 students studying education related courses.

Following on from Semester One's COVID-19 exam and assessment requirements, our space was stretched to capacity on many occasions over a six-week period as we juggled the limited space options. With some manipulation of the flexible exam times and some shuffling of staff working hours, we were able to cater for all of the students' needs however this has been highlighted as an area for development in the future.

I am so proud to have supported the 20 CUCSM registered students who are graduating from their courses in 2020. Many of these students have been regular users of the Centre and have become reliable, friendly mentors to other students.

Giovanna Henkel has been using the Centre since its inception and has now completing a Bachelor of Nursing. She will now be working fulltime at Cooma Hospital as a registered nurse.

Nikki de Ruijter had to return from the UK early in 2020 because of COVID-19. Upon her return to her family in Cooma, Nikki registered to use CUC Snowy Monaro. Within a couple of weeks, her two brothers who had also returned home from their NSW-based universities due to COVID-19, also registered to use the Centre. Because the three siblings had had such a fantastic experience using the Centre's facilities and services, their mum, Anja has recently enrolled in a Graduate Certificate in Management and is a regular user.

I am looking forward to 2021 and working with the ongoing students, future students and the exciting challenges that may appear.

**Nadine Holland**  
**Centre Manager, CUC Snowy Monaro**

# Our Story

**Regional and rural communities deserve quality opportunities to pursue their dreams without the need to relocate.**

## Our History

In 2013, Snowy Hydro Ltd and Cooma Monaro Shire Council (as it was then known as) along with key community members, jointly funded the establishment of the Cooma Universities Centre. In 2014, Snowy Hydro gifted the Centre to the Cooma community, and the Cooma Universities Centre became a charitable, incorporated, not-for-profit organisation run by a community Board of Directors. The Centre operated for five years without any government funding with Snowy Hydro Ltd and the Snowy Monaro Shire Council continuing their support. In 2017, we changed our name to "CUC Snowy Monaro" to become the first affiliate of the Country Universities Centre. In late 2018 we were successful in obtaining Federal funding to deepen our operations and engagement under the Regional University Centres program. Since opening, we have supported more than **400** Snowy Monaro students in their learning journeys, and we look forward to being part of the future of higher education for the region.

## What We Do

Our Centre is a dedicated learning and study space where students can focus entirely on their studies. Students can connect with like-minded people and experience a campus-like environment while they study locally in the Snowy Monaro. We are focused on assisting our students settle into study, improve their academic skills and to make sure they feel like they have the tools to succeed in their studies.

## Our Support

Regional and rural communities deserve quality opportunities to pursue their dreams without the need to relocate. Our mission is to provide regional people with the space and tools they need to create a vibrant and more prosperous future for themselves and their wider community.

We have created a dedicated learning and study space in Cooma that have been designed for regional people by regional people. Our students have free access to high-speed Internet, modern technology, and general academic support all delivered here at CUC Snowy Monaro. Our students have the opportunity to build a network of like-minded fellow students and can take advantage of being part of a state-wide learning community.





“ ”

I get distracted very easily.  
CUC Snowy Monaro is filled with  
people who are there to study.  
This helps me to stay on track too.

# Our People

## Board of Directors

### **Carolyn Ewart – Chair**

Carolyn is an inaugural member of the CUC Snowy Monaro Board and currently holds the position of Chair. She has over 24 years' experience, in Vocational Education and Training, coordinating, and teaching Adult Based Education At TAFE. She has worked with performing arts schools and in the teaching sector with infants to primary aged children as a drama teacher. Recently, she has joined Snowy Hydro Limited as their Education Manager. She has a passion for the Snowy Monaro community and has been involved with substantial fund raising for Monaro Community for Cancer Research (mCr). Carolyn is driven by the idea of equity in education for rural, remote, and regional Australia and living on the land, she understands the benefits of access to learning locally, for students, their families, and communities.

### **Darren Davis - Deputy Chair**

Darren is Snowy Hydro's General Manager of Asset Management & Technology, with over 25 years' experience in heavy industry, managing operations, engineering and capital projects. He is passionate about developing future leaders and creating vibrant, constructive workplace culture. He holds trade qualifications and an Honours degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Wollongong. Darren grew up and completed his schooling in Dubbo NSW, before moving to Wollongong where he started his engineering career with BHP. After working in Wollongong and Sydney for ten years, his love of the country lifestyle saw him relocate to the Monaro region in 2000. Darren and his wife Melinda are enjoying raising their three children in Cooma's strong & vibrant community. In his spare time, Darren enjoys modifying and re-building old houses and old cars, squeezing in a little overseas travel with his family, and is an enthusiastic SCUBA diver.

### **Frances Robertson - Secretary**

Frances Robertson is the Principal of St Patrick's Parish School in Cooma, NSW. Frances has over 35 years teaching experience in rural and regional areas, ranging from kindergarten to university level. As an educationalist, she holds the value of the Country University Centre in high esteem. Frances believes that she can use her experience to enhance the quality of the offering for the regional students that CUC Snowy Monaro serves. Frances is committed to seeing education, in all forms, accessible and achievable for students in the Snowy Monaro.

### **Iain Elliott - Treasurer**

Iain was raised in Cooma and completed a Bachelor of Economics at ANU in 2010. Iain's accounting career started in 2011 and he completed the Chartered Accountants Program in 2014. During his studies Iain topped Australia in the 'Financial Accounting and Reporting' module of the Program. Iain is passionate about the Monaro region and works with a wide variety of clients involved in industries spanning agriculture, retail, hospitality, tourism and construction. Iain is also a passionate supporter of regional education and in 2017 he joined the Board of CUC Snowy Monaro.

# Our People

## Board of Directors

### **Gabrielle Curtin - Non Executive Director**

Gabrielle Curtin was appointed as Group Executive, Safety People & Services at Snowy Hydro Limited in March 2015. Prior to joining Snowy Hydro, Gabrielle worked for ten years at Qantas Airways in several senior human resources, operations, safety and change management roles. Prior to Qantas, Gabrielle held various executive and management positions with Shell Australia, Accenture, Repco Automotive and I-MED Radiology. Gabrielle was raised in country NSW, is passionate about education, and making it accessible to all, particularly those in regional and rural locations. She was previously the Chair of Winifred West Schools and a non-executive director of the Qantas Foundation and headspace, Australia's premier youth mental health foundation.

### **Peter Beer - Non Executive Director**

With close to 50-years working in the local government sector, recently elected Snowy Monaro Regional Council Mayor Peter Beer brings a wealth of experience to the role. After 37-years working in planning, development and construction related roles, Peter is focussed on ensuring the Snowy Monaro's towns and villages are well planned and ready for future growth and is looking forward to the progression of Snowy 2.0, a project with regional, State and National significance. Upon his retirement, Peter decided the best use of his local government experience was to stand for election as a Snowy River Shire Councillor. Serving as Deputy Mayor for several years, Peter was elected as an inaugural Snowy Monaro Regional Councillor in 2017. Peter was elected as the second mayor of the Snowy Monaro. This is a role he has diligently and fervently fulfilled since September 2019.

### **Duncan Taylor- Non Executive Director**

Duncan Taylor is the voluntary CEO of the Country Universities Centre, following from being the inaugural Chair of the original Cooma Universities Centre which later became the Country Universities Centre Snowy Monaro. Duncan sits on Central Queensland University's Regional Engagement Committee, is a past Member of the TAFE NSW Commission Board. He is a former President of the Isolated Children's Parents' Association of New South Wales that seeks equity of educational opportunity for rural and remote families. Duncan previously sat on the Rural and Remote Education Advisory Group that advises the NSW Government and Department of Education on strategies to improve educational outcomes in rural and remote areas, and is a Committee Member of the Monaro Early Intervention Service. Duncan is a farmer on the Monaro who was also a founding director of agricultural assets management company, Growth Farms Australia.

# Our People

## Our Team



### Nadine Holland - Centre Manager

Nadine has a degree in Primary Education, however has spent all her working life in the adult education field. Following university, she started working in an organisation that provides vocational training for adults with disabilities. In 1998 she joined the NSW Police Force and spent five years as a general duties and youth liaison officer at Macquarie Fields Local Area Command. Upon joining the Police Force, Nadine's goal was to always return to the Police Academy to teach new recruits and after her daughter was born in 2001, she successfully won a position at the Academy. In her time there she saw several thousand students graduate. Nadine left the NSW Police Force in 2012 as a sergeant, and an Associate with Charles Sturt University who work in partnership with the Police to teach new policing recruits. In 2012, she moved to the Cooma area and started work as the Senior Correctional Education Officer at Cooma Correctional Centre. She started as Centre Manager in 2019, and is excited to support tertiary students in the Snowy Monaro area.



### Dr Viveka Hocking - Learning Skills Advisor

Viveka grew up on the Northern Beaches of Sydney. She started her undergraduate degree at the University of New South Wales in Zoology and Philosophy and went on to do a Bachelor of Design (Graphics, Built Environment, Products) with Honours at the College of Fine Art. She moved down to the Snowy Mountains and did her PhD in Design-led Research Methodology through the Fenner School of Environment and Society at the Australian National University. Viveka has taught under-graduates and post-graduates at the University of Canberra and the Australian National University. She has collaborated on research projects with academics across disciplines and her current research interests explore urban design for cross-species cohabitation. Viveka started at CUC Snowy Monaro in 2020 as Learning Skills Advisor and is excited to share her learning experiences and support her local community with their learning skills.

# Our Partners

## Government & Community

**Central to the successful establishment of the CUC Snowy Monaro is the Commonwealth Government's operational funding, alongside the significant local corporate support, regional collaboration and individual commitment.**

**Snowy Hydro Ltd and Cooma Monaro Shire Council have played a critical role in the establishment and ongoing operations of CUC Snowy Monaro.**

### **The Australian Government**

The Australian Government is investing \$24.2 million over four years to assist in the establishment and operation of 16 community-owned, regional study hubs at 23 sites across regional Australia. In November 2018, the Minister for Education announced that CUC Far West was a successful grant recipient of the Regional University Centre program, receiving support for ongoing operations until 2023.

### **Snowy Hydro Ltd**

Since 2013, Snowy Hydro Ltd has been a major financial sponsor of CUC Snowy Monaro. They have provided significant in-kind support, as well as corporate and legal advice.

### **Snowy Monaro Regional Council**

Snowy Monaro Regional Council has provided ongoing in-kind support since CUC Snowy Monaro's inception in 2013. We look forward to continuing this relationship in the future. .



**Australian Government**  
Department of Education,  
Skills and Employment

**snowyhydro**

 **SNOWY MONARO  
REGIONAL COUNCIL**  
Stronger together Better together

“

**This is my third degree, and while I know  
how to study successfully, it wouldn't  
have been possible to move back to my  
family farm and continue to study  
without the Centre.**

**Tim Green**

**Graduate Certificate in Agriculture (Cotton Farm Systems)  
The University of New England**



# Our Partners

## Universities

### Central Queensland University

CUC Snowy Monaro has offered tailored support for students studying a Bachelor of Education in partnership with CQUniversity across 2020. This has included utilising the skills of local tutors.

CQUniversity is a national educational institution with more than 40 years' experience in distance education. The collaboration, between CUC Snowy Monaro and CQUniversity offering students greater support to meet their goals. Connecting students to online lectures with fellow classmates, facilitating face-to-face tutorials, assisting in enrolment, and ultimately, helping students them to achieve their career aspirations. Students engage in face-to-face tutorials, delivered by our qualified industry professional, and access study facilities seven days a week, including video conferencing technology.

### University of New England

University of New England (UNE) has 18,000 external students and is Australia's second largest online university. Online Study Australia rates UNE as Australia's best online university, providing exceptionally high course satisfaction rates and high graduate salaries.

The partnership is aimed at providing high-quality student and academic support for UNE students registered across the CUC network. The CUC team and UNE collaborated for a series of training sessions to develop a better understanding of how we can work together to support students, including meeting staff from a range of UNE projects. In Trimester 1, 2020, 21 UNE students registered with the CUC Far West. These and hopefully many more students will benefit from this agreement.

### Charles Sturt University

We are very excited to announce a new initiative between the CUC and Charles Sturt University (CSU) to support our regional nursing students to be successful in their studies. The CUC is now offering free specialised tutoring to students registered with the CUC who are studying Nursing with CSU.

One of our key goals is to enhance regional development by creating opportunities for locals to grow their own workforce. Health is one of the most studied fields for CUC students and graduates, and is an important source of employment for our regional and rural communities. This initiative brings together community, university and industry to build strong pathways for our regional communities. This new service will provide high quality content specialist assistance for students to overcome these challenges.

Support is offered to CSU B.Nursing and Graduate Diploma of Midwifery students who are registered with a CUC; CSU students completing a health-related subject which is a part of the nursing curriculum i.e. Paramedicine; CSU Postgraduate Nursing students are welcome to make contact for general support, content support will be speciality dependent.

# Our Partners

## Community

### Country Education Foundation

Country Universities Centre (CUC) is happy to announce a partnership with the Country Education Foundation (CEF). The organisations are united in their drive to empower rural and regional communities and support their youth who aspire to achieve further education after high school. CUC and the CEF currently operate in several shared geographic areas, and with expansion front of mind for both organisations, a partnership is the perfect way to collaborate and grow.



By working together to increase access to education in rural and regional Australia, we hope to increase the aspirations and participation in further education by our country youth. This mission is now more important than ever on the back of severe drought, devastating bushfires and unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Foundation for Rural Regional and Rural Renewal

The Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR) is a charitable foundation based on partnerships between philanthropy, community, government and business.



FRRR partners with CUC to assist in the fundraising for CUC as a charitable project in line with FRRR's purposes, through a Not-for-Profit Fundraising Account.

Donations made into the FRRR Public Fund towards the CUC project are tax deductible because of FRRR's tax status.

### Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation

The CUC awarded a grant from Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation. This funding has been used alongside local Centre funds to recruit Learning Skills Advisors to assist students in their studies.

We are enormously grateful to the VFFF and look forward to reporting how their contribution has positively impacted the lives of our students in the years ahead.



# Who Our Students Are

And What They Represent

**416**  
students supported  
since opening

**159**  
students supported  
in 2020

**40%**  
are first in their  
family to study

**29**  
different  
universities

**75%**  
female



**25%**  
male

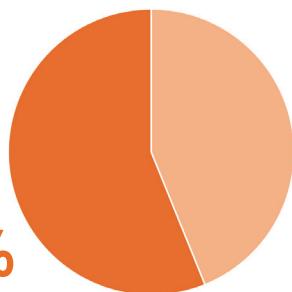
**5%**  
Aboriginal or Torres  
Strait Islander  
heritage



**66%**  
students are over the  
age of 25



**42%**  
study full time



**58%**  
study part time

## Top areas of study:



**Health 16%**



**Education 16%**



**Psychology, Social Work &  
Community Services 16%**

# Our Students

And their success



**Sami Rudd**

University of Sydney

Bachelor of Animal and Veterinary Bioscience

## Why did you register with CUC Snowy Monaro?

Because of COVID-19, my university moved classes online indefinitely, so I moved back to my family home in Dalgety. I soon found I couldn't study at home because the internet was so poor, and there were too many distractions. CUC was the only way I could keep studying.

## How did COVID-19 affect your studies?

Semester One was challenging because communication from my university was limited. Additionally, I had plans to complete Semester Two abroad in Texas USA, and this was also cancelled. As a result, I now need to complete an extra six months of study to accommodate for Honours.

## How did CUC Snowy Monaro support you?

I spent most days at CUC Snowy Monaro and took advantage of the brilliant internet and the quiet study space. It really allowed me to focus on my study and set study goals during a set time period each day. There was no way I could do this at home!

## What are your future plans?

I need to do an extra six months to complete Honours, and I hope that opens a door to a research job. I did want to have a year off and go travelling but that is now going to have to happen later, after COVID.

“

**CUC Snowy Monaro saved the day! Without this resource, and the staffs' compassion and understanding, I would never have been able to continue with my study this year.**

# Our Students

And their success



**Duncan Goozeff**

University of Canberra  
Bachelor of Nursing

## Why did you register with CUC Snowy Monaro?

I registered because I needed somewhere quiet to do my study. Even though I started the year as an on-campus student, I live in Nimmitabel which is two hours away from Canberra, so I needed somewhere to study when I wasn't on campus. The internet and staff support here is amazing!

## How did COVID-19 affect your studies?

It actually suited me because it meant that the course changed to online delivery, and I was able to continue my normally campus-based study closer to home. I was a daily user of the CUC and was able to easily move between home, work at the hospital, and the Centre.

## How did CUC Snowy Monaro support you?

Viveka, the Learning Skills Advisor, has been an incredible support and has really helped me approach my assessments in more academic way. She gave me the time to work through my assessments and as a result, my marks improved.

## What are your future plans?

I will complete my study at the end of 2021. In the mean time, apart from studying, I plan to do a lot of road biking and skiing!



CUC Snowy Monaro was my constant in the turbulent times of COVID-19. It was an easier transition to online learning. I'm so thankful for this resource.

# Learning Skills Advice

Supporting Our Students to Succeed

## One-on-one Consults

CUC Snowy Monaro conducted 124 one on one student session over Semester 1 and Semester 2, 2020.

## Main Topics of Support

Main topics included referencing, assignment planning, assessment feedback and breaking down assignment questions.

## Workshops

CUC Snowy Monaro ran 12 workshops through the Learning Skills Advisors program since the commencement of program.

### Workshop topics for the year included:

- Academic writing
- Group Q&A for assignments
- Presentation skills
- Study feast
- Essay writing skills
- Exam preparation
- Research and writing skills



Viveka helped me to build confidence in my academic abilities during my first semester of post graduate study.



Bringing degrees  
closer to regional  
rural and remote  
Australians.



Australian Government  
Department of Education,  
Skills and Employment

1800 OUR CUC  
[www.cucsnowymonaro.edu.au](http://www.cucsnowymonaro.edu.au)