2014 Geraldton Institute Inc Annual
From the Chair

Another big year for GUC has passed, bringing with it more than a fair share of notable turning points in the history of this unique and innovative organisation.

The official opening in March of our Stage 2 Building by the Minister for Regional Development, the Honourable Terry Redman MLA, attracted more than 90 guests to see and celebrate our new multi-building campus. B building presents a tangible sign of a GUC’s growth, whilst helping to create capacity to continue that trend. We are particularly grateful to the MWDC and the $3M from its Royalties for Regions funded Mid West Investment Plan to enable the facility to be built.

The return of Nursing to GUC in semester two of 2014 has proved to be a great success, with 2015 enrolments already fully subscribed. Our valued university partners University of Southern Queensland, Central Queensland University, and Charles Sturt University and are helping us to offer more course options than ever before and we look forward to continuing to strengthen and develop those partnerships as we move forward.

The Hollomby Foundation has continued to provide both support to GUC students and a vehicle for community & industry to foster GUC’s growth. We can’t thank our generous donors enough. We especially welcomed a $50,000 contribution from PD Horwood and Aeges Pty Ltd and a very generous $200,000 donation over five years from the Greenough River Solar Farm for initiatives and scholarships in engineering, science and technology.

Year’s end brought a sad but enjoyable farewell to GUC’s Director of nearly 10 years, Meredith Wills. Meredith has left GUC in its strongest position to date with regards to student numbers, financial sustainability, facilities, partnerships and relationships. The farewell function provided the opportunity to reflect on the pains and gains of GUC during Meredith’s tenure, and to wish her, and husband Bert Beevers, a well earned and relaxing retirement.

We are extremely lucky to have former Special Projects Manager Natalie Nelmes assume the role from the start of 2015. Her understanding and belief in the GUC model, combined with her strong communication, interpersonal and analytical skills, will ensure GUC continues to move towards sustainability and success.

During the year the Board farewelled Sue Shaw, who served for four years, and made an invaluable contribution to education generally in Geraldton and the Mid West. In her place we welcomed a GUC graduate, Donna McVee (BEd.), who brings a valuable ex-student’s perspective as well as the thought processes of a lawyer to the table.

The Board draws its membership from Geraldton Institute Inc (GII), which grew from the grass roots support and lobbying that led to the initial creation of the GUC. It’s this community support that is so vital to our viability and growth. It’s the growth that’s evident with more than 200 students studying at GUC in 2015. We anticipate the graduation of seven students shortly and we are currently undertaking strategic planning to focus our resources so that they can best deliver university outcomes for our students whilst ensuring GUC’s financial sustainability.

On behalf of the Board, I invite you to engage with us and join us in the journey ahead for GUC. We are national leaders in the field of unique tertiary education delivery, and we should all be proud of how far we’ve come, and committed to continuing to grow and achieve the success our community deserves.

Steve Douglas
Chair
Director’s Report

It is with great joy that I write my first Director’s report for the GUC Annual.

Might I commence by paying homage to my predecessor Meredith Wills, who retired at the completion of the 2014 academic year after nearly 10 years of dedicated service to the Centre and our community.

In my speech at Meredith’s retirement function, I listed an extensive array of attributes that GUC staff had provided about her – visionary, generous, dedicated, great company; just some of the comments made. I concluded the speech by saying that GUC prides itself on our passion for creating opportunity in our community and for the support we will give people on their educational journey.

It’s no surprise that this passionate and supportive culture exists – it’s because Meredith created it, led it and it’s the legacy that she leaves behind her.

This supportive legacy is, I believe, at the crux of what GUC is all about. Support for each other, support for our students, support for our community and support for our university partners.

GUC administrative staff work in an open, supportive and collaborative fashion so that the Centre operates as one cohesive unit. In turn, they provide fantastic support to our academic staff so they can be organised and resourced with what they require to effectively tutor our students. Our academic staff come together in the Community of Practice to share their experiences and support each other, to learn from each other’s teaching styles, so they can deliver the best learning experiences to GUC students.

GUC is committed to providing the very highest levels of support for our students administratively, academically and pastorally. As the recently launched GUC Charter attests, our staff match the commitment and dedication of students with support, guidance and advice throughout their degree.

Of course this support is aimed at ensuring students studying at GUC succeed and become the professionals that our community needs to prosper into the future. In this way, GUC supports our community: not only providing the opportunity for local people to study and achieve their personal goals, but to provide that wider community benefit as we train and retain nurses, accountants, teachers, social workers, etc that are committed to the region for the long term.

Successful student completion also repays the faith that our university partners show in establishing a relationship with GUC. Through these arrangements, our university partners provide the curriculum, online resources and accreditation required while GUC recruits students and provides the on-ground support to retain them semester to semester, to completion of their degree. By providing the very best support for our students, we support our university partners’ objectives and maintain the mutually beneficial arrangements that are the cornerstone of the GUC model.

In return, GUC receives unparalleled support from local government agencies, businesses and the wider community. We never underestimate the importance of this support. We will always strive to be worthy of it, ensuring we provide the access to university education that our community needs and deserves.

Natalie Nelmes
Director
Objectives of the GUC

The objectives of the Geraldton Universities Centre are to facilitate, deliver, promote and provide access to university education including:

- To serve as the primary point of contact for the delivery of university education in the region.
- To facilitate and promote education and career pathways between schools, vocational education and training providers, universities and industry.
- To coordinate and support research and partnerships, especially those which assist in the sustainable development of the region.
- To advocate in the best interests of regional students.
- To promote and assist lifelong learning and raise community aspirations.
- To collect public donations to support the Association's offerings and learning experiences of students.

Board Members & Staffing

Board of Management

Regional Representatives:
(elected from Geraldton Institute Inc Membership)
Chair: Steve Douglas - Manager Strategic Projects, Mid West Development Commission
Vice Chair: Grant Woodhams - former Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and Member for Moore
Secretary: Donna McVee - Teacher, Bluff Point Primary School, Graduated 2010 through GUC
Treasurer: Bruce McDowell - Partner, Mid Coast Partners

Durack Institute of Technology - Joanne Payne, Director Training
Administering University - Prof Sally Sandover, UWA Academic Director, Educational Strategies Office
Minister for Education - Terry Werner, Director of Higher Education & Legislation, Department of Educational Services.

Staffing
The GUC currently employs:

- Director
- Administration Officer
- Finance Officer
- Aboriginal/Student Support Officer
- Academic Coordinators (5)
- Stakeholder Relations
- Administration Assistant
- Program Coordinator
- IT Support (contract as required)
- Sessional Tutors
Supported Program Delivery 2014

The GUC model of supported distance education sees programs offered online by our university partners with face-to-face tutorial support provided by GUC for students across all disciplines. The GUC continues to build on the range of programs available to provide more choice to the local community. In addition to the courses below, GUC is offering CQUniversity’s Bachelor of Social Work in 2015.

Central Queensland University
STEPS
Student Numbers: 40 EFTSL: 20
Bachelor of Accounting/Bachelor of Business
Student Numbers: 33 EFTSL: 22.75
Bachelor of Psychology
Student Numbers: 11 EFTSL: 5.875
Bachelor of Learning Management / Education
Student Numbers: 42 EFTSL: 44

Charles Sturt University
Bachelor of Communications
Student Numbers: 18 EFTSL: 9.25

University of Southern Queensland
Bachelor of Nursing (semester 2 only)
Student Numbers: 12 EFTSL: 5.5
Associate Degree in Engineering
Student Numbers: 8 EFTSL: 5.625
(includes bridging maths students)

Curtin University
Bachelor of Science (Nursing) - teach out
Student Numbers: 15 EFTSL: 10.75

EFTSL = Equivalent full time student load.

Looking forward in 2015 — 200+ students are studying at GUC resulting in our largest O Day yet!
2014 Highlights

Visit by CQU University

In April, GUC had great pleasure in welcoming Chancellor Rennie Fritschy, Vice Chancellor Scott Bowman and Campus Development Director Kari Arbouin from our largest university partner, Central Queensland University.

The visit provided an opportunity to further build the relationship between GUC and CQU University with our guests meeting staff, students and industry.

Return of Nursing meets community demand

12 students started their Bachelor of Nursing degree through University of Southern Queensland in semester 2. It wasn’t long before they headed to Toowoomba for their practical component, supported by travel bursaries from Hollomby Foundation. All places for 2015 are already fully subscribed.

As part of the accreditation process for the Geraldton site, USQ’s Head of Nursing Professor Cath Rogers and Coordinator Dr Clint Moloney visited in March followed by the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council in September. With accreditation granted, the future is looking bright for Nursing at GUC!

Two new major Hollomby Foundation donors

New scholarships are now available to GUC students, thanks to the generous support of two new donors.

In May, the Greenough River Solar Farm came on board, with General Manager Hugh Webster signing off on a commitment to $200,000 over five years: $40,000 each year for science, engineering, technology and renewable initiatives and associated scholarships.

In December, we welcomed the Horwood Family. The donation of land from PD Horwood and Aeges Pty Ltd for the 2014 Telethon home, on the proviso that $50,000 of the sale proceeds be returned to a local charity, will enable an annual Deepdale Bursary for nursing students and activities related to nursing. The Horwood Family Education Scholarship is a $5,000 scholarship open to a continuing Education student studying at the GUC who can demonstrate their commitment to excellence in teaching and to serving their regional community.
2014 Highlights

GUSS-Geraldton Universities Student Squad

The Geraldton Universities Student Squad, formed in early 2014 to help enrich the student experience at GUC, continues to build its numbers and presence. The committee has helped at a number of GUC events and functions throughout the year, including the official opening, orientation day and more.

They also organised for students to participate in the Geraldton Greenough Sunshine Festival.

Bachelor of Social Work for 2015

A new agreement with CQUniversity was signed so that a Bachelor of Social Work could be added to the range of university programs supported at the Centre in 2015.

Articulation arrangements were secured to enable Durack Institute graduates in the Diploma of Community Services, Youth Work and Counselling to be admitted directly into the second year of the Social Work program, resulting in the enrolment of 8 first year and 5 second year students.

Student amenities upgrade

New outdoor and indoor furniture along with creation of a student library in 2014 provided more study and recreation spaces for GUC students to really enjoy campus life.

Farewell to Director Meredith Wills

The retirement of Meredith Wills as GUC Director after nearly ten years at the helm, and appointment of former Special Projects Manager Natalie Nelmes as her successor, begins a new chapter in the history of GUC and our innovative model for the support of tertiary education in our region.
The Hollomby Foundation once again provided thousands of dollars worth of scholarships to assist local students in 2014, and welcomed two new major donors to facilitate even more opportunities for 2015.

GUC acknowledges the vital support of the individuals and businesses listed below, and extends thanks for their generosity to the Hollomby Foundation and GUC’s students.

HOLLOMBY FOUNDATION PATRONS
Horwood Family

HOLLOMBY FOUNDATION PARTNERS
Les Hollomby, Ian Wheatland, John & Beryl Rigter, Greenough Lions Club

HOLLOMBY FOUNDATION SUPPORTERS

Geraldton Universities Centre
33 Onslow Street, PO Box 2779
Geraldton WA 6530
08 9920 4400

www.guc.edu.au