



geraldton universities centre



2011 Geraldton Institute Inc Annual



From the Chair

2011 was a year of considerable achievement at the GUC. It was the year we set out to really test the independent, regionally based structure we developed in 2010. We forged new partnerships with delivering universities and really set about fulfilling our pledge to the community to provide an expanded range of opportunities for local people.

The GUC model of university delivery is unique throughout Australia. An independent, incorporated body with the ability to support course delivery from any university in Australia sounded terrific, but were universities going to be interested in dealing with us?

We put it to the test, calling for proposals from universities in WA, Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland to deliver existing programs and those we had identified as being important and demanded by the community.

In requesting these proposals, the Board resolved that all courses delivered at the GUC had to meet the following principles:

- To utilise the best possible technology for high quality online experiences, always accompanied by local face-to-face support.
- To always ensure that the programs delivered to students at the GUC provide equity in terms of quality, services and value for money, and
- Arrangements to be based on mutually beneficial partnerships with our university partners

The gamble paid off. While it wasn't necessarily smooth sailing, we were successful in both securing university partners to deliver the programs we were seeking while holding true to these principles. Courses in accounting, business, psychology and education have been secured with Central Queensland University, Journalism with Charles Sturt University and we continue our long standing relationship with Curtin University for the delivery of Nursing.

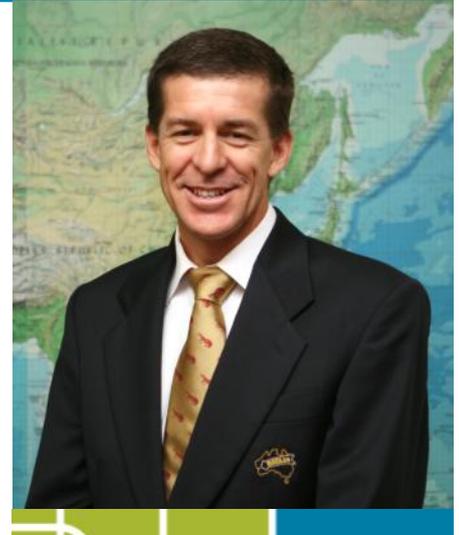
Taking a giant leap of faith as this has been does not happen without the enthusiasm and commitment from Board, Management and staff. My fellow Board members should be commended for the time that they have willingly given to help forge this new approach. Our small, but hard working Management duo of Director Meredith Wills and Special Projects Natalie Nelmes have worked tirelessly to create relationships with our partners and our community to turn lofty ideas into practical, robust solutions. All the while, the staff and tutors of the GUC have kept providing an unparalleled level of support to students.

And the results speak for themselves. We welcomed around 85 people in new programs in 2012, far exceeding any previous first year intake.

This is only the beginning. We look forward to continuing this growth, continuing to provide more options and opportunities for local people and setting the GUC on a path to long term sustainability.

Wayne Hosking

Chair





Director's Report

If I were to sum up 2011 in two words, they would have to be relationship building.

As a community based organisation, relationships are at the very heart of the GUC. Relationships with our membership, Friends and Hollomby Foundation partners provide the grassroot input and support that propels us all at the GUC.

Relationships with the Durack Institute of Technology and other institutions in our immediate precinct see us working together to best utilise resources and provide coordinated pathways.

Increasingly our relationship with industry is providing us with both funding support and expertise to investigate and develop new programs that ultimately provide new opportunities for local people. It's a valuable voice that not only ensures we develop and deliver what industry requires but provides confidence to university partners that programs will succeed.

Relationship building with university partners has been a major priority through the year. You may recall we welcomed the Vice Chancellor and senior executives of CQUniversity to last year's graduation ceremony. Following this visit and reciprocal visits from both myself and Natalie Nelmes to Queensland, we have developed strong relationships, a robust legal agreement and best of all, a flow of new course opportunities for local people

Similarly, the GUC was able to develop excellent working relationships with Charles Sturt University (CSU). The Hon. Grant Woodhams MLA, opened the door to CSU, visiting on our behalf. This visit was reciprocated by CSU and with the support of the local media industry, the Bachelor of Communications in Journalism was secured.

We also continue to work with long standing university partner Curtin University to support their process of accrediting the Nursing program nationally so that this course can be delivered in Geraldton for the years ahead.

Through all this, the student experience has been at the forefront of our minds. We have developed a model of supported distance education delivery here at the GUC. Our students receive all the resources of online distance students along with face-to-face academic tutorials from local professionals every week at the GUC. The calibre of tutors we have been able to attract sees our next generation learning from our own community's best and brightest.

Increasingly, the GUC has been able to create a "real" university experience. It's what our community has told us they want. And it is no doubt why we have achieved an outstanding number of enrolments for 2012.

Having also filled CQUniversity's STEPS bridging program in 2012, the interest for people in the Mid West to pursue tertiary education seems only to be growing. Meeting this growing demand with quality programs, delivery and support is, as always, GUC's goal.

Meredith Wills

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:

- Wayne Hosking – CEO, Geraldton Fishermen's Cooperative
- Susan Shaw – Principal, Geraldton Grammar School
- Bruce McDowell – Partner, Mid Coast Partners
- Steve Douglas – CEO, Mid West Development Commission

Durack Institute of Technology

- Steve Cooper and Joanne Payne, Director Training

Administering University

- Sally Sandover, UWA Coordinator of Regional Programs

Minister for Education

- Terry Werner, Director of Higher Education & Legislation, Department of Educational Services.

Staffing

The GUC currently employs:

- Director
- Special Projects (.8)
- Administration Officer
- Administration Assistant
- Finance Officer/Student Coordination (.8)
- IT Support (contract as required)
- Tutors (casual contracts)

Course Delivery 2011

Curtin University

Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood and Primary)

Delivered online with support tutorials funded under the Mid West Development Commission's Regional Grant Scheme.

Student Numbers: 77 EFTSL: 55.75

Bachelor of Science (Nursing)

Online lecturers with face-to-face tutorials and laboratories plus practicums supervised in local hospitals and health institutions.

Student Numbers: 27 EFTSL: 22.35

Edith Cowan University

University Preparation Course

First semester only. Delivered with blend of online and face-to-face tutorials.

Student Numbers: 17 EFTSL: 8.5

CQUniversity

Bachelor of Accounting/Bachelor of Business

Introduced for the first time in semester 2 to a part-time cohort. Supported distance education with online materials plus face-to-face tutorials for all units.

Student Numbers: 6 EFTSL: 1.5

Charles Sturt University

Bachelor of Communications (Journalism)

Introduced as a trial in semester 2 to Geraldton Guardian cadets. Block teaching from visiting CSU lecturers plus supported distance education.

Student Numbers: 4 EFTSL: No EFTSL received as trial only

Graduation Statistics

The GUC celebrated the achievements of 15 Graduates from 2011 at the February 2012 ceremony. This brought the total of graduates to 187 since the inception of the GUC in 2002. The students graduated from Curtin University as follows:

Course	Graduates
Bachelor of Education (ECE)	3
Bachelor of Education (Primary)	10
Bachelor of Science (Nursing)	2



2011 Highlights

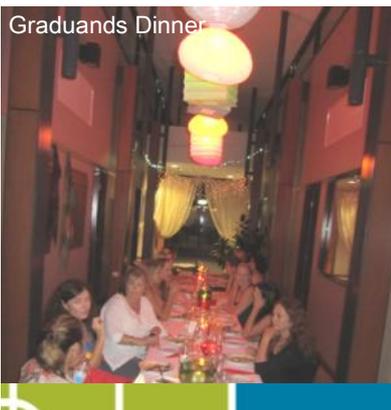
University Visits

The GUC welcomed CQUniversity Vice Chancellor Scott Bowman and executives to our February 2011 Graduation, paving the way for future course delivery. They were closely followed by Charles Sturt University representatives to progress running of a journalism program. The GUC reciprocated both visits in August 2011 and January 2012.

Graduation and Dinner

The February 2011 Graduation was attended by 350 members of our community, celebrating the achievements of Education and Nursing students.

The GUC also continued the tradition of a Graduands dinner. 2011 Graduands were treated to a Moroccan feast.



Graduands Dinner

Conferences

GUC Director Meredith Wills was invited to deliver the story of the GUC to no less than three conferences in 2011. The speaking engagements began in Canberra in March, addressing the Universities Australia Conference on the collaboration that makes the GUC a unique model of university delivery.

Meredith also addressed the Small Regional Campus Conference in Hobart (remotely) and the WA Tertiary Education Conference in Perth.

Regional Grant Scheme

The GUC was successful in securing a second stage of funding towards our sustainability form the Mid West Development Commission's Regional Grant Scheme. The \$138,000 received in August 2011 is helping to provide academic support for students, development of new programs and promote the GUC in order to attract students.

NBN Launch and Politician Visits

The GUC hosted Senator Steven Conroy and guests as he launched the National Broadband Network in Geraldton. His was one of numerous visits by Federal and State politicians to the GUC in 2011 which also included Federal Opposition Deputy Leader Julie Bishop, Member for Durack Barry Haase, State Education Minister Dr Liz Constable and our local MP's Grant Woodhams and Ian Blayney who always provide unwavering support.



CSU and GUC staff



Senator Conroy with GUC Board Members

2011 Highlights

IGA Community Chest

The GUC's Hollomby Foundation was the 2011 beneficiary of Rigtgers' IGA Supermarkets Community Chest. The program supports fundraising activities and also donates a percentage of sales from IGA Community Chest products.

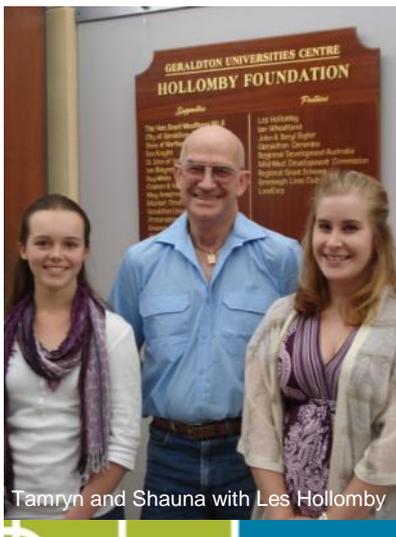
Friends of the GUC and students manned sausage sizzles and soup stalls while IGA staff organised a quiz night and in store raffles, all to support the Foundation.

In all, a fantastic total of \$21,356 was raised.



Scholarships

The inaugural Hollomby Foundation Scholarships in Nursing were awarded in 2011 to first year students Tamryn Richmond and Shauna Burchell. The Foundation also awarded students a further \$13,000 in scholarships and prizes from the City of Greater Geraldton, Mid West Development Commission, Shire of Northampton, The Hon. Grant Woodhams MLA, Mr Ian Blayney MLA, St John of God Hospital Geraldton and RSM Bird Cameron.



Tamryn and Shauna with Les Hollomby

Community Activities

Uni Week – The GUC opened its doors to Year 10 and 12 students from all Geraldton secondary schools to gain more information on both GUC programs and what was available from visiting Perth based universities.

Mid West Youth Science Forum – the GUC was once again on the steering committee of the Youth Science Forum held in July. The GUC manned a "speed dating" table with the Combined University Centre for Rural Health to help students discover their study and career options.

Community, Careers and Training Expo - This Durack Institute of Technology Expo attracts a large crowd of students and wider community. The GUC exhibited at the event and provided the major prize of an iPad.

Big Sky Writers Festival - The Writers' Festival is an annual highlight for the GUC, being a major sponsor of the City of Greater Geraldton Library event as well as the main venue for the weekend's activities.

Information Evenings - It was standing room only in November as the GUC attracted our biggest crowd ever of more than 50 people to our information evening. The growth in courses for 2012 was largely responsible for the increased attendance.

Engineering Working Group

Following the success of the Media Centre Working Group to attract a journalism program to Geraldton, the GUC formed an Engineering Working Group in 2011 to conduct a feasibility study into the delivery of an Engineering program for 2013. The group includes Engineers Australia representatives and members of local industry. Early results indicate that an Associate Degree in Engineering, with a civil major that uses industry facilities for practical assessments, should be achievable.

HOLLOMBY Foundation



The Hollomby Foundation topped \$100,000 in donations in 2011 with more than \$30,000 also contributed in kind to the GUC. Industry Working Group members also made substantial contributions to the Centre to assist with development of journalism and engineering programs. The GUC acknowledges the support of the following people and organisations for their generous support.

HOLLOMBY FOUNDATION PARTNERS

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



HOLLOMBY FOUNDATION SUPPORTERS

The Hon. Grant Woodhams MLA, Shire of Northampton, Ben Knight, St John of God Health Care Geraldton, Ian Blayney MLA, Ray White Geraldton, Cramer & Neill, May Armstrong, Jackson McDonald, Market Creations, Geraldton University Access Group, Armanasco & Son, Water Corporation, Morgan Adhesives, Bundiyyarra Community Aboriginal Corporation, Shire of Irwin, RSM Bird Cameron, Encompass Financial, WesTrac.

INDUSTRY WORKING GROUP SUPPORTERS

Geraldton Newspapers, West Australian Newspapers, City of Greater-Geraldton, Western Indigenous Media, Spirit FM, Mid West Aboriginal Radio, Durack Institute of Technology, Mid West District Education Office, Crosslands Resources, Ian Blayney MLA, The Hon. Grant Woodhams MLA, Geraldton Iron Ore Alliance, AECOM, MMG Golden Grove, Geraldton Port Authority, Central Earthmoving, Maicon Engineering.

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Photo courtesy of Andrew Pritchard

