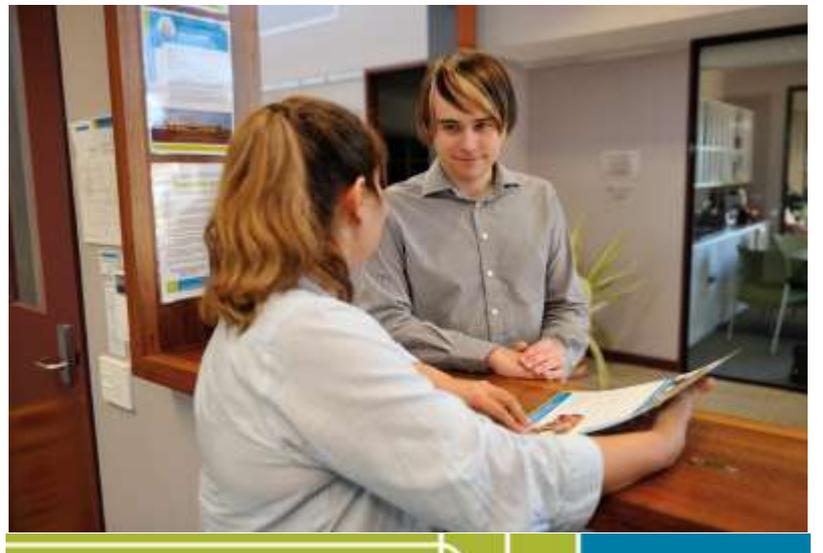




geraldton universities centre



# 2012 Geraldton Institute Inc Annual



## From the Acting Chair

2012 was a watershed year for GUC. It was a year from which we emerged clear in our aims and direction, confident in our future and built credibility with students, industry, government and universities from right across Australia.

Following our restructure to an independent regionally based board in 2010, we began to look more broadly at partnerships with universities Australia wide.

The result: GUC now has firm, five year contracts with Central Queensland University, Charles Sturt University and the University of Southern Queensland to support the delivery of new courses introduced during the last two years. In 2012 we also continued the Bachelor of Science Nursing with Curtin University and changes are now being worked through with this program.

With all of our new programs, the Board has been true to its **core value** of always providing face-to-face support to our students. GUC is very cognisant of the fact that a high percentage of our students graduate because of our very hands on delivery approach.

Whilst we embrace all the benefits that technology brings, we also know that our students value, and GUC value, adds to student learning through, our supported delivery mode.

Importantly, with our expanded range of face-to-face programs, we have been delighted to see an increase in school leavers applying and being successful to study at GUC.

Much of GUC's progress throughout 2012 and over the next few years has been enabled by two significant grants from the Royalties for Regions program – \$1million to support the introduction of new courses with face-to-face support and new technology as well as to employ an Aboriginal Student Support Officer, and \$3million to construct the GUC Stage 2 building.

On behalf of the GUC Board, I thank the Mid West Development Commission for their ongoing commitment and support in assisting GUC to secure these grants and promoting our cause.

Special acknowledgement must be made of Wayne Hosking's contribution to the GUC. Wayne has been on the GUC Board of Management since 2008 and retired as the Chair in January. We thank him most sincerely for his commitment to the GUC since its inception, for his personal achievements and the passion for education which he has demonstrated over these years.

The rest of my fellow board members should also be commended for their time, enthusiasm and commitment. A very special and huge thank you is also extended to both the GUC's academic and administration teams led superbly by Director Meredith Wills, and ably assisted by Natalie Nelmes.

The future is both challenging and exciting. With the GUC clear in our purpose, confident in our future and always enhancing our credibility with students and all of our many stakeholders, we know we are up to the challenge to continue to provide our community with the university access it so richly deserves.

**Steve Douglas**

Acting Chair





## Director's Report

At last year's AGM I summed up 2011 in two words: Relationship Building. For 2012 it's just one word: Consolidation.

Following the courses and partnerships we nurtured during 2011, the 2012 academic year kicked off with brand new programs in Bridging, Education, Psychology and Engineering, plus new enrolments in our existing Business/Accounting and Journalism programs.

In our 10th year, starting with 125 students enrolled primarily in the first year of three and four year degrees was exciting for us all. Not only was it the largest first year cohort the GUC has experienced, with a greater percentage of school leavers than ever before, but it also correlated with our enrolment modelling and showed us that our projections were pretty much on track.

We are also finding that an increasing number of students who were in the 2012 STEPS bridging program are going on to enrol in GUC supported courses now that we have a broader range of options. This means they no longer have to leave Geraldton to achieve their goals.

From now on, each year as we welcome new first year students, our existing cohorts will move up a year and our enrolments will steadily increase, consolidating our student numbers into the future. Our enrolment modelling predicts that we will reach our sustainable target of 250 students by 2015.

Expanded course offerings and increased enrolments have given us the opportunity to re-engage our great education tutors and to consolidate our pool of support tutors across the wider range of courses now on offer. We are proud of the calibre, expertise and professionalism of the academic support team. In 2012 we had 40 of the best and brightest from our region committed to supporting our regional students.

And in 2012, thanks to Royalties for Regions funding, not only did we finally get the Stage 2 building back off the drawing board, but were able to increase its size to cope with the predicted enrolments.

Royalties for Regions has also provided funding to assist the GUC to reach sustainability. During 2012 these funds enabled us to commence new courses with a first year intake only, in some cases with fairly small cohorts. Until the programs have enrolments spanning the full three and four years of the individual degrees, this funding helps to offset the cost of face to face tutorial support which is a core value of the GUC. The funding also enabled us to employ special coordinators to assist with the development of new courses, and at the end of the year we were able to advertise for an Aboriginal Support Officer to work with schools and community to engage and raise aspirations for Aboriginal students to enter and succeed at university.

The GUC admin team - Natalie, Tamara, Sari and Tiambra - worked tirelessly throughout 2012 and all credit must go to them for their commitment and enthusiasm for what has been a remarkable year for the GUC.

**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)*

Chair: Wayne Hosking – CEO, Geraldton Fishermen's Cooperative (resigned January 2013)

Vice Chair: Steve Douglas – CEO, Mid West Development Commission

Secretary: Susan Shaw – Principal, Geraldton Grammar School

Treasurer: Bruce McDowell – Partner, Mid Coast Partners

*Durack Institute of Technology*— 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
Administration Officer	Administration Assistant
Finance Officer/Student Coordination	Communications Coordinator
Academic Coordinator (LM/STEPS)	Sessional Tutors
IT Support (contract as required)	

## Course Delivery 2012

The GUC model of supported distance education is unique in Australia. Programs are delivered online with face-to-face tutorial support for Mid West 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 programs supported below in 2012, GUC introduced an Associate Degree in Engineering in 2013 in partnership with the University of Southern Queensland.

### Central Queensland University

#### STEPS

**Term 1** Student Numbers: 24 EFTSL: 10.625

**Term 2** Student Numbers: 22 EFTSL: 9.5

#### Bachelor of Accounting/Bachelor of Business

Student Numbers: 26 EFTSL: 10.375

#### Bachelor of Psychology

Student Numbers: 7 EFTSL: 2.875

#### Bachelor of Learning Management

Student Numbers: 15 EFTSL: 12

### Charles Sturt University

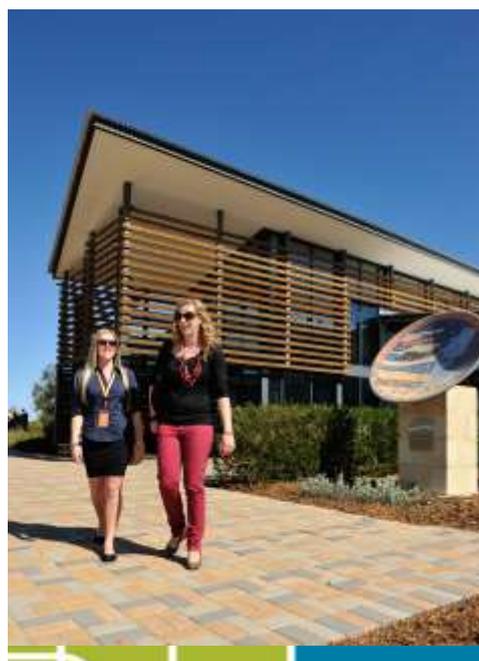
#### Bachelor of Communications (Journalism)

Student Numbers: 15 EFTSL: 8

### Curtin University

#### Bachelor of Science (Nursing)

Student Numbers: 38 EFTSL: 26.875



EFTSL = Equivalent full time student load. No term 3 figures included.

## Graduation Statistics

The GUC celebrated the achievements of 14 Graduates from 2012 at the March 2013 ceremony. This brought the total of graduates to 201 since the inception of the GUC in 2002. The students graduated from Curtin University as follows:

Course	Graduates
Bachelor of Education (ECE)	4
Bachelor of Education (Primary)	2
Bachelor of Science (Nursing)	7
Post Graduate Midwifery	1





## 2012 Highlights

### Students and Friends of the GUC celebrate 10 years

August saw the 10 year anniversary of the GUC, with celebrations and key announcements marking the day. Original Geraldton Institute member and Member for Moore, The Hon. Grant Woodhams made the official funding announcement for the Stage 2 Building to assembled students, staff and GUC Board members.

The Celebration Sundowner in the evening saw GI Members, friends, students and staff, past and present, celebrate 10 years of achievements at the GUC. Some of the GUC's first Graduates, Beth Sprott, Deanne Bridgeman, Lesley Cohen and Donna McVee had the honour of cutting the birthday cake.

The evening culminated with the announcement of the recipients of the Hollomby Scholarships in Nursing by Foundation Founder Ian Wheatland. The recipients were Sage Peters, Brittany Galvin and Nicole Collins.



### Funding announcements

The GUC received a significant boost in 2012, securing two Royalties for Regions grants to supplement our services and facilities.

The Growing GUC Through to Sustainability project received \$1.05 million over three years through the Regional Development Council's Action Agenda Funding Scheme. The funding supports the increase in academic, coordinating and support staff required to run new programs as well as the technologies and course resources that will ensure an equitable learning experience for local students. Importantly, the funding has allowed the GUC to employ an Aboriginal Students Support Officer.

\$3 million was also awarded from the Mid West Development Commission's Mid West Investment Plan for a Stage 2 building. The new facility will cater for the increased growth in both courses and student enrolments at the Centre, with five additional teaching spaces as well as hospitality areas and storage set to be constructed. The building is planned for completion by the start of the 2014 year.



### Engineering agreement for 2013

The GUC announced the introduction of an Associate Degree in Engineering in 2013 with a new partnership signed with the University of Southern Queensland (USQ).

The partnership is the third new service agreement negotiated since the GUC became independent. The agreement was made possible through the support of the Engineering Working Group and visits between USQ and GUC.

## 2012 Highlights

### Inaugural STEPS students graduate

The first groups of students to undertake CQ University's STEPS bridging program at the Geraldton Universities Centre graduated in 2012, allowing them to fulfil the first stage in their quest for a university degree.

STEPS filled in both semesters 1 and 2 — a significant achievement given a bridging program had never run in semester 2 before at GUC.



### Local schools benefit from in class work experience



2012 saw students in their first year of the GUC's new CQUniversity Bachelor of Learning Management program, commence work experience in local schools.

As part of the program, students are required to attend one day a week at a local school throughout the remainder of their four year degree.

This practical approach allows GUC students to build their teaching skills and confidence in the classroom while they learn their theory at the GUC.

The reaction from the local schools involved has been overwhelmingly positive.

### GUC in the community

The GUC continued to play an active role in the Mid West community in 2012. **University Week** saw the Centre open its doors to Year 10 and 12 students from all local secondary schools to gain information on GUC and Perth based university programs. The **Mid West Youth Science forum** was held in June, helping students discover their study options. The GUC held an exhibition booth at the **Community, Careers and Training Expo** and attracted large interest from the crowd who attended. **The Big Sky Writers Festival** was a 2012 highlight for the GUC, proudly being a major sponsor for the City of Greater Geraldton event.



### Visitors to the GUC

The unique operations of the GUC continued to draw interest from across the country in 2012. In August, the GUC had the pleasure of showing off our facilities and discussing our model of tertiary education delivery with Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Science and Research Senator Chris Evans. In Geraldton on SKA business, Senator Evans was keen to visit the GUC, having previously met with Meredith Wills and Board Member Sally Sandover in Perth about the GUC's operations.

Member for Geraldton Ian Blayney also continued his support and pride in the GUC, including the GUC on his itinerary for US Consul General Aleisha Woodward on her visit to Geraldton.

# HOLLOMBY Foundation



The Hollomby Foundation has now provided more than \$60,000 in scholarships and prizes to GUC students.

The GUC acknowledges the support of the people and organisations below and thanks them for their generosity.

## 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, Bundiyarra Community Aboriginal Corporation, Shire of Irwin, RSM Bird Cameron, Encompass Financial, WesTrac.

## Geraldton Universities Centre

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

[www.guc.edu.au](http://www.guc.edu.au)

Photo courtesy of Andrew Pritchard

