

# A MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR AND VICE-CHANCELLOR

As 2022 concludes, the annual report is an opportunity for us to reflect on a year that saw us celebrate many milestones as our campuses returned to their pre-COVID vibrancy and we resumed to face-to-face education, welcoming students back onto campus.

The years preceding 2022 were incredibly challenging for everyone and we want to specifically acknowledge our staff and students who showed tenacity, adaptability and determination to succeed through these circumstances. As we returned to our 'new normal' our achievements, outlined in our annual report, are a demonstration of these qualities that see our University continue to be a leading university in Australia.

Our strategic plan, 'Looking Ahead', continued to guide us as we celebrated many milestones across all areas of our University. One of our most exciting achievements in 2022 came when we received \$50 million in Australian Government funding for the Trailblazer for Recycling and Clean Energy (TRaCE) program, a partnership with UNSW. This accomplishment is a direct reflection of our continued commitment to sustainability and will be significant not only for our University but also our region and our nation. The TRaCE program will provide us with the tools and resources to bring more clean energy technology to the market sooner, something we see as critical to ensuring our future remains bright.

Our commitment to sustainability was further highlighted when we officially opened Q Building at our Newcastle City Campus in Honeysuckle, one of the first buildings in regional Australia to achieve a 6 Star Green Star 'Design and As Built' certification. This environmental rating is a signpost to our dedication to create sustainable projects into the future and we see this becoming our standard for environmentally friendly construction.

There were many other milestones throughout 2022 – we continued to improve in our global rankings, ranking 192 in the world in the QS World University Rankings, while also remaining the number 1 university in Australia for industry collaboration.

As our country re-opened to international travel, we officially opened the University of Newcastle Singapore Campus. The new institute - Newcastle Australia Institute of Higher Education (formerly known as UON Singapore) - is a signal of our commitment to the Asia Pacific and is the University's hub in the region.

We were especially pleased to see graduations return to full capacity and Open Days back on our campuses. To welcome students about to begin their studies and celebrate those who have completed their University journey on our campuses was momentous after the past couple of years.

Our alumni are most important to us as we are proud to continue our relationship with our students even after they finish their studies. We now have a network of more than 168,000 alumni based in 153 countries around the world. These alumni and many other generous donors regularly provide philanthropic support to our University. We are honoured to report that our University received the most philanthropic support in any year in history in 2022. This achievement reflects well on the University's values resonating with alumni.

Our University has a long commitment to the Central Coast region and we believe people living on the Central Coast should have the same opportunities as people have in Newcastle and Sydney to be able to access world-class university education on their doorstep. We were proud to officially open the University of Newcastle Central Coast Clinical School and Central Coast Research Institute located at Gosford Hospital.

Throughout 2022 the economy became a key focal point as we entered a period of high inflation, rising interest rates and low unemployment. The impact of these economic factors, volatile share market conditions, recovery from the COVID pandemic and rising costs placed stress on the university business model, resulting in our University reporting a financial deficit for 2022. We are confident in our strong economic base. However, pressures will continue into the future and will require careful ongoing management of the University's activities to ensure our long-term financial sustainability.

The achievements in this report are a testament to our staff and the progress we have made in delivering our Looking Ahead strategic plan is exceptional. Thank you to our Council colleagues for their continuing strong governance of the University's activities, and to all our community supporters and donors who engaged with us throughout 2022. As we enter the next year, we look forward to seeing the outstanding results we can achieve together as a University for our regions.



P.E. (Paul) Jeans  
Chancellor



Professor Alex Zelinsky AO  
Vice-Chancellor and President