

# VICE- CHANCELLOR'S AWARDS 2018



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**NEWCASTLE**  
AUSTRALIA



# MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Colleagues,

I am delighted to host the 2018 Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence. Excellence awards recognise and celebrate the achievements of our colleagues. We publicly acknowledge the hard work and dedication that underpins the success of our University.

It is a privilege for me to be hosting my first Awards ceremony. The awards are providing to me an insight into some of the remarkable work undertaken by individuals and teams from across the university.

As a new citizen of Newcastle, I am struck by the pivotal role the University plays in the life of the city and region. This year marked the official opening of NeW Space, a building which has won architectural and design awards. What has impressed me most about NeW Space, is not just the profound impact the building has on the city's skyline – but the fact that now our staff, students and supporters have a place to engage with our communities, right in the heart of the city. Award-winning buildings are great to have, but it is our people and their remarkable work, that extends our influence and impact far beyond physical boundaries. This includes the work of Laureate Professor Nick Talley AC who was just named NSW Scientist of the year, a tremendous personal achievement by Professor Talley. It is pleasing to know that this is the fourth time in 11 years that the top honour in the NSW Premier's Prizes for Science and Engineering has been bestowed on one of our researchers.

A big highlight this year was the \$16.4 million gift from the Paul Ramsay Foundation - our largest ever philanthropic gift to support research. The gift will support the work of Laureate Professor Jenny Gore and her team to expand their ground breaking program of Quality Teaching Rounds in Australian primary schools. The excellent work of our research and teaching staff would not be possible without the steadfast support, dedication and commitment of our professional staff. I believe that when we come together, harnessing the talent of our students, academic and professional staff, alumni and community, is how we can deliver our greatest work. Our first cohort of Ma and Morley scholars going into China is a shining example of a transformative program demonstrating this kind of collaboration.

Congratulations to all recipients in this year's Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence! My sincere thanks are extended to all of you for your outstanding contributions. It is an honour to be leading an institution that is consistently being recognised for delivering world-class research and education. You have my personal commitment to upholding our quality standards that are benchmarked against the world's best.

I am both proud and humbled to be the leader of such a dedicated and capable group of people. I look forward to working with every one of you in the years ahead.



**Professor Alex Zelinsky AO**

Vice-Chancellor and President

The University of Newcastle

# ABOUT THE VICE-CHANCELLOR'S AWARDS

## VICE-CHANCELLOR'S AWARD FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE AND CONTRIBUTION TO STUDENT LEARNING

Recognises the outstanding and diverse contributions of individuals and groups to the quality of student learning.

## VICE-CHANCELLOR'S AWARD FOR PROFESSIONAL STAFF EXCELLENCE

Recognises outstanding and exceptional performance by professional staff.

## VICE-CHANCELLOR'S AWARD FOR EARLY CAREER RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Recognises excellence in outstanding early career researchers.

## VICE-CHANCELLOR'S AWARD FOR RESEARCH SUPERVISION EXCELLENCE

Recognises the important role that supervisors play in supporting PhD and research masters students.

## VICE-CHANCELLOR'S AWARD FOR INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

Recognises an individual or team that have enhanced UON's global standing through international engagement.

## VICE-CHANCELLOR'S AWARD FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY EXCELLENCE

Recognises outstanding leadership and contribution to health and safety by an individual or team.

## VICE-CHANCELLOR'S AWARD FOR COLLABORATION EXCELLENCE

Recognises outstanding work across our Faculties and Divisions.

## VICE-CHANCELLOR'S AWARDS 2018

# PROGRAM

### 5.30PM - 6PM

Drinks and canapés in the foyer of the Conservatorium of Music.

### 6PM

Guests are invited to proceed into the Harold Lobb Concert Hall for the awards ceremony.

#### Welcome address

**Professor Alex Zelinsky AO**

*Vice-Chancellor and President*

#### Overview of Teaching and Learning Excellence Awards and presentation

**Professor John Fischetti**

*Interim Pro Vice-Chancellor  
(Education and Arts)*

#### Overview of Professional Staff Excellence Awards and presentation

**Nat McGregor**

*Chief Operating Officer*

#### Overview of Early Career Research and Innovation Excellence Awards and presentation

**Professor Kevin Hall**

*Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor  
(Research and Innovation)*

#### Overview of Research Supervision Excellence Awards and presentation

**Professor Kevin Hall**

*Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor  
(Research and Innovation)*

#### Overview of International Engagement Awards and presentation

**Dary Milani**

*Interim Pro Vice-Chancellor (International and Advancement)*

#### Overview of Health and Safety Excellence Awards and presentation

**Professor Lee Smith**

*Pro Vice-Chancellor (Science)*

#### Overview of Collaboration Excellence Awards and presentation

**Tina Crawford**

*Director, People and Workforce Strategy*

#### Closing comments

**Tina Crawford**

*Director, People and Workforce Strategy*

# TEACHING EXCELLENCE AND CONTRIBUTION TO STUDENT LEARNING

The Vice-Chancellor's Award for Teaching Excellence and Contribution to Student Learning is presented to the most outstanding winner of the Faculty, Division and Sessional Staff Awards.

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## FACULTY TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

### **Dr Asit Bhattacharyya**

*Faculty of Business and Law*

Asit's unique approach to accounting incorporates the diverse needs of his students. His teaching method empowers and motivates domestic and international students to apply accounting concepts in real life circumstances. His distinctive teaching approach encourages students to comprehend and appreciate the relevance of accounting and has led to consistent pass rates (average 91.44 %), excellent learning outcomes, experiences and overall satisfaction.

### **Dr Helen Giggins**

*Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment*

Helen is a strong advocate for inclusivity and equity in education, and is actively involved in the promotion of teaching innovation in the Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment. She continually strives to improve the lives of her students and provides a rich and fulfilling learning environment. Her use of technology in teaching and learning, including recently piloting a Virtual Desktop environment in her Construction Project Planning class, allows students better access to vital learning tools. This initiative demonstrates one of the many ways in which she embeds contemporary technology into her teaching to improve outcomes for students.

## Inter-Cultural Understanding for Educators Team

**Dr Joanne Ailwood, Dr I-Fang Lee, Dr Nicole Leggett, Associate Professor Ruth Reynolds, Dr Heather Sharp**

*Faculty of Education and Arts*

The teaching team for EDUC3800 Intercultural Understanding for Educators have worked together to build an international Work Integrated Learning activity that provides students with real world experience and engagement in a range of international locations. The course has enabled staff with different international strengths and connections to deliver challenging, engaging, and relevant study tour programs of significant, even life-changing, value to future educators.

## Denise Higgins

*Faculty of Health and Medicine*

Denise prioritises student learning through innovative and entrepreneurial teaching designs. As a Lecturer in the School of Health Sciences, and currently completing her PhD, Denise has revolutionised oral health teaching and learning with the re-development of simulation-based education and original creation of oral health simulators. Denise's innovations, including the world's first life-like dental local anaesthetic simulator, and a fully-immersive and interactive dental local anaesthetic virtual reality program, are key to the University of Newcastle's outstanding reputation for its Bachelor of Oral Health Therapy.

## Dr Meg Sherval

*Faculty of Science*

Meg was responsible for revitalising the curriculum and implementing a blended learning format for the School of Environmental and Life Sciences' Environmental Legislation and Planning course. Her new initiatives in teaching and course organisation include the provision of a detailed 'Study and Assessment Guide' which provides a week-to-week guide about the components of the law that were being studied; reinforced learning by the use of real-world case studies; and includes up-to-date readings and recent legal rulings. Other initiatives include industry engagement in student learning where students are introduced to environmental law in practice through invited guest lecturers taught by practicing environmental lawyers.

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## DIVISION TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD

### **Kristen Allen**

*Academic Division*

Since 2014, Kristen has been coordinating two compulsory Academic Literacies courses in the Newstep program. In that time Kristen has carefully implemented a number of changes designed to inspire and support students. Kristen's multidisciplinary approach to curriculum design and student support has led to above average results on Student Feedback on Courses.

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## SESSIONAL STAFF TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD

### **Alexander Gregg**

Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment

Alexander has been teaching a variety of engineering courses since his third year as an undergraduate student. Teaching while studying provided a unique outlook that helps him connect with his students. Throughout his own studies, Alexander found his motivation and results closely related to the enthusiasm and passion of his teachers. As a lecturer and tutor, he draws on this experience and new teaching technologies to present technical content in an engaging way.

# PROFESSIONAL STAFF EXCELLENCE

The Vice-Chancellor's Award for Professional Staff Excellence is presented to the most outstanding winner of the Individual and Team Awards.

## INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

### Josh Seymour

*Academic Division*

Josh is an integral part of the Hubs and Enquiries team, providing quality service in the University contact centre. In addition to enquiries, online chat and student transactions through University of Newcastle's online shop, he is responsible for collaborating with all areas of the University to update and maintain over 1900 public Q&As within AskUON. Josh also worked alongside the Admissions team on the highly successful 2018 Undergraduate Conversion Project where he briefed and directed team members for outbound calls to prospective students to encourage them to prioritise University of Newcastle as their admission preference, and accept their offer to study with us.

### Dr Yik Teo

*Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment*

Yik was pivotal in restructuring the Master of Professional Engineering programs offered by the Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment (FEBE), whilst simultaneously introducing new three-year program plans in five of the Faculty's most popular programs. Under pressured timelines, Yik successfully coordinated and supported teams from various participating faculties during the preparation of the new plans. Importantly, his ideas on sound pedagogy and time/resource efficiencies were utilised in the new programs from 2019, and in proposals on how to update University policies in order to make postgraduate programs more attractive to a wide pool of domestic and international students.

### Hollie Tose

*Faculty of Science*

Hollie has played an integral role in the success of the revised Bachelor of Science program. She contributed her expertise and skills in collaboration with academic colleagues, proactively and independently engaging in additional projects to enhance and future-proof current programs of the Faculty. Hollie has developed an impressive rapport with her academic colleagues and gained much respect for her expertise and professionalism. Hollie provides an outstanding service to key stakeholders often going above and beyond to achieve excellent outcomes in the teaching and learning space, and she has made significant improvements to business processes to drive efficiency.

## Lisa Craig

*Research and  
Innovation Division*

Lisa used her high-level technical expertise and broad international experience in the management of modern animal facilities to help shape the highly flexible design of the new Bioresources Facility (BRF). Lisa provided advice of outstanding quality to a diverse group of stakeholders involving scientists, architects, and construction engineers to ensure the BRF would operate effectively, efficiently and safely. Lisa's contribution to this strategic project far exceeded the scope of her normal duties and the highly flexible design of the BRF has been praised by two external Functional Assurance Consultants and senior leadership.

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## TEAM AWARDS

### Gomeroi gaaynggal Centre

**Jodie Herden,  
Lyniece Keogh, Paris Knox,  
Kathryn Sutherland**

*Faculty of Health and Medicine*

The professional staff team at the Gomeroi gaaynggal Centre coordinate and deliver an outstanding research and community engagement program with the Indigenous community in Tamworth. They provide a safe and culturally appropriate environment for women of all ages to gain a better understanding of artistic and cultural practices, health and education whilst connecting with each other, their culture and their local Indigenous community. The team exemplify the importance of promoting a caring, supportive and culturally safe environment where each team member acts as both a peer and a mentor and provide evidence based pathways to health, social and cultural services.

### The SAGE Pilot of Athena SWAN Project Team

**Rachel Fowell, Petrina Mosely,  
Sarah Nash, Sally Whittaker,  
Casey Wilson**

*Vice-Chancellor's Division,  
Resources Division, Research  
and Innovation Division*

In late 2015, UON joined the first cohort of Australian organisations participating in the SAGE Pilot of Athena SWAN – a UK Charter to address under-representation of women in STEMM. The two and a half year pilot required a data “deepdive” to understand the challenges and opportunities for the organisation. The analysis included non-STEMM areas to gain a broader perspective. The scope of the project was immense and required extensive collaboration and consultation with a large number of stakeholders across the organisation over a significant period of time. On completion of the analysis, evidenced based strategies were developed, comprising almost 80 actions. The four year action plan provides a roadmap to improve the outcomes for women in STEMM and beyond. The project team (representing four different Divisions) worked collaboratively to achieve an outstanding outcome for the organisation, entrenching UON's commitment to improve gender equity. In March 2018, UON's application for accreditation was submitted and an outcome is pending.

# EARLY CAREER RESEARCH AND INNOVATION EXCELLENCE

The Vice-Chancellor's Award for Early Career Researcher of the Year is presented to the most outstanding winner of the Faculty and Division Award.

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## FACULTY EARLY CAREER RESEARCH AND INNOVATION EXCELLENCE AWARDS

### **Dr Laura Luo**

*Faculty of Business and Law*

Laura's research interests predominantly lie in carbon accounting including carbon disclosure, carbon performance, carbon management and carbon assurance. Since completing her PhD, Laura has undertaken high-quality and impactful research in the area of environmental accounting and her expert ability to conduct research independently and collaboratively is reflected in her sole-authored and co-authored publications. Laura has published 15 peer-reviewed journal articles, two of which received the Emerald Best Paper Award and another, which introduced an innovative concept of abnormal carbon emissions, was presented in the American Accounting Association meeting.

### **Dr Jordan Smith**

*Faculty of Education and Arts*

Jordan has demonstrated a clear commitment to research excellence, through numerous high-impact publications, award winning conference presentations, highly competitive research income relative to opportunity, and innovative research projects. Jordan's exceptional research metrics are proof that he is on a rapidly accelerating career trajectory. Notably, Jordan was recently awarded funding to develop a smartphone application and innovative video resources to support teacher professional learning and the delivery of a school physical activity intervention (known as Resistance Training for Teens) based on his PhD work.

### **Dr Jessica Allen**

*Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment*

Jessica is making significant headway in the critical field of clean energy. Her substantial research is recognised in the fields of low emission coal, renewable energy systems for biomass and solar thermal, and energy storage. Jessica's research aims to apply electrochemical processes to achieve greater efficiencies and sustainability in energy storage and production. In approximately four years since PhD completion, Jessica has published 20 articles with 278 citations and received over \$2 million in funding from government, competitive University of Newcastle funding and industry, including \$1.6 million from NSW Trade and Investment for the development of the innovative direct carbon fuel cell.

**Dr Heidi Janssen**

*Faculty of Health and Medicine*

Heidi consistently demonstrates dedication by conducting research of the highest scientific rigour that directly leads to improved patient outcomes after a stroke. Since completing her PhD in late 2013, Heidi has led a multicentre, national trial of the effectiveness of enriched environments in stroke rehabilitation wards, all while maintaining a significant clinical load. As further evidence of her emerging research excellence, Heidi has published over 17 articles, one book chapter, secured over \$300,000 in funding and has assisted in growing the next generation of stroke researchers through her supervision of HDR students.

**Dr Elise Kalokerinos**

*Faculty of Science*

Elise is an exceptionally gifted researcher who has steadily developed an innovative research program on the regulation of emotion. Her work is both theoretically original as well as of direct applied relevance, a combination that explains her outstanding funding track record. Elise is driven by a deep curiosity about the human mind and consistently displays a very professional and relentless work ethic. Elise has successfully collaborated with several leading figures in her field.

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**DIVISION EARLY  
CAREER RESEARCH  
AND INNOVATION  
EXCELLENCE AWARD****Dr Emma Hamilton**

*Academic Division*

Emma's cumulative research achievements demonstrate a clear rising trajectory and impact within the fields of history and related issues of access and equity as students' transition into higher education. Emma's research output is rich in diversity and include scholarly monographs, edited collections, chapters, journal articles, conference presentations and contributions to alternative media and dissemination such as websites. She has been successful in obtaining a substantial amount of research funding from external agencies and from the University. She has also established important international research networks, whilst concurrently teaching and coordinating courses and filling the role of Program Convenor.

# RESEARCH SUPERVISION EXCELLENCE

The Vice-Chancellor's Award for Research Supervisor of the Year is presented to the most outstanding winner of a Faculty Research Supervision Excellence Award.

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## FACULTY RESEARCH SUPERVISION EXCELLENCE AWARDS

### INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

**Professor Stephen Chen**

*Faculty of Business and Law*

Stephen supervises a number of Research Higher Degree students and is consistently praised as responsive, communicative and a positive mentor and colleague who goes the extra mile to support his students - many of whom are international students and rely on their supervisor to be a friend, mentor and colleague. Stephen is also an active researcher and brings considerable experience and passion to his research supervision skills.

**Professor Mel Gray**

*Faculty of Education and Arts*

Mel is a longstanding social work educator and scholar of great repute in her field. Her contributions to international social work education and practice have been immense and she is a role model to her students. Mel uses her experience and record of scholarship to guide her PhD students throughout their HDR program with energy and enthusiasm. She has a strong commitment to supporting and mentoring the numerous HDR students she has supervised over many years.

**Associate Professor Anna  
Giacomini**

*Faculty of Engineering and  
Built Environment*

Anna is an extremely passionate academic who has achieved great success in establishing rock mechanics as a research area within Civil Engineering. Her outstanding track record focused on industry engagement, international collaborations, and research quality and integrity, demonstrates her commitment to innovation and impact. She has shared her passion for research with several HDR, Masters students, and early career academics, demonstrating highly training capabilities and exceptional care and respect for her students. Anna is an extremely dedicated supervisor who considers her role of primary importance in her students' growth as researchers and engineers of the future.

**Associate Professor Frances  
Kay-Lambkin**

*Faculty of Health  
and Medicine*

Frances has displayed an outstanding commitment to mentoring the next generation of mental health researchers to enable high quality, evidence based treatment for multiple health problems, mental health and addictive disorders. Her infectious energy, enthusiasm, and empathy is evident and is reflected in the respect and admiration her students have for her. Her passion for mental health research and practice translates to those around her, be they students, colleagues, or professional staff.

**Dr Danielle Verdon-Kidd**

*Faculty of  
Science*

Danielle has showed tremendous dedication to her PhD candidates' research and she has worked extremely hard to ensure that they have the necessary resources to facilitate successful and timely submissions of their research theses. Danielle encourages her PhD candidates to attend as many domestic and international conferences as possible and supports them to form industry collaborations by introducing them to her research and collaboration network. Danielle has excelled as a career mentor giving excellent, relevant and sound advice to help guide her PhD candidates in developing their careers.

# INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

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## INDIVIDUAL AWARD

**Associate Professor  
Chris Kewley**

*Faculty of Health and Medicine*

Chris's commitment to fostering international collaborations and addressing health challenges is outstanding. His natural entrepreneurialism and ethical world view seeks mutually beneficial opportunities that connect students, clinicians, health professionals, organisations and higher education institutions across the globe, with the ultimate aim of improving mental health and wellbeing.

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## TEAM AWARD

**Newcastle Business School  
Kenyan Collaboration Team**

**Dr Patricia Johnson, Professor  
Jim Jose, Dr Michael Seamer,  
David Wise**

*Faculty of Business and Law*

The NBS Kenyan Collaboration team has collaborated since 2015 to develop significant formal relationships with key partner institutions in Kenya. In 2017-2018 these activities saw the realisation of three projects: The inaugural "Nairobi Young Entrepreneurs Challenge"; the Australia Award Fellowship Program to work with the Kenyan Public Service Commission to strengthen public service performance; and the delivery of international immersion experiences for University of Newcastle students as part of their undergraduate curriculum. These projects innovatively consolidated new international partnerships, internationalised University of Newcastle curriculum and co-curricular activities, and have enhanced University of Newcastle's presence and international reputation in Kenya and East Africa.

# HEALTH AND SAFETY EXCELLENCE

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## INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

### **Miriam Burgess**

*Faculty of Education and Arts*

Miriam was instrumental to the success of an internal audit conducted in the School of Humanities and Social Science in June 2018, which delivered an outstanding audit result of 96%. Following the audit outcome, Miriam showed exceptional resourcefulness in leading other health and safety initiatives, including implementing a wellness room and a standard operating procedure for computer roll outs. Miriam's ongoing efforts help support a holistic approach to health and safety including wellness within the School which has been instrumental to support staff wellbeing.

### **Jess Fitzpatrick**

*Faculty of Science*

Jess displays an innate understanding of the School of Psychology's objectives and responds flexibly to changing circumstances in a calm and professional manner. During a period of transition, Jess demonstrated a high level of personal motivation and collaboration by initiating improvements to a number of the School's administrative processes. In addition to her own duties, Jess supports School staff by consistently displaying a positive attitude and calm demeanour and her efforts and ability to demonstrate leadership have been instrumental to fostering a safe and happy working environment within the School.

### **Richard Thorpe**

*Academic Division*

Richard designed the University's Accidental Counsellor workshop in 2018. This three hour interactive training course equips staff with practical counselling skills to face issues that can arise when helping others in personal and professional life. The Accidental Counsellor workshops have been offered across regions and campuses including Callaghan, Ourimbah, NeW Space, Sydney, Port Macquarie and Tamworth. More than 120 staff have attended to date with additional workshops planned, due to popularity and demand.

# COLLABORATION EXCELLENCE

## Severe Asthma Toolkit Project Team

**Dr Vanessa Clark, Dr Michael Fricker, Conjoint Professor Peter Gibson, Dr Sarah Hiles, Dr Kim Jones, Dr Steven Maltby, Professor Vanessa McDonald, Dr Hayley Scott, Conjoint Professor Peter Wark**

*Faculty of Health and Medicine*

The Severe Asthma Toolkit is the outcome of a multi-phased, multidisciplinary collaborative project between the University of Newcastle and 42 experts from 26 universities and hospitals from across Australia and the globe. The toolkit was developed by the Centre of Excellence in Severe Asthma and provides cutting-edge educational information and resources to guide optimal management of severe asthma, aiding multidisciplinary clinicians across the globe in best practice of this difficult to treat form of asthma.

## Sexual Misconduct Project Team

**Associate Professor Jennifer Allen, Dr Stephanie Brookman, Dr Louisa Connors, Jamie Daniluck, Gemma Edgar, Michelle Jarvie, Alex Larsen, Nicole Latham, Rachael McDermott, Dr Jacqueline Olley, Sarah Williamson**

*Resources Division, Academic Division, Vice-Chancellor's Division*

In response to the Australian Universities ground breaking initiative, 'Respect Now Always' campaign, a diverse group of representatives from across the University of Newcastle were brought together to review the University's current approach to the prevention and management of sexual assault and harassment. The team worked collaboratively to develop and improve reporting processes, support services and proactive education initiatives and have been instrumental in fostering a safe and healthy culture for the University community in the recognition and management of sexual assault and harassment.

**THANK YOU**  
**FOR SUPPORTING**  
**THE VICE-CHANCELLOR'S**  
**AWARDS 2018**

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