

YEAR IN REVIEW

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

- NSW Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Scot MacDonald MLC officially launched the Hunter Research Foundation (HRF) Centre at the first Hunter Economic Breakfast for the year. The Centre provides industry and community support, building on the sixty-year socio-economic research previously provided by the Hunter Research Foundation.
- NSW Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional New South Wales, Skills and Small Business John Barilaro announced the inaugural board of the Sydney School of Entrepreneurship (SSE) with Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) Professor Kevin Hall taking his seat alongside seven other business, industry and higher education representatives.

MARCH

- Six of our subjects ranked in the top 100 of the 2017 QS World University Subject Rankings with Engineering – Mineral and Mining ranked at 30 in the world and with Architecture and Built Environment ranking in the top 50 for the third consecutive year. Four other subjects – nursing, education, sociology, and engineering (civil and structural) completed our top 100 line-up. In separate results from the Academic Ranking of World Universities, we ranked No. 10 in the world for Automation and Control Engineering and No. 29 for Mining Engineering.
- Our new School of Creative Industries launched to support greater collaboration across the creative professions and industry to drive innovation across the region.

APRIL

- ‘Quality of educational experience’ at the University stood at 82.5% for undergraduates and at 85.1 % for postgraduates according to government data released in the 2016 Student Experience Survey and Employer Experience Survey.
- A new psychology clinic at our Ourimbah Campus opened its doors to the local community to support mental health on the coast and to provide clinical psychology training and research opportunities for our School of Psychology postgraduate students.

MAY

- We signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Hunter Water and launched a research partnership to shape a more sustainable future for the Hunter and share expertise in engineering, information technology and social science.
- In what is the first grouping of its kind in Australia, NSW, Wollongong and Newcastle universities have formed the NUW Alliance to address major social challenges around health, education and technology and deliver more jobs and tangible benefits to communities across NSW.

JUNE

- We ranked in the top one per cent of universities worldwide in the QS World University Rankings, moving up 21 places since 2016 to 224 from an estimated pool of 26,000 universities.
- We unveiled our \$15m world-leading facility to support global contamination research. It includes seven state-of-the-art laboratories spanning microbiology, wet chemistry, material science, chemical analysis, remediation and heat testing.

JULY

- Our athletes came out on top as Overall and Per Capita Champion of the 2017 Eastern Unigames fighting off stiff competition from 34 other teams to win by just four points.
- A major healthcare partnership aligning clinicians and researchers across the Hunter New England, Central Coast and Mid-North Coast districts of NSW was accredited by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) as one of Australia’s first Centres for Innovation in Regional Health.

AUGUST

- We received our highest number of five star ratings across four categories in the 2018 Good Universities Guide. For the first time, we secured maximum five star ratings for overall experience, learning resources and across social equity and student retention.
- The University hosted a National Partnership Forum aimed at closing the gap in Indigenous Health. The forum was the first major initiative to follow a collaborative agreement between the Australian Government and three key national health organisations: the Council of Presidents of Medical Colleges (CPMC), the Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association (AIDA) and, the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (NACCHO).

SEPTEMBER

- Engineers from the University of Newcastle have developed a new material that has the potential to change the future of road safety. The 'metallic foam' is made from standard aluminium alloys and is a by-product of volcanic eruptions. The resulting material is lightweight, strong and cost effective and acts as a cushion on impact.
- We took our place alongside the world's best, ranking in the top 300 universities in the world, in the 2018 Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings.

OCTOBER

- In a significant acknowledgement of outstanding career achievements and impact, the University of Newcastle has named Professor Jennifer Gore its first female Laureate Professor. A research leader in teaching and teacher education internationally, Professor Gore plays a key role in providing a pedagogical framework for thousands of educational institutions across Australia.
- Australian stroke patients look set to receive world-leading treatment and care with the launch of new Clinical Guidelines for Stroke Management. Stroke researcher Dr Coralie English was co-chair of the project's Content Development working group.

NOVEMBER

- In a partnership with the University of Newcastle, Newcastle Institute for Energy and Resources (NIER) and Muswellbrook Shire Council, Ethanol Technologies (Ethtec) received \$11.9m in funding from the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) for a demonstration facility at Muswellbrook. Led by a group of researchers including conjoint senior lecturer and Ethtec senior biotechnologist, Dr Geoffrey Doherty, the project will develop an environmentally sustainable process to produce biofuels and other renewable chemicals from crop and forestry waste. Additional financial support of \$11.9m will come from industry partners along with contributions from Muswellbrook Shire Council and the University.
- Australia's first Centre for Innovative Technologies in Rehabilitation Settings (CITRS) launched at the University of Newcastle. Researchers and clinicians will work with business, industry and government to develop new interventions to promote health resilience and patient recovery in hospital, residential and aged-care settings. HMRI Director Professor Michael Nilsson and Associate Professor Michael Pollack, both specialists in rehabilitation medicine, neuroscientist Associate Professor Rohan Walker and engineering expert Associate Professor Sarah Johnson, will support the Centre's work and draw on additional expertise from disciplines including architecture, design, nursing, occupational therapy and physiotherapy.

DECEMBER

- After shortlisting for the coveted Miles Franklin Award, Dr Ryan O'Neill academic and author received the Prime Minister's Literary Award for Fiction for his novel, 'Their Brilliant Careers'. Ryan's novel casts a satirical eye on the history of Australian literature, detailing sixteen fictional biographies of invented Australian writers whose talents and egos helped shape the nation's literary history.
- On a visit to Newcastle, the United Nations (UN) Assistant Secretary General, Mr Nikhil Seth discussed how technology can help achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) and how regional cities such as Newcastle, play a key role in contributing to the agenda for economic, social and environmental change. The University of Newcastle and Newcastle City Council co-hosted Mr Seth at the Centre for Disaster Preparedness and Risk Reduction, which is one of 15 International Training Centres for Authorities and Leaders (CIFAL) working under the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).