

PART THREE:

OPERATIONS AND PERFORMANCE

SUMMARY REVIEW OF OPERATIONS

EXCELLENCE

CUTTING-EDGE FACILITY SET TO GET THE MOST OUT OF ATHLETES

Lake Macquarie City Council's Hunter Sports Centre partnered with the University of Newcastle to launch the Trevor Height Athlete Testing Facility that is dedicated to enhancing athletic performance. Open to athletes, from beginners to elite professionals, it is operated by University of Newcastle students and academic sports scientists. It gives students valuable hands-on experience, and local athletes can benefit from the latest equipment and techniques to test, benchmark, and improve performance.

170 RESEARCHERS PART OF THE WORLD'S TOP 2% CLUB

More than 170 University of Newcastle researchers were included in the 2024 listing of the World's Top 2% Scientists — a prestigious ranking that highlights the most influential researchers around the globe. Compiled by Stanford University and Elsevier, the list identifies global scientific leaders and brings attention to their work and standing in their respective disciplines. Our strong presence enhances the visibility and credibility of our research and recognises the depth and breadth of our research excellence.

75 YEARS OF TEACHING

The School of Education marked an impressive milestone in 2024, celebrating 75 years of providing teacher education programs within the region and beyond. The milestone was acknowledged at a special breakfast event, held on World Teachers' Day on 25 October, which honoured our rich history and accomplishments over the past seven-and-a-half decades in preparing exceptional educators who have profoundly impacted communities and shaped the future of education. The celebration featured reflections on the past, present, and future of teacher education, complemented by a series of presentations and discussions that highlighted the contributions of our alumni and school.

EQUITY

EVIDENCE OF EQUITY ACTION PUTS UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE FIRST IN AUSTRALIA

The University of Newcastle was recognised as a leader in addressing inequality, becoming one of the first two universities in Australia to receive a Science in Australia Gender Equity (SAGE) Athena Swan Silver Award. These awards, administered by Science in Australia Gender Equity (SAGE) under the internationally renowned Athena Swan framework, acknowledge the University's ongoing commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion. Initiatives implemented by the university have included career development programs for women, targeted recruitment for Indigenous staff, and support for carers.

UNIVERSITY RECOGNISED AT AUSTRALIAN FINANCIAL REVIEW HIGHER EDUCATION AWARDS

We were proud to be recognised in two categories in the Australian Financial Review Higher Education Awards for our Quality Teaching Rounds (QTR) and Pathway Programs. QTR, which empowers teachers to improve their practices, won the Community Engagement category. The program was piloted at Cessnock High School, with impressive academic results including a more than 50% improvement in HSC results and significant improvements in NAPLAN scores and student engagement. Our Open Foundation program won the Equity & Access Award for its work in providing access to education for more than 70,000 people from diverse backgrounds over the past 50 years.

ENGAGEMENT

TWENTY YEARS OF RESTECH: CELEBRATING COLLABORATION BETWEEN AMPCONTROL AND UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE

On 31 October, ResTech, a joint venture between Ampcontrol and the University of Newcastle, opened their doors to students, industry, and the media for an Industry Open Day in celebration of their 20th anniversary. ResTech employs over 30 people, including 24 dedicated research and development team members with power systems, electronics, design, and hardware disciplines. A key component of ResTech is the opportunity to provide final year project opportunities to undergraduate engineers — allowing them to gain experience while working on challenging research projects with industry.

SUSTAINABILITY

RECOGNITION FOR SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

The University of Newcastle's commitment to sustainability was recognised in the 2024 Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings, when we ranked in the top 40 in the world. The University ranked fourth globally for its efforts toward SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation and third in Australia for SDG 11, Sustainable Cities and Communities and SDG 1, No Poverty. With over 2,100 institutions from 125 countries participating, the results underscore the University's dedication to addressing critical global challenges.

In the inaugural Times Higher Education Interdisciplinary Science Rankings (ISR), we ranked 2nd in Australia and 23rd globally. The rankings measure universities' contributions and commitment to interdisciplinary science.

SINGAPORE ALUMNI & INDUSTRY SYMPOSIUM

In November, we hosted an insightful Alumni & Industry Symposium, bringing together thought leaders, industry experts, and alumni for an inspiring day of dialogue focused on the theme 'Moving to A More Sustainable Future: Awareness, Action, and Accountability.' The event featured two engaging panel discussions led by industry leaders and thought leaders. The first panel, focused on sustainability practices, provided valuable insights into strategies and practical applications shaping sustainable industries today. The second panel, "Leadership, Sustainability, and Careers," offered a personal look into the evolving role of sustainability across various career paths. Alumni at different stages of their professional journeys shared experiences and highlighted how sustainability has impacted their roles, responsibilities, and opportunities.

NET ZERO GRAND CHALLENGE

The University celebrated outstanding innovation in climate action at its Net Zero Grand Challenge Awards Night in October 2024, which saw students, staff, researchers, and industry partners collaborate to tackle the challenge of reducing our Scope 3 carbon emissions. Teams brought unique solutions to this complex problem, demonstrating the power of innovation in the fight against climate change, with three teams awarded \$30,000 to help them develop and prototype their ideas.

ENGAGEMENT PRIORITIES

BETTER, HEALTHIER LIVING

CENTRAL COAST HEALTH & WELLBEING LIVING LAB

The University and the Central Coast Local Health District have joined forces to establish the Central Coast Health & Wellbeing Living Lab — a real-life experimentation hub designed to help us live better, healthier lives in our homes as we age. The Living Lab will see older people work side-by-side with researchers, healthcare professionals, aged-care providers, and businesses to develop products and services that help us live satisfying and engaged lives as we age. In the true spirit of a living lab, activities will also take place in real-life communities and settings and ensure older people are at the centre of every stage of work.

\$1M MARK HUGHES FOUNDATION INVESTMENT TO ACCELERATE RACE TO BRAIN CANCER CURE

The Mark Hughes Foundation (MHF) pledged \$1 million to boost brain cancer research, supporting a partnership between the University of Newcastle's MHF Centre for Brain Cancer Research and The Brain Cancer Centre in Melbourne. This collaboration aims to accelerate the search for a cure for brain cancer, which remains the leading cause of cancer-related deaths among Australians under 40. The funding, made possible by the success of the 2024 Beanie for Brain Cancer campaign and the NRL's Beanie Round, will support collaborative research efforts, including the MHF Centre's involvement in the Brain Tumour Registry Australia Innovation and Translation (BRAIN) Registry.

CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

NEW AMBASSADOR PROGRAM WELCOMES INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS TO NEWCASTLE WITH OPEN ARMS

The University of Newcastle launched the International Student Ambassador program in partnership with Study NSW, TAFE NSW, and the City of Newcastle, to enhance the experience of international students in the Hunter region. The program fosters inclusivity and builds strong connections between students and the local community. Three student ambassadors represented their peers, acting as cultural liaisons and working with educational institutions and local government, to enrich the student experience and help students to adapt to life in Australia.

NEW ANNUAL

The University was a proud presenting partner of New Annual, a 10-day festival of art, culture and creativity in the centre of Newcastle. A range of events featured university staff and alumni and were hosted at University venues, including Watt Space Gallery and the Conservatorium of Music. The partnership also creates opportunities for our students to get behind the scenes and see how the festival comes together through Career-Ready Placements and volunteer opportunities. Students gained valuable arts sector experience across media, marketing, music, tourism and event management fields.

UNIVERSITY RESEARCH BEHIND EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM TO CURB VIOLENCE IN YOUNG MEN AND BOYS

The University of Newcastle's Name.Narrate.Navigate.360 program secured more than \$2.1 million in Australian Government funding to support young men and boys who may be at risk of engaging in family, domestic and sexual violence. The program is a collaboration between the University of Newcastle's Name.Narrate.Navigate (NNN) program and Allambi Care, which will provide trauma-informed and culturally responsive support to young men and boys aged 12 to 18.

Research from the NNN program also informed the Onside with the Mariners program, which kicked off in 2024. This program is a collaboration between the University, the NSW Department of Education, Enrichd Group, and the Central Coast Mariners. It aims to tackle gendered violence and promote respectful relationships among secondary school students in the Central Coast region.

NEXT GENERATION RESOURCES

\$438,000 FUNDING TO BOOST CLEANTECH INNOVATION IN THE HUNTER

The NSW Government awarded \$438,375 to the University of Newcastle's Hunter Cleantech Accelerator program to foster clean technology innovation in the Hunter area. The initiative, which is run by the University's Integrated Innovation Network (I2N), aims to improve the capacity and competitiveness of tech-enabled entrepreneurs in a variety of industries, including recycling, sustainable energy, clean water, air quality, and transportation.

PRINTED SOLAR TECHNOLOGY POWERING COLDPLAY CONCERTS

The internationally acclaimed rock band Coldplay used printed solar technology developed at the University of Newcastle to help power its Music of the Spheres world tour. Coldplay worked with Australian company, Kardinia Energy, to advance the unique technology and deploy printed solar panels during the European leg of their tour. The band also used them during their Australian shows and will continue to use the technology to support its 2025 concerts.

The printed solar technology was invented by Professor Paul Dastoor and the team at the University's Centre for Organic Electronics. Professor Dastoor also co-founded Kardinia Energy.

GROWING INDUSTRIES

HYDRO HARVESTER SCALES UP TO QUENCH MARKET THIRST

The University of Newcastle launched the Hydro Harvester, an innovative technology capable of generating up to 1,000 litres of drinkable water daily from the air. Developed by Laureate Professor Behdad Moghtaderi and his team, this system utilises solar energy or waste heat to produce hot, humid air, which is then cooled to extract water for drinking or irrigation. Funded by the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund, the Hydro Harvester has advanced from its initial pilot form to a modular system nearing market readiness. The technology has a lower electrical demand and cost per litre of water, with the potential to be a vital resource for remote communities, particularly during droughts or emergencies.

ACCELERATING THE REGION'S INNOVATIVE NEW STARTUPS

Our Integrated Innovation Network (I2N) team won the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Activators of the Year at the 2024 Asia Pacific Triple E Awards, which recognises excellence in entrepreneurship and engagement in the higher education sector.

The I2N programs have generated significant financial benefits to the region and are a drawcard for entrepreneurial thinking and investment. In 2024, I2N supported 60 local startups and founders who raised \$18 million from investors to support their business ventures. Those founders also created new jobs in the region and generated nearly \$12 million in revenue.

LIFE-READY GRADUATES

HUNTER MEDICAL STUDENTS EARN WHILE THEY LEARN

The University of Newcastle, in collaboration with TAFE NSW and the Hunter New England Local Health District, launched Australia's first 'Learn while they Earn' program, providing paid experience for medical students. First and second year students in the Bachelor of Medical Science/Doctor of Medicine program can now work as nursing assistants while gaining practical healthcare experience. The program will expand across the Local Health District, reflecting the University's commitment to innovative education and preparing students for future medical careers before they graduate.

CAREER-READY PLACEMENTS PROGRAM EMBEDDED

In 2024, we continued work to fully embed the Career-ready Placement initiative. This project sees every undergraduate student undertake a placement as part of their degree program, giving them the opportunity to apply their curriculum knowledge and theory in an industry or 'real-life' setting. Several students, including Yannick De Silva, Bachelor of Medical Science/Doctor of Medicine (Joint Medical Program), were recognised for their achievements at the Employability Excellence Awards.

50 YEARS OF PATHWAYS

In 2024, we celebrated 50 years of our Open Foundation program, which has helped more than 70,000 people access higher education. To mark the anniversary, an exhibition 50 Years Fifty Stories was created. The exhibition saw the university interview and photograph over 50 graduates from diverse backgrounds, with each story highlighting the triumphs, challenges and achievements of our Open Foundation graduates. During the year, Federal Education Minister Jason Clare also visited the University to meet several Open Foundation students. The Open Foundation program will be critical to the University's role in delivering the government's commitment to increasing participation in higher education.

ASIA PACIFIC FOCUS

RESEARCH WORTHY OF A KING

In late October 2024, His Majesty King Charles III visited the site of the Moata'a Living Lab in Samoa – a community-led initiative aimed at conserving and regenerating the Moata'a mangroves, which are critical to the region's culture and economy. The Moata'a Living Lab is one of the University's six living lab collaborations that see our researchers work as an alliance, alongside industry, community and government partners to develop solutions that improve our lives. The alliance has helped restore the mangroves, reduced pollution, and transformed the Moata'a village into a thriving eco-tourism, education and research field site.

TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION (THE) CAMPUS LIVE ANZ CONFERENCE 2024

The University hosted the 2024 Times Higher Education Campus LIVE conference in September, bringing together over 300 sector professionals from Australia and New Zealand and showcasing our commitment to equity, Indigenous Knowledges and transformative education. The conference included an address from Minister for Skills and Training, the Hon. Andrew Giles MP, on the importance of higher education and connections with other education providers, and attendees participated in keynote talks, panel discussions, case studies, workshops and networking opportunities.

COMMUNITY HELPS SHAPE A BETTER TOMORROW THROUGH THE UNIVERSITY'S 2024 GIFTING DAY

On 18 September, our students, staff, donors, alumni and friends came together to make a collective impact through kindness – raising funds to support six life-changing projects to benefit people in our communities. More than 800 donors, alumni, staff, students, ambassadors and members of our community united with a common goal: to shape a better tomorrow.

OUR INDIGENOUS COMMITMENT

\$1M AWARDED TO PURAI GLOBAL INDIGENOUS HISTORY CENTRE FOR RESEARCH CHAMPIONING THE VALUE OF TRUTH TELLING

Two separate projects engaged in Indigenous histories from Indigenous perspectives with a view to advancing reconciliation and building meaningful connections across Australia. The first project, Truth Telling: A History of Australian Indigenous Education by the NSW Department of Education used culturally responsive research practices and methodologies to explore what the department has done in the past and what needs to be done into the future. The project was one of the most comprehensive truth telling projects in Australia. The team is now working on translating its findings into learning resources for schools.

The second project, From Ngukurr to Newcastle: Indigenous advocacy, activism, networks and influence, 1960s–present, focuses on and builds upon the 1960s legacy of Indigenous activist and Ngukurr man, Dexter Daniels, to explore the unexpected linkages between Newcastle and the Ngukurr community, a remote Aboriginal community in Southeast Arnhem Land. Throughout 2024, the team has conducted archival and historical research exploring this history and plan to undertake work with the Ngukurr community in 2025.

SECTOR-FIRST APPROACH TO INDIGENOUS HEALTH RESEARCH

Community members, the University of Newcastle, Awabakal Limited, HMRI, and the Hunter New England Local Health District (HNELHD) have joined forces to implement Research Our Way - a powerful bid to improve First Nations health outcomes. As part of the initiative, all research projects conducted by and through the University of Newcastle, Hunter Medical Research Institute, and our local health districts must be approved by the Aboriginal Health Research Community Panel before commencement. The strategy ensures mob have a say on who, what, and where research is conducted and how we use and store it. It will also help to ensure that health benefits promised by researchers are implemented back into our communities.

OUR PEOPLE

UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY OFFICIALLY WELCOMES CHANCELLOR FORSYTHE

The University of Newcastle community officially welcomed its eighth Chancellor, the Honourable Patricia Forsythe AM, in a ceremony at the Great Hall officiated by NSW Governor, Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC. The Chancellor is an alumna of the University and was most recently Australia's High Commissioner to New Zealand.

PROFESSOR ABHISHEK BHATI TO LEAD NEWCASTLE AUSTRALIA INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Professor Abhishek Singh Bhati was appointed the new Chief Executive Officer and PVC of Newcastle Australia Institute of Higher Education (NAIHE). Professor Bhati was previously Campus Dean of James Cook University's Singapore campus, a role he held since 2016.

PROFESSOR JENNY MAY APPOINTED NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH COMMISSIONER

Professor Jenny May, AM, was appointed Australia's National Rural Health Commissioner by Health Minister The Hon Mark Butler MP. With over 35 years of experience in rural medicine, both in Australia and Canada, Professor May has been a leader in improving rural health outcomes. Since 2004, she has been with the University's Department of Rural Health (UDRH) in Tamworth and has served as its Director for the past seven years.

UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE PROFESSOR APPOINTED CHIEF SCIENTIST FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The University's Pro-Vice Chancellor of the College of Engineering, Science and Environment, Professor Craig Simmons, was appointed South Australia's Chief Scientist. Professor Simmons continues his role with the University, while also representing South Australia in this leadership role.

AWARDS, HONOURS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Name	Award/Achievement	Awarding Body
Amanda Hill	Professional Staff Excellence Award – Early Career	University of Newcastle
Amanda Wells	Wakefield Press Essay Prize	History Council of South Australia
Anthony Molinia	Top 50 CIO Australia 2024	cio.com (CIO50)
Associate Professor Amy Maguire	ARC Mid-Career Industry Fellowship	Australian Research Council
Associate Professor Amy Maguire	Australian Research Council (ARC) Mid-Career Industry Fellowships	Australian Research Council
Associate Professor Amy Maguire	Industry Engagement Award	University of Newcastle
Associate Professor Carmel Hawley	Member of the Order of Australia (AM)	Australia Day Honours
Associate Professor Igor Chaves	Trailblazer for Recycling and Clean Energy (TRaCE) Enterprise Academic Fellowship	TRaCE - University of Newcastle
Associate Professor Jafar Zanganeh	Research Fellowship in the International Hydrogen Research Collaboration	CSIRO and Department of Climate Change, Energy and Water
Associate Professor Jafar Zanganeh	Research Fellowship in the International Hydrogen Research Collaboration	CSIRO on behalf of the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, and Water (DCCEEW)
Associate Professor Marc Adam	Australia's top 250 Researchers in 2025	The Australians Research Magazine
Associate Professor Rachel Sutherland	10 of the Best	National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)
Associate Professor Sam Spurr	Gold Winner: Architectural Installation Design	Australian Good Design Awards
Associate Professor Sam Spurr	Planetary Transition Fellowship	German Academic Exchange Service
Associate Professor Sara Motta	ADVANCE Equity in Research Fellowships	University of Newcastle
Associate Professor Tamara Young	Staff Career-ready Placement Award	University of Newcastle
Associate Professor Trisha Pender	ADVANCE Equity in Research Fellowships	University of Newcastle
Associate Professor Vanessa Murphy	HMRI Mid-Career Researcher of the Year	HMRI
Barbara Whitcher	Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)	Australia Day Honours
Bethany Butchers and Associate Professor Amy Maguire	2024 Inaugural Australian Legal Research Award for Indigenous Legal Research	Legal Awards Australia
BHP Centre for Sustainable Steelmaking Research	Best-Practice Team Industry Collaboration Project	NIER
Blair Wise	Best text-based story by an undergraduate student over 750 words	Journalism Education and Research Association
Blair Wise, Olivia Blissett, Brittany Writer and Zac Wong	Dorkin award for investigative journalism by an undergraduate or postgraduate student group	The Journalism Education and Research Association of Australia Incorporated
Brendan Swift	Alumni Award for Outstanding Volunteering	University of Newcastle
Carol McGrath	Professional Staff Excellence Award – Individual	University of Newcastle
Code of Conduct Implementation Working Group – Naomi Fischer, Rachael Laybutt, Angus Rogers, Lynn Herd, Emma Hale, Andrew Cairns, Greg Ward, Fiona Mundie, Ennia Jones, Serena Rogers, Angela Mills	Professional Staff Excellence Award – Team	University of Newcastle
Conjoint Professor Tracy Elizabeth Dudding-Byth	Member of the Order of Australia (AM)	Australia Day Honours
Daughters and Dads Active and Empowered	Best Community Based Initiative of the Year	Parks & Leisure Australia
Digital Day in a Student's Life Project Team – Dr Ben Shelton, Cordelia Prangley, Phoebe Turner-Purvis	Student Experience Excellence Award	University of Newcastle
Distinguished Laureate Professor Roger Smith AM	Freeman of the City	City of Newcastle
Dr Alice Neikirk	ADVANCE Equity in Research Fellowships	University of Newcastle
Dr Alice Neikirk	Community Engagement Award	University of Newcastle
Dr Anne Knight	Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)	Australia Day Honours
Dr Carlos Garcia-Esperon	HMRI Early Career Researcher of the Year	HMRI
Dr Craig Evans	Staff Career Ready Placement Award	University of Newcastle

AWARDS, HONOURS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Name	Award/Achievement	Awarding Body
Dr Daniella Forster	ADVANCE Equity in Research Fellowships	University of Newcastle
Dr Denise Higgins	Citation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning	Australian Awards for University Teaching (AAUT)
Dr Drew Miller, Associate Professor Jess Harris, Laureate Professor Jenny Gore, Dr Leanne Fray	Australian Rural Education Award for Research Excellence	Society for the Provisions of Education in Rural Australia
Dr Drew Miller, Associate Professor Jess Harris, Laureate Professor Jenny Gore, Dr Leanne Fray	Community Engagement Award	Australian Financial Review Higher Education Awards
Dr Elissa Elvidge	Research Excellence Award – Early Career	University of Newcastle
Dr Geordan Shannon	International Leadership Award	University of Newcastle
Dr Hayden Robertson	Outstanding PhD Award 2024	The Australian Neutron Beam Users Group (ANBUG)
Dr Jennifer Barnes	Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)	Australia Day Honours
Dr Jessica Allen	Trailblazer for Recycling and Clean Energy (TRaCE) Enterprise Academic Fellowship	TRaCE - University of Newcastle
Dr Jessica Siva	Global Engagement Award	University of Newcastle
Dr Josephine Vaughan	Trailblazer for Recycling and Clean Energy (TRaCE) Enterprise Academic Fellowship	TRaCE - University of Newcastle
Dr Joshua Fisher	Newcastle Permanent Emerging Innovator Award Winner	HMRI
Dr Justin Ellis	Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Award	University of Newcastle
Dr Karen Livesey	Citation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning	Australian Awards for University Teaching (AAUT)
Dr Katie Waters	ADVANCE Equity in Research Fellowships	University of Newcastle
Dr Lara Daley	ADVANCE Equity in Research Fellowships	University of Newcastle
Dr Lizette Olivier	Highly Commended - Staff Career-ready Placement Award	University of Newcastle
Dr Michael Carr	Citation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning	Australian Awards for University Teaching (AAUT)
Dr Olivia Whalen	Fellow of the Advance HE (UK) Higher Education Academy	Advance HE (UK) Higher Education Academy
Dr Renee Goreham	Superstar of STEM	Science and Technology in STEM
Dr Sarah Dineen-Griffin	Beryl Nashar Young Researcher Award	University of Newcastle
Dr Sarah Goddard	Indigenous Alumni Award	University of Newcastle
Dr Shaleeza Sohail	ADVANCE Equity in Research Fellowships	University of Newcastle
Dr Simin Moradmand	Early-Mid Career Researcher Excellence in Industry Collaboration	NIER
Dr Stacey McMullen	ADVANCE Equity in Research Fellowships	University of Newcastle
Dr Stacey McMullen	Values Award	University of Newcastle
Dr Subhashish Mitra	Research Collaboration for Early-Mid Career Researcher	NIER
Dr Tim Connor	Teaching Excellence Award	University of Newcastle
Dr Vicki Jane Flenady	Member of the Order of Australia (AM)	Australia Day Honours
Dr Yunchen Feng	Cure Cancer's Researcher of the Year	Cure Cancer
Dr Zara Ersozlu	ADVANCE Equity in Research Fellowships	University of Newcastle
Dr Alice Neikirk	2024 HCSA Fellowship	The History Council of South Australia
Elise Mayer	Australian Press Council undergraduate prize	The Journalism Education and Research Association of Australia Incorporated
Emeritus Professor John O'Connor	Convocation Medal for Exceptional Contribution	University of Newcastle
Emeritus Professor Julie Byles	Senior Citizen of the Year	City of Newcastle
Emeritus Professor Roy Green	Member of the Order of Australia (AM)	Australia Day Honours

AWARDS, HONOURS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Name	Award/Achievement	Awarding Body
Emma Jane Myers	Young Alumni Award	University of Newcastle
Fran Baker	Citation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning	Australian Awards for University Teaching (AAUT)
Global Centre for Research and Training in Radiation Oncology – Associate Professor Yolanda Surjan, Debra Lee, Leah Cramp, Laura Feighan	Industry Engagement Award	University of Newcastle
Graduation Team – Jocelyn Redman, Angela Wilson, Helen Harrigan, Daniel De Lore, Renee Selway, Cass Brown, Zahra Hocking, Hugh Gordon, Natalie Perfitt	Accessibility Award	University of Newcastle
Integrated Innovation Network (I2N)	Innovation and Entrepreneurship Activators of the Year	2024 Asia Pacific Triple E Awards
Isabelle Crebert	3-Minute Thesis Competition - School Final (Winner)	University of Newcastle
Jake McDonald	3-Minute Thesis Competition - University Final (Winner)	University of Newcastle
Jayne Lloyd	Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)	Australia Day Honours
Laureate Professor Jenny Gore	Member of the Order of Australia (AM)	Australia Day Honours
Lauren Milburn	Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC)	King's Birthday Honours
Louise Buxton	Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)	Australia Day Honours
Madeleine Lock	Student Employability Achievement Award	University of Newcastle
Melissa Moore	Leadership Excellence Award	University of Newcastle
Miriam Allan	Newton-John Alumni Medal	University of Newcastle
Monica McMahon	Being An Australian Awards	National Council of Women
Nicholas Housego	Awarded the Public Service Medal (PSM)	Australia Day Honours
Pathways and Academic Learning Support (PALS) Centre	Equity & Access Awards	Australian Financial Review Higher Education Awards
Performance Edge Virtual Reality Stress Management Program Team – Professor Rohan Walker, Dr Emma Kerr, Phoebe Sanders, Dr Murielle Kluge, Johanna Voeste, Helen Scobie, Scott Laing, Andrew Steele	Health, Safety and Wellbeing Team Award	University of Newcastle
Peter Chatwin	Student Career-ready Placement Award	University of Newcastle
Peter Digby	Health, Safety and Wellbeing Individual Award	University of Newcastle
Peter Hyslop	Highly Commended - Best audio short-form by an undergraduate or postgraduate student	The Journalism Education and Research Association of Australia Incorporated
Professor Ajayan Vinu	Highly Cited Researcher for 2024	Clarivate
Professor Anna Giacomini	Excellence in Mentoring – Academic Staff	University of Newcastle
Professor Brett Mitchell	Member of the Order of Australia (AM)	Australia Day Honours
Professor Craig Simmons	Chief Scientist for South Australia	South Australian Government
Professor Craig Wheeler	Australian Research Council (ARC) Mid-Career Industry Fellowships	Australian Research Council
Professor Elena Prieto-Rodriguez	Highly Commended - Staff Career-ready Placement Award	University of Newcastle
Professor Gail Garvey	Member of the Order of Australia (AM)	Australia Day Honours
Professor Kelvin Kong	Member of the Order of Australia (AM)	Australia Day Honours
Professor Kirsty Pringle	Research Excellence Award – Research Supervision	University of Newcastle
Professor Matt Dun	ASMR Medal	Australian Society for Medical Research (ASMR)
Professor Nathan Bartlett	2024 Citizen of the Year	City of Newcastle
Professor Paul Dastoor, Dr Daniel Elkington, Dr Nathan Cooling and Dr Swee Lu Lim	Problem Solver Award	Shaping Australia - Universities Australia
Professor Silvia Frisia	2024 Jean Baptiste Lamarck Medal	European Geoscience Union

AWARDS, HONOURS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Name	Award/Achievement	Awarding Body
Roberta Anderson	Excellence in Mentoring – Professional Staff	University of Newcastle
Rodney Barnes	Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)	Australia Day Honours
Ryan Muir	Student Entrepreneur of the Year	University of Newcastle
Saifullah Nasif	3-Minute Thesis Competition - University Final (People's Choice)	University of Newcastle
Saifullah Nasif	Visualise Your Thesis Competition - University Final (People's Choice)	University of Newcastle
Sarah Nilsson	Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)	Australia Day Honours
Shireen Syed	Highly Commended Leadership, Education Sector	itnews
Shireen Syed	Highly Commended, Top 30 Chief Security Officers in Australia	cio.com
Simon Geraghty	Awarded the Public Service Medal (PSM)	Australia Day Honours
Stefano Bruzzo-Gallardo	3-Minute Thesis Competition - School Final (Winner)	University of Newcastle
Swati Dave	National Leadership Award	University of Newcastle
Teachers and Teaching Research Centre – Laureate Professor Jenny Gore, Dr Drew Miller, Steve Hannan, Tom Carey, Wendy Taggart, Dr Leanne Fray, Dr Sally Patfield	Research Excellence Award – Research Impact	University of Newcastle
Telestroke Team from HMRI's Heart and Stroke Research Program	HMRI Research Team of the Year	HMRI
Tess Rendoth	Citation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning	Australian Awards for University Teaching (AAUT)
The Greater Bank Finance Academy Financial Literacy Program – Dr Adrian Melia and Kathy Rimmer	Community Engagement Award	University of Newcastle
The Hon Kevin Lindgren AM KC FAAL	The Alumni Medal	University of Newcastle
The Hon Gregory Combet AM	Office of the Order of Australia	King's Birthday Honours
The late Mr Roy Hazlewood	Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)	Australia Day Honours
The University of Newcastle Summer Justice Clinic Students (Zachary Hague, Madaleine Winterbine, Sophie Rodney, Jayda Ormsby and Luka Piltz)	Highly Commended - Student Career-ready Placement Award	University of Newcastle
VisCom Student Club (Annelise Terelinck, Ayden Seis, Hassan Mir and Owen Lonergan McKenzie)	Higher Education Prize	3Thirty
Wendy Dore	ADVANCE HE Fellowship	Advance HE (UK) Higher Education Academy
Zanab Malik	Visualise Your Thesis Competition - University Final (Winner)	University of Newcastle

MANAGEMENT AND ACTIVITIES

MAJOR WORKS

MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

The University's capital program is structured to deliver the university's physical estate capital projects in alignment with the Strategic Plan's objectives. It incorporates periodic reviews and adjustments to address evolving needs and asset conditions.

Major works focus on new developments, refurbishing existing buildings, and upgrading facilities and systems to create modern, vibrant spaces that foster collaboration and build a sense of community.

These include ongoing and future projects delivered under the University's Horizon Program, a 10-year development program that enables a phased approach to campus development, responding to the evolving needs of our staff, students, and community.

CENTRAL COAST CAMPUS (GOSFORD)

Main construction progressed in 2024 and achieved several major milestones, including the demolition of the old building on site, completing bulk excavation, and key structural work with the installation of the timber currently underway.

The project is on track for completion in the second half of 2025 and will be fully operational in 2026. Once complete, the campus will feature modern teaching and learning spaces, providing a state-of-the-art education hub just minutes from Gosford train station.

Investment in the building includes:

- University of Newcastle: \$31.3 million
- Australian Government: \$18 million
- NSW Government: \$18 million (including land provided by the NSW Government's Hunter and Central Coast Development Corporation)

CITY CAMPUS STUDENT ACCOMMODATION (NEWCASTLE)

The University completed extensive community consultation on the proposed student accommodation building in Newcastle ahead of submitting a State Significant Development Application (SSDA) in September 2024, which is currently under assessment.

Enabling works to prepare the site were approved in June 2024 through a separate, local Development Application and commenced in September 2024. The main works contractor will be appointed in the first quarter of 2025, with work expected to begin on site in the second quarter of the year.

The new building will house 445 students and is anticipated to open in 2027.

THE HEALTH EDUCATION RESEARCH BUILDING

The major refurbishment of the Health Education Research Building at Callaghan Campus will feature updated facilities for nursing and midwifery students and staff, and new workspaces for the College of Health, Medicine and Wellbeing. This includes cutting-edge simulation labs, modern teaching spaces, and communal areas.

Planning approval for this project was granted in August 2024, with work commencing on site the following month. This \$27 million project, funded by the University, is expected to be complete and operational in the second half of 2025.

CALLAGHAN CAMPUS HEART

The Callaghan Campus Heart project, located at the University of Newcastle's Callaghan campus, aims to enhance the student and community experience by creating a vibrant, student and community-focused centre of activity.

The \$10 million University-funded project will be delivered in phases over the next three years. Phase 1, which is focused on the consolidation of key services, retail options, and events into a dynamic central hub in the Shortland building, Language Centre and Auchmuty Library, has commenced and is expected to be completed in 2025. Planning and development of the project's future phases is ongoing.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION BUILDING AT CALLAGHAN

A total of \$8.2 million refurbishment work at the Health and Physical Education building located at Callaghan Campus commenced in mid-2024 and was completed in February 2025. The work included upgraded offices, research facilities, and teaching spaces, delivering a state-of-the-art facility with strength and conditioning laboratories conveniently located in the nearby high-performance gym at the Forum.

NUSPORT AT THE FORUM

Significant upgrades to the high-performance gym and the adjacent Oval 3 took place at NUsport at the Forum on Callaghan Campus. The work at the high-performance gym included the provision of premier teaching and learning facilities for the consolidated Exercise and Sports Science (ExSS) Academy, reflecting top-tier sporting facilities for professional sports clubs and elite athletes. This upgrade also accommodates overflow during events at the Aquatics Centre, with work completed in February 2024.

The Oval 3 upgrade will be completed in March 2025. It will deliver a new multisport synthetic field, a multisport acrylic training field, and a realignment of the natural turf rugby training fields. This development will expand the offering available on Oval 3 to include hockey, futsal, tennis, pickleball, and netball, creating new opportunities for NUsport to activate this space. The combined investment for the NUsport project was \$5.6 million.

HORIZON DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (PHASE 2)

While the first phase of Horizon projects is being delivered, the University is actively planning and developing the second phase of Horizon development projects.

These projects will include a demolition program targeting the Hunter and Bowman Buildings, Special Education Building, and Wonnayba Building, all located at the Callaghan Campus. Additionally, development plans will commence in 2025 for externally funded projects, including a Skills Hub and Future Industries Facilities, which will scale up new technology and address critical needs to achieve a net zero future.

The University will also focus on plans for new developments including Alumni and Community House in Newcastle, exploring options for additional Student Accommodation in Gosford and at Callaghan Campus in Newcastle.

This effort is complemented by several annual programs aimed at maintaining and improving campus operations and environments.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

IMPROVING RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

University researchers secured funding from the ARC's Linkage, Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities scheme to expand the University's capabilities in fields such as dynamics and kinetics in catalysis, carbon capture, and energy storage and conversion. The funding will support a platform that offers both in-situ spectrum functions to assess the electrochemical reaction of different materials and the measurement of property by external stimuli under extreme environments. It will facilitate multidisciplinary research collaborations between academics and industries to advance clean energy, energy storage and conversion, carbon neutral and next-generation semiconductor devices.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

This year marked the 7th consecutive year that the University secured over \$100 million in new research and development income. This includes \$22 million through highly competitive schemes from the Australian Research Council (ARC), the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF). Some of the successful research projects awarded in 2024 include:

- \$5 million in NHMRC funding for research that will better support and coordinate chronic disease prevention services.

- \$3 million for the continuation of the NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in Digestive Health – a University-led centre committed to finding the causes of chronic unexplained gut diseases, unlocking new therapies and ultimately curing disease.
- \$2.6 million in NHMRC funding for medical research that aims to prevent pre-term births.
- Nearly \$2 million from the Medical Research Future Fund to help advance research into personalised asthma management during pregnancy, to help reduce health risks for mothers and their babies.
- \$2.2 million for ARC Industry Fellowships that will see two University researchers advance important work in human rights law reforms and conveying technologies for Australia's export commodities.
- An \$850,000 ARC Discovery Grant that will allow researchers to explore the vascular mechanisms that affect our cognitive ability as we approach our later stages of life.
- A \$780,000 grant from the National Health & Medical Research Council and the Medical Research Future Fund to trial a walk-and-talk model of mental health care that takes men's therapy sessions outdoors.
- \$650,000 in ARC funding to help University researchers develop better anti-parasitic treatments for Australia's wombat population, which has been significantly impacted by sarcoptic mange.

LAND DISPOSALS

There were no land disposals in excess of \$5,000,000 in 2024.

ANNUAL HIGHER EDUCATION RESEARCH DATA COLLECTION (HERDC) FUNDING (AUDITED RESULTS)

Year	1 – Australian Competitive Grants	2 – Other public sector research funding	3 – Industry and other funding for research	4 – Cooperative Research Centre funding	Total
2019	\$43,808,849	\$31,032,575	\$33,698,457	\$4,508,154	\$113,048,035
2020	\$51,066,830	\$40,796,000	\$36,414,917	\$5,298,342	\$133,576,089
2021	\$48,902,900	\$31,812,764	\$50,737,650	\$2,480,321	\$133,933,635
2022	\$44,953,050	\$23,972,945	\$57,164,641	\$862,072	\$126,952,708
2023	\$65,098,990	\$29,491,100	\$53,393,637	\$1,662,406	\$149,646,133

2023 FY figure is the final, audited result. 2024 figures are unaudited.

PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

2024 AT A GLANCE

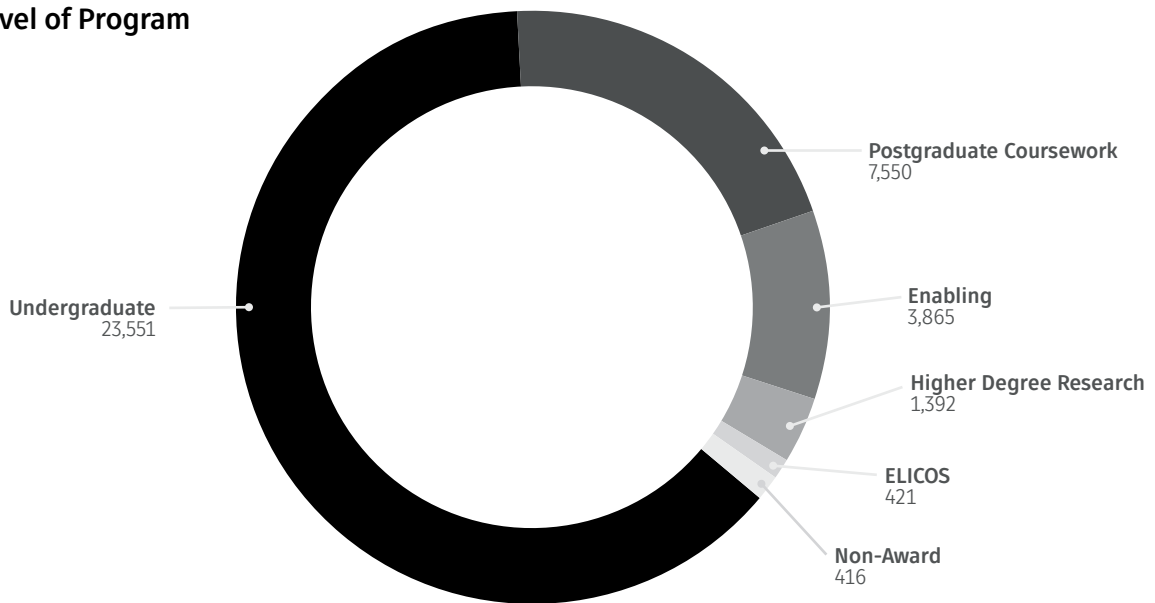
37,195
total students

17,115
commencing students

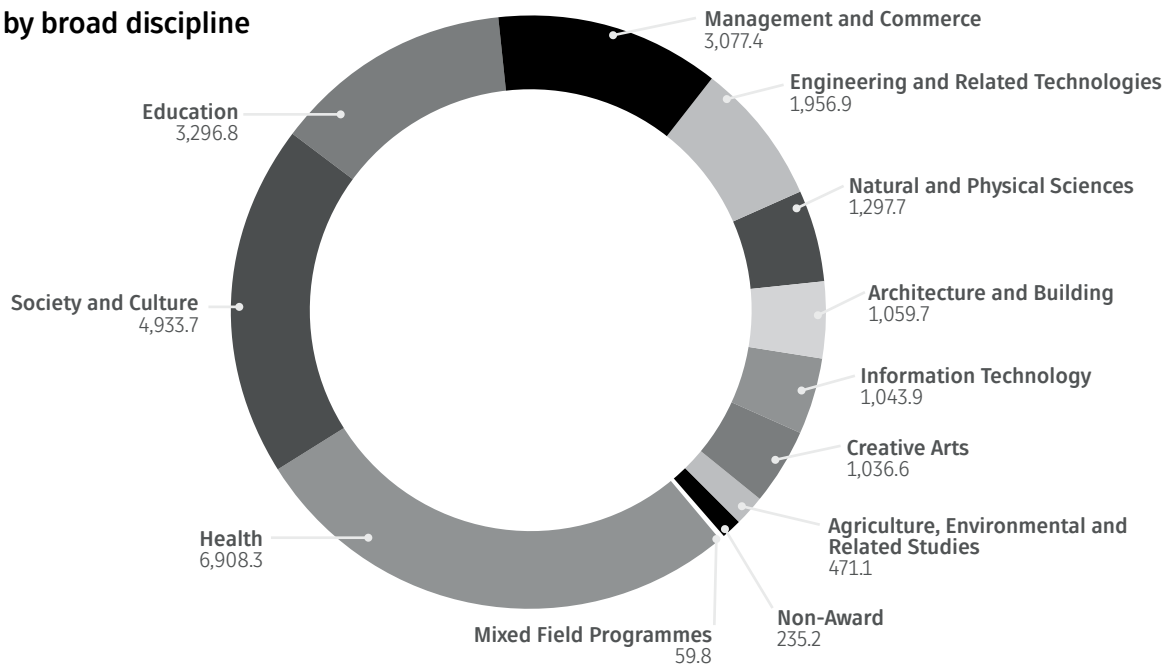
30,808
domestic students

6,387
international students

Students by level of Program



Students Load by broad discipline



LOOKING AHEAD KPI

VALUE	KPI	UNIT	ACTUAL 2021	ACTUAL 2022	ACTUAL 2023	ACTUAL 2024	TARGET 2025
OUR INDIGENOUS COMMITMENT							
Excellence	Research Income Indigenous Chief Investigator	\$M	0.6	2.2	5.0	1.7	3.0
Equity	Indigenous Staff Participation	%	3.0	3.2	3.3	3.3	4
Engagement	Indigenous Student Retention (Variance to Overall)	%	-2.4	-4.5	-4.4	-3.4	0
Sustainability	Staff completion of Cultural Competency Module	%	43.4	79.1	87.7	90.4	100
ENGAGEMENT PRIORITIES							
Excellence	Average World Rank (External)	Rank	276	267	282	283	250
Equity	Projects with Industry/Community Partners	%	43.2	44.4	39.2	39.1	51
Engagement	Multidisciplinary Collaboration	%	23.5	25.1	26.0	24.3	25
Sustainability	HERDC Income	\$M	134	127	149.6	³	150
LIFE READY GRADUATES							
Excellence	Quality of Overall Experience (SES)	#	72.6	76.4	78.3	78.8	81.4
Equity	Disability Retention (Variance to Overall)	%	-4.4	-4.0	-4.1	-4.2	0
Engagement	WIL participation (Undergraduate)	%	N/A	86.4	94.9	96.8	100
Sustainability	K10 (Psychological Distress) Risk Scale	#	25.1	N/A	22	24.8	21
ASIA PACIFIC FOCUS							
Excellence	Co-publications with International Partners	%	55.5	54.1	57.6	54.6	60
Equity	Outbound Student Mobility	#	180	405	930	1,065	1,250
Engagement	Cumulative Philanthropic and Sponsorship Income	\$M	14.7	36.4	56.8	75.5	75
Sustainability	Proportion of Fee Paying International EFTSL	%	9.4	9.5	11.8	11.3	18.5
REIMAGINING OUR CAMPUSES							
Excellence	Satisfaction with Physical and Digital Environments	%	72.8	73.5	73.5	77.9	80
Equity	Satisfaction with Campuses and Facilities (Student with a Disability Variance to Overall Satisfaction)	%	-6.8	-5.9	-6.4	-5.1	0
Engagement	WiFi Utilisation	#	76	108.6	132.1	139.6	140
Sustainability	Carbon Emissions (Tonnes)	'000	27.6	41.0	46.0	TBC ²	0
INSPIRING PEOPLE							
Excellence	Share of UAC First Preferences	%	11.3	11.4	10.4	11.9	11.9
Equity	Senior Academic Women	%	33.5	34.3	34.9	35.6	37.5
Engagement	Your Voice Staff Engagement	%	72.8	N/A	70	N/A	80
Sustainability	Safe Work Australia Maturity Score	#	2	2	2	2	3

¹ Data as at December 2024. FY 2024 results are unaudited and excludes most research income outside Research Grants and TUNRA.

² The 2024 result for carbon emissions tonnes will be available in Q2 2025

³ Audited 2024 figures not yet available