



CUC Ovens Murray Newsletter

Welcome to our final newsletter for 2023. Semester two has wound up for many students, whilst the summer trimester is in full swing for some others. It has been a remarkable year of growth, with our 200th student registering since we opened our sites last year. For this current Semester, we have 147 students using the Centres. In October, we cracked over 300 visits for the month!

CUC Ovens Murray supports **any student, studying any course - at any university or higher education provider**, by providing free access to a dedicated learning space (7 days/week 5am-midnight), free printing, dual screen computers and academic support. So, anybody in our region currently enrolled in a higher education course at any university or higher education provider can register, access the centre and use our services for **free**.

Our facilities have fob access for students over the Christmas/New Year break, everyday except Christmas Day. The Centres will not be staffed during this period. Staff will be taking a well earned break from the 22nd December to the 3rd of January. On behalf of the staff and our board, we would like to thank you for your support of CUC Ovens Murray in 2023. We extend our warmest wishes for a Merry Christmas and a joyous holiday season to you, our supporters, and the wider Ovens Murray community. May the festive season fill you with joy, and the coming year be filled with peace and prosperity.

SNAPSHOT of Semester 2



147
students



46
different
institutions

21 Universities & 25 higher education providers (inc. TAFE)



45%
are the first in
their family
to study

40%
study
full
time



60%
study
part
time

17 different
areas of
study

76%
female



23%
male

TOP Areas of
Study

23%
Health

22%
Education

17%
Psychology,
social work &
Community
Services

Annual General Meeting 2023



Annual Report.

[Read the 2023 Annual Report here](#)

Learning Skills Advisors (LSA) program

CUC Ovens Murray has three fantastic LSA's, one at each of our sites in Mansfield, Corryong and Wangaratta. Students can access academic support through booking a one-to-one sessions with our LSA's.

In 2023, the LSA program has delivered 257 sessions with 38% of registered students accessing the LSA program, with 53% of those students using the service on multiple occasions. Writing Feedback, Referencing, and Research Skills being the top categories of assistance provided. Feedback from our student survey highlighted the value students place in the LSA program and how the support helped them feel equipped and confident on their academic journey.



Supporting students studying through Swinburne Online: A pilot partnership involving CUC Goulburn and CUC Ovens Murray

About the CUC Goulburn & CUC Ovens Murray Partnership

This year, the CUC Goulburn and CUC Ovens Murray have been involved in a pilot partnership with Online Education Services (OES), to better support students studying through Swinburne Online. The initiative was originally negotiated by Dan Keenan from the CUC Central team and Kathy Thomas and Katia Kanz from OES. The aim was to inform Swinburne Online students of the support opportunity provided by Country University Centres that would help them progress their university studies.

As part of the partnership, Swinburne Online students receive a direct invitation to visit and register with the Centres, where they then receive orientation, and access to the facilities and face-to-face services, to complement those they access as an online student with Swinburne.

The Swinburne Online team provide university merchandise to help build a connection with the University which students receive when they register. The Centres track usage and overall numbers.

CUC Goulburn's Centre Manager, Bella Lesslie, saw there was opportunity to reach students in the area who may otherwise be missing out on the Centre's facilities and support.

"We often run marketing campaigns to let our community know about who we are and what we do, and we've had a lot of success with them this year. Many of our students hear about us through word-of-mouth. Sometimes advertising and relying on community referrals can be a blunt instrument. We still get students walking into our Centre in their second or third year of study who wished they had learned about us earlier."

The pilot allowed CUC Goulburn to reach a number of Swinburne Online students in the area who had not previously accessed the Centre. The Centre has now seen an increase in numbers from Swinburne Online, thanks to the pilot. Swinburne Online have surveyed those students now using the Centre as part of the pilot, and satisfaction levels have been consistently high. As a result, the pilot is now being extended to other Centres and to students who are studying with other OES partnered Universities.

Ovens Murray contribution:

"This semester, Swinburne Online was the second most attended institution for CUC Ovens Murray. What has been great to see has been the connection and awareness between Swinburne Online students, that there are other people in the region who are on a similar online education journey, and some are even doing the same course. It's that human connection that can help alleviate a feeling of isolation that can sometimes be experienced with online study."

Content contributed by Bella Lesslie (CUC Goulburn), Katia Kanz (OES) and Mark van Bergen (CUC Ovens Murray)

Student Story - Isabelle



[Read Isabelle's story here](#)

Free to Register - Making Remote Study Easy

Registration and access is free! We are a dedicated space for university and higher education students. Any student enrolled in any degree through an Australian university or higher education provider, can access our Centres for FREE high speed internet, access to printers and videoconferencing facilities, quiet study spaces and general academic support. We know juggling work, family and study commitments can be hectic. That's why our sites are open 5am to midnight, seven days a week so you can study when it suits you.

[Register your interest here.](#)

Spread the Word

Do you know someone currently juggling study at home? Or do you know someone studying in 2024? Let them know that we are now open in Corryong, Mansfield and Wangaratta and can support them in their learning journey. Registering is easy, and can be done via our website www.cucovensmurray.edu.au or calling the centre manager on 0490 022 028

Follow us and share 'cucovensmurray' on Facebook and Instagram.



[Click here](#)

Thanks to our partners



Our thanks and appreciation go to the Towong Shire for supporting our Corryong facility, Mansfield Adult Community Education (MACE) for supporting our Mansfield site and GOTAFE for supporting our Wangaratta location. CUC Ovens Murray is proudly funded by the Australian Government - Department of Education's Regional University Study hubs program.



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