

Vice-Chancellor's Introduction

2001 was a year of enormous change for Southern Cross University. It was change that was necessary to better position us to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing higher education sector, but it was also change that will make us a more vibrant, interesting, and challenging place in which to both work and study.

On the administrative front an organisational restructure commenced which saw the old school structure aggregated into three new divisions: Arts, Business, and Health and Applied Sciences. Each of these new divisions is headed by an Executive Dean who will join a reconfigured senior executive group including three Pro Vice-Chancellors with responsibility for Research, Academic and Quality, and Enterprise and International; and an Executive Director of Corporate Services.

On the academic front there is also much to report. A new campus has been completed at Tweed Heads that opened in February 2002. The campus has been built to include the latest in educational delivery technology and will initially concentrate on offering courses from our thriving business program.

Also completed and opened in February 2002 was the National Marine Science Centre at Coffs Harbour. The Centre is set to become one of the leading facilities in marine ecology and research in not just Australia, but the southern hemisphere.

The University is also working in partnership with respected institutions like the University of Sydney to establish a University Department of Rural Health in Lismore, the University of New South Wales to establish a clinical school in Coffs Harbour, and the University of Queensland to establish a new Australian Centre for Complementary Medicine, Education, and Research in Lismore and Brisbane.

Viewed together these changes and advances paint the picture of a young university reorganising to meet new challenges, consolidating its position in the region, and working actively with some of the country's most respected universities.

To help focus its activity the University commenced, in 2001, the development of a new strategic planning program. We have redefined our Vision and Mission and clearly articulated our commitments and priorities.

In 2002 this program will be refined and augmented. A comprehensive program of review will be included to ensure we are able to monitor and measure our performance and, where necessary, adjust our activity to ensure we meet our stated goals.

Like 2001, 2002 will be a year of significant change. I am confident though that the steps we have taken will ensure that Southern Cross will continue to grow and prosper.

John A. Heideard.

