



**Southern
Cross
University**

Southern Cross Matters



May Edition 2026

From the Vice-Chancellor

Dear Colleagues,

Each month the process of drawing together the pages of Southern Cross Matters serves to reinforce the extraordinary breadth of talent and activity that is happening within our University, and May 2026 is certainly no exception to that. Whether as you read through the assembled content you find a to this point undiscovered passion for the art of training camels or a fascination for the psychology of e-sports, to take just two examples, I have no doubt that there will be much that is both interesting and informative.

I did wish in foregrounding this month's edition to offer some reflections on the level of focus you'll notice on matters relating to international partnerships, education and research. There is gathering momentum in this domain and from my perspective, taking the time and effort to invest in high quality international research and educational partnerships is a key plank of our continued work in enhancing our impact, growing our networks and reputation and building a stronger and more dynamic institution. This work is also becoming more and more central to our institutional strategy, and as such, is of consequence for all of us, whatever our focus and role.

In coming weeks, we will welcome to our campuses groups of colleagues from a number of our longstanding international partner universities, as well as prospective partner universities attracted to key elements of our research expertise and to our unique curriculum model.

Importantly, the work we are doing to grow and strengthen existing partnerships of long standing as well as develop new, strategically aligned international relationships does not take us away from our core focus on delivering impact and value for the regions that we are so deeply embedded in. But it does reinforce that so much of what we are working on here

is of truly world standard and capable of being harnessed to great good in other parts of the globe which while geographically distant are proximate with respect to challenges faced and future aspirations.

I hope you very much enjoy this month's edition of Southern Cross Matters and look forward to receiving continued feedback about the kinds of topics or focus areas that would be of interest for future editions.

Warmest wishes

Tyrone



First Nations mother and her partner.

A decade of progress, a national expansion

Southern Cross University's SISTACARE program has secured \$2.46 million in new funding from the National Health and Medical Research Council. The grant, the program's third from the Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases in a decade, will embed culturally safe cessation care into routine pregnancy services across Australia.

[Find out more](#)



Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor Julie Jomeen, Chief of Sport and Partnerships at Surfing Australia Luke Madden, and Vice-President (Future Students & Outreach) Anna-Maree Shaw.

Breakthroughs and wave breaks

We're now the exclusive university partner of Surfing Australia, aligning us with the national governing body for the sport. As Official University Partner for 2026, the partnership opens education pathways, student placements, research collaboration and community impact across the surf and sport sector.

[Find out more](#)

Spotlight stories



Our health leadership roundtable in New Delhi brought together 35 senior leaders aligned to research strengths and bilateral economic development priorities.

[Find out more](#)



Congratulations to a leader in nursing. Amanda Butt was awarded the 2026 Bonnie Boezeman AO Leadership in Nursing Scholarship.

[Find out more](#)



The world's first academic textbook on esports psychology, co-authored by Dr Dylan Poulus, brings evidence-based strategies to one of the fastest-growing sports on the planet.

[Find out more](#)



Why do some people save, spend or stress about money so differently? Dr Jennifer Harrison's research maps the distinct money types of young Australians.

[Find out more](#)

Excellence in action



Building the future tech workforce. The expansion of our partnership with Poornima University offers global opportunities and real-world skill in IT. [Download the details.](#)

Australia's first Research Development and Innovation (RD&I) Strategy for the organic horticulture sector is live. It's an excellent example of industry partnership, and is backed by national certification bodies. [The strategy is live.](#)

Whipping and shouting are out. New research led by Associate Professor Barbara Padalino dives into the details of camel training. [Read here.](#)

What do you reach for when the world feels precarious? Dr Aidan Coleman reflects on peace and poetry in this piece from The Conversation. [Read here.](#)

University updates



Celebrating alumni success in Delhi, India.

Celebrating alumni in Delhi. Did you know two of India's most senior government leaders are also our alumni? We hosted an evening to Delhi connect and celebrate. [Take a look.](#)

... **And welcoming alumni returning.** Twelve years after leaving Australia as International Alumnus Winner, Said Achmad Kabiru Rafiie returned on a special mission. [See the visit.](#)

National Centre for Naturopathic Medicine giving appeal. Your generosity helps the National Centre for Naturopathic Medicine (NCNM) support students, advance values-driven research, and deliver more compassionate care – turning knowledge into lasting change for communities. [Give today and be part of the change that transforms lives.](#)

Our Media Centre. Want to know what else we've been up to? [Check our Media Centre.](#)

People and culture



Celebrating our people: Professor Renaud Joannes-Boyau. From research to University leadership, Renaud's contribution to SCU spans more than a decade. Since joining in 2010, he has played a key role in shaping our research community and now leads Higher Degree Research, alongside serving on Academic Board and University Council. [Watch his story.](#)

Are you a Southern Cross Uni alumnus? Stay connected with your alumni community, and you could win a \$3,000 escape to Lady Elliot Island Eco Resort. *T&C apply. [Update your details or spread the word here!](#)

Welcome to those who've joined Southern Cross University in recent months:

Marie Michalas, Curriculum and Accreditation Officer

Karly Carter, Associate Lecturer

Ashlyn Sahay, Associate Professor

Hope Foley, Senior Research Fellow

Cindy Turner, Lecturer (Teaching Scholar)

Anthea Fagan, Associate Professor

Daniel Smith, Team Leader, Library Resources

Kate Simpson, Library Technician

Matt Torres, Technical Officer (Horticulture and Herbarium)

Simon Thomas, Project Manager

Jody Kenner, Application Developer

Pratigya Baskota, Application Developer

Andrew Penton, Senior Application Developer

Shaymaa Kadhim, Application Developer

Manish Manish, Senior Application Developer

Bailey Middleton, Senior Application Developer

Beau Ingram, Senior Technical Support Officer

Barbara Quinlin, Technical Support Officer

George Racz, Senior Platform Engineer

Tif Djillani, International Student Support Officer

Amanda Gillies, Student Administration Officer

Fay Alaei, Learning Advisor

Justine Taylor, First Year Advisor

Have some news to share?

If you have some news or a story idea you'd like to share in an upcoming edition of SCU Matters, email us at content@scu.edu.au.

