

IN ACTION: SNAPSHOT OF ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY

SOUTHERN CROSS UNIVERSITY'S

LIVE IDEAS



Southern Cross University launched the innovative Live Ideas program in 2015 to increase connectivity between the needs of our communities and our teaching and research strengths. With an easy to use online form community partners are able to communicate their needs directly to staff and students of the University creating project briefs that are ready to go.

There has been an overwhelming response to the program from industry, and community, with over 300 Live Ideas received to date. Over 70 projects have been completed by students ranging from whole class graphic design briefs to more in-depth research projects at the post graduate level. Many partners return each year to provide ongoing authentic learning

opportunities for Southern Cross University staff and students.

Live Ideas has increased connectivity between our communities with our teaching, especially where problem and project-based pedagogies are used. Live



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Ideas removes the need for community partners to know exactly who to connect with providing them with a single point of entry to the University. Live Ideas removes barriers for staff including the time needed to develop relationships and scope appropriate project or problem briefs for their units. This new model has been incredibly useful for academics who wish to embed authentic approaches throughout courses and require a sustainable flow of a range of projects each semester. Live Ideas has increased the agency of students to connect with community partners who are eager to work with students to help solve the problems they face or meet the needs they have. The Live Ideas program is for the whole of the University, so students from all disciplines

can search through projects and choose the ones that best suits their interests, skills and the courses they undertake.

An interesting emergent feature of the program, has been the use of Live Ideas by staff for recruiting volunteers to citizen science research, for example the successful 'Plastic Pollution on North Coast Beaches' project. Live Ideas was used to recruit 28 volunteers to collect over 1,000 plastic bottles on beaches between Coffs Harbour and Tweed Heads in NSW. Researchers investigated sources of these bottles in attempt to determine the relative importance of different plastic sources over this large coastal area.

For more information visit:
liveideas.org.au



MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY'S CLASSROOM OF MANY CULTURES



Like many universities worldwide, Macquarie University has embarked on an ambitious plan of international work-integrated and community-based service-learning placements through its Professional and Community Engagement (PACE) program.

As part of their undergraduate degree program, all students are required to participate in a PACE activity within Australia or abroad, where they learn by engaging with diverse communities and applying knowledge developed in the classroom to a real situation. Specifically, the PACE International community development stream partners with organisations that work towards addressing community-identified priorities and long-term sustainable outcomes.

All PACE International activities and relationships are developed collaboratively between PACE International staff, unit convenors and partners so that they are reciprocal and respectful of diverse



Over a two-year period Macquarie University partnered with eleven international community development organisations from seven different countries.

ways of doing, being and knowing. Over a two-year period, staff and students from Macquarie University partnered with eleven international community development organisations from seven

different countries to cooperatively produce or 'co-create' a curriculum that would better prepare undergraduate students for international work-integrated learning activities.

This project, 'Classroom of Many Cultures' (CoMC), was inspired by conversations with long-term international partners who felt that they could contribute directly to the educational program, not merely as hosts for students involved in work-integrated learning, but also as co-teachers in the university classroom. Funded by a strategic priority grant from the Office for Learning and Teaching this project produced over thirty-five activities and forty-five supporting videos divided into six modules.

For more information: visit the open access website at classroomofmanycultures.net



FEDERATION UNIVERSITY RISER

RESEARCH SITE



The Regional Incubator for Social and Economic Research (RISER) is a collaboration between the Grampians Regional Development Australia (RDA) Committee, the Wimmera Development Association

(WDA), local governments in the Grampians region and Federation University Australia (FedUni) to develop a significant research site located in Horsham.

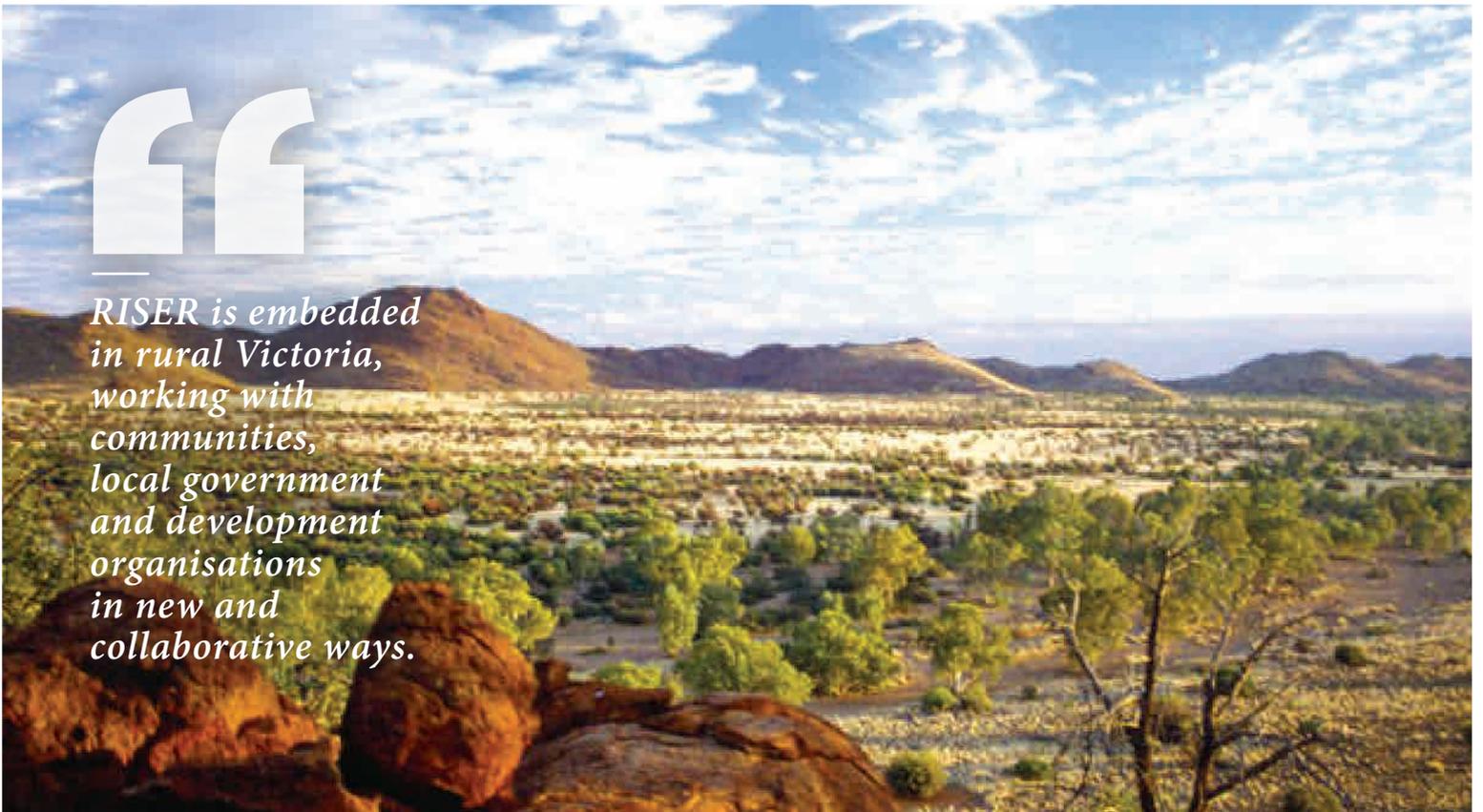
RISER undertakes social and economic development research in fields that impact on communities in rural and regional Victoria. The work undertaken is applied in nature and will be utilised directly by governments, private enterprise and the not-for-profit sector to improve opportunities for communities and support sustainable growth and development. RISER works with communities to develop funding applications to Commonwealth

and State Government and the philanthropic sector to maximise the direct benefit of this research.

Current RISER projects undertaken by PhD students holding industry scholarships include understanding political representation of rural communities in the context of regional population dispersal, developing models of leadership and governance for regional communities, local branding and commodity ‘ownership’ by primary producers and indigenous social enterprise. Other RISER research consultancy projects include, local economic development projects, engagement of CALD communities with early childhood education and developing



RISER is embedded in rural Victoria, working with communities, local government and development organisations in new and collaborative ways.



demographic models of a Victorian region.

The work of the RISER is embedded in rural Victoria, working with communities, local government and development organisations in new and collaborative ways. The research is focused on outcomes at a local level and its projects are determined by a joint academic / industry steering committee.

At a community and organisational level RISER is building a research base to promote government and business investment in the rural towns and communities of the Wimmera / Southern Mallee. RISER researchers work with the project partners to develop evidence based funding applications to ensure access to increased levels of development and project funding.

RISER and project partners have a strong focus on attracting additional resources to the Wimmera / Southern Mallee regions.



of civic responsibility while meeting not-for-profit sector needs for skilled volunteering.

The experience meets 21st century educational goals for students to “think global and act local”. Students select from a range of over 250 local and global skilled volunteer positions across a broad range of not-for-profit sectors with roles tailored to students’ capabilities and interests.

The unique focus on skilled volunteering has instilled in students a commitment to continued volunteering as evidenced by 60% of students and of not-for-profit partners reporting a commitment to continued volunteering with students’ chosen organisations throughout and/or post-degree (Ratanayake, 2015).

Since 2012, more than 2,300 Griffith University students have provided 120,000 hours of volunteering to almost 400 organisations. Key founding partner organisations, include: Uniting Care Community, Volunteering Services Australia, and The Lady Musgrave Trust. With 175 current participating partners

across the community sector there are a broad range of organisations involved. They vary in size, structure and purpose. Importantly, they address different areas of community need that include health (hospitals, health awareness organisations, drugs and alcohol, mental health, seniors, disability and emergency services), environment (environmental assessment and preservation), community outreach (homelessness, poverty, multicultural support), families (youth outreach, family support, domestic violence) and animal protection (animal protection and welfare).

This diversity helps to cater to students’ areas of interest as well as widening the impact of the program and raising awareness of community needs. This community engagement model serves as an exemplar of transformative work integrated learning (WIL) as recognized with the award of a 2016 OLT (Office of Learning and Teaching) Citation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning.

For more information please visit:
griffith.edu.au/communityinternship

GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



“Community Internship” is a custom-designed community engagement course providing internships for Griffith University students to maximise their employability and sense