



Country
Universities
Centre

BASS COAST

REGISTER
NOW

ANNUAL
REPORT

2025-2026

COUNTRY UNIVERSITIES CENTRE BASS COAST



We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders as the traditional custodians of all lands throughout Australia. We recognise and respect the connection to their land, cultural heritage and community, and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present, and emerging.

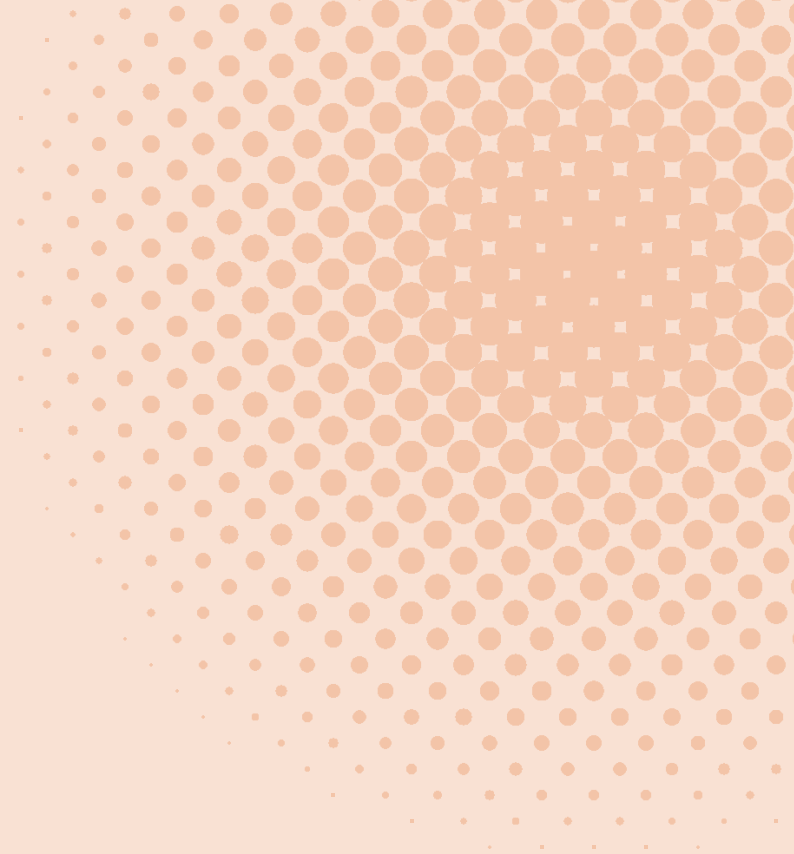


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"CUC gave me a place where I could focus, connect with other students and separate study from home life."

Harriet
Master of Business, Arts
and Cultural Management
Deakin University



Who We Are

The Country Universities Centre began with the establishment of the Cooma Universities Centre in 2013, created to offer enhanced, supported higher education opportunities in the regional town of Cooma, home to around 7,000 people.

Opened in 2021 in Wonthaggi, CUC Bass Coast is a dedicated learning and study space that supports any student, studying any course, at any Australian university. Students can connect with like-minded people and engage in a learning community while they study locally. We are focused on supporting the academic success of students and ensuring they have the tools to succeed in their tertiary education journey.



Our Story

A local learning community

CUC Bass Coast was established with a simple understanding: where you live should not determine your access to tertiary education. For regional students, pursuing tertiary education has traditionally meant making a difficult choice — relocating away from home, travelling long distances to campus, or trying to make remote study work without the facilities and support available to on campus students.



Since opening in Wonthaggi in 2021, CUC Bass Coast has been helping to change that. As a Regional University Study Hub (RUSH), we provide local students studying with any Australian university or tertiary education provider with free access to a dedicated study environment, technology, academic support and, importantly, a community of people who understand the experience of studying from a regional area.

The vision continues

Over the past five years, the Centre has grown alongside the community it serves.



Through key partnerships and our widening participation program, FutureBound, we're helping young people in our region to explore what tertiary education could look like for them and understand that there is more than one pathway to get there.

At the heart of CUC Bass Coast is a belief in the potential of regional people. We are proud to provide the space, support and community that helps that potential grow, and to continue building a future where tertiary education is possible, right here in the region.

Message from The Chair

It is with great pride that I present the Chair's Report for the 2025–2026 financial year.

At CUC Bass Coast, we remain committed to ensuring that your postcode should never determine your opportunity to pursue tertiary education.

Every student who walks through our doors is supported to succeed while remaining connected to their community, family, and future. It is incredibly rewarding to see the lasting impact this support continues to have across our region.

The 2025–2026 year has been one of continued growth, strengthened partnerships, and expanding impact for Country University Centre Bass Coast.

As we celebrated five years of supporting regional learners, we also reached a significant milestone, having supported more than 600 students since opening. This achievement reflects the growing confidence our community has in our study hub as a trusted place to study, connect, and achieve locally.

Our vision remains clear: to ensure regional students have equitable access to tertiary education without needing to leave the communities they call home. Throughout the year, our dedicated team has continued to provide high-quality academic support, personalised guidance, and a welcoming learning environment that enables students to thrive academically and personally.



Martin Keogh
Board Chair

Beyond supporting current students, we have strengthened our commitment to inspiring the next generation through expanded school engagement, career education initiatives, scholarships, and community partnerships. These programs are helping raise aspirations and build clear pathways into tertiary education for young people across our region.

The CUC Bass Coast Board has continued to provide strong governance and strategic oversight as the organisation grows. On behalf of the Board, I extend my sincere thanks to outgoing Directors Greg Box and Danny Luna for their insights and service, while welcoming Jodi Kennedy and Don Paproth.

Also to all our staff, volunteers, partners, supporters, and students for their ongoing commitment to our shared vision. Together, we are creating greater educational opportunity, strengthening our regional workforce, and ensuring that tertiary education remains accessible for generations to come.

Meet the Board



Martin Keogh
Board Chair

With more than four decades dedicated to education and community leadership, Martin has extensive experience in regional education, governance and strategic planning. As Founding Chair of CUC Bass Coast, he played a key role in establishing the Centre and continues to champion equitable access to education and lifelong learning across the region.



Christian Stefani
Deputy Chair

Christian's career spans regional development, local government, governance, communications and advocacy. Closely involved in establishing CUC Bass Coast, he offers a strategic and future-focused perspective, underpinned by a strong commitment to regional growth and opportunity.



Carolyn Simonds
Treasurer

As Chief Financial Officer and General Manager Corporate Services at Phillip Island Nature Parks, Carolyn has broad expertise across finance, governance, people and culture, communications and organisational leadership. Her strategic and operational experience supports CUC Bass Coast's continued growth and long-term sustainability.



Christine Henderson
Director

Christine brings more than 30 years of experience in healthcare, including extensive leadership across regional health services. Her expertise in workforce development and regional healthcare strengthens her commitment to supporting local education pathways that enable people to study, work and remain connected to their communities.



Jodi Kennedy
Director

A career spanning local and state government has given Jodi extensive experience in strategic planning, community development and regional advocacy. Connected to CUC Bass Coast since its early development, she is passionate about enabling regional young people to live, study and build careers within their own communities.



Don Paproth
Director

Don has devoted almost five decades to education, community leadership and governance, including senior roles across regional education and health. As a founding Board member and longstanding advocate for educational equity, he is passionate about ensuring local people can pursue further study while remaining connected to the Bass Coast community.

Centre Director Report

I am delighted to reflect on the significant achievements and progress CUC Bass Coast made throughout 2026.

By the end of Semester One, we had welcomed our largest cohort to date, with 202 students accessing our services, an increase of 40 per cent compared with Semester One 2025. This brought the total number of students supported since opening in March 2021 to more than 620. Behind these numbers are local people pursuing their goals, balancing study with work and family, and accessing the support they need to keep moving forward.

Our skilled and dedicated team continues to be one of our greatest strengths. The positive feedback received through our Student Experience Survey, alongside a record number of Learning Skills Adviser sessions delivered in 2026, highlights the difference our staff make in helping students feel supported, connected and confident in their studies.

Developing key partnerships is one of the aspects of our work I am most proud of. Working alongside organisations and tertiary institutions allows us to support one another, share knowledge and resources, and create opportunities for regional people to access education. These relationships take time and commitment, but their value is clear when we see the opportunities they create for students and our local community.

Our FutureBound program is a strong example of this collaborative approach. It has grown from a pilot initiative to a program delivered across more than 19 schools and 2,200 students in our region.



Sarah Bourke
Centre Director

Our Student Ambassadors have become a particular strength, sharing their own experiences and helping young people see that tertiary education is achievable and that there are many pathways to get there.

As awareness of CUC Bass Coast grows, so too do our connections with the wider community. We are proud of the difference the Centre is making and remain committed to building relationships that respond to local needs, remove barriers and increase access to tertiary education.

I would like to thank our staff and Student Ambassadors for the care, commitment and enthusiasm they bring to their work. I also acknowledge our voluntary Board Directors for their leadership and support, and our community and education partners for their willingness to work alongside us.

Most importantly, I commend our students. Their determination to pursue their educational goals continues to inspire us and reminds us why this work matters.

Meet the Team



Sarah Bourke

Centre Director

Sarah has led the CUC Bass Coast learning community since 2024, drawing on experience across education, community sport, philanthropy and government. A passionate advocate for regional education, she is committed to helping students navigate university, achieve their individual goals and access the opportunities of tertiary education while staying connected to their local community.



Sibby Wilson

Centre Operations Officer

With a broad and diverse background across secondary schools, higher education and TAFE, Sibby brings valuable experience to her role. Driven by a genuine passion for supporting others, she oversees Centre operations at CUC Bass Coast, managing administration and facilities while supporting staff and students to ensure the Centre runs smoothly.



Alex Charlton

Student Engagement Officer

As a CUC Bass Coast alumnus, Alex holds a Bachelor of Biomedical Science from Australian Catholic University and is currently completing a Master of Teaching. As Student Engagement Officer, he uses his own study experience to provide personalised academic support, helping students with everything from unpacking assessment tasks to academic writing and referencing.



Mary Howlett

Student Engagement Officer

Mary has extensive experience across the tertiary education sector, and a strong understanding of university expectations and the skills students need to succeed. She supports CUC Bass Coast students to build confidence in areas such as assignment structure and academic writing, while helping them navigate the challenges of university study.



Hannah Weir

Communications Officer

With more than 10 years' experience in communications, Hannah combines strategic thinking with creative storytelling to share the work and impact of CUC Bass Coast. She is also a meditation and mindfulness teacher and brings a strong interest in wellbeing, creativity and meaningful connection to her work.



Jarryd Blair

Widening Participation Officer

A proud Wonthaggi local, Jarryd's career has taken him from premiership AFL footballer with Collingwood to construction and, more recently, education and student support. Now working with young people across the region while undertaking his own teaching studies, he is passionate about helping local students build confidence, explore opportunities and achieve their educational goals.

Top Highlights

In 2026 CUC Bass Coast strengthened its position as a leading access point for tertiary education in the region. More than 200 students from 41 universities engaged with the Centre, reflecting strong and consistent demand for local, supported study opportunities. The student cohort represented a diverse mix of school leavers, career changers, and mature learners, demonstrating the value of a community-based model that enables people to study close to home.

Partnerships remained central to CUC Bass Coast's success. Collaboration with schools, TAFEs, local councils, and community organisations enhanced educational engagement and awareness of tertiary pathways. Through initiatives such as FutureBound and collaborative careers events, the Centre continued to raise aspiration and provide practical insights into university life. Engagement with local government and industry partners supported workforce development, particularly in the health, education, and care sectors, helping address critical regional skills needs. Supported through the Regional Partnerships Program Pool (RPPPP), FutureBound expanded its reach, engaging more than 2,200 students across the region. Delivered with Swinburne University, Australian Catholic University, and the South Gippsland Bass Coast Local Learning and Employment Network (SGBCLLEN), the program builds confidence, connects students with local role models, and shows that tertiary study is possible without leaving the community.

These achievements reflect a year of growth and meaningful impact, reinforcing CUC Bass Coast's vital role in creating accessible, locally supported tertiary education pathways.



Five years of a local learning community

Since opening in Wonthaggi in March 2021, CUC Bass Coast has spent five years helping local people pursue tertiary education while staying connected to their community. More than 620 students have been supported in their academic goals, accessing a welcoming place to study, academic support and a local learning community. Alongside this work, our FutureBound program has helped young people explore study and career pathways. Five years on, we are proud of all our students, staff and partners who have made the Centre a place where local aspirations continue to become a reality.



600 Students registered

We recently celebrated our 600th student registering since opening in March 2021. This student was Mick Owens, who is the Careers Coordinator at Bass Coast College, and is studying a Graduate Certificate in Careers Counselling. Mick has been an incredible advocate for CUC Bass Coast from day one, connecting and encouraging so many students to access local tertiary education opportunities and support through our centre. We truly couldn't think of a more deserving recipient of our CUC hoodie and gift voucher! "I've seen firsthand the difference CUC makes for students transitioning out of high school. It provides them with real opportunities to continue their studies while remaining local, connected to their community, and being supported every step of the way," Mick said.



Community Partnerships

Federation University's Bachelor of Nursing program, delivered in partnership with CUC Bass Coast and Bayside Health, enables local students to study nursing in Wonthaggi. Launched in 2023, it admits up to 20 students per year level and combines blended learning with clinical placements at Bayside Health in Wonthaggi. CUC Bass Coast provides study space and academic support throughout their degree. This year, we celebrated the graduation of the first intake. Graduates are now undertaking their graduate years and working locally, helping to strengthen our region's health workforce.



Widening participation

The Regional Partnerships Program Pool (RPPPP) has provided valuable opportunities to address gaps in widening participation across regional, rural, and remote areas. The FutureBound program engages students from local schools in activities that demystify university life, build aspiration and encourage early career and pathway exploration. Developed to address limited exposure to tertiary education in the Bass Coast and South Gippsland regions, the program helps students build confidence, connect with local role models and industry partners, and see the possibilities of tertiary study without leaving their community. To date we have delivered to over 2,200 students in partnership with Swinburne University, Australian Catholic University (ACU) and the South Gippsland Bass Coast Local Learning Employment Network (SGBC LLEN) and strengthened tertiary education pathways for local students.



Storytelling project

CUC Bass Coast has recently undertaken a strategic refresh of our communications, including the launch of a new storytelling project designed to highlight the Centre's impact and the ways we support students to access and succeed in tertiary education, without needing to leave their local community. As part of this initiative, we engaged photographer and videographer Conor Ashleigh to capture the experiences and perspectives of our staff, Board members, students, ambassadors and key stakeholders. A series of short videos was progressively released, providing an authentic and engaging insight into the outcomes of our work.



The project has enabled us to more effectively communicate the real-world impact of our services — from students balancing study with work and family commitments, to the partnerships that underpin access to tertiary education in the region. Collectively, these stories demonstrate the value of place-based education support and the strength of the community we serve. The video series is available on our Facebook and Instagram channels, as well as on our [website](#). The content has also been shared more broadly through CUC Central and we have had great feedback from the broader community.

2025/2026 Snapshot

"I honestly cannot thank you guys for all you do at CUC. You are all so incredible. Before I enrolled, I was considering quitting my research. I am so grateful for the space you have created and the community that exists within."

When local people can access education that's genuinely fit for purpose, affordable, and on their own terms, they don't just build their own futures, they strengthen every part of the community they call home.

600 Students

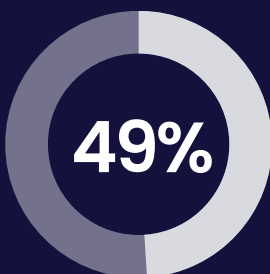
20+

Different areas
of study

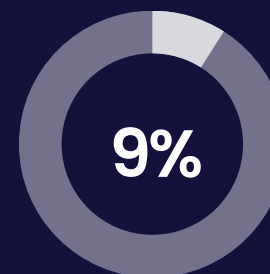
40+

Higher
Education
Providers

Top Areas of Study



are the first in
their family to
study



of students
identify as
Indigenous

51%
study
full
time



49%
study
part
time

3% non-binary

77%
female



20%
male

Government Support

Essential to the success of the CUC has been the support of our partners, including the Commonwealth Government, local government, University and community partners.

The Australian Government

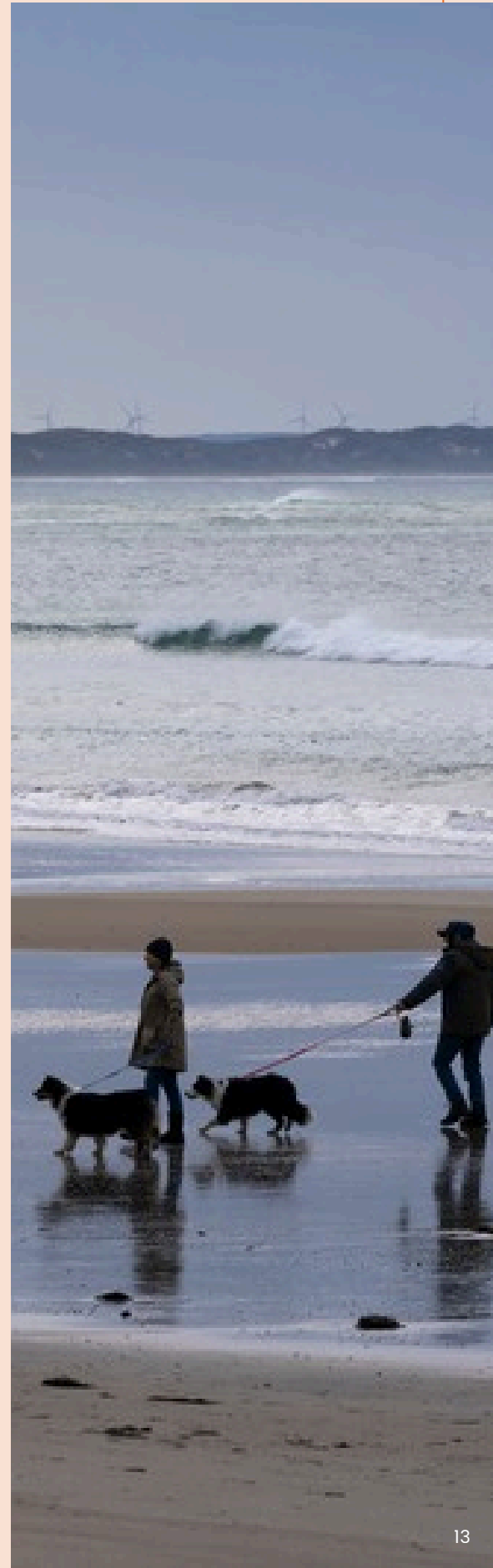
The Australian Government is investing more than \$150 million to assist in the establishment and operation of community-owned, Regional University Study Hubs (RUSH) at sites across regional Australia. CUC Bass Coast is a successful recipient of the Commonwealth's RUSH Program and gratefully acknowledges the support received to date.

Bass Coast Shire Council

Through our partnership with Bass Coast Shire Council, we are located in council premises, and have ongoing support through council representation on our Board of Directors. In addition to this, we have supported the BCSC Traineeship Program which provides young people with hands-on workplace skills across a range of Council departments, while gaining a Certificate III in Business. The program supports local career pathways, builds industry connections and helps strengthen the next generation of local professionals.

Foundation for Regional Rural and Renewal (FRRR)

The FRRR is the only national foundation specifically focussed on ensuring the social and economic strength of Australia's remote, very remote and rural communities. The FRRR is supporting the CUC through its not-for-profit fundraising account, enabling tax deductible donations to support the ongoing operations of our community study hub.



Partnerships

RPPPP Partner Universities

Partnerships with Swinburne University of Technology and the Australian Catholic University (ACU) have been instrumental in delivering the FutureBound program. Funded by the Regional Partnerships Project Pool Program (RPPPP), these universities have provided expertise, resources, and engagement opportunities for local tertiary pathways.

Federation University

The partnership centres on delivering Federation University's Bachelor of Nursing program locally, enabling students to study and complete placements without leaving the region. This collaboration directly responds to regional workforce needs in healthcare and provides an accessible tertiary pathway for local people. As our closest university campus geographically, and with a third of our students attending Federation University, we greatly value our partnership.

Monash University

We have been working as part of a local collective and from 2027, Monash will deliver a new three-year Bachelor of Allied Health in Wonthaggi, creating a local pathway into Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy and Podiatry. Our study hub will play a critical role in providing a space for tutorials and lessons to occur. It's also a resource for the students to register with us and use the Centre whenever they like.

South Gippsland Bass Coast Local Learning & Employment Network (SGBCLLEN)

Our collective outcomes are centred on building aspiration, awareness, and access to tertiary education for young people across the region. Working in partnership through school based events run by SGBCLLEN, we have provided local students with hands-on activities and conversations with industry professionals. They have also had the opportunity to explore a wide range of careers and industries, gain insight into future jobs, and learn about the different training pathways that can help them get there – whether that's university, TAFE, apprenticeships, or on-the-job learning.

Bayside Health

Our partnership is aimed at strengthening local education and workforce pathways in the health sector, through placements, professional mentoring, and exposure to university-level health studies, creating clear pathways for students interested in nursing, allied health, and other medical fields.



Widening Participation (FutureBound)

The FutureBound Program is designed to build aspirations, broaden awareness of education opportunities and increase confidence that tertiary education is achievable, regardless of postcode or circumstance.

Working with secondary students across the region, the program focuses on four key objectives: inspire young people to explore their aspirations; increase awareness of education opportunities and pathways; connect students with relatable local role models; and strengthen connections that improve equitable access to tertiary education for rural and regional students.

Throughout 2026, FutureBound connected with over 1200 young people with opportunities to explore what life beyond school could look like. University taster days and campus experiences, careers expos, Tertiary Information Service events, school visits and conversations with current university students provided practical opportunities for students to discover different courses, careers and pathways.

A significant milestone was the launch of the 2027 Scholarship Guide, developed in partnership with the South Gippsland Bass Coast Local Learning and Employment Network (SGBCLLEN). Now in its fourth year, this free resource helps local students considering university or vocational education and training understand the support available to them. This makes further education more accessible and achievable.

FutureBound also recognises students who are already demonstrating commitment to their education through the annual Student Achievement Awards. Presented to a Year 12 student from our seven local secondary schools, the awards recognise dedication, resilience and commitment to study. Each recipient receives a \$500 bursary to support the next stage of their education journey.



"I am incredibly grateful to CUC for introducing this award. It's an honour to have been recognised, and this will help with study expenses as I am hoping to study engineering."
– Riley, Korumburra Secondary College



Together, these initiatives are helping to create a stronger culture of aspiration across our region – ensuring young people have access not only to information, but also to the experiences, role models and support that can help them see themselves pursuing tertiary education.

Student Ambassadors

At the heart of FutureBound is the involvement of CUC Bass Coast Student Ambassadors.

As local students navigating tertiary education themselves, our ambassadors provide relatable examples of what is possible and help make tertiary education feel more visible, relevant and achievable for the next generation. The program is designed to build aspirations, broaden awareness of tertiary education opportunities, and increase confidence that tertiary education is achievable, regardless of postcode or circumstance through practical and inspiring activities that are student led.

"It's been a really exciting couple of months. Students have been engaged, asking questions and genuinely curious about what's possible after school," Widening Participation Officer Jarryd Blair said.

"Seeing their confidence grow as they learn about different pathways and realise that these opportunities are within reach has been incredibly rewarding."

Building pathways through partnership

Partnership and collaboration are central to FutureBound. Through FutureBound, CUC Bass Coast is helping local students see that tertiary education and meaningful careers are within their reach. Working alongside local secondary schools, tertiary education providers and community organisations enables CUC Bass Coast to connect young people with experiences, information and support at different stages of their education journey.





Student Services

With the support of their local CUC regional, rural and remote students can follow their dreams when it comes to study. The CUC has responded to student needs and created an innovative model that allows choice by supporting any student, studying any course, at any Australian Tertiary Education Provider.

The wrap-around model of student services provides face-to-face academic, wellbeing, technological and administrative support in a learning community, in addition to what each student's university already provides. These extra layers of support are crucial for many students who study with the CUC.

Regional students are often at greater risk of attrition. Many students are from low SES backgrounds, are the first in their family to attend university, or have caring responsibilities and multiple other commitments. The CUC offers a free, safe and welcoming environment to study with flexible and personalised face-to-face support. The CUC understand that students are individuals that need a variety of services to meet their needs so that we meet students where they are in their education journey.

Student Experience Survey

Our Student Experience Survey helps us understand what matters most to students. Their feedback guides improvements to our services so they feel supported, connected and confident in their studies.

"Being part of the learning community"

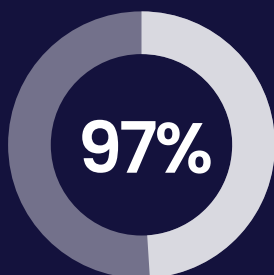
was the main reason students attended their local CUC

"I love being a part of the inclusive, big orange building family at CUC. It has made such a difference to me and my family".

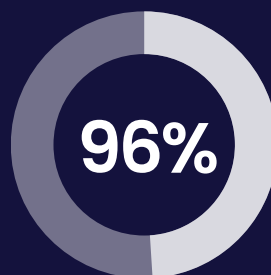
Clare, Bachelor of Social Work (graduate) now undertaking Masters of Counselling, Monash University

"CUC brings people together. The sense of community is really special".

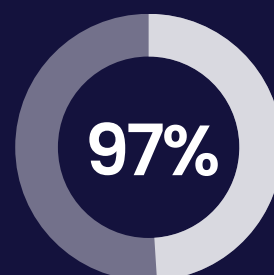
Kasey, Bachelor of Marine Oceanography, Deakin University



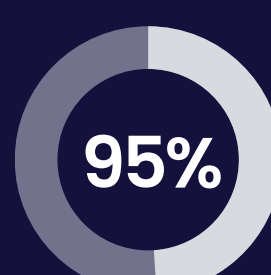
of students felt safe and welcomed at their CUC



said the CUC helps improve their academic performance



said the presence of a CUC makes it easier for me to stay, study or work in my community



said the presence of a CUC contributed to their wellbeing

Student Stories



Sarah

Sarah is a midwife at Wonthaggi Hospital, business owner and Master of Midwifery Practice student at La Trobe University. Balancing further study with shift work and family life, Sarah says CUC Bass Coast has made continuing her education possible.

"I can be so much more productive here than I can at home. I love that it's quiet and designed specifically for students. Being open 24/7 is essential as a shift worker."



Xavier

Xavier is studying Education at Curtin University and regularly uses CUC Bass Coast to stay focused while studying close to home.

"I use the Centre three days a week. I don't really focus a whole lot at home, so I come in, do my work and then get out of there."

Now a CUC Bass Coast Student Ambassador, Xavier is looking forward to connecting with local schools and inspiring future students, as he continues his own journey.



Millie

After discovering a passion for disability support, Millie completed a Certificate IV in Disability before a placement at Bass Coast Specialist School inspired her to pursue speech pathology. She has since completed a Bachelor of Health Science/Master of Speech Language Pathology and now works across Bass Coast and South Gippsland. CUC Bass Coast provided support throughout her studies, including assistance from our Student Engagement team when university felt overwhelming.

Student Stories



Harriet

Harriet recently completed a Master of Business, Arts and Cultural Management at Deakin University and now works as an Access and Equity Officer at Bass Coast Shire Council. At one point considering leaving university, Harriet discovered CUC Bass Coast and decided to give study one more semester. That semester became two and a half years.

"CUC gave me a place where I could focus, connect with other students and separate study from home life."



Jarrod

Wonthaggi local Jarrod is currently studying a Bachelor of Education while balancing part-time work and life with four young children. CUC Bass Coast provides a dedicated place away from home where he can focus on his studies.

Jarrod has also joined the team as Widening Participation Officer, drawing on his diverse career and life experience to help local secondary students explore their own pathways to tertiary education through the FutureBound program.



Kasey

Kasey is studying Marine Science (Oceanography) at Deakin University and has gained hands-on experience through field placements on Heron Island and Phillip Island, contributing to conservation and sustainability projects. After studying away from home, Kasey returned to the region and found valuable support at CUC Bass Coast. "It's saved me," she said. "Being close to home and having a local place that offers everything a uni could makes such a difference."

Student Stories



Issacc

Issacc graduated with a Bachelor of Paramedicine from Australian Catholic University and is now undertaking a graduate program. Throughout his studies, he balanced long commutes, multiple casual jobs and practical placements, with CUC Bass Coast providing a supportive space to focus on his learning.

"It's great to have the ability to come here, without the distractions of home, and be in an environment where others are studying too."



Belle

Belle is studying a double degree in Law and Human Rights at Australian Catholic University, with aspirations to pursue a career in human rights law, refugee protection or government. When the cost of relocating to Melbourne proved a barrier, Belle chose to remain in Wonthaggi, travelling to campus once a week and studying remotely with support from CUC Bass Coast. Now a Student Ambassador, Belle hopes to help other regional students navigate their own pathways to tertiary education. "If I really need to lock in, I'm like, 'Okay, it's CUC time.'"



Milla

Milla is studying a Bachelor of Biomedical Science at Deakin University, with aspirations to pursue a career in medicine or medical research. During school, Milla discovered a passion for science and found her place at university. CUC Bass Coast provides a dedicated study space and a community of like-minded students who keep her motivated. "It's very reassuring to know there are other people who are passionate and driven. It makes you feel motivated to keep studying." Now a Student Ambassador, Milla hopes to inspire other young people who are unsure if university is the right path for them.

Student feature

Aimee LePage

Living in regional and rural areas of Australia, access to services is already scarce. But Country Universities Centre (CUC) Bass Coast has bridged the access to tertiary education for people in the Bass Coast and surrounding area.



My name is Aimee Le Page, and I am in my final year, studying a Bachelor of Communication (Journalism, Strategic Advertising) at Deakin University. When I began my Year 12 journey, I was determined on moving out of Bass Coast, and had my heart set on moving to Deakin, Geelong (Waurin Ponds). One year in Geelong was enough. With the pressure of study, work and being away from family being too much. Hesitantly, I moved back home, unsure of where I would study, with the office at home already occupied by my sister who was in year 12.

Then one day, my sister came home and told me there is a study hub in Wonthaggi, designed for university students. I had already seen it on Facebook, after seeing my cousin on it as CUC Bass Coast's 400th student, but didn't know what it was. So I did some further research and booked my induction. I found that CUC offered a dedicated space where students could focus on their studies, which regional students often miss out on due to studying online or having to leave campus early to avoid dangerous driving conditions.

CUC has been a lifeline for students studying from home or commuting to and from campus. Metropolitan students can stay at their university library to study, whereas regional and rural students either have to leave straight after classes to beat peak hour traffic and get home late, or study from home. CUC allows regional students to have a space dedicated for tertiary education, with access to the facility from 5am to midnight, seven days a week.

CUC has played a key role in increasing tertiary education participation in the Bass Coast. Dual screens have allowed me to display more content, use more applications and view documents and multiple windows simultaneously. Boosting my productivity during assessment seasons and being able to access more of my work at once, without flicking through multiple windows and tabs to get to the resource they need. During my time at Geelong, I spent a lot of time studying at the library with friends, in breakout rooms or in the study nooks. Like university libraries, CUC provides breakout rooms that support solitary study or group collaboration. These would not be available to regional students without the centre. The breakout rooms provide a space to study without disruptions, like it would be at a university library. Academic support is also provided by CUC's team. This includes assistance with referencing, time management and other study skills. I have often had team members like Sibby and Sarah check in to see how I'm going with my studies and let me know if a breakout room is available.

Moving home from Geelong, I was worried about where I would find space to study at home. CUC has provided the same facilities that I would have at a university. Had I known this was here before moving across the state, I still would have moved. But I would have felt less anxious about coming home and continuing my studies, knowing there was a place that resembles study spaces and community, experienced at university.

2025- 2026 Alumni

Jess

FAST Program

Federation University Australia

Julie

Bachelor of Nursing

Federation University Australia

Dorothy

FAST Program

Federation University Australia

Bonny

Bachelor of Nursing

Federation University Australia

Emily

Master of Social Work (Qualifying)

Federation University Australia

Lucy

Bachelor of Nursing

Federation University Australia

Jonathan

Bachelor of Paramedicine

Victoria University

Emily

Bachelor of Nursing

Federation University Australia

Carolyn

Diploma of IT and Cyber Security

Holmesglen Institute of TAFE

Emily

Bachelor of Nursing

Federation University Australia

Charli

Certificate III in Individual Support

Warner Institute

Tina

Bachelor of Nursing

Federation University Australia

Sigma

**Certificate III in Individual Support
(Ageing and Disability)**

Chisholm Institute

Emma

Bachelor of Nursing

Federation University Australia

2025-2026 Alumni

Clare

Master of Social Work (Qualifying)
Monash University

Kerry

Master of Teaching (Primary and Secondary)
Deakin University

Anais

Bachelor of Nursing
Monash University

Nicola

Bachelor of Nursing
Holmesglen Institute of TAFE

Sarah

Bachelor of Nursing
Federation University Australia

Kate

Bachelor of Nursing
Federation University Australia

Jasmine

Bachelor of Nursing
Federation University Australia

Meg

Bachelor of Nursing
Federation University Australia

Hayley

Bachelor of Nursing
Federation University Australia

Amelia

Bachelor of Health Science
Master of Speech Therapy
Charles Darwin University

Gemma

Bachelor of Nursing
Federation University Australia

Shawn

Graduate Certificate in Primary Health Care - Diabetes Management & Education
Flinders University

Maggie

Bachelor of Nursing
Federation University Australia

Alliza

Bachelor of Commerce
Deakin University

Codie

Bachelor of Nursing
Federation University Australia

Lauren

Master of Education and Developmental Psychology
Monash University

2025-2026 Alumni

Ann

**Certificate III in individual support
(Ageing and Disability)**
Chisholm Institute

Kiesha

FAST Program
Federation University Australia

Mitchell

**Bachelor of Medical Science/Doctor of
Medicine**
Monash University

Elizabeth

**Certificate III in individual support
(Ageing and Disability)**
Chisholm Institute

Paul

**Certificate III in individual support
(Ageing and Disability)**
Chisholm Institute

Jenna

**Graduate Certificate in Social
and Community service**
Federation University (Online)

Madelene

Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Business
Swinburne University of Technology

Sarah

**Graduate Certificate Primary
Maternity Care**
Griffiths University

Nathalie

Certificate IV Allied Health Assistant
TAFE Gippsland

Gabby

**Graduate Certificate in Child and
Adolescent Mental Health**
Vicotria University

Tessa

**Certificate IV in Accounting and
Bookkeeping**
Chisholm Institute

Melynda

**Certificate IV School Based
Education Support**
Chisholm Institute

Mairead

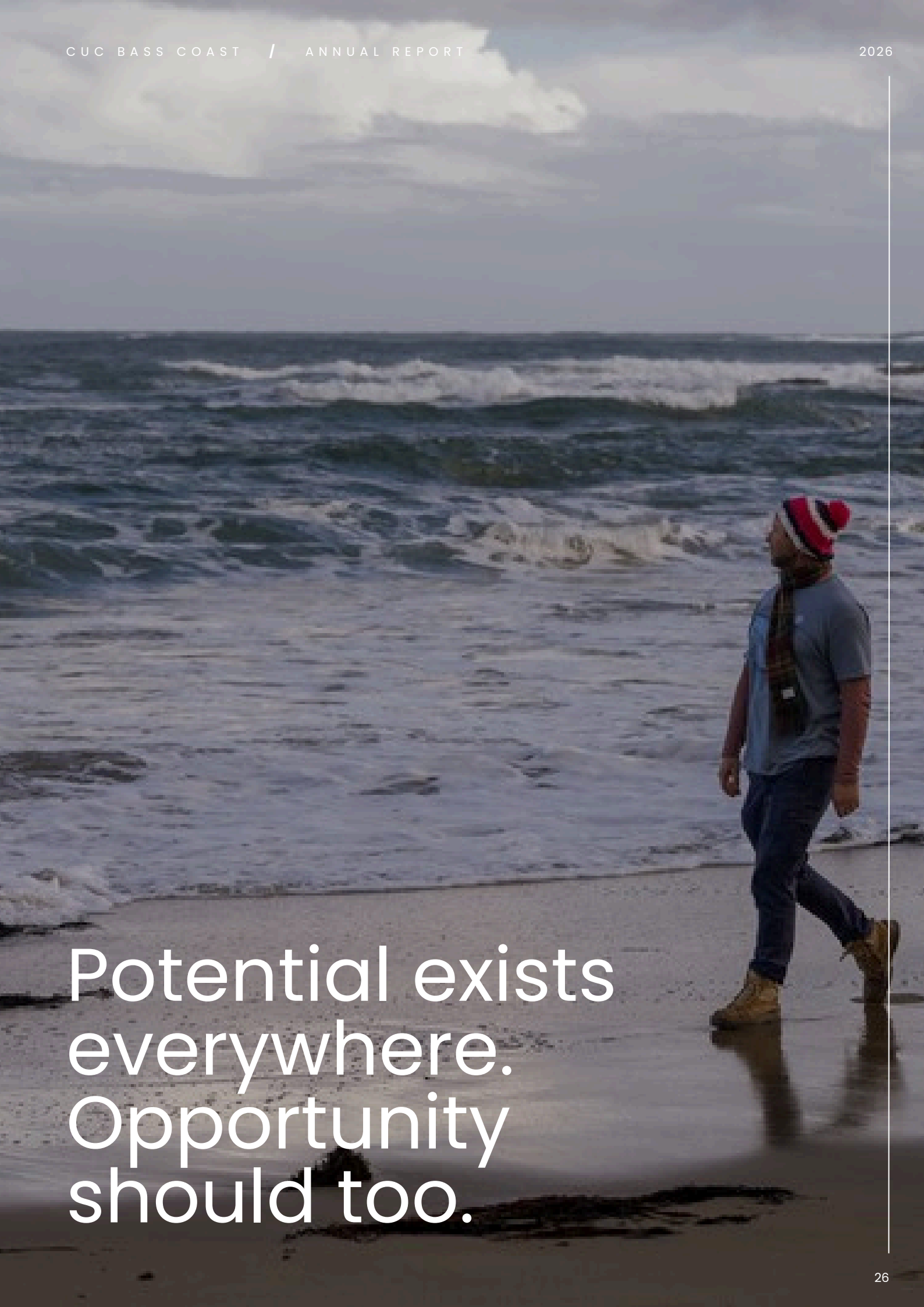
Certificate IV in Mental Health
TAFE Gippsland

Julian

Certificate IV in Mental Health
TAFE Gippsland

Harriett

**Master of Business, Arts and
Cultural Management**
Deakin University

A person wearing a red and white striped beanie, a blue t-shirt, and dark pants is walking on a sandy beach. They are looking out at the ocean, where waves are breaking. The sky is overcast with grey clouds. The person's reflection is visible in the wet sand.

Potential exists
everywhere.
Opportunity
should too.

Get in touch

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