



Country
Universities
Centre

RAPAD CWQ

CUC RAPAD CWQ

NEWSLETTER

BARCADDINE * BEDOURIE * BIRDSVILLE * BLACKALL * BOULIA * LONGREACH * JUNDALAH * WINTON



As we move through 2026, our hubs continue to be places where people can learn, connect and achieve their goals close to home. Across Central West Queensland, students are building skills, exploring new opportunities and proving that where you live should never limit what you can achieve.

In this edition, we're sharing some of the highlights, success stories and community connections that have made the past few months so rewarding. Thank you for being part of the CUC RAPAD CWQ journey.



Community Services Expo | Longreach



When your office for the day is a Dinosaur Museum...

EDITION #3 Winter 2026

If the first year was about building hubs, the first half of 2026 has been about bringing them to life. Across the network, students have continued to embrace the opportunities available close to home, using their local hubs to study, sit exams, attend workshops and connect with support. The hubs have become part of everyday community life, with a steady stream of students pursuing goals that might once have seemed out of reach.

Since the CUC RAPAD CWQ network opened, Central West Queensland has experienced extraordinary rainfall, bringing flooding, road closures and isolation to many communities. Yet despite the challenges, learning continued. Students across the network kept studying, sitting exams and working towards their goals, demonstrating the resilience our region is known for.

The past six months have also been filled with community events, school engagement activities, STEM programs, bursary celebrations and new partnerships. From meeting QUTie the robot to supporting future students at expos and workshops, we've had plenty of opportunities to inspire the current next generation of regional learners.

Most importantly, we've continued to see confidence grow. Every new registration, completed assessment, exam sat and qualification achieved reinforces what we already know: postcode shouldn't determine potential.

Here's a look at what we've been up to across the CUC RAPAD CWQ network.

STAY.STUDY.SUCCEED.



BLACKALL-TAMBO MEGA SPORTS EXPO

More than 100 young people, parents, coaches and community members took part in the Blackall-Tambo Mega Sports Clinic, an event designed to inspire participation, skill development and healthy lifestyles. CUC RAPAD CWQ was proud to support the clinic, which provided opportunities for participants to learn from experienced coaches, build confidence and explore future pathways in sport.

The visit from the QUT Sport Team added another dimension, introducing participants to sports technology and highlighting the diverse career opportunities that exist within the sporting industry.



JUNDAH KIDS FUN DAY

In April, we re-launched the CUC Jundah hub following significant rain and flood events in 2025 and 2026. While we were in town, we took the opportunity to treat the local kids to a fun day, filled with virtual reality experiences, STEM activities and hands-on learning. The event encouraged curiosity, sparked conversations about future careers and introduced students to new technologies in a fun and engaging way. Seeing young people embrace these experiences was a great reminder that aspiration often begins with simply having the opportunity to try something new.

STRONG WOMEN, SMART MONEY

Through a Queensland Government grant, CUC RAPAD CWQ was proud to deliver the Strong Women, Smart Money program. The workshops, helped women build financial confidence, strengthen decision-making skills and connect with others in a supportive environment. The strong response highlighted that lifelong learning isn't always about formal study, sometimes it's about gaining the knowledge and confidence to make informed choices for the future.



Care Expo



Winton Show



QUTie



Mega Sports Expo

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES AND INSPIRING FUTURES

The past six months have been filled with opportunities to connect, inspire and showcase what's possible from right here in Central West Queensland. From community expos, shows and morning teas to welcoming QUTie and the Queensland University of Technology team to the region, we've enjoyed engaging with students, families and community members across the network.

We were also pleased to host the Coral Watch team, bringing science, sustainability and hands-on learning opportunities to our communities, and the GrowHer Program, which encouraged young women to explore leadership, innovation and career opportunities in agriculture.



STUDENT PROFILE



MATT

Masters of Psychology (Honors)

"You do not have to move to a city to pursue further study. If you prefer dust, open space, starlit skies and sunsets to traffic and crowds, you can stay where you are."

What does having a CUC Study Hub in your community mean to you?

It means people in the Central West can pursue further study without leaving the outback. The Hub is only a few minutes from home, with free parking and no city traffic. The main delay is usually getting stuck behind a road train full of cattle moving through town. It brings the kind of study environment you would expect at a major university campus to a community well west of the Great Dividing Range.

How has CUC helped you achieve your study or career goals?

I have lived in Outback Queensland for the past seven years, working in education and currently supporting students across the Central West. I am completing my honors year in psychology and hope to become an educational and developmental psychologist.

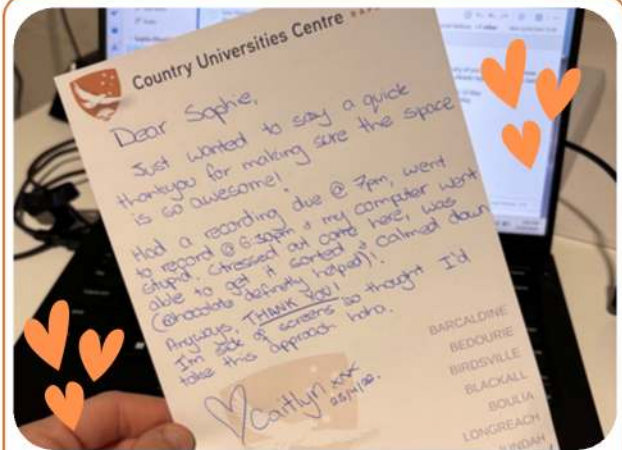
CUC gives me a place away from work and home where I can concentrate without distraction. It also provides private rooms for online exams, reliable internet, teleconferencing facilities for meeting with lecturers and students across the country, and help with printing. The staff, Liza and Jack, are very supportive too and assist with practical matters such as organising exam rooms and using the facilities. These supports have given me the environment I need to complete my psychology studies while continuing to work in the region.

What would you say to someone in a regional or remote community who is considering further study?

Many courses can now be completed online. I have studied on campus before and do not miss sitting in lecture theatres. Online study has allowed me to keep working, continue contributing to my community and progress my education without putting the rest of my life on hold.



A very special addition arrived in Boulia in April, with Hub Coordinator Krystal and her husband Jack welcoming baby Hank to their family. Joining his two big sisters, Hank has quickly become part of the team, keeping the CUC Boulia Hub humming along. Krystal hasn't missed a beat before or after Hank's arrival, continuing to support local students. From your CUC family, congratulations to Krystal, Jack and the girls on the safe arrival of little Hank!



Some days, it's the little things that mean the most. Receiving messages like this from our students expressing their appreciation reminds us why we do what we do and truly makes our day.

One of the strongest pieces of feedback we've received has been a preference for more private, well-defined study spaces within our hubs. So, with a bit of creativity, some muscle power and a few furniture rearrangements, we've been refreshing our spaces to better suit the way our students want to study.

The study spaces are looking great. The odd stray bird or giant grasshoppers that keep wandering inside, however, remain a work in progress!





SEMESTER 1 BURSARY RECIPIENTS

Cheyenne Hooley from Boulia is studying a Bachelor of Nursing Science through James Cook University. Inspired by her own experiences with healthcare and a passion for helping others, Cheyenne is working towards a career in nursing with the goal of giving back to regional and remote communities. A CUC RAPAD CWQ Study Support Bursary will help cover the costs of a three-week placement in Hervey Bay, including a 3,200km round trip from Boulia, accommodation and other placement-related expenses, allowing her to focus on gaining the skills and experience needed to achieve her dream.

Lucy Thomas from Ilfracombe is studying a Diploma of Nursing through CQUniversity. As the very first student to access CUC RAPAD CWQ when the doors opened on 17 February 2025, Lucy has shown incredible determination in pursuing her goal of becoming a nurse. Inspired by her experiences living and working in remote Australia, she is passionate about improving healthcare access for rural and remote communities. A CUC RAPAD CWQ Study Support Bursary has helped ease the costs associated with travel, residential schools and clinical placements, allowing Lucy to focus on gaining the skills and experience needed to achieve her dream.

Bella Elliott from Longreach is studying a Bachelor of Business and a Bachelor of Laws through James Cook University. Inspired by a passion for justice, advocacy and creating positive change, Bella hopes to use her education to support regional communities and improve access to legal services. A recipient of a CUC RAPAD CWQ Study Support Bursary, the funding will help ease the costs associated with study materials, technology and living expenses, allowing her to focus on achieving her academic goals and continuing her leadership and advocacy work in the community.



SEMESTER 2 STUDY SUPPORT BURSARIES NOW OPEN

Applications are now open for the CUC RAPAD CWQ Semester 2 Study Support Bursaries. Available to registered Semester 2 students, these bursaries are designed to help ease the financial pressures of study, whether that's travel, technology, placements, course materials or other education-related costs. If you're a registered CUC RAPAD CWQ student, we encourage you to apply.



Scan the QR Code for the Bursary Application package or visit <https://bit.ly/4fHE5LD>

For more information contact Liza Cameron on 0487 068 994



SEMESTER 1 SNAPSHOT TO DATE



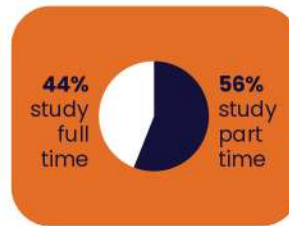
students registered since opening



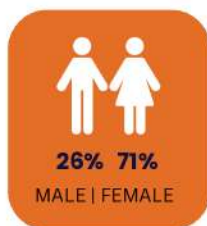
students registered sem 1, 2026



education providers



different areas of study



MALE | FEMALE



top 3 areas of study

34% health

15% education

7% business/finance