

Graduation and Awards Ceremony

Albany Entertainment Centre

Friday 8 December 2023





Seek wisdom



Caption: Robert French

A message from the Chancellor, The Hon. Robert S French AC

Graduation from The University of Western Australia is an achievement reflecting years of commitment to higher learning. It also marks the acquisition of the ability to continue to learn, to reason critically and, over time, to acquire the wisdom that comes by joining learning and reasoning to life experience. For those graduates and their teachers who have had to work through the constraints and difficulties of pandemic restrictions, it is a particularly notable achievement. I offer sincere congratulations to all.

It is an achievement which makes you all part of our history. As the holder of a degree at The University of Western Australia, you join generations of students who have passed through the lecture theatres and tutorial rooms at the University, since it came into existence in 1911. You are now part of its history as much as it is part of yours.

The prime mover in the establishment of the University was its first Chancellor, Sir John Winthrop Hackett, a leading Western Australian politician, philanthropist and the proprietor of The West Australian newspaper.

The University's purpose, from its foundation, was expressed in practical terms – to provide instruction in 'practical arts and liberal studies' which would help develop the fledging economy of Western Australia and thereby 'advance the prosperity and welfare of the people'. The University's motto encompasses that purpose with a higher ideal in urging all who pass through it to 'seek wisdom'.

The first 184 students enrolled at the University attended their lectures, which began on 31 March 1913, in timber and iron huts located in Irwin Street, Perth. From those humble beginnings the generation and transmission of knowledge, expertise and innovation at The University of Western Australia has played a significant part in the economic development of Western Australia. It has inspired the work of thousands of researchers and equipped tens of thousands of graduates to contribute in myriad ways to our society.

UWA is one of the world's leading universities. Our graduates go into the world equipped with skills and qualifications which will enable them to engage with the pressing challenges of the day and to advance our society in all fields of human endeavour.

I wish you well as you apply your learning, and the wisdom acquired by life experience combined with that learning, for the benefit of Western Australia, our nation and the wider global community.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert French". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



Caption: Amit Chakma

A message from the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Amit Chakma

Graduation day is a special day for the University, our graduates and their families and friends.

On this occasion, we gather as a university community to celebrate your academic success and to wish you the very best as you embark on your respective journeys.

I offer my warmest congratulations to all our graduates. You have worked hard and met the demanding standards of a UWA degree. You are to be commended for your academic achievements.

As you graduate, please remember that your learning days are not over. Learning is a lifelong process. We have prepared you to be master learners. Continue to Seek Wisdom.

We have not given you answers to all questions. We hope that what remains with you is the ability to approach new issues objectively and with an open mind, and always tempered with empathy for the human condition.

You are graduating at a time when humanity is facing many challenges. The need for highly educated and talented people has never been greater. Our world needs talented young people like you to bring a fresh perspective and knowledge in tackling these problems.

You are among the fortunate few to have attended one of the finest universities in the world. You have what it takes to take these challenges on and chart a brighter course for yourselves, your community, your country, and indeed for humanity. As citizens of the globe, you are our gift to the world. We are counting on you for your ingenuity, creativity, and leadership. Go out there, be bold, live a life of impact, and make us proud.

As graduates, you become members of convocation. You are forever a cherished member of this great institution founded over a century ago. Wherever your life's journey may take you, UWA will always be your home. Come home, and come often. Your Alma Mater will be waiting for you!

Congratulations to all of you.

Indigenous commitment

Indigenous protocol (by Dr Richard Walley OAM)

As Noongar people: We respect place and people, plants and animals. It is a holistic respect. We pay tribute to events and ceremonies. We embrace people and change while maintaining links to ancient cultures and practices.

Noongar people

Noongar people are the original inhabitants of the South West of Western Australia and form one of the largest Aboriginal cultural blocks in Australia. The 14 different language groups – Amangu, Yued/Yuat, Whadjuk/Wajuk, Binjareb/Pinjarup, Wardandi, Balardong/Ballardong, Nyakinyaki, Wilman, Ganeang, Bibulmun/Piblemen, Menang/Merningar, Goreng, Wudjari and Njunga/ Noongar – have ownership of all Noongar kaartdijin (knowledge) and culture.

Boodjar (Country)

The ancestral lands of Aboriginal people. UWA Albany is situated on Noongar Boodjar, in the land of the Menang/Merningar Noongar people.

Welcome to Country

A Welcome to Country celebrates Aboriginal people's connection with the land, acknowledges Aboriginal people as the traditional owners of the land, and welcomes visitors and guests to their land.

Blessing

A blessing is delivered by an Elder, or custodian of the country, who extends best wishes for future journeys to individuals who have spent time on Country.

The Welcome to Country and blessing will be delivered by Lester Coyne, Menang Elder and Adjunct Professor at the UWA Albany Campus.

Order of Proceedings

Introduction by the Master of Ceremonies, Mr Tim Martin (Director, UWA Albany Campus)

The procession will enter and the assembly is requested to stand

Proceedings will be opened by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education), Professor David Sadler

Welcome to Country by Lester Coyne, Menang Elder and Adjunct Professor

Address by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education), Professor David Sadler

Guest Address by Ms Mia Townsend

Conferral of Undergraduate Awards

Convocation Welcome Address by Member of Convocation Council, Dr Moira Maley

Valedictorian Address by Ms Kathy Nikas

Presentation of Prizes

Friends of UWA Albany Address by President, Friends of UWA Albany, Ms Sally Thomas

Address by Director, UWA Albany Campus, Mr Tim Martin

Proceedings will be closed by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education), Professor David Sadler

The procession will retire and the assembly is requested to stand

Guest Address

Profile of Speaker

Ms Mia Townsend, BA BSc(Hons) *W.Aust.*

Mia Townsend is the Chief Executive Officer for the Dieback Working Group – a small not-for-profit group whose core area of focus is educating West Australians about Phytophthora Dieback – a devastating plant disease which causes dramatic decline in natural ecosystems.

Mia is a 2018 UWA graduate, with qualifications in the fields of Conservation Biology, Anthropology, and Science Communication. Mia completed her undergraduate degree through the UWA Albany campus, where she enjoyed learning in-depth about local conservation issues.

Mia's interest in Dieback and other plant diseases stems from how we can use tools like education and communication to keep environments healthy and resilient.

Conferral of Awards

UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

The following undergraduate awards are presented by the Deputy Vice Chancellor of Education, Professor David Sadler, on behalf of the Senate and the Chancellor.

Degree of Bachelor of Arts

Marnie Joan Kalma

Degree specific major in Indigenous Knowledge, History & Heritage

Chelsea Lynne Nelson

Degree specific major in Indigenous Knowledge, History & Heritage

Dustin James Wheeler

Degree specific major in Human Geography and Planning

Degree of Bachelor of Commerce

Benjamin Peter Daryl Grey

Degree specific major in Accounting

Melania Manera

Degree specific major in Management

Degree of Bachelor of Science

Kathleen Mary Nikas

Degree specific major in Marine Science

Degree of Bachelor of Science (Honours)

Kathryn Ruth Greenop

Degree specific major in Conservation Biology

Sonja Claire Pascho

Degree specific major in Marine Science

Acknowledgment of Scholarship and Prize Donors

Thanks to our generous donors, we can provide a range of prizes to recognise the outstanding achievements of our students.

Australian Government Department of Education

Great Southern Development Commission

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

Friends of UWA Albany

The Water Corporation

City of Albany

The Fox Family

Roy and Beatrice Little

Jon and Dot Price

Ms. Rebecca Stephens, MLA

Hon Dr Steve Thomas MLC

Mr Rick Wilson, MP

History of the UWA Albany Campus

In 2001, the University of Western Australia signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Albany to initiate a university research and teaching presence in Albany. The UWA Albany Campus was born, attracting initial enrolments of 20 undergraduate students enrolled in a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science.

UWA partnered with other agencies to establish the Centre of Excellence in Natural Resource Management (CENRM) at the Albany Campus in 2001. CENRM's purpose was to deliver targeted, cost-effective and innovative research and teaching to enhance environmental, economic, social and cultural outcomes in the Great Southern and elsewhere.

The Rural Clinical School of Western Australia (RCSWA) joined the campus in 2002 with the explicit goal of attracting more doctors to regional, rural and remote practice. The placement of medical students from both UWA and the University of Notre Dame, provided the opportunity to spend an academic year training in a regional, rural or remote location with the expectation that this experience would increase the likelihood that, after graduation, students would choose to practice in regional areas.

UWA Albany moved to its current location in the Old Post Office building on Stirling Terrace in 2002. In 2008, the City of Albany facilitated the transfer of State land adjacent to the Old Post Office building to UWA, for a new \$6 million UWA Albany Science Building, in which CENRM and RCSWA would be housed.

In late 2017, the WA Government funded the UWA Oceans Institute to establish a new ocean renewable energy knowledge hub, then called the Wave Energy Research Centre (WERC). The Centre is headquartered in the Great Southern Marine Research Facility (GSMRF). GSMRF houses the Integrated Marine Observing System (IMOS), ocean renewables and marine ecology experts, industry partnerships, community engagement and outreach opportunities. In 2021, the centre re-branded to Marine Energy Research Australia (MERA) and was awarded a joint grant from the WA Government and the Blue Economy Cooperative Research Centre for a prestigious wave energy project in Albany. MERA research and GSMRF activities have had a significant impact in the region, nationally and internationally to promote and grow the UWA Albany Campus.

In 2019 UWA Albany proudly celebrated two decades of learning, teaching and research in Albany. The Campus looks forward to continued growth in the region and beyond over the next decade.

Your UWA graduate community

Graduating from University is a momentous achievement and it is our great pleasure to offer heartfelt congratulations on behalf of your fellow UWA graduates.

We'd like to thank you for choosing to study at UWA and for showing admirable dedication in pursuing your educational goals. As a graduate, you will now embark on an exciting new journey – stepping beyond the guidance of professors and tutors – to follow your dreams and fulfil personal and professional goals. However, graduation is only the beginning of a proud, life-long affiliation with your University.

Welcome to your global community of over 154,000 UWA graduates!

We wish you well in your future endeavours and look forward to celebrating the success you find.

ConGRADulations!

To ensure you receive event invitations, voting ballots and graduate communications, please update your contact details by visiting alumni.uwa.edu.au/update, or by scanning the QR code.



Stay involved with UWA

Through the power of UWA's graduate network, you'll find avenues for personal growth, life-long learning, volunteering, social engagement and fellowship with your peers. Wherever you go in the world, you will have access to peers who can support your career goals.

As a graduate, you are now a member of the Convocation of UWA Graduates, a legally constituted body – unique to UWA – which provides you with the opportunity to share in, and contribute to, the future intellectual and cultural prosperity of the University.

You are eligible to vote for members of the Council of Convocation and representatives on the Senate of UWA, and to be nominated for these roles. To find out more about how to get involved please visit convocation.uwa.edu.au.

We encourage you to continue your relationship with UWA – to vote, attend events, stay in touch and get involved in UWA alumni life!



Lead: in ways that reflect your passions. Bring together other graduates to achieve great things and share your story to inspire others.



Learn: through events, thought leadership, short courses and resources like library membership, UniHub, alumni newsletters and Uniview magazine.



Network: with your global community of over 142,800 graduates.



Volunteer: as a mentor, by telling your story through a profile or podcast, as a network ambassador, as a committee member, by organising a reunion and more



Give: through the UWA Alumni Fund where the kindness and generosity of our UWA graduates, staff and friends continues to change the lives of UWA students.

Find out more by visiting alumni.uwa.edu.au, or by scanning the QR code.



Friends of UWA Albany

Friends of UWA Albany are an enthusiastic group of UWA Alumni from the Great Southern who are committed to supporting UWA Albany and its students. Formed in 1999, they advocate for regional students to have access to the same educational opportunities and facilities as students in the city.

Supporting UWA Albany

The Friends of UWA Albany:

- Encourage the Great Southern community to take an active interest and participate in the University's activities in Albany and the wider region
- Organise a variety of activities to connect UWA Albany with the community
- Promote the University's activities through events and newsletters
- Raise funds to support special projects and fund prizes and scholarships

Join Friends of UWA Albany

By becoming a Friend of UWA Albany you will support UWA Albany students and keep in touch with the vibrant academic life and activities at the University.

To find out more, and to join, please visit <https://alumni.uwa.edu.au/friends-of-uwa-albany>

Contact

Sally Thomas

President, Friends of UWA Albany

Email: uwa-albany@uwa.edu.au

Website: <https://alumni.uwa.edu.au/friends-of-uwa-albany>

Officers of the University

As at December 2023

Chancellor

The Honourable Robert S French AC CitWA

Pro-Chancellor

Ms Susan (Sue) Murphy AO, BEng *W.Aust.*

Executive

Vice-Chancellor

Professor Amit Chakma, Diplng *IAP*, MAsc PhD *UBC*, DEng (Hons) *Waterloo*, DSc (Hons) *Dhaka*, PEng, ICD.D

Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor

Professor Tim Colmer, BSc(Agric) *W.Aust.*, PhD *UC Davis*

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

Professor Anna Nowak, MBBS PhD *W.Aust.*, MLdshp *Deakin*, FRACP, GAICD

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education)

Professor David Sadler, FRSA, PFHEA, NTF, MAICD

Chief Financial Officer

Ms Leona Marquand, BA(Hons) *UOP*, DiplFR *ACCA*, GradDipAppFin *FASEA*, FCA

Other principal office-bearers

Chair of the Academic Board

Professor Raymond Da Silva Rosa, BCom PhD *W.Aust.*

Visitor

His Excellency the Honorable Chris Dawson AC APM, Governor of Western Australia, *ex-officio*

Warden of Convocation

Emeritus Professor Jenny Gregory AM, BA PhD *W.Aust.*

Immediate Past Warden of Convocation

Clinical Professor Lesley Cala, MBBS MD *W.Aust.*, DMRD, FRANZCR, FRCR

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Education)

Professor Jill Milroy AM, BA *W.Aust.*

University Senate

Ex officio – Chancellor

The Honourable Robert S French AC CitWA (Chancellor and Chair)

Ex officio – Vice-Chancellor

Professor Amit Chakma, DipIng *IAP*, MASC PhD *UBC*, DEng(Hons) *Waterloo*, DSc(Hons) *Dhaka*, PEng, ICD.D (Vice-Chancellor)

Appointed by the Governor

Ms Susan (Sue) Murphy AO, BEng *W.Aust.* (Pro-Chancellor and Deputy Chair)

Ms Joanne Farrell, BSc *W.Aust.*, GradDipMgt *Curtin*, BLP *UNSW*, SLP *LBS*

Ms Linda Kenyon, BJuris, LLB *W.Aust.*, FGIA

Elected by Convocation

Adjunct Professor Warren Kerr AM, BArch *W.Aust.*, MHP *UNSW*, LFRAIA, FACHSM, FAIM, Hon. AIA, Hon. FNZIA

Adjunct Professor Dr Brett Davies, BJuris, LLB, LLM, Dip.Ed, B.Arts(Hons), SJD *W.Aust.* MBA *Murdoch*, CTA, AIAMA

Ex officio – Chair Academic Board

Professor Raymond (Ray) da Silva Rosa, BCom PhD *W.Aust.*

Elected by Academic Staff

Professor Serena Dipierro, BMath MMath *UniBa*, PhD *SISSA*

Elected by Students

Mr Geemal Jayawickrama (Student Guild President)

Mr Viknash VM, BCom *W.Aust.* (Post-Graduate Student Association President)

Elected by General Staff

Ms Jill (Jillian) Benn, BComm(Media)(Hons) *E.Cowan*, GradDip(InfoLibStds) *Curtin*, GAICD, PFHEA

Co-opted

Mr Michael Byrne, MSc *DU*

Dr Robert (Bob) Olivier, BSc *W.Aust.*, BSocSc(Hons) *Curtin*, PhD *W.Aust.*

Ms Julie O'Neill, BEc(Hons), EMBA *W.Aust.*

Dr Jane den Hollander AO, BSc(Hons) MSc *Wits*, PhD *Card.*, Hon Doc *Deakin*, Hon Doc *Card.*

The Honourable Neil McKerracher KC, LLB *W.Aust.*



The University of Western Australia – Albany Campus

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