

# AGRIPARK AGRISCIENCES RESEARCH AND BUSINESS PARK

## AgriPark Quarterly Newsletter



### AgriPark News

Message from the Executive Director, AgriPark  
by Nick Pagett

Welcome to our new quarterly AgriPark newsletter.

As you may be aware, I am transitioning into the role of Executive Director for the AgriPark and I'm looking forward to sharing with you the various activities we are undertaking throughout the implementation phase of the Gulbali-AgriPark strategy.

To share some of my background, prior to joining Charles Sturt I was the Business Development & Global Director for CSIRO where I was responsible for external engagement and innovation programs, including delivery of the ON program. I have a diverse role in the agriculture and food industry in both multi-national companies, start-ups and recently my role in R&D with CSIRO.

As we move forward, I'm excited to be leading the AgriPark for Charles Sturt and would like to thank Kelli Edwards (Manager, AgriPark) and Jodi Slocombe (Administration Officer, AgriPark) for helping make my transition a smooth one so far. Their collective knowledge and commitment is very much appreciated.

I look forward to catching up with you at one of our upcoming events.

Regards,  
Nick

#### IN THIS ISSUE

**AGRIPARK NEWS**

**AGRIPARK CONNECT**

**EXTENDED REALITY  
CENTRE**

**A GREAT PARTNERSHIP**

**WOMEN IN STEM**

**EVOKEAG 2023**

## AgriPark Connect

This month the AgriPark hosted its first AgriPark Connect on the Wagga Wagga campus. Invitations were extended to the AgriPark community, including partners, researchers and Charles Sturt staff to join us for morning tea and a catch up.

The intention behind these connect meetings is to provide a platform for organic conversations, discuss new and existing initiatives and enable an opportunity for connection. We were therefore very pleased to see all those that were able to join us for this first one in March.



Photo: Professor Michael Friend in conversation with partners during the AgriPark Connect meeting in March.

At our April Connect we will be able to introduce you to Nick Pagett who will have commenced in his role as Executive Director, AgriPark.

If you have any good news stories as a result of these Connect catch ups, we would love to hear them! Please reach out via the contact information below.

## eXtended Reality Centre

The eXtended Reality Centre recently had the privilege of showcasing its latest innovative technology during a visit from the Member for Riverina the Hon. Michael McCormack MP, the Hon. David Littleproud MP, Member for Maranoa and leader of the National Party and NSW MLC The Hon. Wes Fang.

With the use of virtual headsets, the visitors were given a live demonstration of the 360-degree Stock Containment, a project the XRC delivered in collaboration with the Southern NSW Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub. "The XRC was the perfect fit to create a fully immersive experience introducing landholders to the concept of Stock Confinement, a great initiative that facilitates improved feeding, watering, access for livestock, and protection of remnant vegetation. We can jump between Adelong to Boree Creek properties with a click of a button, hear first-hand from farmers, and get ground-level or bird's eye perspectives as if we are there. The project was warmly received at Henty Field Days 2022 and even formed queues for people to try it out. We're taking the technology much further in 2023 and happy to discuss future projects with interested parties" (Andrew Hagan, XRC).



Photo: The Hon. David Littleproud MP using virtual headsets for a live demonstration by the XRC.

Photo credit: Office of the Hon. Michael McCormack

The XRC has also delivered Visualisation of Exotic Pests and Diseases, Safety Training, Virtual House Tours, Virtual Farm Gate Visits, and explainer animations for the Australian AgriFood Data Exchange.

## Strategy update

The University Council endorsed the Gulbali-AgriPark Innovation Ecosystem Strategy in December 2022 and we are currently finalising the implementation plan. Importantly, we will be seeking your insights and feedback as AgriPark partners around engagement opportunities and look forward to having these discussions over the coming weeks.

## A great partnership

Recently, AgriPark had the opportunity to work with partner, Greatcell Energy, in an internship program, which saw two Charles Sturt students undertake valuable, on the job training at its state of the art Pilot plant located in Bomen.

The internship was supported by Generation STEM Links, who were able to manage the whole recruitment process and provide financial support to Greatcell Energy. It allowed students, Drew Raynes and Alexandra Bastick to utilise their specialist skills which they have learned during their study at Charles Sturt and apply it in a real world laboratory setting.

It is these industry work placements that contribute to Charles Sturt's position as number one Australian University for graduate employment. "Charles Sturt is unique in that it's the only Australian university that has a compulsory chemistry work placement for students," Associate Professor of Chemistry with the Charles Sturt School of Agricultural, Environmental and Veterinary Sciences, Paul Prenzler.

'AgriPark at its core is about linking industry, research and government together, so it is great to see this level of collaboration. We value the partnership with Greatcell Energy and hope to see more of these internships in the future' (Nick Pagett, AgriPark).

As a result of this internship, Drew has continued working with Greatcell Energy on a part-time basis.

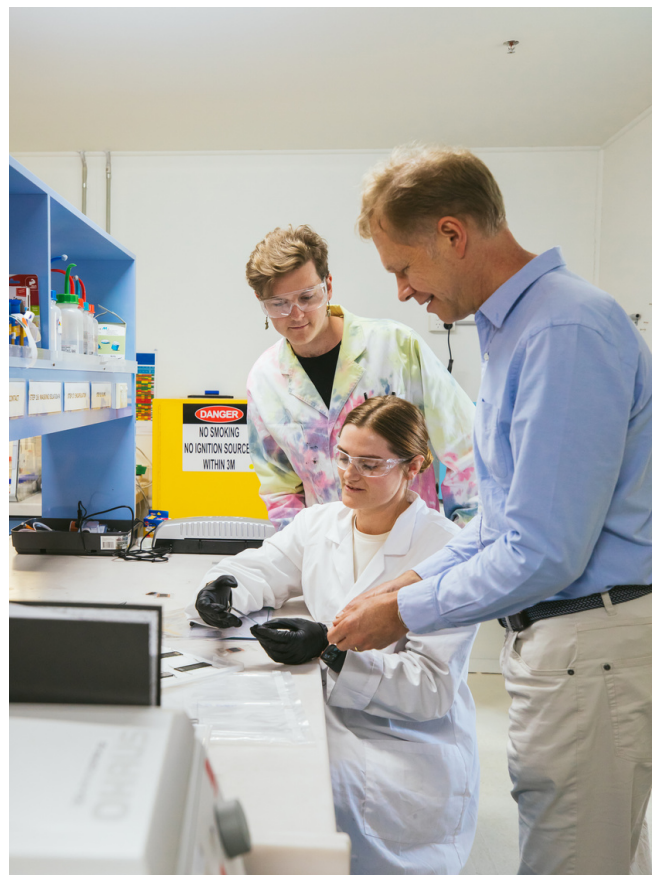


Photo: students Drew Rayne, Alexandra Bastick and Associate Professor Paul Prenzler, Charles Sturt University



# Women in STEM

Charles Sturt University is supporting women who are currently employed to study part-time for a higher education qualification in a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) field through the [Women in STEM Cadetship and Advanced Apprenticeship Program](#).

STEM skills provide the problem solving, critical thinking and communication skills that are vital to a wide range of jobs and industries. Increasing the participation of women in STEM is a key factor in building Australia's STEM workforce. The program provides a great opportunity for women to upskill in STEM fields or build STEM careers.

Eligible employers may receive grant funds (up to \$5000 per employee, per year of study) to support your female employees with STEM higher education study.



Charles Sturt's funding will apply to students studying the below agriculture and environment science courses:

- Two assisted places in the [Associate Degree in Farm Production](#) (four years of part-time study)
- Six assisted places in the [Diploma of Agricultural Studies](#) (two years of part-time study)
- Two assisted places in the [Diploma of Environmental Studies](#) (two years of part-time study)

Please contact Charles Sturt's student Contact Centre on 1800 275 278 for more information on this program.

Charles Sturt Latest News Article: [Helping women upskill to forge successful careers in agriculture and environmental science](#)

# Upcoming events

## AgriPark Connect

Please join us for morning tea and an opportunity to meet Nick Pagett (Executive Director, AgriPark)

**WHEN:** Wednesday 19 April 2023  
**WHERE:** Building 6, Tooma Way, Wagga Campus  
**TIME:** 10:00-11:00am

For more information email, [agripark@csu.edu.au](mailto:agripark@csu.edu.au)

## Agriculture and environment careers online information night

Learn more about the industry and potential career opportunities and hear from expert speakers, students and academics about our courses.

**WHEN:** Tuesday 30 May 2023  
**WHERE:** Online  
**TIME:** 6:00-7:30pm

Book your spot at [study.csu.edu.au/ag-enviro-info-night](https://study.csu.edu.au/ag-enviro-info-night)

## Digital AgriFood Summit

The Summit will return to Wagga again this year, with the theme *Paddock to Profit*.

**WHEN:** 11 - 12 October 2023  
**WHERE:** Wagga Wagga Campus  
**WEBSITE:** [Digital Agrifood Summit](#)

Please [register your interest](#)



## evokeAG 2023

On 21 and 22 February the AgriPark hosted an Exhibition Space at the AgriFutures Australia evokeAG conference, one of the largest ag-tech gatherings in Australia. This year the event was held at the Adelaide Convention Centre and featured domestic and international ag-tech organisations plus a number of startups pitching their business to potential investors and collaborators.

Our space included demonstrations from Andrew Hagan on the use of eXtended Reality in agriculture, and Jon Medway promoting ag-tech research on the Global Digital Farm. Professor Michael Friend, Sam Beresford, Kelli Edwards and Jodi Slocombe also attended the event on behalf of Charles Sturt University and AgriPark.



Photo: Professor Michael Friend speaks with high school ag students about careers in agriculture and studying at Charles Sturt University.

We had a paperless display and use two large presentation screens to showcase everything ag at Charles Sturt. We presented the Gulbali Institute, Red Meat Innovation Centre, Innovation Hub, Winery, Biosecurity Training Centre, Charles Sturt Sustainability, our amazing research facilities, new post graduate ag and environmental courses, student engagement with industry, scholarships and philanthropic opportunities, and our Digital AgriFood Summit which is being held at our Wagga campus on 11-12 October 2023.

We had a lot of people visit our exhibition space over the two days and some promising conversations with industry around future opportunities that we are currently following up.

## Want more information?

For more information on any of the stories in this newsletter, please contact us:

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