

SCHOOL FOR THE VISITOR ECONOMY

E-NEWSLETTER



Dear colleagues,

Like all of us probably, the focus of the School for the Visitor Economy this year has been about responding to the pandemic. So I would like to start with some good news.

We were proud to see VU's Tourism and Hospitality postgraduate subjects achieve a #1 national ranking in the 2021 Good Universities Guide, for both skills development and teaching quality, and #2 for overall educational experience, student support, and learning resources. Congratulations to all our colleagues who made this happen. Congratulation to Professor Terry DeLacy, who [has been selected to join the World Economic Forum's Sustainable Tourism Global Futures Council](#), along with 19 other sustainable tourism experts from across the globe.

We'd also like to extend congratulations to Dr Thu-Huong Nguyen, Senior Lecturer and Course Chair, VU Business School, Dr Marcela Fang and Professor Anona Armstrong, who co-authored the paper '[Developing Collective Leadership Capacity to Drive Sustainable Practices: Destination Case of Leadership Development in Australia](#)'. We also had our first [Virtual Open Day](#) on 29 August 2020 which was a big success, and you can explore VU Virtual Open Day on demand.

Tourism Research Australia is starting to capture the impact of both the bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic. Unsurprisingly, the [TRA data](#) shows that travel restrictions have been devastating for industry.

The industry has been active in the development of recovery plans and I have been closely involved with our partners at the Victorian Tourism Industry Council (VTIC) in the development of an industry recovery plan, that you can read [here](#). Our plan emphasises the need for investment in marketing, events, industry strengthening and real-time data insights to guide decision making and collaboration across regions and between states. Support for industry to innovate as we move into the 'new normal' will be imperative.

The pandemic has highlighted just how important tourism, hospitality and events are to the wider economy in terms of jobs and spending on goods and services – both direct

and indirect. Forecasts suggest that there is reason to be optimistic and rebuilding our sector will be essential in the longer term for wider economic growth. We need to consider how to do this safely and innovate and respond to changing consumer preferences and behaviours.

As always, please get in touch if you would like any further information on the School or would like to discuss ways we can work together. If you have not registered to receive SVE updates and event invitations, please register [here](#).



Dr Joanne Pyke
Director, School for the Visitor Economy



Research update: Building the resilience of tourism destinations to disasters

Our research project on building the resilience of tourism destinations is underway. We're looking at two case studies: the Echuca-Moama area and Bright in Victoria's North-East. Interestingly, both are also impacted heavily by border crossing restrictions – a situation that few of us could have imagined until recently. [Learn more about this important and topical research.](#)



Spotlight on a PhD student: Gaelle Joson's PhD on hot springs in regional Australia

With numerous hot spring centres in development in Australia, the industry is poised to grow significantly over the next ten years. Gaelle Joson's research is exploring the socio-cultural, environmental, and economic impacts of Australian Hot Springs in regional destinations and considers how these impacts can be measured. [Read more.](#)



Hanging local goes virtual: Chef vs Student

In [Hanging Local Virtual: Chef vs Student](#), Victoria University's international students can register to cook online alongside a renowned chef from one of the great restaurants of Melbourne's west and compete with fellow students. The first 30 Victoria University students to register will receive a free ingredients pack and there are some great prizes, many of which have been sponsored by the School for the Visitor Economy. [Read more.](#)

THE ONLINE KITCHEN

Remote Teaching of Commercial Cookery

The online kitchen: Remote teaching of commercial cookery

How can practical disciplines like commercial cookery adapt to the new online study

How can practical disciplines into commercial society adapt to the new online study environment? Meet Danette Haas, one of our talented educators here at VU Polytechnic, showcasing innovative ways of teaching and engaging our students in these challenging times. [Read more.](#)



International student health and wellbeing associated with housing

Associate Professor Tim Corney (College of Arts & Education, ISILC) and Dr Catherine Lou (Victoria University Business School, ISILC) have initiated a new project 'International student health and wellbeing associated with housing.' The research includes a deep exploration of international students' wellbeing and mental health and its relationship to housing. The research will consider issues as well as positive and protective factors that contribute to an inclusive and supportive community environment. It is supported by a Planetary Health Grant and sits within a larger research project supported by Study Melbourne.



All VU Business School units now in VU Block Model

Three years since the commencement of the VU Block Model - a revolutionary change in higher education teaching and learning – an important milestone: the final unit in the Bachelor of Business has been redesigned in Block Mode. All undergraduate units in Tourism, Hospitality and Events Management have now been redesigned with an emphasis on collaboration, engagement and harnessing many new IT applications available through VU Collaborate the Learning Management System.

Upcoming events

VU Polytechnic is offering **free**, short, nationally-accredited training to help customer-facing workers identify and manage the ongoing risk of coronavirus (COVID-19) infections.

There are three **Infection Control Skill Sets** on offer. The free training is for workers who are engaged in direct customer interactions across retail, hospitality and transport & logistics sectors.

Further information can be found here: [news article/landing page](#)

CFP The Online CAUTHE 2021 Conference

The CAUTHE 2021 Scientific Committee welcomes full and working research papers on several different topics relating to this year's theme Transformations in Uncertain Times: Future perfect in tourism, hospitality and events. Given the diversity and multi-dimensional nature of transformation in our industries, papers can focus on a broad range of topics relating to (but not limited to) a wide cross-section of research tracks.

Key dates

Working paper submission: **31 October 2020**

For more information, see [Call for papers](#)

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