

On the move

As the Northern Territory's premier tertiary education provider, Charles Darwin University performs a crucial role in the wider community. The Territory's much-vaunted vitality is, in part, the result of the dynamism of its own university.

CDU has intense working relationships with a great variety of individuals and organisations throughout the NT and beyond. We are indeed fortunate to work within one of the world's most culturally and biologically diverse regions.

At the same time, the Territory's unique challenges are also well-documented, and part of the mission of the university is to develop knowledge that will solve complex problems existing in our region. In doing so, CDU is indeed a valuable asset in the social, cultural, intellectual and economic development of Northern Australia.

The Territory has every right to be proud of our achievements, not only in helping to build a strong community in the north, but also in providing higher education and vocational education and training for local, national and international students. We are young and, for an institution that straddles the entire Territory, we are nimble. We can respond quickly to new demands and opportunities.

As an institution, we must be agile and our agility is reflected in the theme of this edition of *Origins*. The articles that follow are based



on the theme, "On the move", and provide a taste of the contributions CDU is making in higher education and VET teaching, to the community through our partnerships, and to the lives of many individuals. The theme helps to illuminate the dynamism that is required of CDU as we meet our responsibilities to the NT community, face the geographical challenges of our location, and work with our diverse but small population base.

In this issue you will read about research that will assist policy-makers to understand the movements of overseas immigrants who come to the Northern Territory. This group represents a significant sector of the NT population and little work has been undertaken in the past to understand the demographic and economic impacts of these people.

You will discover how CDU is helping to address a maternal mortality crisis in Papua New Guinea, which is ranked among the worst in the world in regard to women dying in childbirth.

And you will learn about how a university lecturer from the former Soviet Union is working to rebuild her life in Gove with the help of English classes offered through CDU.

This edition also showcases the Charles Darwin Symposium which will celebrate the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth and the 150th anniversary of the publication of "On the Origin of Species".

The Symposium's keynote speaker, Professor Tim Berra, along with other prominent presenters, opens up the discussion in this *Origins* ahead of the September event.

I hope you enjoy these and other articles and regular columns in this edition, and that you gain a deeper sense of the impacts of our university.

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