

December 2024

Message from the Executive Dean

Dear alumni, partners and friends,

I am delighted to be writing to you as the **new Executive Dean** of Macquarie Business School.



I step into this role after more than 25 years as a faculty member, and most recently, as the school's Deputy Dean of Research and Innovation. What I've witnessed over that time is a remarkable transformation of our research performance and impact ([view our recent FT50 publications](#)), our **students' experience while with us and beyond graduation**, and our global reputation. In my new role, I am looking forward to working with extraordinary colleagues, students and all of you to foster and build our continued success.

The end of the year is always a good time to reflect and 2024 has been an exceptional year for Macquarie Business School. We were recently **named as the leading research institution in the world for Accounting and Taxation** by *The Australian*, and we ranked #1 in Australia for the Master of Applied Finance and the Master of Marketing in the QS Business Masters Ranking 2025. We also ranked #6 in Australia in Finance in the Shanghai Ranking Global Ranking of Academic Subjects 2024, and #3 among global business schools in the UNL Global Research Rankings of Actuarial Science and Risk Management & Insurance. In addition to these results, the business school ranked #1 for career impact in the BOSS Best Business School list published by *The Australian Financial Review*. These accolades reflect our leading position in many business areas, and our focus on employability - in partnership with industry - is ensuring that our students secure jobs at some of the top businesses in the country.

In other exciting news, this year the Macquarie Business School has

received re-accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), the Association of MBAs (AMBA) and the Australian Computer Society (ACS). These results will certainly energise us for the New Year.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of *Insider*, which highlights some of our recent events and research impact. It also includes a celebration of the illustrious contributions of Distinguished Professor David Throsby on culture and economics during his long career.

Please do follow us on [LinkedIn](#) to keep in touch with the latest news from the business school, and as always, reach out to [our Engagement Team](#) if you are interested in finding out more about our Industry Partnership Program and ways to collaborate with us.

Best wishes for the festive season and see you in the new year.

Leonie Tickle

Executive Dean
Macquarie Business School

Executive mentoring and networking boosts students' employability



Students were invited to network with influential leaders and industry contacts at the school's Executive Mentoring event and Industry Partner Employability Fair on Tuesday 1 October.

The two events are focused on boosting employability skills and networks for students, with the Executive Mentoring event offered exclusively to high-achieving students to acknowledge their accomplishments.

During the Executive Mentoring event, students participated in two group mentoring sessions with industry leaders from UniSuper, Grant Thornton, Westpac, the Audit Office of NSW and REO Group, plus many more. This gave mentees access to personalised career advice and insights into different career paths and industry trends.

“The Executive Mentoring event is a fantastic opportunity for mentors and mentees alike to exchange, inspire and establish professional connections. Without social capital (mentoring), our mentees cannot realise their dreams,” said Professor Yvonne Breyer, Macquarie Business School’s Deputy Dean, Education and Employability.

Later in the day, more than 700 students attended the Industry Partner Employability Fair to network with representatives from 20 Australian businesses and some of the university’s key career services, including the Lucy Mentoring Program, The Incubator and the Student Employment Service. The fair allowed students to test their professional skills and hear about future careers including upcoming graduate roles.

One student said, “It was so interesting to meet industry representatives and find out more about their requirements and job openings.” Another said, “The event really gave me hope for my own upcoming job application process.”

Alex Kelly from Allied Credit has already arranged to meet three of the attending students to chat further about potential roles. Alex said, “It was a great opportunity for us to meet with very smart and very enthusiastic people.”

[Read more about our student employability events >](#)

Medibank’s four-day work week trial improves employee health while maintaining productivity



Researchers from the Macquarie Business School's Health and Wellbeing Research Unit (HoWRU) have partnered with Medibank to explore the effects of a four-day work week on employees.

Since its launch in October 2023, the trial with 250 Medibank employees has been the subject of extensive research by HoWRU, led by Professor Rebecca Mitchell.

After six months, the trial showed stable productivity, and happier and healthier employees. Participants also reported increased feelings of confidence and energy and a clearer focus on shared objectives because of the shortened week.

“These findings affirm the transformative potential of the four-day working week experiment in fostering a healthier, more engaged and more resilient workforce. The substantial reductions in job stress, turnover intentions and work-to-family conflict, alongside improvements in physical health and workplace support, position Medibank as a leader in innovative work arrangements,” said Professor Mitchell.

“Our partnership with Medibank demonstrates the impact of Macquarie Business School research and the potential we can have as business professionals on the health and wellbeing of employees.”

[Read more about the four-day work week trial >](#)

Distinguished Professor David Throsby appointed Professor Emeritus after 64 years exploring the economics of art and culture



Distinguished Professor David Throsby from the Department of Economics at Macquarie Business School has recently taken up the position of Professor Emeritus, building on his long career exploring the application of economics to art and culture and their relevance to public policy. Along the way he fought for the recognition and integrity of all artists.

As one of the most influential figures in the field of cultural economics, Professor Throsby's pioneering research has not only shaped academic discourse but also informed policy and practices in the cultural sector worldwide.

Professor Throsby's career includes internationally renowned publications, with his book *Economics and Culture* (Cambridge University Press, 2001) translated into eight languages. He has also received many accolades, including the Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in 2014 for distinguished service to the community, to the promotion and preservation of Australian arts and heritage, and to tertiary education.

His artists surveys, conducted over four decades, have provided a snapshot every six years of the working conditions of artists in Australia. The latest instalment, *Artists As Workers*, co-authored with Katya Petetskaya, showed that creative work still doesn't pay the bills with less than half of an artist's income generated by their original creative work. Professor Throsby labelled industry trends that emerged from the report as a "significant hit to Australian culture" and called for more action to recognise the contribution of artists to society. Professional organisations, including the Australian Society of Authors and Australian Writers Guild, use the report findings as they lobby for change.

The business school celebrated Professor Throsby's contribution to

Macquarie University and cultural economics with a festschrift reception last month.

"Over an illustrious career, Distinguished Professor Throsby's pioneering research has changed how policymakers, researchers and organisations think about the cultural and economic value of the arts, including the role of Indigenous cultural industries in remote Australia," said Executive Dean Professor Leonie Tickle.

"He has been a leading voice in providing crucial evidence for change and recognition of arts and culture all around the world."

[Read more about Distinguished Professor David Throsby's pioneering research >](#)

Research spotlight



How AI is shaping your next career move

Artificial intelligence can help you write an email or look up an obscure topic, but Macquarie Business School Associate Professor Sarah Bankins says the technology also shapes many decisions we make about our careers.

[Read more >](#)



Firms fudge figures to achieve cash bonus

Research by Dr Rebecca Bachmann and her collaborators shows companies often use restatements to present a more favourable image to justify substantial bonuses for CEOs, even when actual performance does not merit such rewards.

[Read more >](#)

All you need is a 'teaspoon of purpose'



The Hon Kristina Keneally, the CEO of Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation; Ronni Kahn AO, social entrepreneur and founder of OzHarvest; and Simon Miller, the CEO of Anglicare, shared their strategies for leading social impact at the *Catalysts for change* event hosted by the Macquarie Business School on Thursday 19 September.

Guided by the moderator Professor Yvonne Breyer, the panellists shared their diverse experiences as leaders in politics, business and social ventures. Their insights inspired the room of MBA students, alumni and industry professionals to harness their skills for good, embrace opportunities and measure success by impact not financial returns.

[Read more and watch the highlights >](#)

Engage with us in 2025



With a new year comes new opportunities to shape the next generation of business leaders. We want you to get in touch to help us understand how we can work together to create meaningful partnerships that benefit both our students and your business.

Express your interest in a partnership with us >



YOU *to the power of us*

Macquarie Business School

Follow us

Wallumattagal Campus
Macquarie Park NSW 2109
+61 (2) 9850 7111
[Ask a question](#)



City campus

Angel Place
Level 24, 123 Pitt Street Sydney,
NSW 2109
+61 (2) 9234 1700

Acknowledgement of Country

Macquarie University acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land where Macquarie University is situated, the Wallumattagal Clan of the Dharug Nation - whose cultures and customs have nurtured, and continue to nurture, the land since time immemorial.

Disclaimer

Information given is correct at the time of distribution but is subject to change without notice. The University has the right to alter the content or impose terms and conditions at any time.

© Macquarie University

CRICOS Provider 00002J

ABN 90 952 801 237

Unsubscribe

EXT 2100