



UNIVERSITY *of*  
TASMANIA  
AUSTRALIA

# Supporting Students to Succeed Through Cultural Conversations



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Presenter

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Wellington, New Zealand

# UTASLife Program



Meet other students



Engage in fun activities



Make the most of their time at UTAS!

# UTASLife Program



UNIVERSITY  
of TASMANIA

*Vice-Chancellor's Team Award  
for Outstanding Contribution to Enhancement  
of the Student Experience*

*This certificate acknowledges that*

*The Community Friends and  
Networks Programme Team  
comprising Robert Alderson, Matthew Hingston and Dona Leach*

*are the recipients of a Vice-Chancellor's Team Award for Outstanding Contribution  
to Enhancement of the Student Experience for the design and implementation of  
a program that provides an outstanding contribution to students' sense  
of belonging through purposefully building connection to the  
University and the wider community.*

*Peter Rathjen*

PROFESSOR PETER RATHJEN  
VICE-CHANCELLOR  
29 OCTOBER 2015

# UTASLife Team



Student Engagement Leaders

# Weekly Session

- Take a break from studies
- Enjoy a meal
- Participate in fun games
- Make new friends



# Off Campus trips

- Explore the beauty of Tasmania
- Get acquainted with the locals
- Have fun-filled activities



# Cooking on Campus

- Free cooking sessions
- Learn some tasty recipes from around the globe
- Embrace cultural diversity



# Volunteering Opportunities

- Take part in various short/long term volunteering opportunities
- Develop leadership skills
- Gain valuable experience
- Give back
- Meet students



# Human Library

- Share stories about community, culture with others



# HUMAN LIBRARY



- Cross cultural experience
- Overcoming elements of discomfort and prejudice
- Connection gateway

# CULTURAL CONVERSATIONS



- Sharing

- Understanding

- Empowering

# CULTURAL CONVERSATIONS

## UNIVERSITY



# CULTURAL CONVERSATIONS

## SCHOOLS



# CULTURAL CONVERSATIONS

## AGED CARE



# CULTURAL CONVERSATIONS

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## Evaluation

- Were students comfortable in sharing their stories?

95%

# CULTURAL CONVERSATIONS

## Evaluation

- How was their experience as a human book?
  - Feel connected
  - Love talking to other people
  - Enjoy meeting new people
  - Proud to share life stories/culture to others

# CULTURAL CONVERSATIONS

## Evaluation

- What was their impression to their readers?
  - Welcoming and kind
  - Very enthusiastic
  - Listened attentively to stories

# CULTURAL CONVERSATIONS

## Evaluation

- What was the best thing about their experience with UTAS Human Library program?
  - The idea of sharing stories to other people
  - Made some new friends
  - Understand others cultures
  - Learn about Australian culture
  - New perspective in life

# CULTURAL CONVERSATIONS

## Evaluation

- Would they come to future events and recommend this program to their friends?

Yes

# CULTURAL CONVERSATIONS

## FEEDBACK from the BOOKS

“It has been an irreplaceable part of my student life since my first year. It helped an international student like me, who was timid and knew nobody in Hobart, become so confident and develop a wide and strong network, not only within UTAS but also with the local community. My UTAS life was so colourful, thanks to UTASLife.”

Grace Nguyen, Vietnam



# CULTURAL CONVERSATIONS

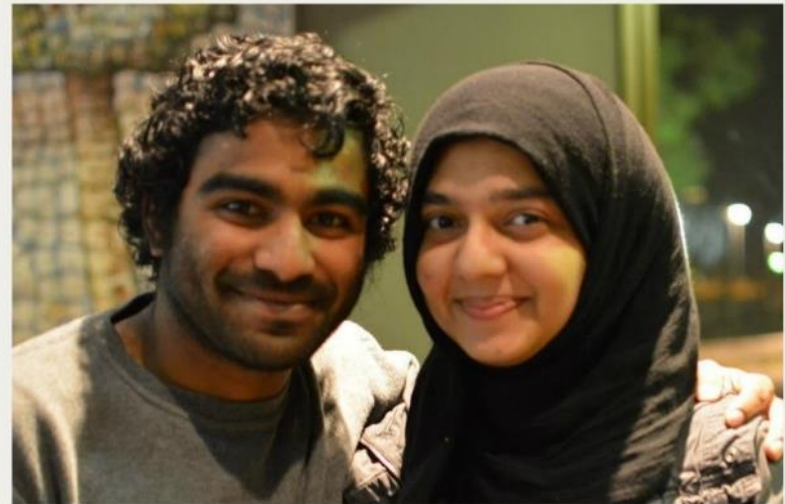


"I can tell about my culture and learn about Australian culture in return. It feels great. It seems like I am contributing something."  
(Ahmed Shan, Maldives)

"Being part of the Human Library helps me with my confidence." (Yusra Saleem, Pakistan)

"I really enjoy these activities. It helps me to develop vital transferable skills and life skills such as communication skills, language skills and networking skills."

Isaiah Lahai, Student,  
Siera Leone



# Readers Feedback

Aged Care

## Peter Lorraine, general Manager, St Anns Home

"For the residents, it's lovely to have the engagement with the younger people so we are really excited about it. We hope it is part of a growing partnership."

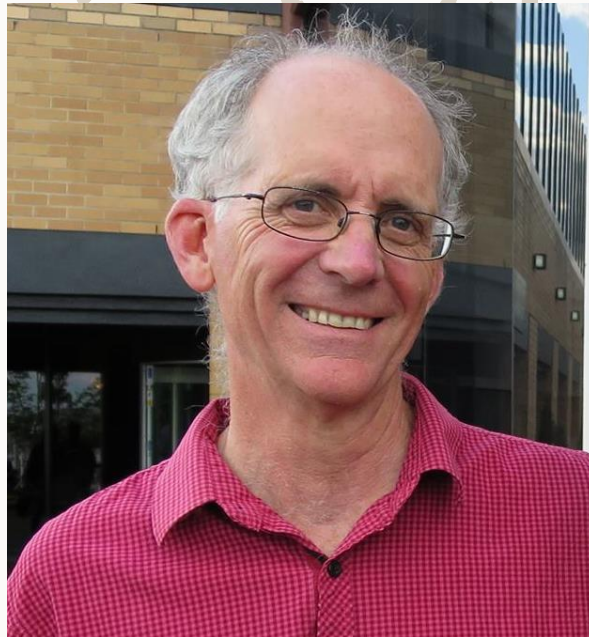


Philomena Van Rijswijk, Bishop Davis Court

"It is such a great way to get in touch with different cultures and to learn about them..."

# CULTURAL CONVERSATIONS

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“It is just a very unique celebration of cultural diversity in Tasmania. I am so honoured to be able to interact with other people from different parts of the world and the beauty of that is that I don't have to travel that far. “

Ian Terry, Tasmanian Museum Art and Gallery

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**THANK YOU**

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**QUESTIONS?**