

**13 November 2018**

## **Students from Far West NSW pursue university in LEAPs and bounds as Macquarie comes to town**

A team of enthusiastic representatives from Macquarie University, including the Pro Vice Chancellor (Programs and Pathways) Professor Sean Brawley, will visit Broken Hill this November to give regionally-based students a taste of what tertiary education has to offer.

The roadshow is an initiative of Macquarie's LEAP (Learning, Education, Aspiration, Participation) program, which aims to raise aspirations, create possibilities and actively support students from disadvantaged backgrounds to successfully participate in higher education.

The team of 15 will be in Broken Hill from Tuesday 27 November in order to host daytime taster sessions for high school students (including those from Menindee and Wilcannia) and after-hours parent and community forums. Macquarie's state-of-the-art Planetarium will also be in town offering daytime sessions to primary school groups and evening sessions to community members. There is something for everyone!

Local students, their families, and community members will have the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the university, its study options, and additional offerings such as overseas exchange. It promises to be educational, fun and engaging with the "taster" sessions including a range of disciplines including Economics, Virtual Reality, Health and Medical Sciences and Ancient History. Students will get to handle artefacts from Macquarie's amazing Museum of Ancient Cultures, be transported to Macquarie using virtual reality goggles, speak to academics and current Macquarie students, and much more.

Professor Brawley said the roadshow has been designed to address a range of challenges facing regionally-based students who have limited access to University campuses.

"We know that having contact with and visiting a university can influence a young person's decision to pursue further education. That's not as simple for students in regional and rural areas, so we are bringing Macquarie University to the bush," said Professor Brawley.

One important aspect that Professor Brawley is keen to share with students and their parents are the many pathways to university study.

"It is particularly important that both parents and students understand that the ATAR is not the only pathway into university. At Macquarie we have 11 different admission pathways, so I especially encourage students who had previously not considered university as an option to visit us while we're in the Broken Hill and let us answer any questions they have."

Other free community events being hosted by the LEAP MQ team include:

### ***Community BBQ under the stars***

(Planetarium experience & BBQ hosted by Broken Hill Lions Club)

6-7pm Tuesday 27 November

Trades Hall, 242 Blende St Broken Hill

For bookings: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/community-bbq-under-the-stars-tickets-52508291714>

### ***Pizza & Pathways with the PVC***

(Parents, family and community information session)

6-7pm Wednesday 28 November

Country University Centre, 318-324 Crystal St

For bookings visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/pizza-pathways-with-the-pro-vice-chancellor-tickets-52337427655?ref=estw>

### ***Planetarium Experience***

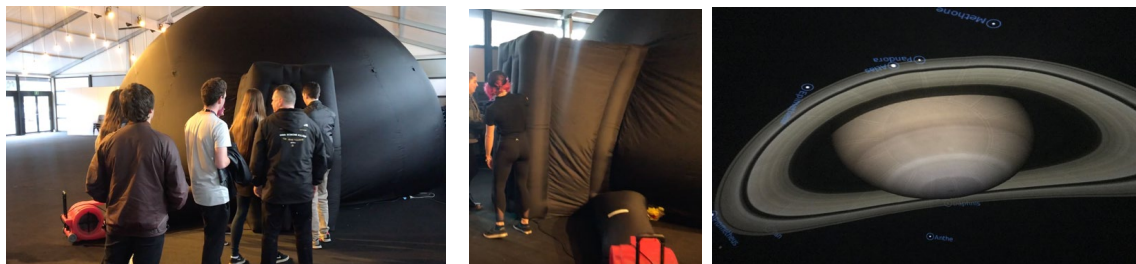
Various day and evening sessions between Tuesday 27 - Thursday 29 November

Trades Hall, 242 Blende St Broken Hill

For bookings visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/d/australia--broken-hill/public-planetarium-session/?page=1>

The team lead by Macquarie's Pro Vice Chancellor (Programs and Pathways) Professor Sean Brawley and Bonnie Faulkner, Widening Participation Pathways Manager are available for interview. Please call Margaret Meehan to arrange a time on 0414 704 231.



*Macquarie University reps on the road (L-R Macquarie's Planetarium; inside the dome)*



*Macquarie University reps on the road at Griffith High July 2018 (Tetei Bakic and Professor Sean Brawley)*



*Macquarie University reps on the road at Griffith High July 2018 (Bonnie Faulkner, Ellie Rutter and Professor Sean Brawley)*

**-ENDS-**