VC introduction to New Colombo Plan alumni event

Time: 2:30pm – 3:30pm
Date: Friday 6 October, 2017
Place: Bradley Forum
• Ngangkira, Miyurna! Naa marni Ngai nari David

• Ngai yarta-nungku yaku, ngai kunturrikinthi taakanthi ngairyu wardli

• Ngai puldunthi naa-itya, ngai wangkanthi warra Kaurna meyurna, miipuldunthi ngairyu kuinyuntapinthi.

• What I just said, for those of you who lack the Kaurna language, is that my name is David and while I am not originally from this country, I am proud to call it my home and I do so in the language of the Kaurna people as a mark of my respect.

• The example of an Irish-born chemist speaking a little Kaurna and running a large Australian university should give some clue as to the value we place on globalistion.

• It is fundamental to our own success,

• so I am delighted to be able to host this event to celebrate alumni of the new Colombo Plan.
• And especially to host Australia’s Foreign Minister, the Hon Julie Bishop, whose brainchild the NCP was.

• The University of South Australia has approached the New Colombo Plan very strategically and seriously for two reasons.

• We have a strategic commitment to educational research and industry partnership with the Asia-Pacific and wider Indo-Pacific which is reflected in myriad collaborations across the region – most recently opening a joint school in China with a top Chinese university.

• And we have an absolute commitment to ensuring our graduates are as employable as possible – and we recognise that this means helping them to be more globally literate and especially Asia-literate.

• For these reasons we have very actively encouraged students to participate in NCP projects and the scholarship program,
• And we have been delighted by our success:

  o with over a dozen NCP scholarship winners;
  o and, for 2018, we have been awarded funding of $1.3m for 30 projects benefiting 325 students – ranging from health placements in the Cook Islands and Myanmar to industry workplace and study projects in Korea, Indonesia and the Philippines.

• So thank you Minister for these really valuable and life-changing experiences for our students, which would not be possible without the New Colombo Plan.

• This afternoon I am very pleased to introduce you to one of our 2015 scholarship winners.

• Michelle Howie is in her final year of the Bachelor of Engineering (Electronics & Communication) at UniSA.

• She was the top awardee Australia-wide for Korea and was awarded a New Colombo Plan Fellowship.

• She was one of 69 scholars in 2015 and was the inaugural Korean Fellow.
• To say she fell in love with Korea is probably an understatement. But if you get a chance to read her blog on her travels you’ll see that she is the very embodiment of the new global student we are producing.

• She immersed herself in Korea. She studied at the prestigious science and technology university KAIST; she learned the language, ate the food, travelled extensively off the tourist beat and soaked up Korea’s culture.

• Fortunately there is no karaoke machine here this afternoon because that part of the culture she got completely.

• Michelle’s travels in Asia took her to Vietnam, Cambodia, South Korea, Japan, Macau, Hong Kong, China and Taiwan.
• She spent 17 months on the program including two semesters of exchange, one summer research program, five weeks of Korean language study and a five month internship with Telstra in Hong Kong.

• If you could illustrate the new, smart, global UniSA student that we’re sending into the world, Michelle would be that student.

• and I am delighted to welcome her here this afternoon.

• Michelle?