

HONOURS RECEIVED

Principal of Cummings Economics, Bill Cummings, has been honoured by Central Queensland University (CQU) with the granting of Doctorate in Economics. Mr Cummings has also accepted an invitation to be an Honorary Research Fellow of the Centre for International Trade and Business in Asia (CITBA) at James Cook University.

CQ University Honour



Bill Cummings has been honoured to accept from Central Queensland University an award of Honorary Degree of Doctor of Economics.

Bill Cummings being presented with an award of Honorary Degree Doctor of Economics by CQ University Chancellor, Mr Graeme Innes AM, at the University's 2023 Graduation Ceremony at Cairns Convention Centre, 3rd May 2023

CQU Award Commendation text was as follows:

“Mr William (Bill) Cummings is one of Australia’s most highly experienced regional business economists. Bill has provided immeasurable services to the Cairns community, demonstrating dedicated and long-term engagement providing significant contributions to the economic development of the far north region. His expertise has been instrumental in shaping regional policies and strategies, and he has provided staunch support to CQUniversity since the Cairns campus was established in 2012. His extensive experience, coupled with his ability to provide insightful analysis and recommendations, has made him a trusted advisor in numerous businesses, educational institutions, media companies, development organisations, and government advisory committees, and he has been involved in many aspects of the growth and success of CQUniversity’s Cairns campus.

Graduating with a Bachelor of Economics from the University of Queensland in 1962, Bill pursued further studies in Economics and Political Science at the Australian National University in Canberra, before returning to Cairns in 1968, managing development and tourism promotional organisations. Bill played a significant role over the next 13 years promoting and developing domestic and international tourism in the far north region, including managing the Ingham District Research and Promotion Bureau, the Far North Queensland Development Bureau and Tourism Tropical North Queensland. He was an active advocate for the upgrading of the Cairns airport, promoting trade with Papua New Guinea, and achieving fishing industry infrastructure upgrading. Bill was also heavily involved in promoting agricultural diversification, roads, mining development, and reforestation.

In 1981, Bill established his own economic and market research business coordinating development promotion in the Cairns/Far North Queensland region. He conducted market research, feasibility studies and economic analysis to secure funding and win large scale projects that has further progressed the Northern Australian region. Bill’s stewardship and strategic focus on tourism, primary industries, fishing, mining, retailing, university development, transport infrastructure, and road development throughout his service on various committees, including the Cairns Chamber of Commerce and Federation of Chambers of Commerce of Far North Queensland, have been instrumental in shaping regional policies and strategies.

Bill is held in high regard by the Cairns community for his significant contributions to the economic development of the region and his service to the community for over fifty years. CQUniversity is proud to acknowledge Bill’s long-term role as a trusted advisor to the region’s business and government leaders, in addition to his support to CQUniversity and his dedicated involvement to the Cairns campus. On this basis, the University is honoured to confer on Bil Samuel Cummings the degree of Honorary Doctor of Economics.”

Research Fellowship, Centre for International Trade & Business in Asia



Bill Cummings has accepted an invitation to become an Honorary Research Fellow at the Centre for International Trade and Business in Asia (CITBA) <https://www.jcu.edu.au/citba> at James Cook University.

About CITBA

The Centre for International Trade and Business in Asia (CITBA) is a cutting-edge research center established in 2018 and located at James Cook University. With its headquarter in Australia, and as the only research center within the College of Business, Law, and Governance (CBLG) at James Cook University Australia, CITBA is dedicated to providing leadership in research excellence.

CITBA conducts a variety of activities to support its research goals including:

1. Research Projects: CITBA conducts original research on topics related to international trade and business in Asia, such as trade policy, business strategies, and economic development in the region.
2. Workshops and Conferences: CITBA also hosts conferences and workshops to bring together scholars and industry leaders to discuss current research and trends in the field.
3. Public Outreach: CITBA engages in public outreach activities to share its research findings with the broader community. This may include publishing articles, creating educational resources, or giving public talks.
4. Collaboration: CITBA collaborates with other research centers, universities, government agencies, and businesses to further its research goals.
5. Partnership: CITBA also have partnerships with other Universities or research centers, to share knowledge and resources and to expand their research scope.

Bill Cummings - Special Contact with Asian Countries

Bill Cummings has had extensive contact and involvement with Asian countries over many years including:

With Australian Chamber of Commerce Secretariat Canberra 1960s

- Secretary – Australian Chamber of Commerce Export Council
- Involved with Australian Chamber Joining/Interacting with the Confederation of Asian Chambers of Commerce
- Preparation of Chamber's "Asian Digest"
- Involved in Commercial Negotiations Between Japanese Textile Industry and Australian Textile Merchants

As Manager Far North Queensland Promotion Bureau 1970s/early 1980s

- Negotiations with Air Niugini to bring regular Japanese tour groups from western Japan via Port Moresby to Cairns and subsequent handling of groups while in Cairns
- Organised first promotional material in Japanese language and itineraries of Japanese media and travel agents
- Brought Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) study team to Cairns to report on international tourism potential
- Member of first four-member Queensland Tourism Mission to Japan visiting Tokyo, Fukuoka and Kagoshima
- Organised foundation of Australia Japan Society of North Queensland (currently Patron).

While Providing Secretariat Cairns Chamber of Commerce 1980s/1990s

- Numerous meetings with visiting business, government representatives of Asian countries
- Coordinated with various overseas visits calling at and meetings with Japan Chamber Tokyo, Philippines Chamber Manila, Chinese Chamber Singapore, International Chamber Mumbai, Indian Merchants Association Mumbai, Chennai Chamber
- Organised Civic Delegation to Beihai, Guangxi Province under sister city arrangements
- Inaugural flight JAL to Japan Delegation
- Visited and provided advice to Palau Chamber of Commerce as part of services provided to Palau by US Government on granting independence
- Attended International Freight Conference Singapore as part of Cairns Port Authority organised group

Own Business Private Capacity 1990s to Present

- Attended Economic Development Conference, Indira Gandhi Research Institute (funded by Reserve Bank of India), Mumbai
- Involved in discussions with INTI College Malaysia on their possible involvement in a proposed private International University in Cairns
- Travelled extensively through Asia with visits to Mumbai, Goa, Bangalore, Chennai, Singapore, Malacca, Penang, Bali, Yogyakarta, Jakarta, Lanzhou, Xian, Zhengzhou, Qufu, Tian, Tishan, Quindao, Beijing, Hong Kong, Macau, Tokyo, Kyoto, Nara, Osaka, Seoul, Hanoi, Hue, Saigon, Mekong Delta, Oc Eo, Angkor Borei, Phnom Penh, Siam Reap, Bangkok, Manila, Guam, Dubai and Abu Dhabi.