# L&T:22

**Showcase – Session 1B** 

Wednesday 28 September







# **Showcase – Session 1B**

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# **Showcase 1**

**Using the Corporate Board Theatre to Enrich WIL** 

Steven Hitchcock, Kaiying Ji, Rachael Hains-Wesson and Eliza Wu





# Using the Corporate Board Theatre to Enrich WIL

Eliza Wu Kaiying Ji Rachael Hains-Wesson Steven Hitchcock

USYD Business School L&T Forum 2022 September 28 2022



We acknowledge the tradition of custodianship and law of the Country on which the University of Sydney campuses stand. We pay our respects to those who have cared and continue to care for Country.



# **Background**

- Role play-based education in the context of using the theatre of the corporate board support students' application of theory into practice
- It effectively enriches employability learning through an authentic, and creative process
- In the Business School, we have conducted a case study that has advanced our understanding of students' perceptions regarding their development of employability skills and informed L&T practice in the delivery of capstone units.

## **About our study**

#### **Background**

Research question: which key, selfassessed employability skills increased and/decreased when students complete a theatre of boardroom role play activity, and why?

#### Methodology

A case study with a mixed methods approach

Pre- and post-survey to self-measure employability skills (N = 157)

Reflective logbooks on skills development (N = 12)

online learning & support

#### Intro session

- expectations
- preparation
- roles & rules

reflective debriefs

# Fictional organisation & business charter

- annual budget
- mission statements
- student developed terms of reference

- student & teacher debrief
- students participate in weekly role play and observe a *real* board
  - reflective assignments

#### Theatre of the Board

 students collectively problem solve a set of role play challenges
 aligning practice to

the terms of reference

# **Findings**

#### **Changes in self-measured Employability skills**

- Cultural awareness (+15%)
- Reflective practice (+6%)
- Problem solving (+5%)
- Time management (-12%)
- Interpersonal communication (-12%)

#### **Demographic differences**

- Younger participants better improve their time management, critical thinking and disciplinary knowledge
- Male participants better develop their time management and reflective practice skills

# Implications on the finance/banking capstone unit - With a focus on equitable and inclusive WIL experience

- WIL elements in the capstone unit not only to develop new employability skills, but also to boost awareness & confidence of pre-existed skills;
- WIL curriculum design to align students' perceived skills requirements with industry requirements;
  - Observation and participation in real professional practice
  - Timely reflection on performance gap
- WIL curriculum design to incorporate demographic factors
  - Culture
  - Gender
  - Age
  - Discipline

# **Questions?**



### Connect with us

**WIL Hub Research Group:** 

https://www.sydney.edu.au/

business/our-

research/research-

areas/employability-and-

work-integrated-learning-

research.html









Insert social media handles



# **Showcase 2**

**Looking Ahead – A Focus on Future Skills** 

— Janine Coupe, Louise Luff and Mark Waddington









# Looking ahead: A focus on future employability skills for accounting students

L & T Forum Showcase - October 2022

#### **Presented by**

Janine Coupe, Louise Luff & Mark Waddington





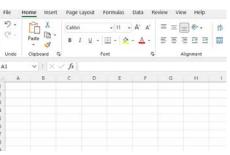
### **WHAT:** We have done

#### Re-designed a first-year accounting unit

- Using a 'working with a practical connection' approach, the unit focuses on developing student's skills in readiness for the workplace:
  - Connection to real world Accounting examples
  - Use of Excel spreadsheeting
  - Use of MYOB accounting software
  - Reflection assessment
- Accounting Foundation grant:
   Working with the Practical Connection









Reflection 1	
Student name:	Student SID:
Tutorial:	Tutor:

Description: what was the learning situation and your understanding of accounting?

## WHY: The importance of professional skills

#### Development of professional skills at foundational level

Non-technical skills
 Graduate qualities

Critical thinking and problem solving
Oral and written communication

Information and digital literacy

#### Preparation for workplace expectations – Professional Accounting Bodies



## HOW: Connection to real world accounting examples

Lectures redesigned as a practical work along experience. Students analysed and applied their accounting skills to companies' financial statements.



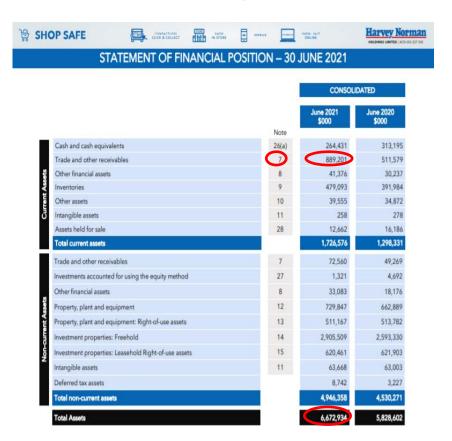






Graduate quality	Definition
Depth of disciplinary expertise	Deep disciplinary expertise is the ability to integrate and rigorously apply knowledge, understanding and skills of a recognised discipline defined by scholarly activity, as well as familiarity with evolving practice of the discipline.

# HOW: Connection to real world accounting examples



Simple analysis of financial information - % of total assets = 889,201/6,672,934 = 13.3%

**Page 102** 



Source

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/54803162e4b08e1b8a472201/t/6155022c17c582 65bebc3353/1632961167422/Annual+Report+to+Shareholders+2021.pdfage 17

## HOW: Connection to real world accounting examples

#### **Tutorial work**

Below are extracts from the *Freedom red-flagged in 2019* article (this is one of the Readings for Module 1) AFR, 06/11/2019.

According to emails obtained by The Australian Financial Review, the whistleblower reached out to the Australian Securities and Investments Commission after becoming concerned about the very aggressive use of the capitalisation of items such as labour costs, gas, electricity, excess waste, cleaning costs and protective gear worn by staff.

Freedom Foods is also seeking to finalise a possible \$200 million capital raise backed by major shareholders the Perich family, who control 52.5 per cent of the maker of kids' snacks Messy Monkeys, Heritage Mill cereals and MilkLab almond milk drinks.

Referring the Conceptual Framework (2019), explain why the

- (a) cleaning costs should **not** be recognized as an asset; **and**
- (b) capital raising should be recognized as a liability

in the Freedom Foods Group Limited financial statements.

Use the Module 1 Question 1 Padlet for your group's answer.

#### **GRADUATE QUALITY:**

Critical thinking and problem solving



## **HOW:** Use of Excel spreadsheeting in Lectures & Tutorials

#### Real world examples and use of basic Excel functionality

ACCT1006 - Tutorial Week 10 (Module 9) Teppie Ltd is a listed Australian company that manufactures and sells building construction materials to regional clients. You are employed as an accountant for Teppie Ltd. Teppie Ltd uses a 30 June year end balance date. Part C Your manager has advised you Teppie Ltd has agreed to sell the airplane on 31 December 2022 to a competitor for \$5,500,000 in cash. Required: Prepare all journal entries required for the sale of the airplane in Teppie Ltd's financial statements at 31 December 2022. Include all workings. Workings: WORKPAPER - TEPPIE LTD - AIRPLANE Start amount Dep exp Acc dep **Enhancements End amount** GENERAL JOURNAL - TEPPIE LTD Details Debit Credit Workings:

GRADUATE QUALITY: Information and digital

Watch Ben's video (27.34).



literacy

#### **HOW: Reflection assessments**

- Reflection on what and how accounting was learned in tutorials
- Mentimeter Reflection during tutorial to prepare students
- Feedback / feedforward from 1<sup>st</sup> reflection task required for 2<sup>nd</sup> reflection

GRADUATE QUALITY:

Oral and written
communication skills

(ii) Respond – Reflect on your learning in that situation. How did it assist with the development of your accounting, computerised accounting, and professional skills? How could your accounting, computerised accounting and professional skills be improved? Include your emotional response in the reflection, that is how you felt about the situation. In your Reflection 2 response consider the feedback provided for Reflection 1.

Why is reflection important in the business world?



How does this relate to studying accounting?

<u>Professional competency areas</u> er required as part of the Accreditation process by the professional bodies includes not only technical skills but also:



#### **HOW: Reflection assessments cont'd**

#### Student submission comments help us understand how students are learning:

- Although I dread speaking on panel discussions, each breakthrough makes me grow.
- Considering the feedback, I realised emotional responses are meaningful for reflection because recording feelings can deepen the impression for the event and motivate to improve in future similar situations.
- Actively engaging would help close gaps in my understanding, ensuring I do not fall back onto my old habit of learning by memorising.

## HOW: Use of MYOB accounting software – transferable skills

MYOB: Used by 1million+ SMEs in Australia/New Zealand

Information and digital

- Using accounting software to enter simple transactions
- Lecture examples linked to tutorial exercises
- Part of a broader technology theme
  - role of accountants in the 21st C.

**GRADUATE QUALITY:** 

literacy

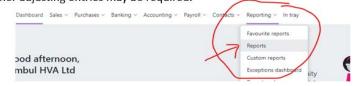
- - 1. Log into MYOB

2. MYOB task

2. Generate a trial balance (see below)

#### Required:

Review the accounts listed in the trial balance and identify any areas where further adjusting entries may be required.



The rapid development of technology, automation, and cloud-based computing is changing the accounting industry. This is successfully allowing accountants to focus more on advising and supporting their clients than traditional transactional processes (Shailan Patel, Education Manager MYOB NZ).

#### **WHAT:** We have learned

- Cognitive load for a 1<sup>st</sup> year student
- Face to face v online classes
- Reduced tutorial class sizes
- MYOB adoption issues

#### **NEXT:**

 Better Integration of accounting software

# Comments regarding MYOB from wk 6 student survey:

MYOB is a widely used accounting software which knowing how to uses provides a valuable and employable skill

Provides a glimpse into what we're expected to do in future careers

#### VS

Although I now know what MYOB is, I don't see how it relates to my exams

I still don't know MYOB's function and why we need to use it

# Question?





# **Showcase 3**

**Authentic Addendums: Creating Career Development Learning Opportunities in Each Assessment** 

—Steven Hitchcock







# Authentic Addendums

# Learning and Teaching Forum 2022

#### **Presented by**

Dr Steven Hitchcock, Lecturer, WIL

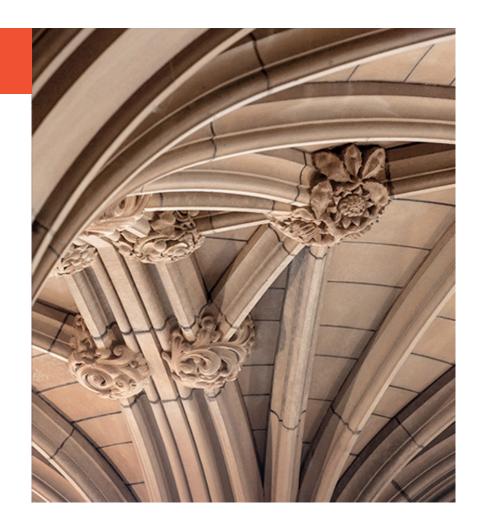




# Agenda

- Background
- Situation
- Task
- Action
- Result





# Introductions and acknowledgements

- **Dr Steven Hitchcock** Lecturer
  - Work-Integrated Learning



## **Situation**



## **Background**

- 1. Authentic assessments give students the "opportunity to apply their disciplinary learning to work-based and professional scenarios" (Kaider, Hains-Wesson, & Young, 2017).
- 2. However, we often speak of some assignments either being wholly authentic, wholly inauthentic, or somewhere in between.
- 3. For many, the creation of an authentic assessment can be intimidating and off-putting insofar as it could represent a redesign of an entire assessment item



## **Situation**



#### **Situation**

- WIL Hub teaches a suite of experiential programs
- Student interest is in 'the experience'
- Need to uphold
  - University/School Standards
  - TEQSA/AQF Appropriate Levels of Work
- Ever present level of abstraction
- Reflection is a requirement of WIL
  - Student tolerance can be low
  - Struggle to see relevance
- A lot of work/risk is massive assessment changes



# Task



#### Task

- Drive authentic assessment in WIL Units
- Don't want to compromise existing validated assessments and rubrics
- We want students to 'feel' like its real
- Needs to be scalable/modular/deployable
- Has to be for-credit
  - Student engagement with optional learning modules is very low.



# Action



#### **Authentic Addendums**

- 1. Take an existing assessment
- 2. Ideate on the most applied format of that
- 3. Consider the logical progression between the assessment, and the applied format
- 4. Carve a portion of the core assignment out, and add an addendum where students literally demonstrate the applied format.
- 5. Add rubric criterion that specifically assesses the 'professional suitability' of that addendum.

### **Example: Mid-Sem Reflection**

- Business Practicum (BUSS1321) had a midsemester reflective assignment.
- 1250 words, reflect on their group work to date.
- Critical incident simuli
- Engagement with, and feedback about, the assignment were poor.
- Students felt like it was 'more reflection' and felt like it was a distraction from the actual project.



### **Example: Mid-Sem Reflection**

- 1. Started with the exact same assignment
- 2. Adjusted the stimuli slightly
  - From: Student-selected critical incident
  - To: SRES-generated feedback on tutorial performance, weeks 1-4.
- 3. Core reflection reduced to 1000 words
- 4. Added a 250-word 'email'
  - Could realistically send to Steven as a 'response' to the feedback which synthesizes your reflection.
  - Is an email you would realistically send in a professional working environment in which you would like to continue working.
  - As if I'm their 'boss' giving them feedback on their teamwork.

## **Example**

250 Word Email	15 to >12.75 pts	12.75 to >11.25 pts	11.25 to >9.75 pts	9.75 to >7.5 pts	7.5 to >0 pts	15 pts
LO4, LO5	HD	D	CR	PA	FA	
	Unambiguously and skillfully synthesizes meaning in a format and tone that is appropriate for a professional setting while integrating information from multiple and conflicting sources. Flawlessly proofreading.	Unambiguously synthesizes meaning in a format and tone that is appropriate for a professional setting while integrating information from multiple sources to present alternative cases. Expertly proofread.	Accurately paraphrases and summarises meaning in a format and tone that is appropriate for a professional setting. Skillfully proofread.	Accurately paraphrases and summarises meaning in a format and tone that is appropriate for a professional setting. Minor issues with clarity in terms of ambiguity. Adequately proofread.	Does not accurately paraphrase or summarise meaning and/or not presented in a format/tone appropriate for a professional setting. Inadequate proofreading.	

### Result



### **Results**

- I haven't had a negative comment about the mid-semester reflection since implementing this change
- Also driven engagement with participation/feedback.
- Qualitative USS feedback on 'practical assessments'
- Identify about 5-10% of students whose professional writing definitively benefitted from guidance.



### Fin



## **Questions/Discussion**



### **End Slide**



# **Showcase 4**

Accounting Capstone Project with USYD's Sydney Analytical

Maria Cadiz Dyball, Antonije Krivokapic and Peter Southon











# L&T:22 Showcase 4

# Accounting Capstone Project with USYD's Sydney Analytical

#### Presented by:

Dr Maria Cadiz Dyball Anthony Krivokapic Dr Peter Southon





# Capstone principles

- Transformative educational experience
  - Empowering students to self and peer assess and judge quality
  - Formative and summative feedback from peers, academic facilitators and the 'client' Sydney Analytical.
- Meaningful, authentic and multiple evidences of achievement
- Teamwork and self and peer review
- Aligned with Learning Outcomes





#### Choosing your area of focus

The project allows your team to choose one specific area of improvement that you will focus on. These are:

- Enhancing stakeholder management and value-creation
- Enhancing the management of risks and opportunities
- Enhancing the strategic direction and value creation
- Enhancing commercial capacities

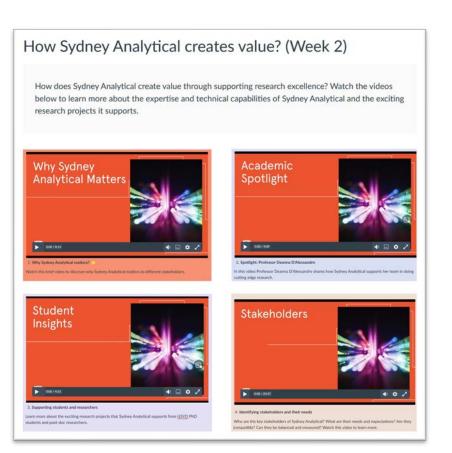
### Sydney Analytical staff and stakeholders

• Unprecedented access and cooperation



### **Project modules**

- Sense-making and solving unstructured problems
  - Why Sydney Analytical matters?
  - What is 'value'?



### **Progressive assessment**

- Progressive project development
- Forming team identity:
  - Strengths and value statements
- Progressive development of ideas:
  - Defining the problem scope and team's solutions
  - Initial scope proposals
- Engaging others:
  - A sense of agency
  - Peer-feedback across groups

	Tasks	When
Preparing your team	<ul> <li>Understanding the Sydney Analytical project goals</li> <li>Sign the confidentiality agreement</li> </ul>	
	Group formation and project introduction	
	Preparing the team charter & working on the initial project proposal	
Developing your project proposal	Group presentation: Initial project proposal	
	Providing peer feedback & Responding to peer feedback	
	Final project proposal	Week 7
Developing your project	Check-up session & post your questions for Sydney Analytical	
	→ Q&A session with Sydney analytical	Week 10
Final presentation and report	→ Project report: Your value-enhancing action plan	Week 11
	Capstone project presentation	Week 12

### **Q&A** with Sydney Analytical

Q&A session



- 1. What are the unique advantages or disadvantages of Sydney Analytical (SA), which could affect its competitive advantage?
- 2. Does the close relationship with USYD pose any risks and challenges for Sydney Analytical? If so, why?
- 3. Has SA faced any particular challenges during Covid-19, such as a decline in funding due to a reduction in the number of students?
- 4. Are there any measures to control the budget so that funds can be used more efficiently?
- 5. How does SA recruit and select new employees?
- 6. How does SA retain high-quality talent?
- 7. How does SA establish and maintain long-term and stable cooperative relations with stakeholders?
- 8. Does SA run an online forum where researchers can communicate with staffs and each other? What were/might be the difficulty to run such a forum?
- 9. How does SA receive feedback on the equipment booking system and what are the procedures to respond to feedback
- 10. Are there peaks and troughs in the frequency of machine use? How long is a machine usually reserved?
- 11. What are your current performance measures?

### **Project reports and outcomes**

- Final 3 presentations & reports
  - SA staff involved in judging
  - Identified opportunities
  - Mixture of new perspectives & misunderstandings
- Organisational reflection

























## Question?





### **Next sessions**

#### See the L &T Forum website for next sessions:

- 12:00 1.00pm
   Lunch break
- 1:00pm 2:30pm
   Research and Student Experience



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Thank you!







