



Queensland, Australia

2017

DONOR IMPACT REPORT





A message of thanks

It is my pleasure to present Griffith University's 2017 Donor Impact Report and to personally thank our supporters for your part in what has been a truly remarkable year.

In 2017, your generosity again affirms a shared belief in the importance and power of education. At Griffith, our learning, teaching, facilities and future strategies are informed and enhanced by your generous contributions.

We also believe that everyone has a right to a university education, so your support is especially valuable when it helps students challenged by disadvantage.

In this and so many other ways, our donors enable the University, researchers and students to continue striving for the ideas, discoveries, opportunities and outcomes that not only change lives, but can change the world.

Thank you for making a remarkable difference.

Ian O'Connor

Professor Ian O'Connor AC
Vice Chancellor and President



Closing the gap

The value of donor support was clear in the success of acclaimed First Peoples artists Gordon Hookey (pictured right) and Dale Harding in 2017.

The Queensland College of Art graduates were among just three Australian artists invited to exhibit at documenta 14, a blockbuster international exhibition held every five years and described as “the art Olympics”. Attracting more than a million visitors, this year it was staged in Athens and Kassel, Germany.

With the help of donations the QCA and Griffith University Art Museum worked with exhibition organisers to publish two high-quality publications supporting Gordon and Dale’s work.

Distributed at documenta 14 and then throughout Europe, these publications highlight the wonderful talent of two alumni, enhance the reputation of the QCA and convey the cultural and artistic significance and depth of contemporary Australian Indigenous art.



Photography: Mick Richards

Fighting against malaria

“This is what will make a difference, a better world and save lives. It is being done in our corner of the world, for the world.”

So said Australia’s Governor General, Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Rtd), when he visited the Institute for Glycomics in March to launch the Malaria Vaccine Project.

In encouraging support for vital research in the fight against one of the world’s most insidious diseases, that goal is aided thanks to the tireless efforts of groups such as the Rotary Club.

“This research could be the gateway to sustainable development of the vaccine and its use in eradicating malaria worldwide,” says Rotary past district governor Emeritus Professor Graham Jones AM.

This partnership means the project is well over halfway to achieving its goal and closer to clinical trials starting in 2018.





“This program is important not simply because it shows students what is available in terms of their tertiary study options. It also provides them with a lifestyle experience.”

Ms Toni Clarence
Goondiwindi SHS
Guidance Officer

Bringing rural students to the city

It's not easy making the transition from rural to city life. That's why students from Goondiwindi State High School were in such good hands when they spent a week visiting the Gold Coast and Brisbane to gain invaluable insight into life at Griffith University.

Chaperoned by Goondiwindi local and Griffith education graduate Toni Clarence (pictured left), the annual visit is made possible by the Vern Kleinschmidt Community Trust. The late Mr Kleinschmidt was a much-loved local veterinarian and the trust is part of a legacy benefiting the Goondiwindi community.

"I remember how daunting it was when I left Goondiwindi to come to university," says Toni. "Our students now have a clearer idea of what to expect and will be more confident and comfortable when the time comes to make their decision."

Rebuilding after disaster

An international charitable trust is supporting Griffith University's role in a major rebuilding project for a cyclone-devastated area of Vanuatu.

Griffith's Climate Change Response Program is contributing to the Tafea Provincial Government of Vanuatu's revitalisation plan on Tanna Island, which is still recovering from the destruction and loss of life wrought by Cyclone Pam in 2015.

The Enkatalie area of Tanna was one of the hardest hit when the cyclone struck, destroying homes, community buildings, businesses, infrastructure and vegetation. The goal is to rebuild in ways that improve resilience in the face of ongoing and future extreme weather events.

With buildings designed and constructed by Brisbane-based company Nev House, and a Mini Power System invented by Gold Coast firm Green NRG Co, Griffith University has a three-year research contract to undertake independent monitoring and evaluation.

This project would not be possible without the funding support.



Making musical dreams travel

Being invited to join the prestigious Royal College of Music in London reflects violinist Iona Allan's (pictured right) ability and potential, as well as the quality of teaching at the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University.

However, Iona may not have made it to London at all without the generosity behind the Ena Williams Award for Postgraduate Study Overseas.

"The scholarship is an amazing opportunity for a young female musician," says Iona. "The bequest is such a massive help. My parents are wonderfully supportive, but they're not in a position to send me to London. This really has given me the ideal start".

Ms Glenda Page established the scholarship in memory of her mother, Ena Williams.



Scholarship impact three years on

In 2014, Krystal Flynn (pictured left) received a Griffith Futures Scholarship to help her through the final year of her education degree. Now she has come full circle, being an award-winning teacher who is also supporting the University.

“I can’t imagine being the person I am today without the support I received. Now I’m in a position to help other students. I like going from receiving to giving,” says Krystal.

Krystal launched her teaching career at Tagai State College on Saibai Island, one of Queensland’s most remote communities situated just four kilometres from Papua New Guinea and 150 kilometres north of Cape York.

In 2016, she received the Excellence in Beginning to Teach Award from the Queensland College of Teachers.

“I believe education is the best way to improve a person’s life chances. I believe I was meant to teach and I love doing it to the best of my ability. Griffith gave me the opportunity to do what I wanted to do and be what I wanted to be.”

Krystal Flynn

Scholarship recipient, alumni donor







“This is our region, Australia’s region, and it is right for Griffith to reflect upon its already strong connections with Asia, assess where it sits at this moment, and identify the next stages in its multi-layered relationship with the region.”

Professor Russell Trood (Dec'd)

Staff legacy bequest

During a distinguished career in education, politics and international relations, the late Professor Russell Trood was driven by the desire to shape and inform a better and fairer world.

Such goals are inherent in the Russell Trood Prize for International Relations, donated through Professor Trood’s estate and administered by the Griffith Business School. For the next 10 years this annual prize will go to the highest achieving first-year international relations student at Griffith University.

A former Director of the Griffith Asia Institute, Professor Trood brought an extensive and intimate understanding of the Asia-Pacific region to the role. He also possessed a special ability to build meaningful relationships across the region.

“It’s not enough to educate our students about Asia’s politics, languages, economics and cultures. That is just one aspect of Griffith’s responsibility,” he said. “Throughout the Asia-Pacific region, political, economic and social change is occurring, wealth is growing, a new middle class is emerging and political relations are dynamic.”

When Professor Trood passed away in early 2017, his loss inspired a stream of tributes acknowledging his long and admirable contribution. This is echoed in the prize that carries his name.



Lily's story

Even with the degenerative eye condition Cone Rod Dystrophy, Griffith Film School student Lily Mitchell (pictured left) is a young woman of inspiring vision: "If you didn't laugh, you'd be a very sad soul. I don't have time to feel sorry for myself. There's so much I want to do." A recipient of a Griffith Futures Scholarship Lily would love to direct and write film, and is also drawn to film design, set dressing, makeup and costume design.

"I know what it's like to fall behind in the rent. I know how hard it's been for Mum and Dad. Now I can focus on my degree knowing that the financial pressure has been lifted."

"Film has always been a stress relief for me. The Griffith Futures Scholarship is stress relief too. I'm so grateful," says Lily.

Students' future fund

Griffith University is committed to providing a world-class education for all our students. But for some the road to graduation and beyond is challenged by personal and financial hardship.

In 2017 Griffith University's Students' Future Fund distributed \$550,000 in life changing scholarships. This Fund is awarded to students who are excelling at university while also facing personal or financial disadvantage.

There were celebrations all round in July when donor generosity saw Griffith University's Annual Appeal top \$100,000 for the first time, meaning more lifechanging scholarships can be offered in 2018.

The Annual Appeal is administered through the Students' Future Fund and provides Griffith Futures Scholarships. Each scholarship is worth \$5000, with the University matching every donation dollar for dollar.



110
GRIFFITH FUTURES
SCHOLARSHIPS
IN 2017



\$550,000
IN LIFE CHANGING
SCHOLARSHIPS



276
ANNUAL APPEAL
DONORS



200+
STAFF DONORS

Alumni fund scholarship

Members of the Griffith Business School Alumni Advisory Group are reaching into their own pockets to fund a \$3,500 scholarship for a GBS student.

Group chairman Mr Paul Hodgson (pictured right) says there was a very important reason he wanted to contribute his own money to the fund: "As a first in family university student, my Griffith University education set the foundations for a successful career," he says.

Fellow member Mr Joshua Lumley agrees: "We want to show what a small group of individuals can contribute as a collective, and just how big an impact that can have on a student's life."



Spinal research — collective solutions

The power of collective philanthropy is helping Griffith University researchers as they seek a cure for spinal cord paralysis.

Adding to the support of groups such as the Clem Jones Foundation and the Perry Cross Spinal Research Foundation (PCSRF), in May 2017 the Queensland Government invested \$5 million in a Griffith University-led pre-clinical trial to prove that a “nerve bridge” across a damaged spinal cord may be the answer to otherwise permanent paralysis.

Led by Dr James St John (pictured right), Head of the Clem Jones Centre for Neurobiology and Stem Cell Research, the project is being conducted across two of the University’s leading research institutes: the Griffith Institute for Drug Discovery and the Menzies Health Institute Queensland.

“Griffith’s spinal injury cure project has the potential to help remove barriers for spinal cord nerve cells and enable functional recovery—which would position Queensland research as the global leader in this key medical research and injury recovery field,” said Queensland Premier The Honourable Annastacia Palaszczuk MP.





Contact us

Development and Alumni Office
The Chancellery (G34)
Gold Coast campus, Griffith University
Southport QLD 4222
(07) 5552 7218
giving@griffith.edu.au

 **Griffith**
UNIVERSITY
Queensland, Australia