

Griffith

ALUMNI AND COMMUNITY MAGAZINE JULY, 2014



WE'RE FLYING

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VC

It is only when you stop to look back over the history of an institution that you gain some idea of the continuity of its contributions and the expansion of its influence.

The growth of Griffith University in just under four decades is astounding. It is hard to imagine that we opened our doors in 1975 to an initial cohort of just 451 students on a single campus at Nathan. Almost 40 years later, we have more than 43,000 students on five campuses and over 283,000 alumni. Our campuses have been transformed with world-class research and teaching infrastructure featuring dynamic and advanced facilities.

Our significant growth in size and scale corresponds with our growth in stature and reputation. Our researchers are addressing some of the most significant challenges facing humankind while our teachers are inspiring the great minds of tomorrow. Griffith alumni are spread across the globe, many of them occupying key leadership roles in government, industry and professional bodies.

From its foundation days, Griffith University has had a strong international focus, and one of our key goals has been to enhance our engagement with the Asia-Pacific region. Nowhere is this more evident than in the work of Professor Emeritus Colin Mackerras AO. Colin has spent the past 50 years shaping Australia-China relations and his contributions to deepening Griffith's engagement in Asia continue to this day.

For the past 40 years, Griffith staff, students and alumni have made major contributions to educational, social, technological and economic progress. The stories in this magazine highlight the broad spectrum of this influence. They are inspiring and exemplify a commitment to the community and to undertaking work which delivers a social dividend.

Professor Ian O'Connor
Vice Chancellor and President



Clinton Dines served as President of BHP Billiton China from 2001-09 and is a member of the Griffith University Council

I would never have made it to Griffith University without Gough Whitlam. When the former Labor Prime Minister abolished tertiary tuition fees in the 1970s, it meant someone like me – bog Irish ancestry, Maryborough-born, part of a working-class family with very deep Queensland roots – could do what few in my family had ever imagined.

I was 17 when I arrived on campus at Nathan. That's not really an age for making major decisions and plenty of my friends and family queried the wisdom of enrolling in Griffith's fledgling Asian Studies program.

That's why it's funny, thinking back, because Asian Studies was always my first and only choice. It must have had something to do with my high school Modern History teacher, quite the radical, who talked to us about Indonesia and China. She showed us a map and I was surprised at how close Asia was to us. People called Asia the Far East, but it was right there.

Today, as the countries of Asia and particularly China increasingly assert their place and influence in an economically and politically changing world, 'right there' still sounds too

far away. That's because Asia is right here, in every sense, and it cannot and should not be ignored or treated with complacency.

In my Griffith days, Professor Colin Mackerras led the Asian Studies program and in 1979 it was his openness, enthusiasm and experience of life in Asia that persuaded me to leave Australia with a group of other postgrads to begin a two-year exchange program in China.

Back then, what happened in China didn't impact much in Australia. Moreover, China's relationship with the world was uneasy and mysterious. I reflected on those days in an article for Griffith's *Red* magazine in 2009:

"When I arrived in China in the late 1970s, the economy was dormant, life was overseen by the authorities in a manner that can only be described as Orwellian, the country was a dark, dismal and somewhat fearful place to live and most people were hungry... it was something of a shock to discover how harsh life could really be under another system in another culture in a heavily populated nation-state..."

I then went on to discuss the remarkable rate and breadth of change in China during the

VIEW FROM THE NEAR EAST

In 1979, Clinton Dines landed in China as part of a postgraduate exchange program organised by Colin Mackerras, Foundation Professor in Asian Studies at Griffith University. Thirty-five years later, Mr Dines is still there, a successful Westerner in a nation at the forefront of the Asian Century

ensuing 30 years, concluding: "This truly ain't the China I arrived in all those years ago."

Five years further on and the pace of growth and change in China continues unabated. And while externally it receives more attention these days, as is only befitting the emergence of a cultural and economic powerhouse, I wonder whether the quality of interaction between China and the rest of the world is as acute and functional as some would have us believe. And I wonder what this means for Australia.

For decades Australia has existed in its part of the world under the protection of an alliance founded and administered in another part of the world. This northern Atlantic influence may be starting to diminish, which is why Australia must seriously consider the content and quality of its narrative with Asia, including the concepts that drive interaction and the political will to adjust for the future. Australia must be well-informed and smart.

To quote again from that earlier article: "China's global significance is now such that we all have an interest in monitoring developments closely and in finding ways to

interact with China which recognise both the achievements and the challenges."

China has always been about challenges, especially for the outsider. I've been here for 35 years, it is the experience of my adult life and I have loved living, working and raising my family here. That being the case, I also believe my clarity of identity – that aforementioned bog Irish, Queensland country boy – helped me to cope with the hard-nosed reality of China. I have seen so many who could not.

China is still an incredibly exclusive nation and one that is extremely challenging to your world view and sense of identity

As much as modern China is emerging more and more in the global context, it is still an incredibly exclusive nation and one that is extremely challenging to your world view and sense of identity. The Chinese know who they are and are not threatened by who you might be. Understanding this

should be a platform from which future engagement can spring.

When I came to Griffith University in the 1970s, one of its platforms was to establish a leadership position on engagement with Asia. Decades later that determination remains firm.

If we show leadership and if we're good at what we do, we can build credibility – public, corporate, political – broaden the narrative between Australia and Asia, give a foundation of fact and effect, share priorities and remove half-truths and misapprehensions.

As for me, I've been privileged to witness the rapid unfolding of history over the past 35 years as an Australian living in China. That this phenomenon is now interesting to the rest of the world doesn't make it any less fascinating for me.

This truly still ain't the China I arrived in all those years ago, but the Asian Century has really only just begun.

I am still extremely engaged in thinking about how that is going to evolve.

Special feature: Griffith's Asian engagement, pages 12-17

COVER IMAGE: Bachelor of Aviation students Alice McCabe and Lucy Creamer.
Story P8.
Image: Murray Rix

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DEEP IMPACT

From diving with sharks to monitoring deadly jellyfish, Griffith researchers Sarah Richmond and Shannon Klein are building a pool of knowledge about the marine environment. **Michael Jacobson** reports



Image: Seanna Cronin

Sarah Richmond's gestures become more extravagant, her eyes widen and the tone of her voice finds a higher level. If this is what occurs when merely talking about her brush with a 5.5-metre great white shark, imagine what it was like being in the water with it.

"It was at Neptune Island in South Australia. I was in a cage and when she swam towards me it was like being in the path of a small plane. Her girth was mind-boggling," says Sarah.

"We had some bait and she went for it, gliding past at touching distance. I was jumping, waving, screaming with joy. I think about that day all the time. Eventually I'll find the right words to describe it."

Sarah has other stories, such as her first ever dive off Portsea in Victoria when a Port Jackson shark swam through her legs, circled her twice and in doing so launched Sarah's scientific obsession; or the time at Julian Rocks, off Byron Bay, when she scratched the belly of a perfectly content manta ray that measured 5m from wingtip to wingtip.

Having graduated from Griffith University with a Bachelor of Science (Marine Biology and Ecotourism), then completed Honours doing research that involved mapping inner-continental shelf habitats from Tweed Heads to Moreton Island, Sarah is now a research assistant with the Australian Rivers Institute at Griffith's Gold Coast campus.

She's also a bona fide media personality thanks to her role as presenter, producer and researcher for the *Sarah Shark Project*, an independently made television series that fused science, nature, conservation and travel and screened through the Nine Network.

With episodes devoted to the wobbegong, whale shark, grey nurse, reef shark, Port Jackson shark and the great white, the series was an adventure for Sarah and her production team. However, their excitement never obscured the fundamental aim to use interactive education to celebrate and demystify the 'villain of the seas'.

"I've always sided with the shark," explains Sarah. "When I was about 10, I was out surfing with my dad and some kid yelled 'Shark!'. Even then I wanted to see it. I remember thinking as people rushed out of the water: what is this fear?"

"I've seen some amazing things in the ocean and I get goosebumps every time. That's



Main image: Sarah Richmond. Above: Shannon Klein with a specimen of *Cassiopea*

the thing about sharks, about the ocean in general. You can never know everything, but there's always something to learn."

That sentiment is echoed by PhD researcher Shannon Klein, who is happy to leave any close encounters of the shark kind to Sarah while she focuses on an equally intriguing and also potentially deadly marine creature: the jellyfish.

The series was an adventure for Sarah and her production team. However, their excitement never obscured the fundamental aim to use interactive education to celebrate and demystify the 'villain of the seas'

"Jellyfish are known as the cockroaches of the sea," says Shannon matter-of-factly as she reaches into a beaker and extracts a specimen of *Cassiopea*, genus of the so-called upside-down jellyfish. "That doesn't sound very complimentary, but they're interesting, they're environmentally influential and we don't know enough about them."

In the second year of her PhD and based on the Gold Coast, Shannon graduated from Griffith with a Bachelor of Science (Environment) majoring in Marine Biology

and in 2012 did Honours alongside her Australian Rivers Institute colleague Sarah Richmond. The two friends are also regular dive partners.

Jellyfish are the subject of expanding research, particularly regarding jellyfish swarms, or blooms, in which masses of sometimes hundreds of thousands of individuals carry major environmental and economic ramifications.

Shannon was the lead author of a recent study that ran climate change simulation experiments to investigate the effect of ocean acidification on the spread of Australia's deadly Irukandji tropical jellyfish.

It's the first step towards assessing if Irukandji pose a significant threat to tourism and human health in southeast Queensland, because among all species that could potentially expand their range south, the Irukandji would have one of the greatest socio-economic impacts.

Gently returning *Cassiopea* to the water, Shannon holds the beaker up to the light.

"Funny, for all the time I spend with jellyfish, they still scare me a little," she confesses.

"There's just something about them. They have no brain, no blood, no heart, they're just a pulse in the water and yet some of them can kill you. How is that not fascinating?"

JULY 2013 HIGHLIGHTS

More than 3000 students graduate from Griffith University at ceremonies in Brisbane and on the Gold Coast.

Finland's University of Jyväskylä awards Professor Stephen Billett an Honorary Doctorate for his contribution to educational science.

Queensland Conservatorium graduates win the Beleura Prize for best piano trio at the prestigious Asia-Pacific Chamber Music Competition.

The Australian Teacher Education Association names Dr Leonie Rowan its ATEA/Pearson National Educator of the Year.

Griffith University is a major contributor to a research project aimed at improving the wellbeing of children in disadvantaged communities.

ROCKET MAN

Tim Gibson says that if a dream shatters, don't despair. Fate may lead to experiences beyond one's wildest dreams... even beyond the Earth. **Michael Jacobson** reports

Donning his flight suit, Tim Gibson gazes at the ceiling dome at the Sir Thomas Brisbane Planetarium and marvels at a breathtaking vision of Planet Earth. Stars sparkle in a galactic dot painting from which Australia appears in ochres and coastal green. A ribbon of cloud sweeps the south of the continent.

It is a stunning view, yet no more stunning than the news that next year Griffith University graduate Tim will be one of the few humans granted the opportunity to witness it from space.

"I've been to this planetarium many times and looked up at the stars and the planets. But when I get up there for real, I'll be looking down. It's taken a while to come to grips with that," says Tim.

Brisbane-born Tim is the only Australian in a 23-strong international contingent that will launch from Space Expedition Corporation (SXC) headquarters on the Caribbean island of Curacao late next year or early in 2016.

SXC is a leading player in the fledgling industry of space tourism and Tim will be flying in the SXC Lynx Mark 2 rocket-powered spaceplane, a suborbital craft that can carry one captain, small payloads and, for one hour at least, one excited property manager from Yeppoon.

"Take-off will be like a normal aircraft and then it's 103 kilometres straight up," says Tim. "We'll accelerate at three times the speed of sound in the first minute and I'll spend around eight minutes or so in space, weightless, looking at the curvature of the Earth below and the stars and darkness above."

The 29-year-old, who completed a Bachelor of Commerce with a double major in Management and Human Resource Management at Griffith from 2003 to 2005,



But while many competitions are decided by chance, Tim's invitation to be part of the Lynx Space Academy flight crew says much for his intelligence, physical fitness, technical skills and, in no small part, his courage and calm. To go into space, it surely helps to be down to earth.

Flying has always been Tim's first love. His father travelled extensively for his work in the hotel industry and often took his son with him; by the time Tim turned two, he was a veteran of around 200 domestic flights.

"There's a magic to flying. I was never a sci-fi fan, but when I was about six I became curious about space," says Tim. "I'd watch the shuttle launches and wonder where they were going and what they were doing."

Securing his student pilot's licence at 16 and a private licence at 19, Tim's dream was to become an RAAF flier. At Griffith he incorporated aviation electives into his commerce degree, including courses on airmanship and aviation management.

However, the strength of Tim's dedication was juxtaposed by a weakness in his eyesight and he fell agonisingly short of RAAF pilot requirements. It was a dream shattered. But dreams can change.

As Tim waits for his journey of all journeys, he will undergo more tests and tasks in the lead-up to his flight. He has launched a blog, timfinityandbeyond.com, and may return to Griffith University to pursue a MBA.

Back inside the planetarium, the Earth and stars fade as the lights are brought up.

"Well, that was something to see," says Tim, whose eyes may once have let him down, but who soon will see further than most people ever have or ever will.

The irony is out of this world.

was selected for the once-in-a-lifetime trip after he and 105 other competition finalists travelled to Kennedy Space Centre in Florida in late 2013 and were subjected to a rigorous examination of their space flight potential.

"It was full-on. As well as completing a military assault course, I pulled up to 4Gs in the centrifuge and pulled some high G forces in an SF-260 Marchetti fighter aircraft doing loops, barrel rolls and drills. I also loved the experience of zero gravity when we went up in a converted 727," says Tim.

"It was such a weird feeling, but I wasn't nervous and I wasn't sick. The same can't be said for the film crew floating up there with us."

If such experiences were understandably thrilling for this aviation and aeronautical devotee, the journey from space fan to space man occurred through less conventional means, namely a global competition hosted by deodorant company Lynx and entered by more than a million hopefuls.



Image: Murray Rix

AUGUST 2013 HIGHLIGHTS

Griffith Open Day welcomes 16,000 visitors who explore our South Bank, Nathan and Gold Coast campuses.

Griffith launches its first two MOOCs (Massively Open Online Courses) through the Open2Study platform.

The Gold Coast campus welcomes more than 5000 people, including 1500 competitors, for the Gold Coast Languages Speech Contest.

Pro Vice Chancellor (Sciences) Professor Debra Henly announces the comprehensive Bachelor of Science Degree for 2014.

One of the most celebrated figures in world cinema, multiple Oscar-winning Lord David Puttnam, delivers a series of seminars for Griffith University.



Lucy Creamer and Alice McCabe have RAAF careers in their sights

JOINING THE JET SET

Aviation students Lucy Creamer and Alice McCabe are taking advantage of a new RAAF pilot program at Griffith

Lucy Creamer remembers her first solo flight with great affection. The flying part, that is, if not so much the landing.

"It was great. Take-off went well and it was wonderful being up there, alone and in control, piloting a Cessna 172 and loving every minute of it," says Lucy, whose grandfather flew Spitfires during World War II.

"Coming into land I was a bit nervous and started thinking: 'Am I ready for this? Just get it down. Is this really what you want to do with your life, Lucy?'"

"As it turned out, the landing was fine and smooth and I felt pure joy followed by absolute certainty. This was exactly what I wanted to do with my life."

Best friend and Bachelor of Aviation colleague Alice McCabe's first solo flight was in a single-engine Tobago and was pure joy from the start.

"Before I took off, my instructor kept asking whether I was OK and reminding

me of what I had to do. I told him 'Yes, yes, all right, go away'. I couldn't wait to get up there and I smiled the whole time."

Lucy and Alice have even more reason to smile as they navigate a course towards what they hope will be successful aviation careers, aided by a new graduate pilot program offered by the Royal Australian Air Force in collaboration with Griffith.

The two mates will graduate in December and both are eager to be among the first women to earn their RAAF wings under the new scheme. Lucy has already completed the first stage of the application process.

With women comprising only three per cent of Air Force pilots – less than half the civilian aviation participation rate – the RAAF Graduate Pilot Scheme was launched in March this year to boost the female participation rate. Head of Aviation at Griffith, Associate Professor

Paul Bates, says the breakthrough program reflects Griffith's commitment to women in aviation.

"We are anticipating a strong response to this attractive new scheme which seeks to remove some of the traditional barriers to becoming an Air Force pilot," he says.

Offered to all of Griffith's female aviation students, the benefits of the scheme include earning a salary while completing flying hours; having practical flying hours paid by the RAAF; a minimal return of service obligation; and reimbursement of university fee debt.

Alice and Lucy are hoping to fly fighter jets and demonstrated ace ability when trying out the RAAF's F/A-18 Super Hornet simulators.

"We both want to fly Hornets, that's our dream, although Alice did shoot me down twice," says Lucy. "It's exciting to think we could be the first female fighter pilots in Australia, flying elite aircraft in an elite team."

IN SHARP FOCUS

After six years as an Australian soldier, Matt Sharp is thriving at university as he commands his own destiny

Standing at the lectern inside the Moot Court at Griffith University's Nathan campus, Matt Sharp is keenly aware of how his life is changing. While discipline and judgment remain key factors, their context could not be more different.

After six years as an Australian Army rifleman during which he completed deployments in East Timor in 2010 and Afghanistan in 2012, Matt admits he is still adjusting to his new life as a Criminology and Laws double degree student at Griffith, and as a civilian generally.

Even so, Matt continues to be served well by the qualities that in Afghanistan saw him commended for conduct and leadership during 'several incidents involving the neutralisation of improvised explosive devices and insurgent caches' and other 'high stress and potentially deadly circumstances'.

Last year Matt received the Griffith Award for Academic Excellence and the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice 2013 Undergraduate Book Prize for Excellence in Academic Achievement. Welcomed into the Griffith Honours College, Matt has the opportunity to apply to study law at the City University of Hong Kong later this year.

Not bad for a fellow who failed to complete Year 10, dropped out of an apprenticeship and found his fair share of teenage strife.

"I never really had an education. My dad Ivan works for the Department of Foreign Affairs and we were posted all over the world when I was a kid," says Matt. "I went to international schools in Kuala Lumpur, Poland and Jakarta before we came back to Canberra when I was 14. I struggled to fit in. I didn't really have an aim in life and couldn't find my way.



Image: Murray Rix

Matt Sharp is now applying the discipline of army life to his studies

"The army was good for me. It taught me discipline and gave me a purpose. And even if it sounds strange to say so, especially when you're drawing small arms fire or your base is being rocketed day after day, the truth is I enjoyed it."

Eventually, however, another truth began to dawn on Matt. "As the rotations to Afghanistan were being reduced, I realised that it was the perfect time to leave the army to try to obtain the education I'd never had. As much I enjoyed the army, if I wanted to try something new I had to leave while I was still young."

Matt, 27, began his Criminology and Criminal Justice degree in 2013 and added Laws halfway through that year. He says there's more pressure with a double degree, then adds that at least study doesn't come with gunfire and mines.

"Maybe I'm a bit of a nerd," he says, smiling. "The army taught me the value of pre-planning, strategising, staying focused and recognising what needs to be done to achieve a goal."

"Now, instead of using those skills to protect a diplomat or to stay composed in a battle zone when your head's on a swivel, I'm using those skills to get the best grades I can and to translate those results into whatever happens next."

"I attended the Dawn Service and visited mates at Enoggera Barracks on Anzac Day and it showed me that, in a way, I'll always be a soldier. We're bound together by our experiences."

"The difference is I'm taking what the army gave me and I'm applying it to another side of life, to another future. I realise I have a way to go. But I'm giving it a go."

■ The latest phase in Griffith Education graduate Susan Kersland's already diverse career is, as she puts it, a different kind of teaching in a different kind of classroom.

Susan is an Education Officer for Solid Pathways, a Queensland Government initiative using online learning and collective engagement to support high-achieving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and others in out-of-home care.

Hundreds of children are involved in Solid Pathways across metropolitan Brisbane and Susan shares responsibility for the Year 4-5 cohort.

"It's been such an exciting challenge to create the kind of online learning environment that nurtures the students and shows them that being a high achiever is a good thing and that they can be successful in the future," says Susan, who graduated with a Bachelor of Education with Honours in 2008 and is currently completing her Masters in Educational Leadership.

Since leaving Griffith, Susan has fulfilled various roles for Education Queensland, including teacher, curriculum writer, literacy coach and principal.

In 2013 she returned to Brisbane from Laura, in Queensland's far north, where she was a teaching principal. She is also a former Queensland finalist in the Pride of Australia awards for her work on improving the educational outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

"Statistics show that levels of high achievement among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students tend to fall away as their education progresses through critical transition periods," she says.

"Through Solid Pathways, we're trying to reverse that trend by supporting students through these periods. It allows them to connect with like-minded peers in a weekly philosophical and collaborative inquiry."

RISING ABOVE

Not so long ago, Jill Guljas was living in a homeless shelter in Brisbane. An apprentice hairdresser pregnant with her second child, life's grim reality was that of welfare and wishful thinking.

How times have changed. In 2013 Jill completed a Bachelor of Psychological Science at Griffith University and was also named the Attorney General's Indigenous Law Student of the Year.

She was joined by daughters Juliana, 12, and Kaitlyn, 6, at the Brisbane Exhibition and Convention Centre when she received the first of her degrees. It was fitting the children were there, for they represent so much of the reason for their mother's inspirational journey.

"In 2007, Juliana and I had been living in the homeless shelter for three months," says Jill. "One morning I realised that someone else was feeding us and I felt I had hit rock bottom.

"I couldn't provide for my daughter and I had another one on the way. I made a decision to save up and get my head in gear."

Jill's new focus led her to Griffith University where she started her psychology degree in 2010, aged 25.

"Coming to university was massive. Being a mum so young, there's an inclination to say it's the only thing. It's not. There are options to do something prosperous," she says.

"I started to realise I was capable of being a mum and a university student. Some women feel locked into motherhood. I think a mother needs her own goals and dreams."

Jill's ambition soared when she discovered she could do a double degree. She started a Bachelor of Laws in 2012.

A single mother at 16 who completed her final year at Woodridge High School while pregnant, unsurprisingly the challenges faced by single mothers are very much the focus of Jill's law studies.



Jill Guljas

She wants to become involved in writing, informing and implementing government policy around child protection, young women and mental health.

"My degrees are a pathway towards this goal where hopefully I can make a difference for other young mothers," says Jill. "I don't want to be a politician or a lawyer. I want to write policy that's implemented. Getting young mums out working and learning requires infrastructure. You have to make it achievable for them."

With her story of raw life experience changed by determination and education, Jill exemplifies what can be achieved even when circumstances couldn't appear worse.

"It wasn't easy, but once the decision was made I refused to give up," she says.

"And if my example can help others, then that's all the more important, and rewarding."



Samarra Toby was among the first cohort of Griffith University medicine students to graduate in 2008 after the program's launch in 2005

SAMARRA'S HOMECOMING

GP Samarra Toby is using her medical degree to improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health

The Callide and Dawson valleys in central Queensland are Gangulu country, where the white cockatoo is a totem signifying light and hope. It's a fitting symbol for the career of Griffith alumnus Dr Samarra Toby.

A Gangulu woman with a profound sense of heritage and responsibility, Samarra grew up on this land, the child of a small Aboriginal community and a family for which the concept of healing held physical, philosophical and cultural meaning.

That concept has assumed even greater significance since Samarra, 32, returned to central Queensland in 2013 to practise as a GP.

Samarra completed her medical degree in 2008 and is now based in Rockhampton, where she is fulfilling her ambition to make a positive contribution to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.

In previous interviews, Samarra has recalled the challenges faced by her community when she was growing up, including limited access to external healthcare and the ongoing issue of lower life expectancy.

Fortunately, encouragement from people within State and Commonwealth health departments led her to undertaking study via a National Indigenous Cadetship with the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing.

After gaining her Bachelor of Science in Brisbane, Samarra's next stop was Canberra, where she worked for the Federal Government in Indigenous Health policy.

"I was mixing with a lot of doctors and a couple of people suggested I would be great working in medicine, so I applied," she says.

"It was Griffith's new Indigenous Health program that sealed the deal. I compared Griffith with other Queensland universities and I was really attracted to the freshness of

a newly launched program that started with only 80 students.

"Because the cohort was so small compared to other unis, I think we really benefitted from one-on-one time with our lecturers and they also valued the feedback we gave them."

After training stints in Proserpine, Airlie Beach and Mackay, in 2013 Samarra received her fellowship with the Royal Australian College of Practitioners and became a fully qualified GP.

Since coming home to work among a diverse population, Samarra has enjoyed reunions with family and friends, new connections with colleagues and the community and, importantly, a historic and cultural education for her young son, Arty. It is very much a time of light and hope.

"I was always meant to come back here. This is the right place for us to be and this is the work I want to do."



Image: Murray Rix

Emeritus Professor Colin Mackerras AO is marking 50 years of connections between Australia and China

FINE CHINA

Few people better reflect Griffith University's engagement with Asia than Emeritus Professor Colin Mackerras AO, who pioneered the Asian Studies program and this year is celebrating a 50-year relationship with China. To launch a six-page special feature on Griffith's Asian commitment, **Deborah Marshall** reports

In 1964, when Colin Mackerras began teaching at the Beijing Foreign Languages Institute, it was the start of a connection with China that has lasted half a century.

Since then he has returned to China 60 times and witnessed its myriad changes – political, social, cultural and economic. He brings invaluable experience to the evolving relationship between China, Australia and, by extension, Griffith University.

A pioneer of Griffith's ground-breaking Asian Studies program, Emeritus Professor Mackerras's credentials are many, impressive and include: Griffith University Foundation Professor in Modern Asian Studies (1974); Gold Citation for the Media Peace Prize (1981); Foundation Cross of Merit Award (1993); Medal for Outstanding Contributions to Australia-China Cultural Relations (1999); Centenary Medal Australia (2003); Doctor of Griffith University (2006); Officer of the Order of Australia (2007); inaugural Director of the Tourism Confucius Institute at Griffith's Gold Coast campus (2011).

Furthermore, he has played a major role in making Chinese Studies a thriving and recognised area of research in Australia, and along the way has inspired generations of Australian students to study in China and vice versa.

Professor Mackerras's first stint in China included the birth of his son Stephen in 1965, the first Australian citizen born in the People's Republic.

The interesting family stories don't end there. Professor Mackerras's eldest brother was the famed conductor Sir Charles Mackerras. His second eldest brother, Alastair, was for many years headmaster of Sydney Grammar School. A third brother, Neil, was active in the early years of the Democratic Labor Party and his twin brother Malcolm is a renowned political commentator.

In February this year, Professor Mackerras's dedication to Sino-Australian relations was celebrated with a photographic exhibition – *China In My Eyes* – on the Gold Coast. As well as capturing his experiences during the past 50 years, it disseminated knowledge of a China unbound by stereotypes.

"Since I've been going to China, I think life has improved enormously for the majority of Chinese, more than I would have thought possible when I first went there. We should regard China's economic success as an opportunity, not a threat," he says.

"Within two years of Mao Zedong's death in 1976, political revolution was out and

economic revolution was in. That was when China began its dramatic economic growth of about nine per cent per year, which it maintains to this day."

In 2012, with the opening of the Tourism Confucius Institute, Professor Mackerras said links between China and Australia would only become stronger. However, his message came with a note of caution.

"It's crucial we understand Chinese culture... China is a country with a magnificent and very long-standing history and culture, which it is short-sighted to ignore."

Professor Mackerras's latest book – *China In My Eyes, Western Images of China since 1949* – embraces recent history, promotes mutual understanding between China and the West and was published in 2013.

It, the subsequent photographic exhibition and Professor Mackerras's strong connection with, and affection for, China are the latest manifestations of his ongoing journey as a cultural ambassador and education leader.

YOUTH UNITY

Elise Giles' determination to be an international citizen springs from worldliness beyond her years. Still only 20, the Griffith Business graduate believes the future strength of the Australia-Asia relationship will owe much to the quality of youth leadership in the present.

In 2012, Elise was a recipient of the Prime Minister's Australia Asia Endeavour Award, which allowed her to study and work in Hong Kong for seven months in 2013. Assimilating quickly, she revelled in the intensity of life among seven million people packed into Asia's 'world city'.

"I completed a semester at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University studying Event Management and Human Resource Management," says Elise, who was also a member of the Griffith Honours College. "I then undertook an internship with international events consultants MCI. That was a real eye-opener in relation to the kind of career I want to pursue."

After identifying the potential to enhance interaction between young Australians and young Chinese, Elise and fellow Endeavour Award recipient – Flinders University's Tom Gerrits – established the Hong Kong chapter of the Australia-China Youth Association.

"ACYA has four chapters in China and multiple chapters in Australia," she says. "While the Hong Kong chapter is still young, it provides opportunities for Australians and locals to establish relationships through language exchange events, cultural activities, speaker

engagement nights, social gatherings and other events.

"I see it as being a foundation for the students that follow; a way of using youth leadership, professional development, cultural education, collaboration and networking to build the relationship between Australia and Asia.

"Youth leadership should be especially encouraged, I believe, because it can do so much towards breaking down cultural and social barriers and stereotypes."

Also in Hong Kong, Elise joined the local branch of Enactus, an international non-profit organisation that brings together student, academic and business leaders committed to using entrepreneurial action to improve the quality of life for people in need.

Before returning to Queensland, she handed the ACYA chapter to another Griffith student and Endeavour Award winner, Georgia Sands, who is doing a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Arts.

Since completing her Bachelor of Business (Event Management and Human Resource Management), Elise is midway through a graduate program with the Queensland Government's Department of Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games. It's another step in a promising career.

"I want to be an international citizen and so much can be achieved through initiatives that increase youth awareness and interaction. I hope to play a part in shaping that future," she says.

NOVEMBER 2013 HIGHLIGHTS

Writers Melissa Lucashenko and Kathy Marks win Walkley Awards for works featured in Griffith REVIEW.

The School of Environment (Urban and Environmental Planning) wins two awards at the PIA 2013 Planning Excellence Awards.

Dean of Law and Head of School, Professor William MacNeil, wins the 2013 Penny Pether Prize for his book, *Novel Judgements*.

Physiotherapy lecturer, Dr Benjamin Weeks, is named the Vice Chancellor's Griffith University Teacher of the Year for 2013.

Griffith's Eskitis Institute marks its 10th anniversary with the announcement of the new Eskitis Foundation Board.

IN SEARCH OF ISLAM

For student Elise Stephenson, the Muslim World Study Tour was memorable, challenging and inspiring

Elise Stephenson knew she was entering new worlds. What she discovered broadened hers.

In January this year, Elise was among 11 students from Griffith University taking part in the Muslim World Study Tour. Led by Associate Professor Halim Rane, from the School of Humanities, this month-long immersion into Islam included stints in Malaysia, Turkey, Spain and Morocco.

In each country the group met political dignitaries, media figures, religious leaders, fellow students and engaged in cultural activities and traditions. And each time Elise found herself asking the same question: is this the real Islam?

“Trying to pinpoint what Islam is, and its effect on each country, is a challenge,” says Elise, who is doing a double degree in Asian Studies and Communications. “While the more obvious elements feeding into a country’s religion act as a gateway, or a glimpse, they are never the full picture.”

This profound learning experience began in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur, a modern city resplendent in steel and glass and the country’s financial, corporate and cultural hub.

“Malaysia has a development-oriented Islamist government and a society that values harmony,” says Elise. “Malays are born Muslim, their mosques seat thousands and the veil is worn by most women. It feels peaceful and the community bonds are strong, although the institutionalisation of religion is inescapable.”

Meanwhile, Turkey is the gateway to Asia, Europe and the Middle East and is a secular society with an Islamic leadership. Its most famous city, Istanbul, is rich in history and heaves with 13 million people, 99 per cent of them Muslim. Within the centuries-old Blue Mosque and Suleymaniye Mosque, Elise absorbed new insights into Islam.



Elise Stephenson: “The more obvious elements feeding into a country’s religion act as a gateway, or a glimpse”

“It was interesting how the majority of women, though permitted to pray with the Turkish men, chose to remain behind partitions off to the side or in the balconies,” she says. “By giving people the option of religion and religiosity, the Islam that emerges in Turkey feels sincere and genuine.”

After travelling to Spain, in an old quarter of Granada the Griffith party attended a whitewashed and red-roofed mosque built in the style of the quaint houses all around. The mosque welcomes visitors and sits proudly opposite the famous Alhambra, its palace buildings and fortress walls standing as symbols of another era.

“The mosque is a community centre and feels right at home nestled in the Andalusian foothills,” says Elise. “In a gesture of peace and goodwill towards the neighbours, it refrains from the 6am call to prayer.”

A different story unfolded in Morocco where the call to prayer did ring out, haunting and beautiful, through the streets of Marrakech.

“By day the streets bustle with shoppers, tourists and locals mingling among stores full of leatherwork, vegetables and dried fruits,” recalls Elise. “But at prayer time, shopkeepers lay sticks across their store entrances or use other objects to obstruct their doorways. There is trust and familiarity as they head off to prayer.”

Across the Muslim world, notes Elise, no mosque looks the same, no community is woven the same way and Islam is neither practised nor manifests identically. The abiding question – is this the real Islam? – turns out to have many answers.

In June 2014, Elise was accepted into the Scholarship Program of the Australian Government’s New Colombo Plan, helping students to study abroad.



Brittany Laidlaw says her time at Griffith inspired the career she is pursuing

ECO WARRIOR

Brittany Laidlaw’s environmental ethos shows she is a woman of the world and for the world

At a time when issues of environmental policy, rising world poverty, shrinking natural resources and effective disaster management have never been more prevalent, 23-year-old Brittany Laidlaw is inspired rather than daunted by the challenges ahead.

The latest of these is a daring initiative to alleviate the recovery of Filipino communities devastated by Typhoon Haiyan last November.

A Bachelor of Business (Sustainable Enterprise) graduate, a former member of the Griffith Honours College and a recipient of the Prime Minister’s Endeavour Australia Asia Scholarship, in the past year Brittany has completed an exchange program with the Geography department at the University of Hong Kong.

She also undertook an internship with Groasis Sustainability, an organisation that works throughout Asia and specialises in projects

demanding creative sustainability in their design and implementation. These include rooftop and vertical gardens, eco-education, land restoration, organic permaculture farming, waste management programs, sustainable housing and post-disaster aid.

For Brittany, this knowledge and experience is being translated into positive and practical outcomes in the Philippines.

Arriving just two weeks after Haiyan swept through the islands to claim more than 6000 lives and cause immeasurable damage, Brittany co-established Green Warrior Permaculture (GWP) to deliver sustainability aid to Barbaza, a municipality within the Antique province on Panay Island.

GWP’s sustainability specialists are applying the principles of permaculture, a creative design process based on ethics and which mimics patterns and relationships found in nature. In disaster zones, permaculture aid uses locally available resources to help rebuild communities, economies and ecosystems.

“GWP is offering training in permaculture design, organic farming, water sanitation management, disaster-resilient construction design and sustainable livelihoods,” says Brittany.

“Our goal over the next two years is to make Barbaza a local and global leader in recovery and resilience.”

Western Australian-born Brittany spent three years at Griffith’s Gold Coast campus where her sensibilities on sustainability fit well with the University’s ethos. Her involvement with a Griffith Community Internship Program was cathartic.

“I was partnered with the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation and based at Burleigh Heads State School, working on a project to address the link between childhood obesity and illness and poor food literacy in primary education” she says.

“It gave me the inspiration to pursue the work I am now doing. It truly changed my life.”

Now Brittany is changing other lives. In the Philippines, GWP has launched a pilot program in two schools to educate children about resilience building and environmental care guided by permaculture principles.

“I’m helping to design, build and run a 30,000 tree seedling nursery and organic kitchen gardens at local primary schools to engage children in reforesting the area and growing their own organic food,” says Brittany.



Dr Ying Wang and Professor Susanne Becken say GIFT research could influence future tourism campaigns

TOURISM'S NEW GIFT

Expanding Asian markets present exciting opportunities for the Australian tourism industry and fierce competition for the domestic and international tourist dollar means there is no room for complacency.

Michael Jacobson reports

In the ultra-competitive tourism industry, old and tired promotional habits are withering in the face of new, evidence-based, ultra-modern products and campaigns. At the forefront of this new era is the Griffith Institute for Tourism (GIFT).

Opened in January 2014 and launched in March, GIFT is based at the Gold Coast campus and is Australia's largest dedicated centre for tourism research. Building on Griffith's established

footing in tourism research, it has a strong focus on the Asia-Pacific.

Director of GIFT, Professor Susanne Becken, says that as the Asian Century evolves, research must deliver quantitative and qualitative knowledge for academic and industry application.

"Griffith's commitment to tourism has always been evident and has assumed greater relevance given China is now Australia's largest tourism market," says Professor Becken.

"I recently returned from a study tour of China during which I met with universities and tourism academics and signed Memoranda of Understanding on teaching and comparative research initiatives.

"Our research at GIFT, aided by our close relationship with Griffith's Tourism Confucius Institute, can help identify what Chinese tourists want

and don't want from their Australian experience, what they like and don't like, what concerns them and so on.

"From a local context, we can deliver evidence-based knowledge on the value of Gold Coast projects such as the Chinatown proposal for Southport, as well as the importance of issues such as direct flights, language barriers, beach safety and sustainable tourism practices."

According to Tourism Australia (TA), 709,000 Chinese tourists visited Australia in 2013, an increase of 14.5 per cent on the previous year and ranking China behind only New Zealand. TA hopes to double Chinese visitations by 2020, lifting annual revenue to above \$9 billion.

Griffith lecturer Dr Ying Wang says GIFT research into the impact of tourism advertising could inform the style and composition of future campaigns to attract visitors to Australia.

"For example, we are looking at state-of-the-art eye-tracking technology to monitor just what people see when they view a promotion or advertisement," says Dr Wang. "The technology picks up the activity of the eye and this data may influence the design and placement of images and content within future promotional material."

GIFT academics are also researching aspects of China Tourism for Australian visitors, including exhibition and conference markets, service quality experiences, outbound expectations among tourists and the potential for adventure and ecotourism.

Other projects reveal the extent of GIFT's reach, including research into the impact of Schoolies Week on Gold Coast residents; the conflict between mining and tourism; adapting the tourism industry to deal with climate change and disaster management; attracting international students to holiday in Australia; and how tourism operators respond to online criticism.

G20-20 VISION

Though the G20 World Leaders Summit has its critics, Professor Andrew O'Neil, pictured, is not among them.

"There's no doubt the G20 will inconvenience some people in Brisbane for those few days in November," says the Head of the School of Government and International Relations. "Streets will close, parts of the city will be cut off and some people will be limited in their movements.

"However, there is a bigger picture at stake here and it reveals that the G20 is well worth the sacrifice."

In November 2014, Australia will be the ninth country to host the G20's assembly of the world's most powerful leaders. Representing 19 nations and the European Union, they will be accompanied by an expected 4000 delegates and similar numbers in media and security.

Responsibility for an event of such magnitude is acknowledgment of Brisbane's increasing maturity and credibility as a world city. Moving forward could be even more exciting if, as Professor O'Neil hopes, the G20 is the catalyst for the next phase of positive social, cultural, political and economic development for Brisbane, Queensland and Australia.

"The G20 is an invaluable opportunity and that's why Griffith University is taking the lead to explain what the G20 is, why Australia is involved and why the decisions that will be made in Brisbane – on global tax reform, investment and infrastructure choices, addressing corruption, and so on – are a big deal."

One of the most significant initiatives will be *Towards Integrity 20* in September. Marking the 25th anniversary of the handing down of the Fitzgerald Inquiry report in Queensland, the two-day, high-level symposium will involve delegates from more than half of the G20 countries and aim to establish new leadership in the area of integrity.

Professor O'Neil is part of a specially formed team of Griffith academics whose



expertise covers all aspects of the G20 and whose summit engagement agenda comprises three key components.

The first is a series of academic workshops generating knowledge of the G20's role in international governance and exemplified by the G20 and Development Conference, a joint initiative between Griffith and the Lowy Institute for International Policy, held in Brisbane in May. Griffith is also collaborating with the University of Toronto's G20 Information Centre.

Secondly, outreach activities are aimed at attracting government and business representatives within Brisbane. The Griffith Business School and international law firm Minter Ellison are co-sponsoring sessions to discuss the G20's core agenda on infrastructure and investment, tax reform and other issues.

Thirdly, in recognition of the importance of international engagement, Griffith is sponsoring a number of high-profile leaders to give talks on aspects of the G20.

Underpinning these activities is analysis of how the G20 fits within the context of Asia's meteoric rise. The central role of China, Indonesia, South Korea and Japan represents a shifting tide of international economic power which favours Australia's geographical proximity, highlighted by the conclusion or near-completion of high-profile Free Trade Agreements with key regional economic partners.

STAY CONNECTED

Our alumni can be found throughout the world and are succeeding in all areas of life. As part of Griffith University's acknowledgement of their achievements, each year events are held to ensure the connection between Griffith and graduates remains strong.

In the past year, Griffith has hosted alumni functions in cities including Shanghai, Jakarta, Toronto, Sydney, Hong Kong and, of course, Brisbane. University Chancellor Ms Leneen Forde AC and Vice Chancellor Professor Ian O'Connor have travelled thousands of kilometres to attend many of these events.

Griffith also supports alumni through the Stay Connected Program, an initiative encouraging alumni to stay in touch as well as take part in professional development activities and networking. Employment opportunities, industry mentoring, postgraduate options and global social events all fall within the gamut of Stay Connected.

Development and Alumni offers several communication options:

Web: griffith.edu.au/development-alumni

Facebook: [facebook.com/griffithalumni](https://www.facebook.com/griffithalumni)

Twitter: twitter.com/griffithalumni

Griffith University Alumni is also featured on the LinkedIn professional network, while the email address for general alumni enquiries is alumni@griffith.edu.au

The following two pages present some of the alumni events of the past year.



Hong Kong (above and below): More than 70 alumni attended this function with the Chancellor and Vice Chancellor



Sydney: Alumni gathered at the prestigious Union, University and Schools Club



Beijing: Graduates, current students and industry partners enjoyed hearing about the latest events at Griffith



Toronto (above and below): New alumni were welcomed and heard a message on the importance of 'staying connected'



Chancellor's Dinner, Gold Coast: Festivities began at the new Griffith Health Centre



Spectacular fireworks impressed alumni at Brisbane's Riverfire



Jakarta (above and right): An impressive group of graduates gathered for this reunion



FEBRUARY 2014 HIGHLIGHTS

Orientation Week, the official beginning of the University year, welcomes students to Griffith campuses for 2014.

Associate Professor Evelin Tiralongo and Dr Shirley Wee from the Griffith Health Institute study the benefits of elderberry capsules on health after long-haul flights.

Griffith's Smart Water Research Centre is involved in a study to find out how Gold Coast residents want to use and pay for water.

A place to scatter ashes and allow quiet reflection for lost loved ones is the purpose of the Griffith University Memorial Sculpture in Southport.

The Griffith Mates join 100 ambassadors to welcome up to 15,000 foreign students arriving through Brisbane Airport this month.

The diversity of Griffith University research projects affirms the mission to be a leader in the pursuit, quality and delivery of new knowledge. The examples on the following four pages attest to that goal

■ Initiatives in science education and research at Griffith University would have impressed the great Thomas Edison, says Queensland Chief Scientist Dr Geoff Garrett AO.

Dr Garrett visited the Nathan campus in October 2013 to open the \$2.4 million refurbished Chemistry Teaching Laboratory in the School of Biomolecular and Physical Sciences, saying: “Edison said vision without implementation is hallucination. This laboratory is an important act of implementation and Edison would be proud of all you are doing here.”

Pro Vice Chancellor (Sciences), Professor Debra Henly, says the laboratory is a standout example in the field of science education and research in Australia.

The laboratory is catering for more than 600 students in 2014 and teaching topics include analytical chemistry, organic, inorganic and physical chemistry, with students experiencing practical chemical techniques covering traditional wet chemistry, complex instrumentation and chemical synthesis.

Open to Griffith undergraduates, students from the Queensland Institute of Business and Technology, research groups and industry bodies, the lab is also being used for the Royal Australian Chemical Institute titration competition, secondary school outreach, seminars, instrumentation demonstrations and training.

Professor Henly says the goal is to equip graduates with hands-on experience of the complex analytical equipment they are likely to come across in the workforce, as well as provide cutting edge analytical tools to assist research.

THEATRE OF WAR

Despite Australia’s military engagement in Afghanistan coming to an end, many young soldiers continue to fight another kind of battle.

For the past three years, a Griffith University research project – *The Difficult Return* – has confronted Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and other mental health issues affecting returning veterans and their families.

By applying theatre therapeutically to encourage veterans to act out and discuss their experiences, the research reached its latest stage – quite literally – this year with a powerful play, *The Return*, featuring ex-military personnel and professional actors.

Estimates vary as to the number of Australian ex-service personnel dealing with PTSD and other mental health conditions. However, with troops serving in Afghanistan, Iraq and the Pacific in recent years, some veterans’ organisations place the number as high as 30 per cent.

Research leader and Chair in Applied Theatre in the School of Education and Professional Services, Professor Michael Balfour, says that while there is more recognition of conditions like PTSD these days, more can be done.

“Throughout the research for *The Difficult Return*, we have engaged veterans and their families through theatre and new approaches to arts-based work,” says Professor Balfour.

“We wanted them to know that even though there may be issues ahead, they are not alone.

“As for the play, the impact on relationships is one of the key themes



Professor Michael Balfour

that the performance tackles. A lot of the emotional conflict tends to be hidden behind closed doors and we’re trying to show those things that people aren’t talking about or are too afraid to discuss.

“For service personnel and their families it’s a chance to look at a performance and ask them: is this your story? It’s also motivation for people to seek help.”

The input of key military and veteran support organisations has been a constant factor in the research for *The Difficult Return*, which has included developing digital stories and short films.

Acclaimed musician and diplomat Fred Smith – who was stationed in Afghanistan for 18 months from 2009 – was also involved, penning a charity single, *Going Home*, that was launched last November and linked to the Mates4Mates ex-service support group.



Director of the Eskitis Institute, Professor Ronald Quinn, with Terri Irwin and her children Bindi and Robert

NATURAL BORN HEALERS

Griffith University’s Eskitis Institute is teaming with the Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve to seek out natural products to form the basis of new medicines. **Rachel Syers** reports

A seemingly endless line of green branches stretches along the bank of the Wenlock River in remote Cape York. The trees, like sentinels, watch over a pristine parcel of land that Australia Zoo’s Terri Irwin likens to ‘Nature’s treasure chest, with secrets yet to be unlocked’.

She also labels the 135,570-hectare Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve as ‘a beautiful Garden of Eden’, a description that could take on even greater significance given what it may harbour, such as a cure for cancer.

The untouched reserve is a legacy to the man whose tragic death seven years ago left his wife Terri, their daughter Bindi and son Robert to continue the Irwin family’s passion for conservation and environmentalism.

Now this same reserve may impact on millions of lives as it becomes the focus of a search by Griffith University scientists seeking both a cure for cancer and the natural products to form the basis of new

medicines to combat other devastating infectious and neuro-degenerative diseases.

Under the arrangement, researchers from Griffith’s Eskitis Institute for Drug Discovery will make seasonal visits to the reserve where they will gather samples for Nature Bank, a storehouse of 200,000 natural products collected from more than 45,000 plants, micro-organisms and marine invertebrates from Australia, Malaysia, China and Papua New Guinea.

The Irwins visited the Eskitis Institute last year and Terri was so impressed by its work and goals that she has granted access to the private reserve, where researchers will also meet with traditional landowners. Terri has also joined the new Eskitis Foundation Board alongside the Institute’s Director, Professor Ronald Quinn.

“It’s going to be very exciting over the years to build up the collection because we will be

going there during different seasons,” he says. “Around the spring areas, there could be new species in these very unique environments.”

Terri Irwin, who won the battle to have the land protected from mining interests, says that with about 70 per cent of modern medication coming from a nature base, Cape York could be a potential goldmine of pharmaceutical value.

“We’ve spent more than six years and \$3 million studying why this reserve was so special,” she says. “Here’s this patch of earth with a previously undescribed ecosystem that features rare, threatened and endangered flora, fauna and things we are still discovering.

“The secret to helping humanity is locked in there and if we can find it before it’s destroyed, we’re all going to be better off.”

Professor Quinn says the Irwins’ legacy will endure for centuries, with just 100 grams of a sample lasting 150 years for research purposes.

■ Expansive research by Professor Mark Finnane is incorporating some of the most notorious cases in Australian criminal history, including the trials of bushranger Ned Kelly and Ronald Ryan, the last man legally executed in Australia.

Professor Finnane was awarded a prestigious Australian Laureate Fellowship in 2013 for a research project going to the heart of the criminal justice system.

Offered through the Federal Government's Australian Research Council, the fellowship is funding what Professor Finnane has dubbed The Prosecution Project, an investigation to advance understanding of the successes, failures and limitations of the criminal trial in Australia from the mid-1800s to the 1960s.

A chief investigator with Griffith's ARC Centre of Excellence in Policing and Security and a Professor of History at the School of Humanities, Professor Finnane says the project is covering all six states to provide an enduring foundational knowledge of Australian criminal jurisdiction in its historical and international contexts.

"Prosecution is at the core of criminal justice. It is the object of investigation and can end in punishment," he says. "Yet as remarkable as the Kelly and Ryan cases may be, our courts deal mostly with more common crimes, such as those against property.

"In tracing the modern history of prosecution, the stories of offenders and victims, causes and consequences in these cases can be brought to light, examined and understood."

By using technology to access the vast archives and media resources available today, Professor Finnane says the project can map changes in prosecution over time, analyse these in relation to evolving social attitudes and explore the growth and impact of criminology and training in the practice of law.



Professor Wendy Moyle with the PARO seals helping people with dementia

ROBOT THERAPY

Griffith University research has identified positive benefits for people with dementia granted access to an ingenious therapeutic technology.

Led by Professor Wendy Moyle and her team at the Griffith Health Institute's Centre for Health Practice Innovation, the project is monitoring the effects of the PARO, a robotic device in the form of a plush toy seal.

Invented in Japan, the PARO responds to touch, temperature, light, voice and even people's names. With each unit costing about \$9000, the technology is already in commercial use in several countries and is being considered for entry into the Australian market.

Previously, Griffith research found that contact with the PARO improved dementia patients' moods and reduced their anxiety and tendency to wander. However, since receiving a \$1m financial boost from the National Health and Medical Research Council, Professor

Moyle has embarked on a much broader examination of the PARO's effectiveness.

The expanded project comprises 380 participants from around 30 nursing homes.

"We are interested in understanding if it is the interactive robotic features of the PARO that reduce emotional, behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia," says Professor Moyle. "We will also conduct a cost analysis of the PARO and/or plush toys as non-pharmacological methods to reduce agitation and improve mood states in people with dementia."

Professor Moyle adds the research may have ramifications for improving patient wellbeing and easing future pressure on aged care facilities.

"If we are able to show that we can reduce psychotropic medication to a patient by 10 per cent by using the PARO or, alternatively, if we can show people can stay at home for longer without admission to a care facility, that would be a fantastic result with direct cost benefits."

WORK OF HEART

Professor Ian Hamilton-Craig's research is working to reduce genetic high cholesterol and premature heart disease. **Louise Durack** reports

Professor Ian Hamilton-Craig's research is getting to the heart of the matter with genetic connections dating back to the 1840s and an impending focus on Queensland.

A specialist in preventive medicine with the Griffith Health Institute, Professor Hamilton-Craig is involved in a long-running bid to raise awareness of genetic high cholesterol – otherwise known as Familial Hypercholesterolemia (FH) – and reduce premature heart disease.

Of particular interest are people descended from early German immigrants who began arriving in Australia around 175 years ago.

"FH is the most frequently occurring single gene metabolic disorder, occurring more frequently than Type 1 diabetes," he says. "In spite of being easily recognised, FH is often misdiagnosed and undertreated."

Professor Hamilton-Craig has already achieved success in tracking down about 20 carriers of the gene as part of the first phase of his Barossa Family Heart Study. This has involved a detailed detection effort to find FH carriers in the Barossa Valley region of South Australia.

Here the study has involved seeking out descendants of Lutheran German immigrants from the 1800s, those who established the now famous Barossa vineyards and settled the area in 1842. Because the Lutherans had strong religious beliefs, intermarriage with other religions was discouraged and few people ventured outside their original settlements.

"This was a classic setting for a 'founder effect' in which gene mutations become more frequent with succeeding generations," says Professor Hamilton-Craig. "In the



Professor Ian Hamilton-Craig

Barossa, we're looking for a founder effect for the 'FH Morocco' version of the gene, which occurs frequently in Germany and has been identified in sixth generation descendants of the Lutheran German immigrants to the Barossa in the 1840s."

Now funding has been confirmed for the continuation of the study, Professor Hamilton-Craig is ready for the second phase focusing on Queensland and other Australian states.

"A number of the original migrants who landed in Victoria also made their way north as well as overseas," he says. "We believe there are families in southeast Queensland who may have this gene."

Professor Hamilton-Craig is now aiming to work with GPs and family practices in the area to detect those who carry the gene, test other family members and begin treatment if required.

People with FH whose cholesterol goes untreated usually show very early coronary heart disease without any obvious symptoms. For example, about 50 per cent of untreated men can have serious disease by the age of 50 and 30 per cent of women by the age of 60. That is several times higher than for the normal population.

FH cannot be controlled by exercise and diet, but requires a class of cholesterol-reducing drugs called statins.

IN THE FRAME

Diverse and daring, the Griffith University Art Collection is a perfect illustration of the contemporary approach that has marked Griffith University from its earliest days. **Michael Jacobson** reports

Naomi Evans maintains an expert eye as the gallery assistants go about their delicate business. Display cases gleam and pieces are placed and hung with precision.

Occasionally, however, Naomi's attention cannot help but stray from the work to the works themselves. Her appreciation is clear.

As a life-long admirer, Naomi loves looking at art. As a curator of considerable reputation, she knows how to make art look its best. This combination of passion and prowess is good news for the Griffith University Art Collection.

Naomi is a senior member of the Griffith Artworks team which administers the Griffith University Art Gallery at South Bank and oversees a collection of about 4500 pieces worth around \$6 million. Distributed across the University's five campuses, regular rotation means a high percentage of the collection is on display at any one time. Artworks are also loaned out to interstate public museums and for travelling exhibitions.

The collection includes paintings, sculpture, installations, Aboriginal art, ceramics, photography, film and video. The focus is contemporary, Australian and wide-ranging.

Naomi joined Griffith in 2009 after curatorial stints at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney and the Queensland Art Gallery/Gallery of Modern Art in Brisbane, as well as for private institutions such as Sydney's Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery. In 2010, Naomi also co-curated the Queensland Premier's New Media Art Prize and was the first Australian curator to present a project for the Open Festival, held in Venice during the Venice Cinema Festival and the Architecture Biennale.



She brings to her Griffith role a determination for the University collection to represent the best of contemporary art through which a range of themes can be explored.

"Clusters of ideas have emerged and have been embraced at Griffith since the 1970s and this exemplifies the University's ongoing contemporary outlook," she says.

"Accordingly, our aim at Griffith Artworks is to apply a rigorous and scholarly approach to exhibitions, public programs, guest lectures and other events and to ensure these benefit established and emerging artists, students, the general public and Australian culture.

"That doesn't mean we can't also be challenging and provocative. What I love most about art is the many ways it affects people. I love how it beguiles, how it may take several visits to unfold and how each time you learn and take away something new."

If the key to any successful collection is the act of collecting itself, a recent GUAG survey exhibition of gifts, donations and acquisitions from 2011-13 aptly demonstrated the virtues of public generosity, artistic talent

and purchasing discretion: "For someone to give a gallery a work of art is so special," says Naomi. "It's a legacy and a treasure."

"We have masterpieces here, including works by artists who have come through the Queensland College of Art – Michael Zavros, Tracey Moffatt, Tyza Stewart – and many others who are making their names on the national and international art scene."

As Naomi returns to her duties, it's clear she is pleased. Then something catches her eye.

Strolling across to a display of pottery, she asks an assistant to rotate a single bowl. The movement measures all of two centimetres, but reveals what previously lay concealed: a three-masted ship, sails up and full. The effect is expansive.

Whether the ship is heading out to sea or coming in to dock is a matter for interpretation and, in art, interpretation is always one's own.

That's why every picture tells not one story, but myriad stories, and in so doing becomes the curator of its own evolving collection.



Above: Naomi Evans

Far left: *Bungalung Men* c.1997 by Johnny Warangkula Tjupurrula (Luritja/Pintupi/Warlpiri people). Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts program by The Honourable Ian Callinan, AC, 2011. Photo: Carl Warner

Left: *Floor vessel* 1991 by Barry Tate. Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program by Glenn Cooke, 2012. Photo: Carl Warner

MAY 2014 HIGHLIGHTS

Gold Coast residents with aphasia are set to benefit from a new social group set up by Griffith University Speech Pathology students.

Ten student productions from the Griffith Film School are selected to screen in the Short Film Corner at the Cannes Film Festival in France.

The Institute for Glycomics is awarded a \$1.1 million research grant to assist the Australian sugar industry

The National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility will receive \$9 million in federal funding over three years.

Professor Lex Brown (School of Environment) receives the Rose-Hulman Award for his international contribution to impact assessment.

OPERATION OPERA

With three alumni invited to the prestigious Royal Opera House in London's Covent Garden, the Queensland Conservatorium is providing an overture to the musical world. **Lauren Marino** reports

Rising operatic baritone Samuel Johnson says growing up on acreage in the Sunshine Coast hinterland allowed him plenty of room to make plenty of noise.

However, even when Samuel's performances occurred in more confined settings – such as the family car on the way to school – he was no less enthusiastic.

“My parents were very supportive and even as a child, listening to greats such as Luciano Pavarotti, I sang aloud in the car and they would tell me I could be a singer one day,” recalls Samuel. “It was then I started thinking about it as a possible career.”

Such thinking was obviously a positive omen for the 26-year-old graduate of the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University, who in September will join one of the world's most famed musical companies: the Royal Opera House at Covent Garden in London.

Accompanying him will be fellow Queensland Conservatorium graduate, and another Samuel, 28-year-old Melbourne-based tenor Samuel Sakker.

Selected from hundreds of applicants from throughout the world, the two Samuels will enter the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme to receive tailored coaching and performance opportunities with the Royal Opera House for its 2014/15 season. Yet another graduate, soprano Kiandra Howarth, will be there to welcome them having joined in 2013.

Senior Lecturer in Vocal Studies and Head of Voice at the Queensland Conservatorium, Ms Margaret Schindler, discerned Samuel Johnson's potential a decade ago.

“He had a fantastic energy, which he still has, and that's something special and individual



Samuel Johnson (second from left) performing in *The Marriage of Figaro*

about him, something he brings to each performance,” she says.

Samuel began singing lessons as a child and joined the Queensland Conservatorium after high school. He completed a Bachelor of Music with Honours before starting his Masters in Operatic Performance.

An alumnus of the esteemed Lisa Gasteen National Opera School, last year Samuel played Count Almaviva in the Conservatorium's production of *The Marriage of Figaro* and hopes his time at Covent Garden will lead to the operatic roles he has long yearned to play.

“My family is as thrilled as I am that I'll soon be able to experience life on stage as part of one of the most renowned opera houses in the world,” says Samuel, who is quick to acknowledge his time at the Conservatorium

and particularly the guidance of Ms Schindler and Movement and Stagecraft teacher Ms Anna Sweeney.

Samuel Sakker is equally appreciative and excited, saying: “Having the resources of one of the world's greatest opera houses at my disposal to continue my professional development is an incredible thought. Their collective knowledge, guidance and mentorship will give me a clear career pathway to maximise my artistic potential.

“Mentorship, lineage and patronage are such important concepts to me – I truly believe that talent can be discovered, but great artists are developed.

“There is no magic pill. To be in the environment of such esteemed professionals will be vital for my career and future as an artist.”



Image: Chris Stacey

Daniel Tagiev is anticipating a successful solo career after graduation from the Queensland Conservatorium

TAKING A BOW

Daniel Tagiev may have started out a reluctant student, but his violin is taking him to the stages of the world

An impressive international music career continues to flourish for Daniel Tagiev.

A second-year student at the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University, the young violinist will soon return to his family's homeland of Azerbaijan to again be a guest of that country's International Music Festival.

Daniel was just three months old when his family migrated to Australia, although the Tagiev name remains esteemed in Azerbaijan and Daniel is contributing to its legacy.

His grandfather, Professor Murad Tagiev, was the Head of Strings at the Azerbaijan State Conservatorium of Music for almost 30 years, while his father, Emin Tagiev, was a member of the Azerbaijan Chamber Orchestra, Israeli Chamber Orchestra, Israeli Violin Ensemble and founded the Tagiev Chamber Orchestra and the Brisbane International Youth Music Festival.

Daniel made his performing debut at the age of eight, playing his first solos with the Mannheim Youth Orchestra in Germany. Two years later he performed Vivaldi's *Spring* at the Sydney Opera House with the Tagiev Youth Chamber Orchestra. Since then he has graced famous stages in cities including St Petersburg, Berlin, New York, Shanghai, Seville, Tallin and the Azerbaijani capital of Baku.

“I was excited and nervous when I arrived in Baku for last year's festival because all the music department heads in the city are my grandfather's former students. I had to uphold the family reputation,” says Daniel.

He did so with aplomb, performing in the beautiful Azerbaijan State Philharmonic Hall as part of a stellar line-up of conductors, soloists, young artists and ensembles from Russia, Turkey, Germany, France, the United States, Lithuania and Australia. Daniel's

performance even made the front page of the local newspaper's Culture section.

Ironically, given his obvious affinity with the violin and his family's proud musical heritage, Daniel admits to being a reluctant student when his father first began teaching him.

“I started when I was seven and Dad taught me in the Russian style, which is very strict,” he says. “Now I appreciate that teaching. I even have a few students of my own and I am just as strict with them.”

A solo career beckons for Daniel: “The Con is the first time I've been taught by anyone other than my father, so that has required some adjustment, but I'm enjoying myself and learning a lot,” he says.

“And as much as I love the teamwork that goes with playing in an orchestra, my ambition is to pursue a career as a solo violinist.”



Jardin du Luxembourg, Paris, France 2010



Longueval, Somme Battlefield, France 2010



Jean, Alec and Tim Harslett, Amiens, Queensland 2013

MOVING PICTURES

As the world marks the centenary of World War I, a new book by the Queensland College of Art's Dr Charles Page is providing a truly evocative perspective. **Lauren Marino** reports

There is an enduring connection between the battlefields of 1914-18 and the Australian landscape. This is the premise of *Memories in Place: The Centenary of World War I*, the culmination of a six-year photographic journey by Griffith University's Dr Charles Page.

When it came to documenting the way major and iconic elements of that conflict are memorialised in Australia, Dr Page was inspired by Will Davies' powerful story of one young man's war, *In The Footsteps of Private Lynch*. He says he seized the opportunity to look at this significant time from a fresh perspective.

The Queensland College of Art documentary photographer and senior lecturer journeyed across Belgium, France, Turkey and Australia.

"The emotion was there from the first day I arrived in France, to the precise location

where Australians fought their first action in the Battle of Somme," he says.

"It wasn't just about the sadness felt while standing in a place where so many violent and horrific things had taken place. The landscape was speaking as a metaphor for loss, for sacrifice, and it was this I wanted to document by catching glimpses of how these locations reflect life 100 years on."

Dr Page speaks of the flurry of nationalism, patriotic fervour and reverence for Australia's involvement in the conflict, all of which led to the construction of memorials across the country following World War I. His photographs juxtapose many street and location names in Australia with their original locations in the theatres of war on the other side of the world.

"Almost every Australian town installed a monument; capital cities constructed shrines

and cenotaphs; and local governments embarked on campaigns to change street names and localities to memorialise aspects of the conflict, including battlefields, high-ranking officers, ships and, of course, the iconic Anzac soldier."

In this way, the emotional resonance that characterises *Memories in Place* also highlights inexorable links between Europe and Australia, then and now.

"I wanted to explore how places such as Pozieres or Passchendaele in Australia resonated with their namesakes in Belgium and France a hundred years on," says Dr Page.

However, his goal wasn't merely to record streets and roads. Rather, he wanted his photographs to hold a mirror to Australian society and ask: what impact does this have on our understanding of war, peace, nationhood and friendship?

JOURNEY TO FREEDOM

Arcade Hatungimana is justifiably proud of the life he and his family have forged since arriving in Australia. Not so long ago, such a life seemed an impossible dream. **Michael Jacobson** reports

It is said that the past is another country. For Griffith University graduate Arcade Hatungimana, that country is Burundi and the past is an unsettling place to visit.

When ethnic war erupted in the landlocked African nation in 1993, the last thing on Arcade's mind was the future. A frantic present overwhelmed every thought, instinct and action.

Tens of thousands died in the aftermath of the assassination of Melchior Ndadaye, Burundi's first democratically elected President. Tragically, one of Arcade's daughters was among them, the victim of a grenade tossed into the family home while he was at work in a local hospital. Arcade later learned he was the intended target of the attack.

"We had to leave immediately. There was not even time for a funeral," he says. "We took refuge in a camp for displaced people outside the capital, Bujumbura. Two years later the camp was destroyed by government forces and militia. My wife Shamu, our remaining daughter Nadjuma – she was just three years old – and I were lucky to survive."

That was February 15, 1997, and Arcade's 12-year journey to Australia began that day, with small steps – clandestine and perilous – as the family crossed from Burundi into Tanzania and finally into Malawi.

There the Dzaleka refugee camp provided little but overcrowding and austerity. Restrictions on movement, employment and property forced Arcade to defy Malawi law by seeking work outside the camp.

In November, 2007, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees began assessing refugees' eligibility for resettlement. The official assigned to Arcade was Australian. A year later, wonderful news arrived.



Arcade Hatungimana's tragic past has been transformed into a future of hope and happiness

"Australia granted us visas and I could not hide my feelings. We left Malawi on February 16, 2009, 12 years and a day since fleeing Burundi. I felt so happy, yet also sad at leaving my friends. We were going so far away."

Arriving in Brisbane full of anticipation, hope and trepidation, the family made the short drive to Logan, home to more than 180 nationalities and from that moment at least one family of exhausted Burundians. Arcade admits feeling culture shock; so much was so new.

"I could barely understand half the things people were saying. Words were unfinished, the sentences unfinished, and there were words I had never heard before," he recalls.

"Now I'm the one using those shortened words and a whole new vocabulary. I love the Aussie accent.

"That's not all. I am used to driving on the other side of the road and with the steering wheel on the right, although I still refer to the boot of the car as the trunk. I have also come to appreciate soccer and I can tolerate AFL."

Eager to make the most of this new start in life, Arcade completed a Graduate Certificate in Community Development and Youth Work at Griffith University before completing a Master of Mental Health Practice in 2012.

Today he works for MultiLink Community Services in Logan and as a cultural liaison for Central and East African people dealing with mental health issues. His Griffith connection also continues through his daughter Nadjuma, who is completing a degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice on the Gold Coast.

"My primary goal is helping people with mental illness to recover and live meaningful lives," says Arcade.

He returned to Burundi in 2013 where, despite the joy of reunion, Arcade realised Australia truly had become home. He draws strength from the meaningful life he is forging here.

For although tested in the past, Arcade Hatungimana is thriving in the present and understandably excited about that which he once came so close to losing: the future.

TRANSFER AS GOOD AS GOLD

Research by Griffith University's Dr Caroline Ringuet-Riot is geared towards increasing the chances of Australian sporting glory, as **Michael Jacobson** reports

Athletes who attain elite status in more than one sport are a rare breed. That may change should new research help spawn a generation of Australian crossover sporting champions.

With the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympic Games and the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games on the horizon, it is a tantalising prospect.

At Griffith University, Dr Caroline Ringuet-Riot's research is aimed at identifying those sports well-suited for elite talent transfer and then guiding selected athletes through the process, all with an eye to increasing the chances of Australian sporting glory.

"Several factors influence whether an elite sport transfer has any chance of success. First and foremost, the athlete has to be absolutely committed. They must really want it," says Dr Ringuet-Riot, who is attached to the Department of Tourism, Sport and Hotel Management within the Griffith Business School.

"Once that commitment and potential are established, we can progress to areas such as the athlete-coach connection to draw out the ability, drive and motivation to win, for example, an Olympic gold medal."

For most athletes, success in one sport is achievement enough. Yet there are others whose abilities will not be contained within one field of endeavour.

Take American Eddie Eagan, who in 1920 won the Olympic light heavyweight boxing gold medal and 12 years later won Winter Olympics gold with the US four-man bobsleigh team.

Another American, Eric Heiden, won five speed skating gold medals at the 1980

Winter Olympics in Lake Placid before trading his blades for pedals to become a champion cyclist. Then there's footballer-baseballer Deion Sanders, who in the 1990s played in a Super Bowl and a World Series and is the only person to score an NFL touchdown and hit a Major League home run in the same week.

Australia has its share of crossover sporting champions too, with none more prominent or polarising than Anthony Mundine, once the highest paid player in the National Rugby League who became a world champion boxer.

For most athletes, success in one sport is achievement enough. Yet there are some whose abilities will not be contained within one field of endeavour

Nova Peris-Kneebone won Olympic hockey gold in 1996 and Commonwealth Games athletics gold in 1998 before entering perhaps the most competitive arena of all: federal politics.

And who do you think won the 1939 South Australian squash championship? Only a chap named Donald Bradman.

More recently, Ellyse Perry was just 16 when she debuted for both the national women's soccer and cricket teams, and 2012 Olympic long jump silver medallist Mitchell Watt had the talent to succeed in AFL or rugby union before choosing track and field. Meanwhile, the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics saw the return of Jana Pittman, the former 400m hurdles world champion turned bobsleigh brakeman.



Dr Caroline Ringuet-Riot

"Some sports have a natural inclination towards others, such as gymnastics and diving, cycling and speed skating, athletics and hockey, basketball and handball, rugby and judo or boxing," says Dr Ringuet-Riot.

"Others don't seem to fit quite so easily. For instance, I am familiar with a high jumper who tried volleyball and a discus thrower who went into rowing.

"Another consideration is the effect on an athlete switching from an individual sport to a team environment, or vice versa, and their capacity to quickly adapt to a new sporting culture."

Dr Ringuet-Riot's expertise spans elite athlete development and management, Olympic studies, community sport development, sports medicine and health and physical activity promotion. Her PhD, partly funded by the International Olympic Committee, analysed the personal and performance development of elite athletes and she has acted as a consultant for the IOC, the

International Association of Athletics Federations, the Queensland Academy of Sport and the Queensland Rugby Union.

Her current research coincides with the launch of the Australian Institute of Sport's national sports draft, a response to Australia's disappointing performance at the 2012 London Olympics. The AIS aims to fast-track opportunities for selected athletes who aspire to become Olympians or show the potential to transfer from one Olympic sport to another.

"Elite sport transfer is not easy and many athletes end up reverting to their original sports," says Dr Ringuet-Riot.

"But with this research and initiatives like the AIS draft helping to identify and nurture the most suitable candidates, it could lead to more athletes reaching the top in multiple sports."

For a nation that worships its sporting heroes as much as Australia does, that opportunity could be worth its weight in gold.



PRIDE OF A LION

Griffith physiotherapy graduate Luke Licht was still studying when he landed his dream job with the Brisbane Lions AFL club.

Luke graduated in December from a Master of Physiotherapy following a Bachelor of Exercise Science with Honours. Thanks to links with academic staff at Griffith, he completed professional placements with the Brisbane Lions and Gold Coast Suns AFL clubs, immersing himself in high performance environments and the demands of professional sporting teams.

He was backed by a demanding academic education which stretched his knowledge and abilities, but which he found invaluable.

"I found the Exercise Science part of the degree quite challenging, but I've come to understand the importance of having that background in giving me more confidence to 'talk-the-talk' as a therapist," he says.

"The professional placements and education at Griffith provided the necessary pathway I needed to start my career. I always wanted to be a physio, even when I first started an education degree in Tasmania.

"When I came to Queensland I thought it was pretty unlikely I'd get anywhere near an AFL club because there was only one here at the time. But the opposite has proven true and the clubs were really encouraging," he says.

The Collingwood AFL supporter began work with the Queensland Sports Medicine Centre (which is the Lions' affiliate physiotherapy team) in February as the first graduate it has hired. Luke is also the physiotherapist for the Brisbane Lions reserves team.

During his degree, Luke took every opportunity to hone his skills in sporting science, including working with the Papua New Guinea cricket team.

"That was a fantastic experience. Cricket is really growing in PNG and some of their players played in the Australian Big Bash competition during the summer," says Luke.

"My education at Griffith has been a pretty remarkable time.

"The academic side of things pushed me and the professional placements gave me the chance to prove myself and achieve some of my career goals."

THE BUSINESS OF BUILDING

Griffith University's building and infrastructure program has continued to impress during 2013-14 with major projects completed, others soon to be unveiled and more in the pipeline

In its mission to provide students and staff with world-leading facilities and resources, Griffith University's approach is vibrant and unashamedly contemporary. In the case of the new Griffith Business School, there is also a substantial tribute to history.

A \$38 million architecturally designed, seven-storey development built to provide world-leading resources for business education, research and industry collaboration, the Griffith Business School is the main hub for Griffith's 4500 business students on the Gold Coast.

Its gaze is very much towards the future, allowing for growth and confirming the University's confidence in the Gold Coast as an ongoing driver of regional economic development in traditional and emerging industries.

That confidence is further affirmed by facilities and resources including a state-of-the-art financial trading centre, a dedicated Master of Business Administration executive teaching suite, technology-rich seminar and public lecture spaces and international conferencing and dialogue facilities.

However, if one of the keys to a sound future is acknowledging and learning from the past, the Griffith Business School's Gold Coast History Wall is an electronic education asset.

An on-screen presentation featuring an array of highlights stretching back over the decades, the 'then and now' theme of the History Wall captures the journey of a place where, as Pro Vice Chancellor (Business) Professor Michael Powell puts it, so much has happened in so little time.

"This historical perspective is based on two core themes – The Gold Coast, Australia's

Growth Capital and The City of Sand and Water," says Professor Powell.

"Since the early 1950s, the Gold Coast has been the nation's fastest growing metropolis and is arguably its most resilient.

"Today a new era is dawning for the Gold Coast as it spreads its wings in global markets and makes major advances in education, health, tourism and transport along with new cultural assets, placing the city on a platform for even greater future progress."

The Gold Coast will have a University that is part of the community in every way, says Vice Chancellor Professor Ian O'Connor

If the new business school building affirms Griffith University's desire to be a vital player in the city's journey, other developments unveiled during 2013-14 are equally significant.

"The Gold Coast will have a University that is part of the community in every way," says Vice Chancellor Professor Ian O'Connor.

"As the Gold Coast Health and Knowledge Precinct develops around Griffith, the University Hospital and the Parklands site, the University's boundaries will become permeable with educational, commercial, recreational and cultural pursuits all co-existing."

In August 2013, the \$21 million extended Griffith Library and Learning Commons on the Gold Coast was opened by Queensland's Education Minister, Mr John-Paul Langbroek.

Less than a year later it is already an international award-winner.

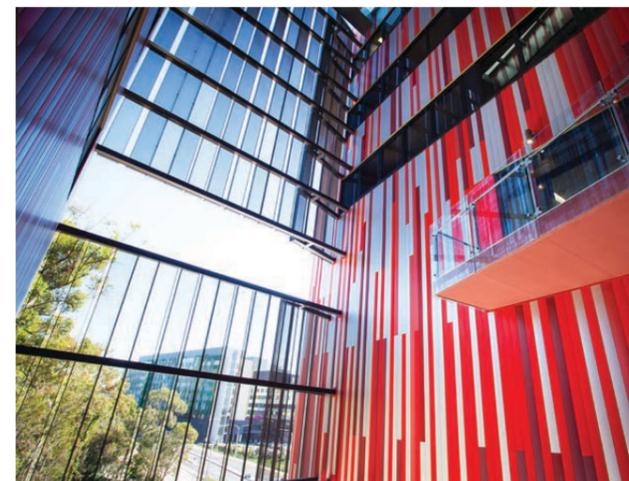
In May 2014, the Library and Learning Commons won two awards at the prestigious Council of Educational Facilities Planners International Awards, taking the categories for Renovation/Modernisation Over \$2 million and Overall Winner for the Australasia Region.

With its main talking point being the 'shard' meeting room – a boldly futuristic design offering striking views across the campus – other notable features include a collaborative space, learning 'aviary' garden space, giant screen, quiet areas, 24-hour student lounge, sky lounge and the GUMURRII Student Support Unit.

This rollout of new buildings and infrastructure – the biggest of the past year being the July 2013 opening of the \$150 million Griffith Health Centre – sits well with other important events, such as the September 2013 opening of the \$1.76 billion Gold Coast University Hospital, the 2014 launch of the Gold Coast light rail rapid transit system and the beginning of construction of the Games Village to accommodate an expected 6500 athletes and officials during the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.

There is also the potential to double the capacity of the Gold Coast campus as Griffith prepares for the long-term growth of the city. As revealed in the Griffith Masterplan, future projects include a multi-level car park, aquatic centre, campus heart areas and a pedestrian spine through the centre of the campus. Improvements will also be made to the arrival areas for the light rail.

"These new facilities are absolutely appropriate for the 21st century," says Professor O'Connor.



Above and top: The \$38 million Griffith Business Building on the Gold Coast



The distinctive 'shard' at the new Library and Learning Commons

Away from the Gold Coast, the \$42.7 million Sir Samuel Griffith Health Centre at Nathan campus continues to reveal itself as an exciting example of what Professor O'Connor describes as Griffith's non-negotiable commitment to environmental sustainability.

Australia's first teaching and research building powered by a combination of photovoltaics and hydrogen, on an average day the Sir Samuel Griffith

Centre generates 25 per cent more energy than it consumes, with excess power returned to the campus grid to power other buildings.

"Environmental science was one of Griffith University's four foundation degrees and four decades later the Sir Samuel Griffith Centre showcases our continuing commitment to finding practical solutions to environmental issues," says Professor O'Connor.

"This is a working and breathing building and it is the only one of its type in the world. It is a physical manifestation of a modern university's defining characteristics.

"By aligning science, business and engineering in sustainability programs, the technology, facilities and resources within the building are allowing the finest minds to strive for great outcomes in education and research."



From left: Griffith volunteers Taylor Holst, Victoria Hambour, Rhett Clayton and Jordan-Lee Fischper

HELPING HANDS

Student volunteers are reaping many benefits from community engagement. **Michael Jacobson** reports

Inside the Numinbah Correctional Centre in the Gold Coast Hinterland, criminology students Taylor Holst and Jordan-Lee Fischper lead Zumba and line dancing sessions that offer inmates a legal form of escape.

Elsewhere on the Gold Coast, psychology student Victoria Hambour helps at-risk foster children enjoy a few hours of being just children. Another psychology student, Rhett Clayton, immerses himself in child-focused social work.

Bring this Griffith University quartet together and the conversation is animated as they swap anecdotes about their volunteering experience with social welfare agencies such as Anglicare, the Wesley Mission and Rosies.

“It changes your perceptions and your perspectives,” says Victoria. “You observe the challenges people in need face every day and you realise the difference in what you thought was happening in parts of society and what is actually happening. Then you try to help.”

The Griffith volunteers are fulfilling supporting and mentoring roles through Law for Criminal Justice Professionals, an elective course convened by Dr Serena Nicholls from

the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice. Nervous at first, now they confirm that the virtues of volunteering have manifested personally, practically and philosophically.

Through Anglicare, 29-year-old Victoria Hambour works with three permanent foster children on the Gold Coast. Ranging in age from nine to 13, intellectual impairment only adds to their vulnerability and Victoria’s role is one of positive interaction while providing a precious few hours of respite for the children’s 67-year-old foster mother.

“We’ve visited Movie World and Wer’n’Wild and although their foster mum worries, she also sees the benefits of the volunteering program,” says Victoria. “Until this year I’d never really dealt with children at all, let alone children with issues like these, and I feel the experience has changed me.

“There is a sense of personal fulfilment from helping young people in need.”

Rhett Clayton, 23, says his involvement with the Wesley Mission has broadened his outlook on mental health issues facing young people today.

“Driving the children to pre-school, speech therapy or psychiatric sessions, as well as helping out on individual cases, I’ve been surprised at the range of mental health challenges on the Gold Coast,” he says.

“This relates not only to individuals and their specific needs, but to the overall provision of resources, facilities, transport and other services vital to improved mental health care.”

At Numinbah, 20-year-old Taylor Holst’s ambition for a career in the corrections side of the criminal justice system complements friend Jordan-Lee Fischper’s desire to work as a parole case manager. Volunteering with Rosies, their interaction with female offenders – the students call them ‘the ladies’ – has enhanced understanding and consolidated future plans.

“We were excited by the challenge more than daunted or scared,” says Jordan-Lee, 21. “Whether running Zumba classes or line dancing sessions or just talking to the ladies, our role is one of support during a difficult and isolated time.”

“The experience has taught me not to be close-minded,” adds Taylor.



FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

The generosity of Griffith University staff and alumni donors has launched a scholarship program that is changing lives, writes **Professor Martin Betts**

It’s great to see in these pages the diverse stories of Griffith students, staff and alumni doing so well.

Whether it’s extraordinary research into underwater habitats and creatures; young women pilots striving for new heights with the RAAF; award-winning artists; or students achieving sporting goals, Griffith has its share of high achievers.

Beyond good reading, the stories bring the University’s vision into focus, including our commitment to the Asia-Pacific region, the ambitious capital works program taking place across our campuses and the important place First Peoples have in our Griffith community.

One of the University’s founding principles was to ensure that all students, regardless of their personal circumstances, are given the opportunity to succeed.

I encourage you to read Hettie Rowan’s inspiring story, which can be found on the Annual Appeal form enclosed with this edition, and as a video on the Annual Appeal website.

Since 2009, the Annual Appeal has supported the Students’ Future Fund, which has allowed for the creation of Griffith Futures Scholarships. These support students in their second year and beyond who have demonstrated commitment to their studies and can further excel with financial support.

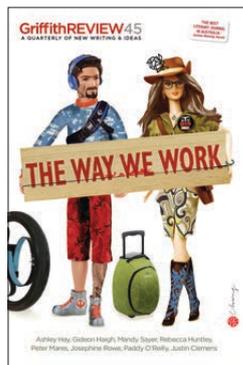
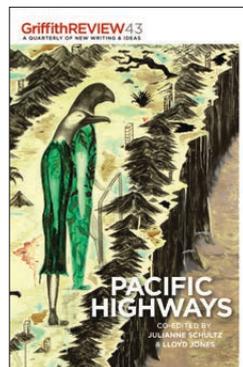
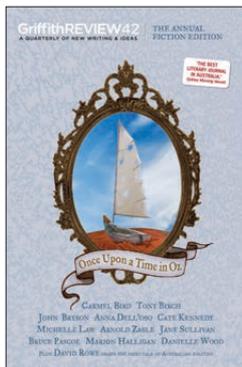
We recently hosted a morning tea to present awards to the first round of recipients and to thank our many staff donors for their part in supporting these future success stories. I encourage you to partner with us to help more students reach their potential. Every gift makes a difference.

I have enjoyed meeting many alumni in my first six months as Deputy Vice Chancellor (Engagement), and look forward to connecting with many more at future events, and via LinkedIn.

Professor Martin Betts
Deputy Vice Chancellor (Engagement)

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